

# **INDIA 2020**

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## 1. LAND AND THE PEOPLE

### GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- Countries having a common border with India are Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the far east and Bangladesh to the east.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- It covers an area of 32,87,263 sq. km. The country can be divided into six zones mainly north, south, east, west, central and northeast zone. It has 28 states and nine union territories.
- India is the seventh largest country in the world and ranks second in population.
- Lying entirely in the northern hemisphere, the mainland extends between latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east and measures about 3,214 km from north to south between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes.
- It has a land frontier of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.

### PHYSICAL FEATURES

- The mainland comprises four regions, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula.
- The high altitudes of Himalayas allow travel only through a few passes, notably the Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi valley, north-east of Darjeeling and Shipki La in the Satluj valley, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur).
- The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems—the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- The desert region can be divided into two parts—the 'great desert' and the 'little desert'. The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to the northern west.
- The Peninsular Plateau is marked off from the plains by a mass of mountain and hill ranges. Prominent among these are the Aravali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta. The Peninsula is flanked on the one side by the Eastern Ghats and on the other by the Western Ghats.
- Between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea lies a narrow coastal strip, while between Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal, there is a broader coastal area.
- The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet. The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

**GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE**

- The geological regions may be grouped into three regions: the Himalayas and their associated group of mountains, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Peninsular Shield.
- The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai Mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement.
- The Indo-Ganga plains are a great alluvial tract that separate the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.
- The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances.

**RIVER SYSTEMS**

- The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz.
  - **The Himalayan rivers** are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year.
  - **The Deccan rivers** on the other hand are rainfed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non-perennial.
  - **The Coastal streams**, especially on the west coast are short in length and have limited catchment areas. Most of them are non-perennial.
  - **The streams of inland drainage basin** of western Rajasthan are few and far apart. Most of them are of an ephemeral character.
- The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system.
- In the Deccan region, the major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi. Narmada and Tapti are major west flowing rivers.
- The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India.

**LENGTH OF SOME IMPORTANT INDIAN RIVERS**

River	Length (km)
Indus	2,900
Brahmaputra	2,900
Ganga	2,510
Godavari	1,450
Narmada	1,290
Krishna	1,290
Mahanadi	890
Kaveri	760

**RIVER BASINS**

The entire country has been divided into 20 river basins/group of river basins comprising 12 major basins and eight composite river basins.

**Major River Basins**

- The 12 major river basins are : (1) Indus, (2) Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, (3) Godavari, (4) Krishna, (5) Cauvery, (6) Mahanadi, (7) Pennar, (8) Brahmani-Baitarani, (9) Sabarmati, (10) Mahi, (11) Narmada and (12) Tapi.
- Each of these basins has a drainage area exceeding 20,000 sq. km.

**Composite River Basins**

The eight composite river basins combining suitably together all the other remaining medium (drainage area of 2,000 to 20,000 sq. km) and small river systems (drainage area less than 2000 sq. km) for the purpose of planning and management are:

1. Subarnarekha—combining Subarnarekha and other small rivers between Subarnarekha and Baitarani;
2. East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar;
3. East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari;
4. Area of Inland drainage in Rajasthan desert;
5. West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni;
6. West flowing rivers from Tapi to Tadri;
7. West flowing rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari and
8. Minor rivers draining into Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh.

**CLIMATE/SEASONS**

- The climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) designates four official seasons: (i) Winter, (ii) Summer, (iii) Monsoon or rainy season, and (iv) Post-monsoon season.
- The Himalayan states, being more temperate, experience two additional seasons: autumn and spring.
- Traditionally, Indians note six seasons, each about two months long. These are the spring, summer, monsoon, early autumn, late autumn and winter. These are based on the astronomical division of the 12 months into six parts.
- India's climate is affected by two seasonal winds—the north-east monsoon and the south-west monsoon. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

**FLORA**

- Available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.
- India can be divided into eight distinct floristic regions, namely, the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, the Malabar and the Andamans.

- The flora of the country is being studied by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata. BSI brings out an inventory of endangered plants in the form of a publication titled 'Red Data Book.'

## **FAUNA RESOURCES**

- According to world biogeographic classification, India represents two of the major realms (the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts).
- The Wildlife Institute of India divides the country into ten biogeographic regions: Trans- Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North-East India, Islands and Coasts.
- Within only about 2 per cent of world's total land surface, India is known to have over 7.50 per cent of the species of animals that the world holds.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND**

### **Population**

- Census 2011 was the 15th census of its kind since 1872.
- The population, which at the turn of the twentieth century was around 238.4 million, increased to reach 1,210.9 million by 2011.
- As recorded at each decennial census from 1901 the population has grown steadily except for a decrease during 1911-21.

### **Population Density**

- It is defined as the number of persons per sq. km. The population density of India in 2011 was 382 per sq. km-decadal growth 17.72 per cent.
- Among major states, Bihar is the most thickly populated state with a population density of 1,106 persons per sq. km followed by West Bengal 1,028 and Kerala 860.

### **Sex Ratio**

- Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males, was 972 at the beginning of the twentieth century and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941.
- The sex ratio from 1901-2011 has registered a 10 point increase at census 2011 over 2001; however, child sex ratio has declined to 919 per thousand male.

### **Literacy**

- For the purpose of census 2011, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate.
- The results of 2011 census reveal that there has been an increase in literacy in the country. The literacy rate in the country is 73.0 per cent, 80.9 for males and 64.6 for females.
- Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 94 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 per cent ranks last in the country.

### NATIONAL FLAG

- The National Flag shall be a tricolour panel made up of three rectangular panels or sub-panels of equal width. The middle panel shall be white, bearing at its centre the design of Ashoka Chakra in navy blue colour with 24 equally spaced spokes.
- The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.
- The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.
- Display of the National Flag is governed by the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- As per the provisions of the Flag Code of India, 2002, there is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc., except to the extent provided in the above mentioned acts and any other law enacted on the subject.



**NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF INDIA**

### STATE EMBLEM

- The State Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath.
- The profile of the Lion Capital showing three lions mounted on the abacus with a Dharma Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a galloping horse on the left, and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left was adopted as the State Emblem of India on January 26, 1950.
- The motto “Satyameva Jayate”-Truth alone Triumphs—written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital is part of the State Emblem of India.
- In the State Emblem lies the official seal of the Government of India. Its use is regulated by the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 and The State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

- The song *Jana-Gana-Mana*, composed originally in Bangla by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950.
- It was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress.
- The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem.
- The playing time of the full version of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds.

**NATIONAL SONG**

- The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.
- It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

**NATIONAL CALENDAR**

- The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes : (i) Gazette of India, (ii) news broadcast by All India Radio, (iii) calendars issued by the Government of India and (iv) Government communications addressed to the public.
- Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian Calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

**CURRENCY SYMBOL**

- The Indian Rupee sign is an allegory of Indian ethos. The symbol is an amalgam of Devanagari "Ra" and the Roman Capital "R" with two parallel horizontal stripes running at the top representing the national flag and also the "equal to" sign.
- The Indian Rupee sign was adopted by the Government of India on 15th July, 2010.

**NATIONAL BIRD**

- The Indian peacock, *Pavo cristatus*, the National Bird of India, is a colourful, swan-sized bird, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers, a white patch under the eye and a long, slender neck.
- The male of the species is more colourful than the female, with a glistening blue breast and neck and a spectacular bronze-green tail of around 200 elongated feathers.

**NATIONAL ANIMAL**

- The magnificent tiger, *Panthera tigris* is a striped animal. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes.

**NATIONAL FLOWER**

- Lotus (*Nelumbo Nucifera Gaertn*) is the National Flower of India.
- It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture since time immemorial.

**NATIONAL TREE**

- Indian fig tree, *Ficus bengalensis*, whose branches root themselves like new trees over a large area. The roots then give rise to more trunks and branches.
- Because of this characteristic and its longevity, the banyan tree is considered immortal and is an integral part of the myths and legends of India.

### 3. POLITY

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISATION ACT, 2019

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the two union territories - one to be eponymously called Jammu and Kashmir, and the other Ladakh.
- The introduction of the bill was preceded by a presidential order under Article 370 of the Indian constitution that revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and mandating, inter alia, that all the provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.
- Accordingly, the "State Legislature including Legislative Council of the State" has been abolished and shall from now onwards be construed as "Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir".



#### CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT

- The Citizenship Act was amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
- The amended Act makes foreign illegal migrants of six religious communities i.e., Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship.
- It is applicable to those who have taken shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution in their countries and have entered into India on or before December 31, 2014.
- The provisions of the Act, however, do not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the areas where 'The Inner Line Permit' is applicable including the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

#### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justifiable.
- Articles 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights.



**FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES**

- By the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated.
- Article 51 'A' contained in Part IV A of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties.

**DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY**

- The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justifiable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country' and it is the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws.
- These have been contained in Part IV from Articles 36 to 51 of the Constitution.

**THE UNION EXECUTIVE**

The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.

**President**

- The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.
- His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election.
- His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 61 of the Constitution.

**Vice-President**

- The Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and acts as President when the latter is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause or till the election of a new President.
- While so acting, he ceases to perform the function of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

**Council of Ministers**

- There is a Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, to aid and advise the President in exercise of his functions.
- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President who also appoints other ministers on the advice of Prime Minister. The Council is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

**LEGISLATURE**

- Legislature of the Union which is called Parliament, consists of the President and two Houses, known as Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and House of the People (Lok Sabha).
- Each House has to meet within six months of its previous sitting. A joint sitting of two Houses can be held in certain cases.

- **Qualification:** In order to be chosen a member of Parliament, a person must be a citizen of India and not less than 30 years of age in the case of Rajya Sabha and not less than 25 years of age in the case of Lok Sabha.
- **The Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha** are accorded statutory recognition. Salary and other suitable facilities are extended to them through a separate legislation brought into force on November 1, 1977.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Broadly, Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds: (1) **Standing Committees** and (2) **Ad Hoc Committees**

### Standing Committees:

- These are elected or appointed every year or periodically and their work goes on, more or less, on a continuous basis.
- Among the Standing Committees, the three Financial Committees—Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings—keep an unremitting vigil over Government expenditure and performance.
- Besides these three financial committees, the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha recommended setting-up of 24 Department Related Standing Committees (DRSCs).

### Ad Hoc Committees:

- These are appointed on an ad hoc basis as need arises and they cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them.
- Such committees may be broadly classified under two heads:
  - committees which are constituted from time to time, either by the two Houses on a motion adopted in that behalf or by Speaker/Chairman to inquire into and report on specific subjects, and
  - Select or Joint Committees on Bills which are appointed to consider and report on a particular bill.

## YOUTH PARLIAMENT COMPETITION

- In order to develop democratic ethos in the younger generation the Ministry conducts Youth Parliament Competitions in various categories of schools and colleges/universities.
- The 'Youth Parliament Scheme' was first introduced in the schools in Delhi in 1966-67.

## COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the President.
- The procedure and the grounds for his removal from office are the same as for a Supreme Court judge. He is not eligible for further office under the union or a state government after he ceases to hold his office.
- The duties, powers and conditions of service of the CAG have been specified by the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**

- The Attorney-General for India is appointed by the President of India. Any person qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed for the post.
- The Attorney-General shall hold office during the pleasure of the President, and shall receive such remuneration as the President may determine.

**SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA**

- The Solicitor General of India is the government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.
- The Solicitor General of India is the secondary law officer of the country, assists the Attorney-General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India.
- However, unlike the post of Attorney-General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP**

- The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 are made by the President of India under Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution for allocation of business of Government of India.
- The ministries/departments of the Government are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under these rules.

**CABINET SECRETARIAT**

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister.
- The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business.

**NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

- **The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (CWC)** is a multi-lateral international treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- **The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**; an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, Netherlands is the 'treaty organisation' for the CWC.
- **The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)** was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfil the obligations under the CWC.

**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

In 2005, the government enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of following bodies to implement a holistic approach to disaster management in the country.

- **National Disaster Management Authority**, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister, and

- **State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs)** headed by respective Chief Ministers.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

- **The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating to the states and central government agencies.
- The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as '**Civil Services Day.**' On this date, first Home Minister of Independent India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of Indian Administrative Services officers in New Delhi.
- On '**Civil Services Day**', the Prime Minister confers "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration" to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the central and state governments.
- DARPG along with the Ministry of Electronics and information Technology, in association with one of the state governments, organizes the **National Conference on e-Governance** every year since 1997.
- **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)** aims at assessing the states, UTs and central ministries on the depth and efficiency of e-Governance service delivery.

### COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT (CAPAM)

- CAPAM, with its headquarters at Ottawa, Canada, is an organization dedicated to strengthening public management and consolidating democracy and good governance in the Commonwealth. It was formed in 1994.
- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India became an institutional member of CAPAM in 1997.

### RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

- The two organizations through which the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) ensures recruitment of personnel for the government are the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- UPSC is responsible for conducting examinations for appointment to the higher civil services and civil posts; including recruitment to the All India Services.
- The SSC is responsible for making recruitment to subordinate staff such as Assistants, Stenographers etc.

### RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

- The Act gives all the citizens the right to seek information held by any body established under the Constitution; or by any other law; or by notification issued or order made by the central government or a state government.
- Bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the central government or a state government and non-government organizations substantially financed by the central government or a state government also fall within the definition of public authority.

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

- **Article 343 (1)** of the Constitution provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union.
- **Article 343 (2)** also provides for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., upto January 25, 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution.
- **Article 343 (3)** empowered the Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after January 25, 1965.
- **Department of Official Language** was set up in 1975 as an independent department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Department has **Rajbhasha Keerti Puraskar Yojana** for awarding the outstanding achievements in the implementation of Official Language Policy of the Union.
- **The Kendriya Hindi Samiti** was constituted in 1967. Chaired by Prime Minister it is the apex policy making body which lays the guidelines for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as official language of the Union.

**INTER-STATE COUNCIL**

- The provision for setting up an Inter-State Council is mentioned in **Article 263 of the Constitution**.
- In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations, the Inter-State Council was set up in **1990**.
- **The Prime Minister is the Chairman** of the Council.

**ZONAL COUNCIL**

- **Five zonal councils viz.**, Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council and Southern Zonal Council were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 with the objectives of bringing out national integration.
- **The Union Home Minister is the Chairman** of all the zonal councils.

**THE STATES**

- The system of government in states closely resembles that of the Union.
- **Executive power of the state is vested in Governor**. The Governor of a state is appointed by the President for a term of five years office. Only Indian citizens above 35 years of age are eligible for appointment to this office.
- The Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as head, aids and advises Governor in exercise of his functions except in so far as he is by or under the Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his **discretion**.
- For every state, there is a legislature which consists of Governor and one House or, two Houses as the case may be.

**UNION TERRITORIES**

- India comprises **28 states and eight union territories**.
- Union territories are administrated by the President acting to such extent, as he thinks fit, through an administrator appointed by him.

- The National Capital Territory of Delhi, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry each has a **Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers**.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Municipalities

- The first Municipal Corporation in India was set-up in the former Presidency Town of Madras in 1688; and later in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.
- To provide for a common framework for urban local bodies, Parliament enacted the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 (known as Nagarpalika Act) relating to municipalities in 1992.

### Panchayats

- Article 40 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.
- A new Part IX relating to the panchayats was inserted in the Constitution to provide for Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages and constitution of panchayats at village and other level or levels.

## ELECTION COMMISSION

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) was constituted in 1950 with its headquarters at New Delhi.
- It is a permanent independent constitutional body responsible for conduct of elections to Parliament and to legislatures of the states and the union territories and elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under the Constitution.
- Based on performance criteria laid down in the **Elections Symbols (reservation & allotment) Order 1968**, the Commission grants recognition to political parties as national or state parties.
- It also decides disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.
- At the state level, the election work is supervised by the **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** of the state, who is appointed by the Commission by selection from amongst senior civil servants of the state government.
- Election Commission of India launched the **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)**, an advanced resource centre of learning, research, training and extension for electoral democracy and election management. The Institute presently functions from New Delhi.

## 4. AGRICULTURE

### INTRODUCTION

- 54.6 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (census 2011).
- It contributes 17.4 per cent to the country's Gross Value Added for the year 2016-17 (at current prices).
- Three constituent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture are:
  - Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F),
  - Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and
  - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW).

### MAJOR PROGRAMMES

#### Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- The scheme has been approved with an outlay of ₹ 50,000 crores for a period of 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
- The major objective of PMKSY is to expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and other water saving technologies (Per drop, More crop) etc.
- The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Per Drop More Crop component being administered by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

#### Agriculture Credit: Interest Subvention Scheme

- Under it, interest subvention is provided on short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakh for a period of one year which is made available to farmers at subvented interest rate of 7 per cent per annum and in case of timely repayment, the same gets reduced to 4 per cent per annum.

#### Crop Insurance

- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was implemented from kharif 2016 along with restructured pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS).

### COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL COSTS AND PRICES (CACP)

- CACP is mandated to advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops.
- CACP submits its recommendations in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

- Determinants of MSP pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

### INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ICAR)

- ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).
- It was established in 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- With its headquarters at New Delhi, the ICAR is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences.

### SOIL AND WATER PRODUCTIVITY

- The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) developed NBSS BHOOMI Geo-portal to access various thematic information on major physiographic regions, sub-physiographic regions and agro-ecological regions of the country.

### GENETIC RESOURCES

- The population of *Momordica cochinchinensis*, collected from the middle Andaman Island, was described as a new subspecies *Momordica cochinchinensis* subsp. *andamanica*, which was subsequently validated through DNA barcoding.

### LIVESTOCK

- Improvement of indigenous cattle breeds through selection project was conceptualized for the genetic improvement of Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal cattle in their home tracts.
- Under network project of buffalo improvement Nli-Ravi, Bhadawari and Swamp breed centres are functioning as conservation and improvement units whereas Jaffarabadi, Pandarpuri and Surti breed centres are concentrating on field progeny testing and maintaining the elite herd for bull production and a breedable herd of 567.
- According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output livestock sector at current prices was about ₹ 5,91,691 crore during 2015-16 which is about 28.5 per cent of the value of output from agricultural and allied sector.
- At constant prices the value of output from livestock is about 29 per cent of the value of the output from total agriculture and allied sector.
- **Milk Production:** India continues to be the largest producer of milk in the world. Milk production during 2016-17 and 2017-18 was 165.4 million tonnes and 176.3 million tonnes respectively showing an annual growth of 6.62 per cent.
- **Egg Production:** Currently the total poultry population is 729.21 million (as per 19th Livestock Census) and egg production was around 88.14 billion during 2016-17.
- **Wool Production:** Wool production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 46.05 million kgs and increased to 48.1 million kgs in 2014-15 but declined to 43.5 million kgs in 2016-17. The production has shown negative growth during 2017-18.
- **Meat Production:** Meat production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 5.95 million tonnes which further increased to 7.7 million tonnes in 2017-18.



- **Fisheries Production:** During 2017-18, India exported ₹ 13,77,244 tonnes fish and fisheries products worth ₹ 45,106.89 crore.

## **NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MISSION**

The National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with the following submissions:

- sub-mission on livestock development;
- sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region;
- sub-mission on fodder and feed development; and
- sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension.

## **LIVESTOCK HEALTH**

- The Drugs Controller General of India regulates the quality of veterinary drugs and biologicals.

## **LIVESTOCK CENSUS**

- The first livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country.
- The 20th Livestock Census was conducted in 2019. It indicates that the livestock population in the country increased by 4.6 per cent to 536 million from 512.06 million in 2012.

## **INDIAN FISHERIES**

- Presently India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China.
- The total fish production during 2017-18 (provisional) stood at 12.61 million metric tonne (MMT) with a contribution of 8.92 MMT from inland sector and 3.69 MMT from marine sector.
- Freshwater aquaculture with a share of 34 per cent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has increased to about 80 per cent in recent years.

## 5. CULTURE AND TOURISM

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- India's nomination of the '**Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai**' has been inscribed on the World Heritage list of the UNESCO. With this, Mumbai becomes the second city in the country after Ahmedabad to figure in the list.
- The first ever **International Kala Mela** was held in New Delhi in February 2018; with its aim to promote the spirit of unity in diversity and the relevance of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The Ministry of Culture launched a new scheme, namely, **Seva Bhoj Yojana in 2018** to reimburse the central government share of Central Goods and Services Tax and Integrated Goods and Services Tax so as to lessen the financial burden of religious / charitable institutions who provide food free of cost without any discrimination.
- Government of India commemorated the **550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak** at national as well as international level in befitting manner.
- **The 500th death anniversary of 15th century poet-saint Kabir** was held in June 2018 in Maghar, Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

### LALIT KALA AKADEMI

- Lalit Kala Akademi, the National Academy of Art, was set up in 1954.
- Lalit Kala Akademi is the government's apex cultural body in the field of visual arts in India. It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture.

### SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

- Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's national academy of music, dance and drama, is a pioneer in the creation of modern India.
- In 1961, the Sangeet Natak Akademi was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (as amended in 1957).
- **The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** conferred annually on eminent artists and scholars are considered the most coveted honours in the field of the performing arts.
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA) in Imphal**, the premier institution in the teaching of Manipuri dance and music was established by it in 1954.
- The Akademi's other projects of national importance are in Kutiyattam theatre of Kerala, commenced in 1991. The project on Chhau dance of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal began in 1994.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA**

- The National School of Drama (NSD)-one of the foremost theatre institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959.
- Later in 1975, it became an autonomous organization, totally financed by Department of Culture.
- Since 1998, the School has organized National Theatre Festival for Children christened 'Jashne Bachpan' every year.

**SAHITYA AKADEMI**

- Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters promotes literature in 24 languages of India recognized by it.
- Sahitya Akademi publishes three journals, Indian Literature (bi-monthly in English), Samkaleena Bhartiya Sahitya (bi-monthly in Hindi) and Sanskrit Pratibha (quarterly in Sanskrit).
- The Akademi organizes Festival of Letters every year to celebrate Indian writing.

**Literary Awards instituted by the Akademi:**

- **Sahitya Akademi Award** is awarded to the most outstanding book(s) of literary merit published in the 24 Indian languages recognized by the Akademi.
- **Bhasha Samman** is given to writers/ scholars / editors collectors / performers / translators who have made considerable contribution to the propagation and enrichment of languages that have not been recognized by the Akademi.
- **Translation Prize** is given to outstanding translations in all the 24 languages recognized by the Akademi.
- **Bal Sahitya Puraskar** is given to outstanding contributions to children's literature in 24 languages.
- **Yuva Puraskar** is given to young Indian writers in 24 languages.

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS (IGNCA)**

- IGNCA is a national level academic research centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts, classical and folk, written and oral, ancient and modern.
- Located in the heart of New Delhi, IGNCA is an autonomous trust under the Ministry of Culture.

**CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)**

- CCRT is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.
- CCRT was set up in 1979 as an autonomous organization by the Government of India, headquartered in New Delhi.
- **CCRT implements the Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme**, which provides scholarships to outstanding children in the age group of 10 to 14 years to develop their talent in various cultural fields particularly in rare art forms.

**ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES (ZCCs)**

- Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) aim to arouse awareness of the local culture and performing arts.
- The seven Zonal Centres were established under this scheme during 1985-86 at Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Dimapur and Nagpur.

**EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT**

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The broad objectives of the initiative are to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all states and union territories through a year-long planned engagement between states.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HIMALAYAS**

- The aim of Buddhist Tibetan Institutions (BTI) is to help preserve, promote and propagate the intangible of Buddhist/Tibetan/Himalayan cultural heritage of the country. The scheme was revised in 2011.
- **The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh Ladakh** was established in 1959. The Institute has obtained the Status of Deemed University in January, 2016.
- **The Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM) in Nalanda, Bihar** is an institution of post graduate studies and research in Pali and Buddhism. It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Culture and accorded Deemed University status in 2006.
- **The Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi** was established in 1967 with a view to educating the youths of Tibet and Indian students of Himalayan border areas. The Institute was declared as a “Deemed to be University” in 1988.
- **The Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS)** has been registered as a Society in 2010 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.
- **Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**, the ASI has declared 3,686 monuments/sites to be of national importance in the country which includes twenty one properties that are inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO.
- **The Epigraphy Branch at Mysore** carries out research work in Sanskrit and Dravidian languages while the one at **Nagpur** carries out research work in Arabic and Persian.

**NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES (NMMA)**

- The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007 with the objective to prepare a National database on Built Heritage and Sites (BH&S) and antiquities from different sources and museums.
- As part of the mandate, NMMA has to prepare two national registers viz., (i) National Register on Built Heritage and Sites and (ii) National Register on Antiquities.

**NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS (NMM)**

- It was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India’s inheritance of knowledge contained in the vast treasure of manuscripts.

**MUSEUMS**

- **The National Museum**, functions as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Culture since 1960, houses over 2.6 lakh art objects dating from pre-historic era onwards.
- **The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi** was founded in 1954 to promote and develop contemporary Indian Art.
- **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, is the largest network of science centres/museums in the world functioning under a single administrative control.
- **The concept of 'Museum on Wheels'** was introduced in India in 1965 when Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) programme started as Mobile Science Museum (MSM) at Ramkrishna Mission School, Kolkata.
- **The Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata (VMH)**, was founded principally through the efforts of Viceroy Lord Curzon, in 1921 as a period museum in memory of Queen Victoria with particular emphasis on Indo-British history. The VMH was declared an institution of national importance by the Government of India Act of 1935.
- **National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology** is the only Museum University in India and is presently functioning at the first floor of National Museum, New Delhi.
- **National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC)** was established in 1976, as a subordinate office of the Department of Culture and is recognized by the Department of Science and Technology as a scientific institution of the Government of India.

**ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (An.S.I.)**

- An.S.I. is an institution one of its unique kind anywhere the world. It has been mandated to study the bio-cultural attributes of the Indian populations since its establishment, about 65 years before. It's head office is in Kolkata.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA**

- The National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of the records creators and the users at large.
- It is the **biggest repository of the non-current records in south east Asia**.
- The major activities of the National Archives of India include: making public records accessible to various Government agencies and research scholars; an online search portal "www.abhilekh-patal.in" now facilitates to access records.

**LIBRARIES**

- **The National Library, Kolkata** was founded in 1891. It enjoys the status of an institution of national Importance.
- **The Central Secretariat Library (CSL)** was established in 1891. Since 1969 the library has been housed at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- **National Mission on Libraries has been set up by Ministry of Culture, in 2012** in pursuance of National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of libraries and information science sector.

## PERFORMING ARTS

- **Performing Arts Grants Scheme:** Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children's theatre and for all genres of performing arts activities.
- **Tagore Cultural Complexes Scheme:** Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for the setting up of new cultural complexes of varying scales as also for modernization, renovation and upgradation of existing Tagore auditoria etc.
- **Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission was created in 2013** to preserve for posterity the 39 core sites as well as some important sites from the master list (consisting of 2000 sites visited by Mahatma Gandhi).
- **Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti** was formed in 1984 as an autonomous body, and is functioning under the financial support from the Ministry of Culture. Gandhi Smriti is the place where Mahatma Gandhi lived the last 144 days of his life, and where the epic life of Gandhiji ended on January 30, 1948.

## TOURISM

- **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs)** during 2018 were 10.56 million (prov.) with a growth of 5.2 per cent over the same period of the previous year.
- **A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board** has been set up to work as an umbrella organisation to govern and promote medical tourism in India.
- **A task force on Adventure Tourism** was formed in 2016 to resolve the issues related to adventure tourism which includes safety and security of tourists.
- **As of now, there are 42 institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs)**, comprising 21 Central IHMs and 21 state IHMs, and 10 Food Craft Institutes (FCIs), which have come up with the support of the Ministry.
- **The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM)** is an autonomous body under the Ministry with its headquarters at Gwalior.
- The Ministry of Tourism has set up the **Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme:** Under it thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.
- **Under PRASAD scheme**, 25 sites of religious significance have been identified for development
- **"Swachh Paryatan Mobile App"** operated by the Ministry of Tourism for 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments has been also made available.

## 6. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

### MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (MoSPI)

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) came into existence as an independent ministry in 1999 after the merger of Department of Statistics and Department of Programme Implementation.
- The Ministry has two wings, one relating to statistics and the other relating to programme implementation.
- The Statistics Wing re-designated as National Statistics Office (NSO), consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- The Programme Implementation Wing has three divisions, namely: (i) twenty point programme, (ii) infrastructure and project monitoring, and (iii) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

### INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)

- Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institute declared as an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament.

### NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION

- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005 on the recommendation of the Rangarajan Commission to serve as a nodal body for all core statistical activities of the country and to ensure statistical coordination.
- It has one part-time Chairperson and four part-time members. Besides, Secretary, Planning Commission is an ex-officio member of the Commission.
- The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary to the Commission. He is also the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

### CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO)

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), an attached office of the Ministry, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards.
- Its activities inter-alia, include compilation of national accounts, index of industrial production, consumer price indices (urban/rural/ combined), human development statistics and preparation of the National Industrial Classification.

### ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES

- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India.

- The ASI extends to the entire country. It covers all factories registered under Sections 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, where the manufacturing process is defined under Section 2 (k) of the said Act.
- Details the survey also covers *bidi* and cigar manufacturing establishments registered under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.
- All the electricity undertakings engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, not registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are also covered under ASI.
- However defence establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, departmental units such as railway workshops, government mints, sanitary, water supply, gas storage, etc., are excluded from the purview of the survey.

### INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by CSO every month in the form of Quick Estimates with a time-lag of 6 weeks as per the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) norms of IMF.
- The base year of all-India IIP was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the new series was launched in 2017.
- Apart from breakup of the index in three sectors, viz., mining, manufacturing and electricity, the estimates are also simultaneously released as per use-based classification viz., primary goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure construction goods and consumer durables and consumer non-durables.
- The major source of data for IIP is the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that supplies data for item groups with a weight of 47.54 percent in overall IIP.

### NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY OFFICE

- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys, in diverse fields, on all India basis.
- The Director General (Survey) is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of all activities of NSSO.

### PRICE DATA COLLECTION

- **Wholesale Price Index (Outgoing):** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is used as an important measure of inflation in India. Fiscal and monetary policy changes are greatly influenced by changes in WPI.
- **Consumer Price Index:** The CSO, Ministry of Statistics started releasing state/UT-wise as well as All India Consumer Price Indices (CPI) separately for rural, urban and combined (rural plus urban) for the purpose of temporal price comparison. CSO revised the base year of CPI from 2010 to 2012 and revised series was launched in 2015.
- **Rural Retail Price Collection (RPC):**
  - The data on rural retail prices are collected by Field Operations Divisions (FOD) regularly for compiling the consumer price index (CPI) for agricultural labourers/rural labourers on behalf of the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
  - At present, the Labour Bureau compiles and publishes the CPI for agricultural labourers/rural labourers.



**TWENTY POINT PROGRAMME**

- The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) – initiated in 1975 and restructured in 2006 – aims to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life all over the country.
- The Programme originally consisted of 20 points and 66 items.
- One of the 66 items viz., 'Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)' has since been subsumed into another item namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the programmes/schemes covered under TPP-2006.

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

- The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in **1993**.
- Initially, Ministry of Rural Development was the Nodal Ministry for this scheme. In October, 1994 this scheme was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- The Scheme is **fully funded by the Government of India** under which funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- **The funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable**, i.e., the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.
- At present, the **annual entitlement per MP/ constituency is ₹ 5 crore**.
- Under it, the **role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommend works**. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended within the stipulated time period.
  - **The elected Lok Sabha Members** can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
  - **The elected members of the Rajya Sabha** can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
  - **Nominated Members of the Parliament** can recommend works for implementation, anywhere in the country.
- **MPLADS works can be implemented in** areas affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone, hailstorm, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, earthquake, drought, tsunami, fire and biological, chemical, radiological hazards, etc.
- In order to accord special attention to the development of areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), **15 per cent of MPLADS funds are to be utilized for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by ST population**.

## 7. COMMERCE

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- THE Department of Commerce comes under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
- The Department formulates, implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade.
- The long-term vision of the Department is to make India a major player in the world trade by 2020.

### EXPORTS

- India's merchandise exports recorded a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.09 per cent from April March 2009-10 to April-March 2018-19 (QE).
- Merchandise exports reached a new peak of US\$ 331.02 billion during April-March 2018-19 (QE) surpassing the earlier high of US\$ 314 achieved in 2013-14 registering a positive growth of 9.06 per cent over previous year.

### IMPORTS

- Cumulative value of imports during April-March 2018-19 (QE) was US\$ 507.44 billion as against US\$ 465.58 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year registering a positive growth of 8.99 per cent in US\$ terms.
- Oil imports were valued at-US\$ 140.47 billion during April-March 2018-19 (QE) which was 29.27 per cent higher than oil import valued at US\$ 108.66 billion in the corresponding period of previous year.
- Non-oil imports were valued at US\$ 366.97 billion during April-March 2018- 19 (QE) which was 2.82 per cent higher than non-oil imports of US\$ 356.92 billion in previous year.

### TRADE BALANCE

- The Trade deficit in Apr-Mar 2018-19 (QE) was estimated at US\$ 176.42billion which was higher than the deficit of US\$ 162.05 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

### GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- As per World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report, April, 2019, global economy is projected to grow at 3.3 per cent and 3.69 per cent in 2019 and 2020, respectively.
- In Asia, India and China continue to be the major growth drivers. As per the latest report i.e. WEO, April, 2019, India has achieved a growth rate of 7.1 per cent in 2018, while China had a growth of 6.6 per cent.

## GLOBAL TRADE SITUATION

- World Trade Organization (WTO) economists expect merchandise trade volume growth to fall to 2.6 per cent in 2019-down from 3.0 per cent in 2018.
- As per the current rankings for the year 2018, India is the 19th largest exporter (with a share of 1.7 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 2.6 per cent) of merchandise trade in the world.
- China is the top ranked exporter and America is the first largest importer of merchandise trade in the world.
- In Commercial Services, India is the 8th largest exporter (with a share of 3.5 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 3.2 per cent). USA is the top exporter as well as the top importer of commercial services trade in the world.

## FOREIGN TRADE

- The Five-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services.
- With the release of the FTP, Handbook of procedures was also released which contains the following documents: (a) Hand Book of Procedures, (b) Appendices & Aayat-Niryat Forms and (c) Standard Input Output Norms (SION).
- The FTP introduces two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for export of specified goods to specified markets and Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services.
- **Under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)**, exporters were eligible for Duty Credit Scrips at the rate either 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, 10 and 20 per cent of FOB value of exports realized for exports made in 2018-19, based on the HS Code of the exported product.
- **Under the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)** there are rewards on net foreign exchange earnings, to service providers of notified services who are providing service from India to the rest of the world, in the form of duty credit scrips which are transferable and can be used to pay certain central duties/taxes including customs duties.

## DUTY REMISSION SCHEMES

Purpose of Duty neutralization/remission schemes is to allow duty free import/ procurement of inputs or to allow replenishment either for the inputs, used or the duty component on inputs used. Brief of these schemes are as follows:

- **Advance Authorization Scheme:** It allows duty free import of inputs, along with fuel, oil, catalyst, etc., required for manufacturing the export product.
- **Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA):** Under DFIA Scheme operational from 2006, Duty Free Import Authorization shall be issued on post export basis for products for which Standard Input Output Norms (SION) have been notified, once export is completed.
- **Schemes for Gems and Jewellery Sector are:** Advance Procurement/replenishment of Precious Metals from Nominated Agencies; Replenishment authorization for Gems; Replenishment authorization for Consumables; Advance authorization for Precious Metals.
- **Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG):** The Scheme allows import under of capital goods at zero customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes.

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE**

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.
- This Directorate, with headquarters at New Delhi, is responsible for formulating and implementing the Foreign Trade Policy with the main objective of promoting India's exports.
- The DGFT also issues scrips / authorization to exporters and monitors their corresponding obligations.

**INDIAN TRADE PORTAL**

- Indian Trade Portal launched by the DGFT displays information useful for exports and imports.
- It contains the trade enquiries uploaded by Indian trade missions, tariff and trade data of India's major trade partners, export market reports, and trade agreements, etc.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

- In the last two years, over 50,000 entrepreneurs have been trained under the **Niryat Bandhu programme** implemented by DGFT, thus complementing the Startup India and Skill India initiatives.
- Institutional set up under the Department like – Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Indian Institute of Packaging, Indian Institute of Plantation, Export Promotion Councils, Centres of Excellence, Plantation Research Institutes, etc., – are being leveraged for capacity building.

**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

- **A new institution, namely, the Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT)** has been set up to deepen existing research capabilities to understand the growing complexity of the process of globalization and its spillover effects on domestic policymaking.
- CRIT will have 5 centres namely Centre for Trade and Investment law, Centre for Regional Trade, Centre for Training, Centre for Trade Promotion and Centre for WTO Studies.
- The Council for Trade Development and Promotion was constituted in July 2015.

**SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES**

- India was one of the first in Asia to recognise the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in 1965.
- The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000.
- The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect in 2006. The main objectives of the SEZ Act are: generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities; and development of infrastructure facilities.

**GOVERNMENT E MARKETPLACE (GeM)**

- GeM is a short form of one stop Government e-Market Place hosted by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D). GeM is dynamic, self sustaining and user friendly portal for making procurement by Government officers.

- GeM covers entire procurement process chain, right from vendor registration, item selection by buyer, supply order generation, and receipt of goods/services by the consignees (s), to online payment to vendor.

## TRADE FACILITATION

- **National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)** was set up following ratification by India of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
- **The National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP)** has been drawn out, identifying 76 trade facilitation measures with implementation timelines of which 51 are TFA-plus activities.
- Comprehensive IT-based system called **Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS)** for monitoring of export of goods and software and facilitating authorised dealer banks to report various returns through a single platform has been developed by RBI.

## STATE-OF-ART TRADE ANALYTICS

- A state-of-art trade analytics has been put in place in Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for data based policy actions.
- This initiative envisages processing trade information from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and other national and international data bases related to India's key export markets and identifying specific actions.

## DIGITISATION AND PFMS

- Successful implementation of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) had been rolled out in all PAOS of this office Pay and Accounts Offices of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

## QUALITY STANDARDS

- Government is committed to transforming India into a manufacturing and exporting hub. This will require focus on improving product quality. Many Indian products fail quality tests due to traces of pesticides, pathogens, illegal dyes, etc.
- Setting up more globally accredited testing laboratories, enhancing the capacity of Indian testing laboratories and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) with partner countries would be areas of focus.

## ANTI DUMPING

- The role of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) under the Department is to provide the level playing field to the country's domestic industry from the foreign exporters so that they are able to compete effectively in the domestic market.
- This measure is taken under the WTO agreement and comes under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and Rules made thereunder.
- In August 2017, the investigation processes of DGAD became ISO 9001:2015 compliant which brought in transparency and accountability in its operations.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### MINISTRIES

- **The Ministry of Electronics and Technology** promotes e-governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance.
- **The Ministry of Communications** looks after the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

### POSTS

- The modern postal system, the most preferred facilitator of communication, was established in India by Lord Clive in 1766 and it was further developed by Warren Hastings in 1774.
- The statute presently governing postal services in the country is **Indian Post Office Act, 1898**.
- **Organization Overview:** The Department of Posts comes under the Ministry of Communications. The Postal Service Board, the apex management body of the department.
- **Financial Services:** Department of Posts is operating Small Savings Schemes on behalf of Ministry of Finance, which frames and modifies rules relating to these schemes and pays remuneration to the Department of Posts.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):** It was set up in 2016 as a Public Limited Company with 100 per cent GOI equity under Department of Posts. It is the biggest bank of the country in terms of physical presence of 1.36 lakhs access points.
- **Postal Life Insurance (PLI)** was introduced in 1884, as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees.
- **Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI)** was started in 1995 to provide insurance cover to the rural public.
- **Speed Post** was started in 1986 for providing a time-bound and express delivery of letters and parcels weighing upto 35 kg between specified stations in India.
- **Gangajal through Post Offices:** India Post has put in place arrangements for supply and distribution of 'Gangajal' sourced from Rishikesh and Gangotri, through post offices across the country from 2016.
- **Electronic Indian Postal Order (e-IPO):** Based on the proposal received from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), India Post agreed to facilitate acceptance of RTI fees from Indian citizens abroad through e-IPO on e-Post Office web portal.
- **e-Post Office** is an e-commerce portal of the Department of Posts which provides selected postal facility through the internet.
- **Indian Post office Rules 2019** are to be issued which will be in supersession of IPO Rules, 1933. The Indian Post Office Rules, 2019 will be a new set of Rules which will govern the functioning of the post offices in the present environment.

## International Relations

- India is a member of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** since 1876. This organization of 192 member countries aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations among other countries.
- India is also a member of the **Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** along with 31 other member countries.

## Philately

- Philately is the hobby of collecting stamps as well as the study of postal history and other related items.
- **The 'Post Shoppe'** is a convenient store format, located in the premises of important post offices, which essentially keeps wide range of collectable philatelic items such as stamps, first day covers and also 'My Stamp' corner where one can get stamps with own photograph.
- A philately scholarship scheme called **Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana** was introduced in 2017-18 to promote philately among children at a young age.

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** deals with policy matters relating to information technology, electronics, internet (other than licensing of ISPs) and cyber security.
- The Information Technology Act, 2000 was amended through the **Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008** which substituted the word "digital signature" with "electronic signature" with major changes in various sections along with insertion of other sections.

## Digital India

- This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).
- Digital India aims to provide thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely: (1) broadband highways; (2) universal access to mobile connectivity; (3) public internet access programme; (4) e-governance: reforming government through technology; (5) e-Kranti - electronic delivery of services; (6) information for all; (7) electronics manufacturing; (8) IT for Jobs; and (9) early harvest programmes.
- **Digitize India Platform (DIP)** is an initiative of the Government of India under the Digital India Programme to provide digitization services for scanned document images or physical documents for any organisation. The aim is to digitize and make usable all the existing content in different formats.

## e-Governance initiatives

- In order to transform the quality of services and to provide integrated services the **"eKranti"** initiative aims to utilize emerging technologies such as cloud and mobile platform and focus on integration of services.
- **e-Sampark Database** is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees.

- **e-Taal** is a web portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects.
- **e-Districts** is one of the Mission Mode Projects(MMPs) under e-Kranti, with the MeitY, as the nodal Ministry, to be implemented by state government or their designated agencies. This MMP aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services, at district and sub-district level, those are not part of any other MMP.
- **Common Services Centre:** This scheme aims at providing ICT enabled frontend service delivery outlets, across rural India covering six lakh villages.
- **GI Cloud:** In order to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, the government has embarked upon an ambitious and important initiative - "GI Cloud" which has been coined as "MeghRaj".
- **e-Way Bill Application**, provides a self-service platform to tax payers and transporters to generate single e-Way Bill for movement of goods from one place to another, as per GST Rules.
- **Jeevan Pramaan/Digital Life Certificate (DLC)** is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners for submitting their Life Certificates digitally, which was introduced in 2015 as a Digital India Initiative of Government of India.
- MeitY has conceptualized and is implementing the **e-Pramaan** framework for e-Authentication for public services.
- **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** was established in 2010 to interconnect all institutions of higher learning and research with a high speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research.
- **Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG)** has been developed and launched in 2017 as a single mobile platform to deliver major government services.
- **Digital Locker** is a platform for issuance and verification of documents and certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents.

## PRAGATI

- PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) was launched in 2015.
- This video conferencing facility brings the secretaries to government of India and the chief secretaries of the states on single platform on every fourth wednesday of the month, through which Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues in major projects and programmes directly.

## Promotion of Digital Transactions

- A new educational channel '**DigiShala**' for creating awareness regarding various forms of electronic payment to citizens was launched in 2016.
- The BHIM App was launched in 2016 and within a short span BHIM downloads have crossed 20 million with transactions worth around ₹ 3,000 crores.

## Organizations

- **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG)** provides GIS based services to government ministries/departments.
- **National Cyber Co-ordination Centre (NCCC)** is being set-up with an aim to generate cyber security situational awareness to anticipate and prepare for cyber attacks.



- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** was established in 2009, as an attached office to the Planning Commission now an attached office of Ministry of Electronics and IT with a vision to implement the Aadhaar scheme.
- In accordance with the provision contained under Section 48(1) of the IT Act 2000, the **Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (CRAT)** was established in 2006.
- **Education and Research Network (ERNET), India** is an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry. ERNET has made significant contribution for the emergence of networking in the country.
- **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a “prime builder” of e-government/e-governance applications.
- **National Internet Exchange (NIXI)** is a not for profit organization set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 under Companies Act, 2013) for peering of ISPs among themselves and routing the domestic traffic within the country.
- **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** a scientific society of the MeitY, is actively engaged in capacity building and skill development in Information Technology (IT).
- **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** was set up in 1991 as an autonomous society under the MeitY for promotion of software exports from the country.
- **Media Lab Asia** has been promoted by this Ministry as a not-for-profit company to bring the benefits of ICT to the common man.
- **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** is a functional organisation of the Ministry, which has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 to serve as the national agency to perform functions in the area of cyber security.
- **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)** was set up in 1984 as an autonomous laboratory in Mumbai to undertake R & D work in the areas of Microwave Engineering and Electromagnetic Engineering Technology.
- **National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSi)** was set up by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1995 as its extended arm for providing total ICT solutions to the central and state government departments and organizations.

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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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- India is currently the world’s second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.18 billion.
- India’s mobile economy is growing rapidly and currently constitutes more than 98 per cent of all telephone subscriptions.

### Tele-density

- Tele-density denotes the number of telephones per 100 populations.
- Overall tele-density in the country was 90.10 per cent at the end of March 2019. The rural tele-density was 57.50 per cent while that in urban areas it was 159.66 per cent.
- Amongst the service areas, Himachal Pradesh (146.37 per cent) had the highest tele-density and Bihar (59.95 per cent) had the lowest.
- Amongst the metros, Delhi tops in tele-density with 238.57 per cent.

**Internet and Broadband Penetration**

- The number of Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) has reached to 636.73 million by the end of March 2019.
- The number of subscribers accessing internet via wireless phones, etc., was 615.05 million at the end of March 2019 while the number of wireline internet subscribers was 21.68 million.
- The number of Broadband subscribers was 561.36 million at the end of March 2019.

**Organizations**

- **DoT has the following PSUs under its administrative control:** (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); (c) ITI Limited; (d) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL); (e) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL); (f) Hemisphere Properties India Limited (HPIL).
- **C-DOT, an autonomous body, is DoT's R&D arm.**

## 9. DEFENCE

### CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS)

- The post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was created in the rank of a four-star General. General Bipin Rawat took over as the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) from January 1, 2020 for a three-year tenure.
- **The Chief of Defence Staff will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**, to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.
- The following areas will be dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:
  - The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
  - Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
  - The Territorial Army.
  - Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
  - Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.
- The CDS will also be the **Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**.

### REGIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

- The regional cooperation in the area of regional security has progressed significantly under **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**.
- The 4th BIMSTEC Summit, held in Kathmandu in 2018, was instrumental in giving regional cooperation a significant push.
- India launched an **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** in Gurugram in 2018. The IFCIOR is a major initiative to put in place a mechanism for MDA and to ensure situational awareness of the maritime activities in the region.
- India continues to play a role in training and supporting capacity building of the **Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF)** as a part of larger developmental cooperation assistance.
- India continues to assist Maldives National Defence Forces in their capability and capacity building. Bilateral exercises between the **Army (Ekuverin), Navy (Ekatha) and Coast Guard (Dosti)** of the two countries take place on an annual basis.
- The 13th edition of India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise '**Surya Kiran**' was held in 2018.
- The armies of India and Sri Lanka held their sixth annual '**Mitra Shakti**' military exercise.
- Indo-US partnership is on a positive trajectory with India been designated '**Major Defence Partner in National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA-17)**' and has been upgraded to Strategic Authorisation Act-1 Status (STA-1) equating India at par with the closest allies of US.

- The country's new Indian Ocean Policy was articulated by Prime Minister during his visit to Mauritius in March 2015. The policy, encapsulated in **SAGAR (meaning ocean) stands for "Security and Growth for All in the Region"**

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

- **Key task:** To frame policy directions on defence and security related matters
- **Departments under it:** (a) Department of defence, (b) Department of defence production, (c) Department of defence research and development (DRDO) and (d) Department of ex-servicemen welfare.

## HEADQUARTERS INTEGRATED DEFENCE STAFF (HQIDS)

- It was raised on October 1, 2001 based on the recommendations of Group of Ministers on the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) report.
- **Task:** To foster jointness and synergy amongst the three Services.
- The organization has representation from all three Services, MEA, DRDO, DoD and Def (Finance).
- IDS provides secretariat and general assistance to the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

## ARMY

- **Contribution to UN Peacekeeping**
  - It has contributed more than 2,34,000 Indian troops in various UN missions.
  - India has a well established training institute in '**Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping**' in Delhi, which was established in 2000, training both personnel from India and abroad on UN peacekeeping.
- **Operation Sadbhavna** is a part of the Counter Terrorist strategy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to wrest the initiative and re-integrate the 'Awaam' with the national mainstream.

## NAVY

- The Indian Navy (IN) has been designated as the agency responsible for overall Maritime Security including Coastal Security and Offshore Security.
- **Anti-Piracy Operations:** In 2018, IN shifted from the 'Escort Cycle' concept, to a concept of 'Free Patrol'. The 'Free Patrol' in the Gulf of Aden (GoA) provided greater flexibility to the IN ship to respond to developing situations for anti-piracy mission.
- '**Op Madad**' was conducted to provide SAR and relief assistance in the flood affected areas of Kerala.

## AIR FORCE

- **Light Combat Aircraft, Akash Missile, Advance Light Helicopters (ALH)** have already been inducted, thus giving impetus to indigenisation.
- IAF has established pan IAF captive **3G WCDMA Mobile Network AFCEL**.
- Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh created history in 2016 by becoming the **first women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream**.

**COMMISSIONED RANKS**

The following are the commissioned ranks in the three Services; each rank is shown opposite its equivalent in the other Service:

ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

**INDIAN COAST GUARD**

Indian Coast Guard was constituted in 1977 with following charter of duties: (a) safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals and installations; (b) protection to fishermen; (c) protect maritime environment etc.

**RECRUITMENT**

**Through UPSC**

Commissioned Officers in the Armed Forces are recruited mainly through UPSC which conducts the following two All India Competitive Examinations: National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy (NA) and (b) Combined Defence Services Examination (CDSE).

**Through Non-UPSC Entries**

- **Ways of Recruitment in Army:** University entry scheme (UES), Technical Graduates Course (TGC), Short Service Commission (Technical) Entry, 10+2 Technical Entry Scheme (TES), Short Service Commission (Women), NCC (Special Entry Scheme) and Judge Advocate General Entry.
- **Ways of Recruitment in Indian Navy:** 10+2 (Cadet Entry Scheme), University Entry Scheme (UES), Permanent Commission to SSC Officers, Recruitment through NCC and Special Naval Architecture Entry Scheme.

- **Ways of Recruitment in Indian Air Force:** Recruitment through Service Selection, University Entry Scheme, Recruitment of Women Officers and Recruitment through National Cadet Corps.

### TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

- Selected Armed forces officers of the rank of Brigadier/equivalent from Indian and Foreign Armed Forces and Civil Services officers of equivalent status of director and above are nominated for training at the **National Defence College**.
- **The National Defence Academy (NDA)** is a premier Tri-Service institution which trains cadets of all three Services before inducting them into their respective pre-commissioning training academies.
- **The Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun** is a premier training establishment imparting pre-commissioned training to the Gentlemen Cadets (GC).
- Established in 1963, the Officers Training School (OTS), Chennai was re-designated as **Officers Training Academy (OTA)** from January 1, 1988 on completion of 25 years of its existence. The Academy trains cadets for Short Service Commission.
- **The Sainik Schools** were established as a joint venture of the Central and state Governments. These are under the overall governance of Sainik Schools Society.
- There are 5 **Rashtriya Military Schools** in country at Belgaum and Bengaluru in Karnataka, Chail in Himachal Pradesh and Ajmer and Dholpur in Rajasthan. These schools are affiliated to CBSE.
- **Rashtriya Indian military college (RIMC)** was founded in 1922, with the objective of providing the necessary preliminary training for boys of Indian birth or domicile, wishing to become officers in the Armed Forces of India.
- **The College of Military Engineering at Pune** is a premier technical institution conducting training for personnel of the Corps of Engineers, other Arms and Services, Navy, Air Force, Para Military Forces, Police and Civilians.

### NATIONAL CADET CORPS

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was established under the NCC Act, 1948.
- The NCC strives to provide the youth of the country opportunities for all round development with a sense of commitment, dedication, self-discipline and moral values, so that they become useful citizens and can take their place in all walks of life in the service of the nation.

### ORDNANCE FACTORIES

- The Indian Ordnance Factories organisation - a family of **41 ordnance factories** under the aegis of its corporate headquarters **Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata**.
- The organisation is engaged in production, testing, logistics, research, development and marketing of a comprehensive product range in the area of land, sea and air systems.
- **Indian Ordnance Factories is the oldest and largest industrial setup which functions under the Department of Defence Production.**

### DEFENCE UNDERTAKINGS

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, established in 1940, is a premier aeronautical Company of Asia. HAL is a Navratna DPSU.

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a Navaratna PSU, was established in 1954. The company has core competency in areas of Defence Communications, Radars & Missile Systems, Sonars etc.
- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)**, incorporated in 1964, is a Mini-Ratna (Category-I) PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated in 1970 under the Ministry of Defence. It is a pioneer in the manufacture of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM).
- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** is a leading Defence PSU established as public limited company in 1934.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)**, a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated as a Defence PSU in 1960.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** is a Mini Ratna Group – I status company.
- **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** was set up originally in 1941 by Seth Walchand Herachand to promote indigenous shipbuilding industry. The shipyard was transferred to Ministry of Defence in 2010.
- **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)** was set up in the early 1970s' initially to manufacture critical materials required in the strategic sectors of India's defence industry.
- **National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding (NIRDESH)** was set up at Kozhikode, Kerala with the objective of achieving self-reliance in shipbuilding.

### DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (DRDO)

- DRDO is the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence. It was created in 1958. DRDO has 46 laboratories.
- DRDO is headed by the Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri who is also the Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Director General RandD (DGRandD).
- The DRDO ensures training to all cadres of personnel through training institutes, like DIAT, Pune; ITM, Mussoorie and Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur.

### RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

- **The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare** formulates various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the country.
- **Kendriya Sainik Board** Secretariat is the Apex Body of Government of India responsible for implementing Government policies for welfare of war widows, disabled soldiers, ESM and their dependents.
- **Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR)** is a tri-service organization which looks after various aspects of resettlement and offers multifarious avenues of Employment, Self Employment and Training to Officers, JCOs/OR and their equivalents in other Services as well as widows and dependents.
- **Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)**, launched in 2003, has been structured on the lines of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and is financed by the Government of India. Endeavour is to ensure cashless treatment by utilising the empanelled hospitals to the veterans and their dependents.

## 10. EDUCATION

### RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

- **Article 21(A)** of the Constitution of India provides for Right to Education as a Fundamental Right and its consequent legislation, **the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** became operative in the country in 2010.
- The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. All states and UTs have notified their state RTE Rules.
- The centrally sponsored scheme of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** is being implemented since 2001 for universalization of elementary education.
- As per norms it has been made mandatory for the schools to constitute **School Management Committees (SMC)** wherein the parents/guardians of students studying in the respective school are the members.
- **Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act** mandates all private unaided schools and special category schools to reserve a minimum of 25 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections.

#### Bridging Gender Gaps in Elementary Education

- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)** are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC Muslim communities and BPL girls. KGBVs are set up in educational backward blocks where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to their security of girls.
- Department of School Education and Literacy, with the support of UNICEF has prepared a **Digital Gender Atlas for advancing girls' education** to identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalized groups in the country.

#### SCs/STs and Muslims

- **Enrolment of SC children** has gone up from 19.06 per cent in 2010-11 to 19.8 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is more than their share in population at 16.60 per cent (as per Census 2011).
- **Enrolment of ST children** has marginally gone down from 10.70 per cent in 2010-11 to 10.35 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is more than their share of population at 8.60 per cent (as per census 2011).
- **Enrolment of Muslim children** has grown up from 12.50 per cent in 2010-11 to 13.8 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is slightly less than their share in population (14.2 per cent as per Census 2011).



### Sub-Programmes under SSA

- **The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB) programme** in classes I and II is focusing on foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and mathematics.
- **The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA)** aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics and technology. Schools have been adopted for mentoring by institutions of higher education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's.
- **Vidyanjali** was launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country.
- MHRD has developed a **web portal called ShaGun** to monitor the implementation of SSA.

### RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality.
- The schemes envisages to enhance the enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, with an aim to ensure GER of 100 per cent and universal retention by 2020.

#### Initiatives under RMSA:

- **Shaala Siddhi:** School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal was launched in 2015. It is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement. Developed by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA).
- **The 'Shaala Darpan Project'** to cover all the 1099 Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched in June, 2015. The objective of this project is to provide services based on school management systems to students, parents and communities.
- **Kala Utsav** is an initiative of this Ministry to promote arts (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at secondary stage in the country.

#### Samagra Shiksha

- The Department of School Education & Literacy launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19.
- It envisages 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- Preference is to be given to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), Special Focus Districts (SFDs), border areas and the aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. Allocation for uniforms has been enhanced from ₹150/250 to 250/400 per child per annum. Energized textbooks have also been introduced.

#### Pariksha Pe Charcha

- Prime Minister's Interaction Programme with school and college students "*Pariksha Pe Charcha*" was held in 2018 wherein the Prime Minister was interacting Live with school and college students through web interaction across the country.

**VOCATIONALISATION OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Following schemes have been subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan:

- **The Centrally sponsored scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education**, which was revised in 2014 with a view to align it with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) into which the NVEQF has been assimilated.
- **The Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary stage (IEDSS)**, launched in 2009-10 replacing the earlier scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).

**CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME FOR TEACHER EDUCATION**

- The centrally sponsored scheme for Teacher Education was initiated in 1987.
- It aims to establish DIETs in all districts; strengthen Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs); strengthen Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs); and establish block institutes of teacher education (BITEs) in identified SC/ST/minority concentration districts.
- Under it, the Department of School Education and Literacy, launched '**India Teacher Education Portal (Prashikshak)**' in 2016 to monitor teachers education Institutions.

**SCHEME FOR PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION IN MADARSAS (SPQEM)**

**The objectives of the Scheme are:**

- encourage Madarasas and Maktabas to introduce formal subjects i.e., science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English by means of providing financial assistance;
- children studying in Madarasas and Maktabas attain academic proficiency for class I-XII;
- Madarasas/Maktabas/Dar-ul-Uloom can opt to become accredited study centres with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for which proper assistance will be provided etc.

**NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (NMMSS)**

- This centrally sponsored Scheme was launched in 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary and higher secondary stage up to class XII.

**NATIONAL SCHEME OF INCENTIVE TO GIRLS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION (NSIGSE)**

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2008 with the objective to establish an enabling environment to reduce the drop-outs and to promote the enrolment of girl children belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools.
- The scheme covers (i) all girls belonging to SC/ST communities, who pass VIII and (ii) all girls who pass VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and enrol in class IX in a state government, government-aided and local body schools.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

- National Literacy Mission (NLM) was launched in 1988 for adults in age group of 15+. It was revamped in 2009 in alignment with new paradigms of lifelong learning as Saakshar Bharat.

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) is the implementing organization at national level for all the activities envisaged in Adult Education and Skill Development.

### NATIONAL AWARD TO TEACHERS

- Instituted in 1958, the National Award to Teachers (NAT) is given away by the President of India on 5th September (Teacher's Day) every year to give public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.

### KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

- **The Scheme of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVS) (Central Schools)** was approved in 1962 to provide uninterrupted education to the wards of transferrable central government employees.
- **The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan** was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act in 1965 to manage the Kendriya Vidyalayas located all over India and abroad. The Government of India wholly finances the Sangathan.

### JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYAS

- **The National Policy on Education, 1986**, envisaged setting up of residential Navodaya schools with an aim of providing excellence coupled with equity and social justice.
- Consequent to this, **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti** was registered as a Society, under the Society Registration Act, of 1860, with the objective to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (NCERT)

- NCERT provides academic and technical supports for qualitative improvement of school education. The NCERT was **established in 1961**.
- NCERT books are available free in digital version on **e-Pathshala app**.
- The major constituent units of the NCERT are:
  - National Institute of Education (NIE), New Delhi;
  - Central Institute of Education Technology (CIET), New Delhi;
  - Pandit Sunder Lal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), Bhopal;
  - five regional institutes of education (RIEs) at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysore and Umiam (Meghalaya).

### NATIONAL BAL BHAVAN

- **National Bal Bhavan (NBB), established in 1956**, is an autonomous institution funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment, create and perform according to their age, aptitude and ability.

### CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

- It is a Board of Education for public and private schools, under the Union Government. CBSE has asked all schools affiliated to follow only NCERT curriculum.

- It was in the year **1962** finally that the Board was reconstituted.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING (NIOS)**

- NIOS is “Open School” to cater to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners up to pre-degree level.
- It was established by the Ministry of HRD in 1989.

### **MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME**

- **The Mid-Day Meal Scheme** covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/ maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.
- “**Tithi Bhojan**” is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the Mid-Day Meal Programme being followed in Gujarat.
- The concept of Tithi Bhojan has been adopted by different states with local nomenclatures like ‘**Sampriti Bhojan**’ in Assam, ‘**Dham**’ in Himachal Pradesh, ‘**Sneh Bhojan**’ in Maharashtra, ‘**Shalegagi Naavu Neevu**’ in Karnataka, ‘**Anna Dhanam**’ in Puducherry, ‘**Priti Bhoj**’ in Punjab and ‘**Utsav Bhoj**’ in Rajasthan.

### **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

- There were only 20 universities and 500 colleges at the time of independence which have increased by **38 times (i.e., 760) in the case of the universities and 77 times (i.e. 38,498) in the case of colleges.**
- **The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** for educational institutions was launched to enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions on the basis of a set of objective parameters and a transparent process.
- A credit framework **Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY)** is now in place which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education system.
- **Education Sector Skill Council** was constituted in 2014, to consider job roles other than academic faculties and teacher qualifications.
- **Yukti - Yogya Kalakriti ki Takneek** aims at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.
- **SAKSHAM - Scholarship Scheme for differently-abled children** aims at providing encouragement and support to differently-abled children to pursue technical education.
- The UGC launched a special scholarship scheme for students of north east region, **Ishan Uday** from the academic session 2014-15.
- **Ishan Vikas - Academic Exposure for North Eastern Students:** The programme has been launched with a plan to bring selected college and school students from the north eastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods for academic exposure.
- **Pragati (scholarship for girl students) is a scheme of AICTE** aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls participation in technical education.

- UGC has introduced the **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child** for research in social sciences with an aim to compensate direct costs of higher education especially for such girls who happen to be the only girl child in their family.
- **The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)** Scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT for teaching and learning processes.
- **Swayam - Study Webs of Active -Learning for Young Aspiring Minds:** It is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform with a comprehensive academic structure. The integrated platform will offer courses covering engineering, humanities and social sciences etc., to be used by learners at large.
- **Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)** aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education in India.
- **Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations and Training (GANIT)** week in schools affiliated to CBSE was organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan and to actively promote interest of students in mathematics.

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- The Copyright Office was established in 1958.
- It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education.
- It is headed by the Registrar of Copyright, who has quasi-judicial powers in handling cases relating to copyright.

## 11. ENERGY

### POWER

- Power development in India commenced at the end of the nineteenth century with the **commissioning of electricity supply in Darjeeling during 1897**, followed by the **commissioning of a hydropower station at Sivasamudram in Karnataka during 1902**.
- **The Ministry of Power** is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country. In all technical matters, the Ministry is assisted by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**.
- The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the Central Sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz., the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- The Power Grid is responsible for the formation of the **National Power Grid**.
- Two joint-venture power corporations, namely, **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC)** are responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively.
- Three statutory bodies, i.e., the **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- Programmes of rural electrification are provided financial assistance by the **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)**.
- The autonomous bodies (societies), namely **Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the National Power Training Institute (NTPi)** are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

### POWER GENERATION

- Objectives of **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** are:
  - to separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders for judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas;
  - strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas;
  - metering in rural areas (feeders, distribution transformers and consumers).
- **Saubhagya (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana)** was launched to achieve universal household electrification in the country by March, 2019.

- **Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)** was launched in 2014 with following components:
  - strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network in urban areas;
  - metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers in urban areas;
  - IT enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network.
- **UDAY scheme (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana)** was launched in 2015 for a sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country.
- **National Power Grid** in the country is being developed in a phased manner. All five regional grids have been inter-connected in synchronous mode.
- The updated version of **Energy Conservation Building code (ECBC)** was launched 2017. It sets minimum energy standard for new commercial building having connected load of 100 KW and above or contract demand of 120 KW and above.
- In order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the Government had launched **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- **The peak power deficit** during financial year 2001-02 was 12.2 per cent, approximately 9252 MW, however, at the end of 2014-15, the peak power deficit decreased to the order of 2.4 per cent.

## PAHAL

- Government introduced well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL.
- Applicable subsidy is directly transferred into bank account of beneficiaries. PAHAL has entered into **Guinness book of World Record for being the largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.**

## PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

- **The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** is concerned with exploration and production of oil and natural gas (including import of liquefied natural gas).
- India surpassed Russia to become the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest energy consumer** in the world after China and USA during 2015. Oil and gas accounted for around 35 per cent share in India's energy consumption.
- India surpassed Japan to become **3<sup>rd</sup> largest oil consumer** in world after US & China during 2015.
- **India is the second largest refiner in Asia after China.**
- **Sahaj** was a digital initiative launched by oil marketing companies for release of LPG connection with online payment and issuance of 'e-SV' under the Digital India initiative and the facility is now available on pan India basis.
- **The Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy** was notified for monetization of discovered small fields of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production. Under the policy 30 contract areas were awarded for development through International Competitive Bidding (ICB).

## Pricing of Petroleum Products

- The Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) or cost plus pricing for petroleum products which was introduced in 1976 was abolished from 2002, consequent to the de-regulation of the oil sector in India.

- In 2006 government changed the pricing mechanism for petrol and diesel from import parity to trade parity (trade parity being the weighted average of import parity and export parity prices in the ratio of 80:20).
- The pricing of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG continues on import parity basis.

## ORGANIZATIONS

- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** is a mega Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) with 'Navratna' status. It has two refineries in Mumbai and Visakhapatnam.
- **The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)** was established in 1984. GAIL has also set up LNG import infrastructure.
- **Indian Oil Corporation (Indian Oil):**
  - The Indian Oil group of companies own and operate 10 of India's 22 refineries. Indian Oil's cross-country network of crude oil and product pipeline is the largest in the country.
  - It operates more than 20,000 outlets, the largest and most extensive network of retail outlets. The Corporation's **Indane cooking gas** reaches the doorsteps of about 65 million households.
  - It has set up subsidiaries in Sri Lanka, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has refineries at Mumbai and Kochi. Both the refineries are certified under Integrated Management System (IMS).
- **Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL)**, formed in 2006, is a wholly owned subsidiary and Exploration and Production (E&P) arm of BPCL.
  - BPCL is engaged in the midstream and downstream segment in India.
  - BPRL carries out upstream activities both in India and overseas.
- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)** was incorporated in 1993 under Companies Act, 1956.
- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)** is engaged in exploration and production of oil and gas outside India. OVL was incorporated as Hydrocarbons India Limited in 1965 and was rechristened as OVL from 1989.
- **Oil India Limited (OIL)**, a Government of India enterprise, is engaged in the business of exploration, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas.
  - OIL owns and operates a trunk crude oil pipeline in the north east for transportation of crude oil to feed Numaligarh, Guwahati and Bongaigaon refineries.
  - OIL also owns and operates a branch line to feed Digboi refinery.

## NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** is the nodal Ministry at the federal level for all matters relating to new and renewable energy.
- India has taken a voluntary commitment of **reducing emission intensity** of its GDP by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.
- In the recently concluded 21<sup>st</sup> COP to UNFCCC India committed to achieve about **40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030.**



- **India has renewable energy potential of about 900 GW** from commercially exploitable sources viz. Wind - 102 GW (at 80 metre mast height); small hydro - 20 GW; bioenergy - 25 GW; and 750 GW solar power, assuming 3% wasteland is made available.
- The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), formerly known as Centre for Wind Energy Technology, has developed the **Wind Atlas of India**.
- The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed **Biomass Atlas of India**.
- Under the **National Biomass Cookstoves Initiative**, several pilot projects have been taken up for deployment of improved biomass cookstoves.
- **The New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP)** is being implemented with the objective to provide clean cooking fuel and to meet lighting, thermal and small power needs of farmers/ dairy farmers/users including individual households.

### **National Solar Mission**

- Launched in January 2010, the **National Solar Mission (NSM)** was the first mission to be operationalized under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- Under NSM, the **revised tariff policy** requires all States to reach 10.5 per cent solar RPO by the year 2022.
- The Ministry has been implementing a **Scheme on Energy Efficient Solar Green Buildings** since 2009.
- **The “Development of Solar Cities” programme** aims at minimum 10 per cent reduction in projected demand of conventional energy at the end of five years.

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### **COAL**

- **The Ministry of Coal (MoC)** has the overall responsibility of determining policies and strategies in respect of exploration and development of coal and lignite reserves.
- At present around 69.5 per cent of India’s power generation capacity is based on coal.
- **319 billion tonnes of coal reserves** have been estimated which have been found mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.
- **The lignite reserves** in the country have been estimated at around 45 billion tonnes. The major deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.
- **Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC)** was registered as a company in 1956 at Chennai. It has been conferred with ‘Navratna’ status since 2011.

### **Coal India Limited (CIL)**

- Coal India Limited (CIL) is a ‘Maha Ratna’ company under the Ministry of Coal, with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- CIL is the single largest coal producing company in the world.
- Following are its wholly owned coal producing subsidiary companies:
  - Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Sanctoria, West Bengal;
  - Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Dhanbad, Jharkhand;
  - Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Ranchi, Jharkhand;
  - South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh;

- Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), Nagpur, Maharashtra;
- Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh;
- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Sambalpur, Odisha.
- The consultancy company under it is **Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi, Jharkhand.**

## 12. ENVIRONMENT

### BODIES

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies.
- **The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
- **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, established in 1890, is the apex research organization under Ministry of Environment for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country.
- **The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, since its inception in 1916, is a premier research institution under the Ministry undertaking survey, exploration and research on the rich faunal diversity of the country. Headquarters are at Kolkata.
- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, established in 1981 as a national level organization under the Ministry, is engaged in the assessment of the country's forest resources.

### National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- NGT was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010, as a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Tribunal is mandated to make an endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing.
- NGT has five places of sitting, i.e, the Principal Bench in Delhi and Zonal Benches in Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal and Chennai. Apart from this the Tribunal holds three circuit Benches at Shimla, Shillong and Jodhpur.

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- India enacted the **Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002** to give effect to the provision of this Convention. India also prepared a **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)** in 2008, and an Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity.

- **The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS)** adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
- **Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CPB)** was adopted in 2000 under the aegis of the CBD to ensure safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs). India is a party to the Protocol.

### **Biosphere Reserves**

- The idea of 'Biosphere Reserves' was initiated by UNESCO in 1973-74 under its Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme launched in 1970.
- There are 18 designated Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in India. Out of 18 Biosphere Reserves, 11 Biosphere Reserves have been included in the world Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO. The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve became the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated WNR.

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### **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

- **There is a Wildlife Division** of the Ministry with Project Elephant Division as one of its sub-division.
- In addition, **there are three autonomous bodies:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife research and training; Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for conservation and zoo management and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- The **National Zoological Park** in the Capital is also a part of the Wildlife wing.
- **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established under the Ministry, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi. It was **constituted in 2007**.
- **The Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** with its headquarters in New Delhi was established in 1992 under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to oversee the functioning of zoos in the country.
- **Project Elephant (PE)** was launched by the Government of India in 1991-92 as a centrally sponsored scheme to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors.

### **National Tiger Conservation Authority / Project Tiger**

- **The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under this Ministry constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Project Tiger** was launched in 1973 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conserving the tiger. From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50, spread out in 18 of tiger range states.
- Under the Project, India has the distinction of having the maximum number of tigers in the world - 2,967 - to be precise, as per the results of the **4th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation**.
- International Tiger's Day is held every year on 29th July.
- At the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010**, It was decided to double tiger population by 2022.

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### **ANIMAL WELFARE**

- General Animal Welfare covers the welfare of individual animals, mainly domesticated, as also wild animals in captivity, through **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)**.

- AWBI is a statutory body established with headquarters at Chennai.
- The Board is providing free, on the spot veterinary treatment to sick and injured animals belonging to poor people through its **Mobile Animal Clinic (MAC) programme**.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), is a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage of planning.
- It was first used in India as early as 1978 with river valley projects and the practices were formally codified for the first time in the EIA Notification, 1994.

## CONTROL OF POLLUTION

### Air Pollution

- Abatement of air pollution is undertaken under various provisions of **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986** which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue.
- **Particulate Matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5) concentrations** are the major concern. PM10 are inhalable coarse particles, which are particles with a diameter between 2.5 and 10 micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and PM 2.5 are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.
- Government is executing a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as **National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)**.
- **Steps taken to reduce vehicular pollution** include introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG, etc.) ethanol blending, universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020 etc.
- **National Air Quality Index (AQI)** was launched in 2015 starting with 14 cities and then extended to 71 Cities in 17 States. **A Graded Response Action Plan** for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified.
- Government launched a campaign called '**Harit Diwali and Swasth Diwali**' in 2017.

### Noise Pollution

- As a follow-up of **Section 5.2.8 (IV) of National Environmental Policy (NEP)-2006**, ambient noise has been included as a regular parameter for monitoring in specified urban areas.
- **Protocol for National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme** has been prepared.

### Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)

- A centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken by the Government for enabling small scale industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing CETPs to cover all the states in the country.
- Wastewater treatment and water conservation are the prime objectives of the CETP.

## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

- **In order to ensure chemical safety**, the Ministry notified two sets of Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 viz.,
  - The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC); and

- The Chemical Accidents (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules (EPPR), 1996.
- **Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008** were notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Rules provides for establishment of Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for disposal of hazardous wastes.
- India is party to the **Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous waste and its disposal.**
- **Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016:** The ambit of the Rules has been expanded by including 'Other-Waste'.
- **The e-waste rules** apply to e-waste generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronics namely television sets (including LCD & LED), refrigerators, washing machines and air-conditioners.

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:** The segregation of waste at source has been mandated. Responsibilities of generators have been fixed for segregation of waste in to three streams, wet, dry and domestic hazardous wastes.
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:** The Rules provide for (i)increase in minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns, and (ii)first time cover and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheetsbeing used for packaging and wrapping commodities to facilitate collection andrecycle of plastic waste.
- **Construction & Demolition Waste Management, 2016:** Under the rules every waste generator has been made responsible for collection, segregation of concrete, soil and others and storage of construction and demolition waste generated separately.
- **Fly Ash Utilization:** Ministry issued notification on fly ash Utilization to protect prevent dumping of fly ash from thermal power stations on land and to promote utilization of ash in the manufacture of building materials and construction activity.

### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- **The Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland.
- **The Rotterdam Convention** on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004.
- **The Stockholm Convention** on persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs.
- At the Conference held in 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the “**Minamata Convention on Mercury**”, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
- In 2006, over 190 countries including India acceded to the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**, an international policy framework to foster sound management of chemicals.

**NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN**

- The river conservation programme was initiated with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985.
- The Ganga Action Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995.

**CONSERVATION OF LAKES**

- To control degradation and conserve wetlands, the **National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP)** was initiated in 1987.
- As a commitment for conserving potential wetlands, India became a signatory to the **Ramsar Convention in 1982**. At present there are 37 Ramsar sites in India.
  - Ramsar has declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance for the conservation of global biological diversity.
  - With this, the numbers of Ramsar sites in India are now 37 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,067,939 hectares.
- **Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010**. 25 wetlands spread over 14 states have already been notified under these Rules.
- Each year, **World Wetland Day** is celebrated on 2nd February.

**AFFORESTATION**

- In order to promote afforestation, the **National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB)** was set up in 1992.
- **National Afforestation Programme (NAP)**, launched in 2000-02, is a major afforestation scheme of the NAEB.
- **Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme** was established in 1980s as a scheme being implemented through '**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**' for ecological restoration of terrains.
- **The National Mission for a Green India (GIM)**, one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) aims at enhancing India's diminishing forest cover.
- The Scheme "**National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)**" of the Ministry is a part of an umbrella scheme of the erstwhile Planning Commission-Planning Committee-National Natural Resources Management System (PC-NNRMS) and is in operation since, 1985.

**FORESTRY RESEARCH**

- **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, (ICFRE)** is the apex body in the national forestry research system.
- **Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy** was constituted in 1987 by upgrading and renaming the erstwhile Indian Forest College, established in 1938. The Academy imparts professional training to the Indian Forest Services (IFS) Probationers.
- **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** was established in 1986 in Dehradun as an autonomous institute of the Ministry.

**ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS**

- **National Green Corps (NGC)** were formulated in 2001-02. Under NGC programme, 86765 Ecoclubs were supported.
- **Under the National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)** launched in 1986. In this campaign, nominal financial assistance is provided to NGOs, schools, colleges, research institutes etc. for conducting awareness raising and action oriented activities.
- Through **National Nature Camping Programme** it is hoped that every child who goes through middle school (classes VI-VIII) to get at least one opportunity for a 2-3 day camping experience during these years.
- **Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)** is a hands on international environmental science and education programme. Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

- Eight national missions in the area of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan eco-system, Green India and strategic knowledge for climate change form the core of **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- **National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)** is a central sector scheme under implementation in the 12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- Ministry is implementing '**Climate Change Action Programme**' since 2014, with an objective to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change.
- India ratified the **Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in 2016**.
- India is a party to the **Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985** and the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987**.
- Implementation of Montreal Protocol has led to phase-out of production and consumption of several major Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) such as CFCs, CTC and Halons globally from 2010.

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

- India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994.
- National Water Policy 2012; National Policy for Farmers, 2007; National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)-2007 have enabling provisions for addressing problems of land degradation and desertification

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- India is a member of **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and provides annual financial contribution of USD 100,000 to UNEP Environment Fund.
- India is a founder member of **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits.



## 13. FINANCE

### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

- This Ministry consists of five departments, namely, (i) Economic Affairs, (ii) Expenditure, (iii) Revenue, (iv) Investment and Public Asset Management; and (v) Financial Services.
- The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes.
- A principal responsibility of this Department is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament and budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations.
- The Directorate of Currency has the administrative control of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), a wholly owned Government of India Corporation that manages Government of India mints, currency presses, security presses and security paper mill.

### ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India has to be laid before Parliament in respect of every financial year. This statement titled 'Annual Financial Statement' is the main Budget document.
- The Annual Financial Statement shows the receipts and payments of government under the three parts in which government accounts are kept: (i) Consolidated Fund, (ii) Contingency Fund and (iii) Public Account.
- Under the Constitution, Budget has to distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. Government Budget, therefore, comprises (i) Revenue Budget; and (ii) Capital Budget.

### Demands for Grants

- The estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund included in the Annual Financial Statement and required to be voted by the Lok Sabha are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants in pursuance of Article 113 of the Constitution.
- Generally, one Demand for Grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department.

### Finance Bill

- At the time of presentation of the Annual Financial Statement before Parliament, a Finance Bill is also presented in fulfilment of the requirement of Article 110(1)(a) of the Constitution, detailing the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of taxes proposed in the Budget.
- A Finance Bill is also a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution.

**Appropriation Bills**

- After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill.
- Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament.

**SOURCES OF REVENUE**

- All taxes to in the Union List, except the duties and taxes referred to in Articles 268 and 269, respective surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in Article 271 shall be levied and collected by the Government of India.
- This amount shall be distributed between the Union and the states in such manner as may be prescribed by the President on the recommendations of the Finance Commission.
- **The Public Debt of India** is classified into three categories of Union Government liabilities into internal debt, external debt and other liabilities.
- **The Reserve Bank manages the public debt** of the Central and the state governments and also acts as a banker to them under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 20 and 21).
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** is a major reform initiative launched by Government of India in 2013 to provide an overarching vision and direction to enable direct cash transfer of benefits under various government schemes and programmes to individuals.
- **The Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is a multilateral fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF launched its initial resource mobilization in 2014.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR**

- A Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee was set up in 2014 for providing an entrepreneur friendly legal bankruptcy framework for meeting global standards for improving the ease of doing business with necessary judicial capacity. Accordingly, the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) became operational in 2016.**
- **The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was set up as the apex level forum in 2010. The Council monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues, including issues relating to financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- **Financial Stability Board (FSB)** was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions.

**Government launched the following to mobilize the long term investment in infrastructure in the country:**

- Banks continue to be major source of financing infrastructure. RBI has been modifying guidelines for advances to infrastructure including **5/25 scheme**, take out financing.

- The Government has also set up **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** with the specific mandate to play a catalytic role in the Infrastructure sector.
- Government of India has conceptualized **Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs)** to accelerate and enhance the flow of long term debt into infrastructure projects to help in the migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.
- **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)/Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs)** are trust-based structures that maximize returns through efficient tax pass-through and improved governance structures.

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COOPERATION

- **The G20** was formed in 1999, as a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.
- **The BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** form the five key pillars of south-south cooperation and are the representative voice of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries
- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the largest channel for development cooperation in the UN.
- **SAARC Development Fund (SDF)** was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth.
- **Bilateral Official Development Assistance:** In terms of the guidelines issued in 2005, bilateral development assistance can be accepted from all G-8 countries, namely USA, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and the Russian Federation as well as from European Commission.
- **India is a founder member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** which was established to promote a cooperative and stable global monetary framework.
- BRICS Nations are the founding members of the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which has been instituted with a vision to support and foster infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies.
- India is one of the founding Members and the second largest shareholder of **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016.

## DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE

- **The Department of Expenditure** is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances. It is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission.
- **The Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India.
- **The Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** is a web-based online software application designed, developed, owned and implemented by the CGA.
- **The Institute of Government Accounts & Finance (INGAF)** is the training arm of the Controller General of Accounts. It was set up in February, 1992.
- **The Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)** was established in 1990 for Payment and Accounting of Central (Civil) Pensioners and pension to freedom fighters etc. CPAO is a subordinate office under the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

- The Goods and services Tax Council was constituted in 2016. GST was implemented in the country in July, 2017.
- It covers all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, for the levy of goods and services tax.
- In case of petroleum and petroleum products, it has been provided that these goods shall not be subject to the levy till a date notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
- Compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax for a period which may extend to five years.

**DIRECT TAXES**

- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, created by the Central Boards of Revenue Act 1963, is the apex body entrusted with the responsibility of administering direct tax laws in India. It is the cadre controlling authority for the Income Tax Department (ITD).
- **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** is a 10 digit alpha-numeric number allotted by the Income Tax Department to taxpayers and to the persons who apply for it under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- **e-Nivaran** aims to fast track taxpayer's grievance redressal, ensuring early resolution by integrating all the online and physical grievances received by the department and keeping track of it until it reaches its logical conclusion.
- **Aayakar Sewa Kendra (ASK)** is the single window system for implementation of Citizen's Charter of the Income Tax Department and a mechanism for achieving excellence in public service delivery.

**NARCOTICS**

- The Narcotics Control Division administers the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.
- **The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)** headed by the Narcotics Commissioner is headquartered at Gwalior. The administrative control of the department lies with CBEC while its operational functions are monitored by the Department of Revenue.
- **The Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories (GOAF)**, under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue, are engaged in the processing of raw opium for export purposes.

**BANKING**

- PSBs and PSB sponsored Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have dominant market presence and constitute 78 percent of the bank network of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI is the sole body that is authorized to issue currency in India.
- **The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

- **The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme** was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers
- **The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** was set-up within NABARD during 1995-96 by way of deposits from Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/priority sector/weaker sections lending.
- The performance of the banking sector (domestic operations), Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular, improved in 2018-19.
- **The Gross Non-Performing Advances (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** decreased from 11.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018, as also, their Restructured Standard Advances (RSA) ratio declined from 0.7 to 0.4 per cent.
- **The Stressed Advances (SA) ratio** decreased from 12.1 to 10.5 per cent during the same period. GNPA ratio of PSBs decreased from 15.5 to 13.9 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018.

## INSURANCE

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** was established by an Act of Parliament called the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956.
- The insurance sector was opened for private participation with the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is functioning from its head office in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Government launched the **Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age.
- **Under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)** administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India, below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizens are covered under 48 identified occupations.

## SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

- **The Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched in 2015. The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of two lakhs rupees for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable autodebit.
- **The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70.
- **Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** include: (i) universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance. (ii) to cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹ 1 lakh.

**PENSION REFORMS**

- With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the **National Pension System (NPS)** was introduced. It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004 and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from May 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis.
- To encourage the workers in the unorganized sector to save voluntarily for their old age, an initiative called **Swavalamban Scheme** was launched in 2010.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** was launched in 2015, to enable income generating small business enterprises to have access to loans.

**DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT AND PUBLIC ASSET MANAGEMENT**

- The salient features of the Disinvestment Policy include: while pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings;
- Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in 2005 into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

## 14. CORPORATE AFFAIRS

### MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (MCA)

- THE Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is primarily concerned with administration of the Companies Act 2013, the Companies Act 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and other allied Acts for regulating the functioning of the corporate sector.
- The Ministry is also responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002 to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition.
- Besides, it exercises supervision over the three professional bodies, namely, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI).
- The Ministry also has the responsibility of carrying out the functions of the Central government relating to administration of Partnership Act, 1931, the Companies (Donations to National Funds) Act, 1951 and Societies Registration Act, 1860.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- The Ministry has a three tier organizational structure with the headquarters at New Delhi, seven offices of Regional Directors (RDs), fifteen Registrars of Companies (RoCs), fourteen Official Liquidators (OLs) and nine RoC-cum-OLs in states and union territories.
- The jurisdictional Registrars of companies, continue to have jurisdiction over the companies incorporated by the Registrar, CRC under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Official Liquidators are mainly responsible for implementing court orders regarding liquidation and final dissolution of the companies.

### CENTRAL REGISTRATION CENTRE

- The MCA rolled out the first phase of Central Registration Centre (CRC) in 2016 for processing name reservation of applicants and second phase of CRC for processing incorporation of company applicants in 2016.

### EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- The Ministry has prescribed a Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Companies (SPICe) along with e-MOA (Electronic-Memorandum of Association) and e-AoA (Electronic-Articles of Association) which eliminates the requirement of physically signing the MoA and AoA by the applicant and helps entrepreneurs to start business in India, without much hassles.
- The integrated form INC-29 has been replaced with SPICe Form.

- Using the integrated e-form SPICe, stakeholders can apply for five services simultaneously viz., company name, company incorporation, DIN of the directors, Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) for the newly incorporated company.
- The efforts of the government have paid dividends. The World Bank released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2020) in October 2019. India has recorded a jump of 14 positions against its rank of 77 in 2019 to be placed now at 63<sup>rd</sup> rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank.

## **COMPANIES ACT, 2013**

The Companies Act, 2013 seeks to bring corporate governance and regulatory practices in India at par with global best practices. Key Features of the Companies Act, 2013 are:

### **Business Friendly Corporate Regulations/Pro-Business Initiatives**

- Provision of self-regulation with disclosures/transparency instead of 'Government approval based regime'.
- Summary liquidation: For companies having net assets of ₹ 1 crore or less, Official Liquidators (OLs) are empowered with adjudicatory powers.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been constituted under Section 408 in 2016.
- Concept of 'dormant companies' introduced (companies not engaged in business for two consecutive years can be declared as dormant).
- Concept of One Person Company (OPC) introduced.

### **Good Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**

- Concept of Independent Directors (IDs) included as a statutory requirement u/s 149 (4).
- Woman Director for prescribed class of companies.
- Mandatory provision for constitution of CSR Committee and formulation of CSR Policy, with mandatory disclosure, for prescribed class of companies.

### **Enhancing Accountability of Management**

- The term 'Officer in Default' has been reviewed to make it more relevant.
- Terms 'Key Managerial Personnel' (KMP) and 'Promoter' defined to affix responsibility on key functionaries of the company.
- Cap on number of Directorships: 20 companies, of which 10 can be public companies.

### **Strengthened Enforcement**

- The Central Government to have powers to order investigation, suo-motu, in public interest.
- Statutory recognition of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- Special Courts have been constituted under Section 435 in 2016.

### **Audit Accountability**

- Auditor not to perform specified non-audit services.
- Tribunal empowered to direct a change of auditor in case of a fraud detected.
- Secretarial audit for prescribed class of companies.



- National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to be constituted.
- Exit option provided, if there is dissent to change in object clause, or during compromises, etc.
- Listed companies to have one Director representing small shareholders.

### **Investor Protection**

- Strengthened role of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).
- No time bar on claims of dividends from IEPF.
- Class Action Suits recognized.

### **COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015**

- The Companies Act, 2013 was amended through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 to facilitate business and address certain immediate concerns raised by stakeholders.
- These amendments provide exemptions under various provisions of the Act to (i) private companies, (ii) government companies, (iii) Section 8 companies and (iv) Nidhis.

### **INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016 (IBC, 2016)**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been entrusted with the responsibility to administer the Code.
- The Code has been framed with the objective to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has the mandate for regulation of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities besides exercising other powers and functions as envisaged under the Code.

### **SPECIAL COURTS**

- Under Section 435 of the Companies Act, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has constituted Special Courts by designating 20 existing Session courts/Additional Sessions Courts as Special Courts under Section 435 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act).

### **NATIONAL COMPANY LAW AND APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

- The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was done in 2016 for faster resolution of corporate disputes.
- Benches of NCLT were designated to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority of Adjudicating Authority conferred by or under part II of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- NCLAT has its headquarters at New Delhi.

### **COMPANIES IN THE REGISTRY**

- Total number of **'ACTIVE' companies** registered in the country by March, 2017, under the Companies Act, 2013, the Companies Act, 1956 and the previous company Laws, were 11,69,303.

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- In India, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for companies has been mandated through legislation through Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- Section 135, Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 came into force from April, 2014.

**MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)**

- In India, about 95 per cent of industrial units are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- As per the survey conducted by MSME, over 90 per cent of these are registered as proprietorships, about 2 to 3 per cent as partnerships and less than 2 per cent as companies.
- The corporate form does not appear to be widely prevalent amongst MSMEs.

**LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS**

- The Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act was enacted in 2008 and came into force from 2009.
- LLP is a form of business entity, which allows individual partners to be protected from the joint and several liabilities of partners in a partnership firm.
- The liability of partners incurred in the normal course of business does not extend to the personal assets of the partners. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.

**MCA21— e-GOVERNANCE PROJECT**

- The Ministry operated an end-to-end e-governance project called MCA21 for end to end service delivery comprising Company and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registration, incorporation, registry and other compliance related services.
- The project was started in March, 2006 on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model.

**COST AUDIT**

- The Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules were notified in 2014 specifying the class of companies and the threshold limit, which require to maintain cost records and conduct audit thereof.
- The aforesaid rules cover 6 regulated sectors and 33 non-regulated sectors which fall under the ambit of Section 148 of the Companies Act, 2013.

**INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND**

- The Companies Act provides for establishment of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) for promoting Investor Awareness and protecting their interests.
- The amount of dividend, matured deposits, matured debentures, application money, etc., which remained unpaid/unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they first become due for payment, are transferred to IEPF.
- IEPF Authority was made functional from 2016.
- Section 125 of Companies Act, 2013 allows refund of unpaid amounts transferred to IEPF.

**INDIAN CORPORATE LAW SERVICE**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Corporate Law service (ICLS). The erstwhile Indian Company Law Service was rechristened in 2008 as the Indian Corporate Law Service.

**SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (SFIO)**

- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, inter alia, has accorded statutory status to SFIO.
- The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

- The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It serves as a 'Holistic Think-Tank', and a 'Capacity Building, Service Delivery Institution' to help corporate growth, reforms through synergised knowledge management, partnerships and problem solving in a one-stop-shop mode.
- The Institute fulfils the training needs of the officers of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), and other officials working for the Ministry, corporates, PSUs and banks through its network of various schools and centres.

**COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of eliminating practices having an adverse effect on competition.
- The provisions of the Competition (Amendment), 2002 relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were brought into force in 2009 and those relating to combinations from 2011.

## 15. FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is a ministry with two departments - the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Consumer Awareness:** “*Jago Grahak Jago*” has today become a household axiom.
- **The Consumer Welfare Fund** was created in 1992 with the objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of the consumer.
- **National Consumer Helpline (NCH)** is a project that operates under the Centre for Consumer Studies at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). It was set up in 2004.
- **The National Test House (NTH)** is a premier test and quality evaluation laboratory for industrial, engineering and consumer products under the administrative control of the Government of India since the year 1912 at Alipore, Kolkata.
- The DCA operates a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) tasked with monitoring prices of select essential commodities.

### Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** established the three tier quasi-judicial consumer dispute redress machinery at the national, state and district levels aimed at providing simple, speedy and affordable redress to consumers.
- This includes the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) at the apex level; 35 state consumer disputes redressal commissions (state commissions) and 679 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (district forum).

### Bureau Of Indian Standards (BIS)

- A new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016 came into force from 2017. The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the national Standards Body of India.
- The new Act also allows multiple type of simplified conformity assessment schemes including self-declaration of conformity against a standard which will give simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to the standards and get certificate of conformity.
- The Bureau has its **headquarters in New Delhi**.

### FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, with the help of state government agencies, procures wheat, paddy and coarse grains in various states in order to provide price support to the farmers.
- Before each Rabi/Kharif crop season, central government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP), based on recommendations of **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

- **Foodgrain Stocking Norms (Buffer Norms)** were laid down to ensure monthly releases of foodgrains for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), to meet emergency situations arising out of unexpected crop failure.

## NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

### National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)

- Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).
- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- This coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under 2 categories—households covered under **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and the remaining households as priority households.
- AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor. Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per households per month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice.
- Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices.

### End-to-End Computerisation

- Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-End Computerisation' of TPDS Operations on cost sharing basis with states/UTs.
- It involves digitization of beneficiary database to enable correct identification of beneficiaries; removal of bogus cards and better targeting of food subsidies and online allocation of foodgrains to bring transparency.

### Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)

- A new central sector scheme— 'Integrated Management of PDS' (IM- PDS) is to be implemented during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 for establishing Public Distribution System Network (PDSN) to inter alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries and portability.
- The Scheme will strengthen better targeting of food subsidy and help the beneficiaries to lift foodgrains from the FPSs of their choice.

## OTHER WELFARE SCHEMES

- **The Mid-Day Meal Scheme** is implemented by the Ministry of HRD. Foodgrains are supplied free of cost at 100 grams for primary stage and at 150 grams for upper primary stage per child per school day where cooked/processed hot meal is being served or 3 kgs per student per month where raw foodgrains are distributed.
- **Wheat Based Nutrition Programme** is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The foodgrains allotted under it are utilized by the states/UTs under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme.
- **SABLA scheme** was launched in 2010 to empower adolescent girls of 11-18 years by improvement of their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills useful to them.

- **Annapurna Scheme** is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), are provided 10 kgs of foodgrains per person per month free of cost under it.
- The FCI sells excess stocks of wheat and rice from the Central Pool at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time under **Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic)** to enhance the supply especially during the lean season especially in the deficit regions.

### STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS

- To cope with increasing production and procurement of foodgrains, the Department is implementing **Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme**, launched in 2008, for augmenting the covered storage capacity in the country.
- Government introduced a **Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System** in the country by enacting the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
  - The government constituted the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** in 2010 for implementation of the provisions of the Act.
  - **The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)** issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses would help the farmers in seeking loan from banks.
- **Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)** is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957 under this Department to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements and other notified commodities.
- CWC also has a 100 per cent owned subsidiary company namely, **Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) for development of Railside Warehouse Complexes (RWCs).**

### POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT OF FOODGRAINS

- **Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur** is engaged in the training and applied Research and Development (R&D) work relating to grain storage management.
- **The Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) located in New Delhi** assists the Department in monitoring the quality of foodgrains.

### SUGAR

- **Sugar is an essential commodity.** Its sales, delivery from mills, and distribution were regulated under **EC Act, 1955.**
- Till 1997, the exports of sugar were being carried out under the provisions of the **Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958**, through the notified export agencies, viz., Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGIEIC) and State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC).
- **The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982** can be utilized by the Government of India for making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization, development of sugarcane, bagasse based co-generation power projects etc.

### Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme

- Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses.

- The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve blending of Ethanol with motor spirit with a view to reducing pollution and increase value addition in the sugar industry.
- Government has also notified new National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 under which sugarcane juice has been allowed for production of ethanol.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- In 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries signed the agreement to establish the **SAARC Food Bank** to provide food security to the people of the region.
- **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** is one of the largest specialized agencies in the UN System founded in 1945.
- **The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security. India is a member of both FAO and CFS.
- India is a member of the **International Grains Council (IGC)**, an intergovernmental forum based in London for cooperation in wheat and coarse grain matters. It administers the Grains Trade Convention, 1995.

## FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Food processing industry constitutes 12.77 per cent of employment generated in all registered factory sector in 2014-15.
- **Cent per cent FDI** is permitted under the automatic route in food processing industries-manufacturing sector. A dedicated investors's portal called '**Nivesh Bandhu**' was launched in 2017 to assist potential investors in the food processing sector
- Food processing sector has been identified as one of the **priority sector under 'Make in India'**.
- **Mega Food Parks Scheme**, being implemented since 2008, aims to create a modern food processing infrastructure for the processing units based on a cluster approach and on a hub and spoke model in a demand driven manner.
- MoFPI launched a new central sector scheme "**Operation Greens—A scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato**".
- The Ministry launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme—**National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)** during 12th Plan in 2012.
- The Ministry established the **National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management at Kundli, in Haryana** in 2012. NIFTEM has been declared a Deemed University under de novo category.
- The Ministry upgraded **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu** to a national level institute in 2008.
- Following schemes are implemented under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** which was launched in 2017: (i) mega food parks (ii) integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure (iii) infrastructure for agro-processing clusters (iv) creation of backward and forward linkages etc.

## 16. HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

### NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

The National Health Policy (NHP) was released in 2017. One of the mandates of the NHP 2017, is the use of information technology towards healthcare. In line with that the IT initiatives of the Ministry are listed here:

- **National Health Portal (NHP)** is functioning as citizen portal for healthcare providing health related information to citizens and stakeholders.
- **Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) / Reproductive Child Health (RCH) application** is an individual-based tracking system across all the states & UTs to facilitate timely delivery of antenatal and postnatal care services.
- **Kilkari application** was launched to deliver free weekly audio messages about pregnancy, child birth and care.
- **TB Patient Monitoring System “Nikshay”** for tracking of individuals for treatment-adherence has been implemented across all states.
- **SUGAM by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO)** enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing & grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials.

### INITIATIVES

- **National Health Mission**
  - National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) became two sub-missions under the overarching NHM.
  - The main programmatic components include health system strengthening in rural and urban areas, **Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)** interventions and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- **Mission Indradhanush** was launched in 2014 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunization rounds. The objective the schemes is to increase full immunization coverage to at least 90 per cent children by 2020.
- **Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE)** is defined as less than one neonatal tetanus case per 1,000 live birth in every district per annum. India has been validated for Maternal and Neonatal tetanus elimination in May 2015.
- **India New Born Action Plan** was launched in 2014 with the goal of attaining “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030” and “Single Digit Still Birth rate (SBR) by 2030”.
- “MAA-Mother’s Absolute Affection” which is an intensified programme was launched in 2016 in an attempt to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding.



- **Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight** is a programme to combat diarrhoeal mortality in children with the ultimate aim of zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhea.
- To combat Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections, the Ministry has adopted a single day strategy called **National Deworming Day (NDD)** wherein single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of age group schools and anganwadi centres.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram** was launched in 2013 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management of 4 Ds i.e. defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays.
- **The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)** was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) scheme** entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission. The objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.
- **Initiated in 1952, the Family Planning programme** was the first of its kind of national level programme with a focus on population stabilization. The National Population Policy 2000 redefined it as a medium of intervention for promoting reproductive and child health.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan** aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** outlets have been put in place to provide drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with cardiac implants.
- **Kayakalp awards** were launched to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health facilities.
- **National Organ Transplant Programme** was launched for carrying out the activities as per Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994. Under this, an apex level organization, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) was set-up at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- **Swachh Swasth Sarvatra** is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched in 2016.
- **National Leprosy Eradication Programme:** Its objective is to achieve elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in all states and districts i.e., reduce annual new case detection Ratio to < 1 per 100,000 populations at national level.

### **Ayushman Bharat**

- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2018. This comes under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW. The Scheme has the benefit cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year.
- The target beneficiaries are to be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database.
- With this, AB-NHPM will subsume the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes—Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

**HIV & AIDS**

- **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017** aims to end the epidemic by 2030.
- **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** is the nodal organization for National AIDS response in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- National AIDS Control Programme is a fully funded central sector scheme. Currently, **National AIDS Control programme (NACP)-IV** (extension) is under implementation for the period 2017-20.

**MEDICAL EDUCATION**

- **The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education. PMSSY has two components:
  - setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country and
  - upgradation of existing Govt Medical Colleges (GMCs).
- A uniform entrance examination for admission to Under Graduate and Post Graduate medical courses in the country viz. **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)** has been introduced from the Academic Year 2016-17.
- **The Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research** is a pioneering initiative by AIIMS, New Delhi.

**FOOD REGULATION**

- **Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006** was enacted with the objective to consolidate the laws relating to food and for laying down science based standards for articles of food.
- **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** was established in 2008.

**RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI**

- **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)** was set up in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at Government hospitals.
- Under the scheme central government also provides grant-in-aid to states/union territories (with legislature) to set up **State Illness Assistance Fund (SIAF)** to the extent of 50 per cent of contribution made by state government/union territories.

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

- As one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was established in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA).
- ICMR initiated a new flagship programme to establish **India TB research and development consortium** that aims to bring together all major national players (with international collaborators) to address overarching scientific questions to tackle TB in a mission mode.
- **Truenat Rif**, an indigenous, cost effective, rapid molecular diagnostic kit for TB/MDR-TB has been developed in collaboration with ICMR, DBT and the industry.

**AYUSH**

- The Department of AYUSH was granted the status of Ministry in 2014.

- The Ministry is responsible for policy formulation, development and implementation of programmes for the growth, development and propagation of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) systems of Health Care.
- Sowa Rigpa is the recent addition to the existing facility of AYUSH systems. Sowa-Rigpa is practised in Himalayan regions throughout particularly in Leh and Laddakh (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, etc.
- The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece and passed through many countries before establishing itself in India during the medieval period.
- The Siddha System of medicine is one of the ancient systems of medicine in India having its close links with Dravidian culture.
- Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician scientifically examined this phenomenon and codified the fundamental principles of Homoeopathy.
- **National AYUSH Mission (NAM)** was notified in 2014 which envisages better access to AYUSH services including co-location of AYUSH facilities at Health Centres.

**Autonomous Institutes imparting ASU&H education:**

- National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
- Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar
- National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata
- National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru
- National Institute of Siddha, Chennai

## 17. HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

### SCENARIO OF URBANIZATION

- As per the Census of India 2011, the population of India is 1,210.50 million, of which 377.10 million (31.2 per cent) is urban and 833.40 million (68.8 per cent) is rural. The urban population is located in 7,933 towns, comprising 4,041 statutory towns and 3,892 census towns.
- At current rate of growth, urban population estimated to reach a staggering 575 million by 2030 and 875 million by 2050.
- The 2030 development agenda of the United Nations has emphasized the role of sustainable cities by incorporating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), i.e., Sustainable Cities and Communities for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

### MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (MoHUA)

- Urban development is a state subject and the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992 enjoins upon the state governments to delegate many functions to urban local bodies.
- Government of India, however, plays a coordinating and monitoring role and also supports various urban housing programmes, urban livelihood mission and overall urban development through Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level.

### PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA—HOUSING FOR ALL

- Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-22.
- The Mission provides central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries across all statutory towns for houses included under the mission.
- To address Housing for All in urban area, the Mission has four verticals:
  - In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers;
  - affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG);
  - Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors; and
  - Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancements.
- The coverage of the Mission is now extended to the entire urban areas consisting of all statutory towns and areas.

**SMART CITIES MISSION**

- The Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions.
- The core infrastructure elements in a smart city would include: adequate water supply; assured electricity supply; sanitation, including solid waste management; efficient urban mobility and public transport; robust IT connectivity and digitalization; sustainable environment etc.
- Under it, 100 Smart Cities have been selected in 4 Rounds based on All India Competition. All 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).

**ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION**

- The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015. In all, 500 cities have been included in the Mission.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme with a total outlay of rupees one lakh crore including a Central Assistance of ₹ 50,000 crore spread over 5 years i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-2020. The balance share of ₹ 50,000 crore has to come from states and ULBs.
- The Mission focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure in the specified cities with the following expected outcomes:
  - universal coverage for access to potable water for every household;
  - substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage;
  - developing city parks;
  - reform implementation and capacity building.

**HERITAGE CITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the objective of preserving the heritage character of each Heritage City.
- By November 2018, the scheme is being implemented in 12 identified cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

**DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA**

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households.
- The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, to be decided by the state as per local need and capability.

**THE REAL ESTATE (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) ACT, 2016**

- Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March, 2016 heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector.

- The core objective of this transformative legislation is to ensure regulation and promotion of real estate sector in an efficient manner and to protect the interest of home buyers.

### **STREET VENDORS (PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOOD AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING) ACT, 2014**

- The objective of the Act is to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities.
- States/UTs (with legislature) are the appropriate government for framing of Rules and Schemes under the Act for their respective states/UTs.

### **URBAN TRANSPORT**

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of Urban Transport matters at the central level.
- However, technical planning of rail transport continues to be with Ministry of Railways. Similarly, road transport is the responsibility of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- **National Urban Transport Policy, 2006:** The policy seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel along with use of cleaner technologies.
- **I-Metros (Indian Metro Rail Organisations' Society):** A platform to exchange ideas, pooling of knowledge and sharing of experience, best practices, innovations etc. among the Indian metro rail companies to nurture excellence in performance, was launched in March 2018.
- **Metro Rail Policy:** The policy was launched for ascertaining and enhancing the feasibility of metro rail projects from economic, social and environmental perspective.

## 18. INDIA AND THE WORLD

### INTRODUCTION

- **The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also known as the Foreign Ministry**, is the government agency responsible for the conduct of foreign relations of the country.
- **MEA has a States Division**, established in 2014, to foster closer links between Indian missions and posts abroad and states/union territories.
- MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues cell to create the new **Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division** which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of Indian interests on the subject in international fora.
- In 2020, India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' continued to be accorded the highest priority, with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. With strategic autonomy at its core, India continued to step up its engagement with all the major powers of the world, taking independent decisions in the national interest.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

#### Afghanistan

- Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 1 billion as a result of initiatives including 'Air Freight Corridor.'
- The year witnessed several key developments in India Afghanistan ties, including, the delivery of wheat and pulses to Afghanistan from India, expansion of air freight corridor between the two countries, and commencement of work for several India-assisted socio-economic developmental projects in Afghanistan identified under the New Development Partnership announced in 2017.

#### Pakistan

- India's proposal to establish a "Corridor" to facilitate smooth and easy access for Indian pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib, currently located on the Pakistani side of the International Border, was agreed to by Pakistan.

#### Bangladesh

- In solidarity with Bangladesh's efforts to provide succor to those displaced from North Rakhine State in Myanmar, India launched Operation Insaniyat & supplied 3 tranches of humanitarian aid.
- During Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit to India (West Bengal) it was decided to open a Bangladesh Bhavan at Shantiniketan.

## Myanmar

- India is assisting Myanmar to create an environment conducive to the return of displaced persons through the **Rakhine State Development Programme**.
- The two countries have signed a **Land Boundary Crossing Agreement** whereby designated boundary points were opened up to the normal movement of visa-holding travellers, including from third countries.

### Others:

- **Bhutan:** Both countries jointly celebrated in 2018 the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.
- **Nepal:** In Nepal, the Arun III hydro-electric project and the Nepal India Ramayana Circuit were launched in May during Prime Minister's state visit. India is the largest trade partner of Nepal and one of the largest investors.
- **China:** The closer developmental partnership between India and China reached a new milestone in 2018 with the first Informal Summit between Indian Prime Minister and Sino President held in 2018.
- **Maldives:** The 14th edition of the Trilateral Joint Naval Exercise, "Dosti-14" between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held in Maldives.
- **Mauritius:** External Affairs Minister led a delegation to the 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius in 2018.
- **Seychelles:** The visit of President to India to Seychelles in 2018 saw signing of 6 important agreements pertaining to various sectors of cooperation and gifting of US\$ 30 million worth Dornier aircraft to Seychelles for enhancing EEZ Surveillance.

## SOUTH EAST ASIA and EAST ASIA

- India launched **Operation 'Samudra Maitri'** for earthquake and tsunami assistance to Indonesia.
- **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership** continued making strides in 2018.
- **India-Republic of Korea (ROK) bilateral relationship**, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership gathered further momentum.
- Following Prime Minister's historic visit to **Mongolia** in 2015, bilateral relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership.

## GULF and WEST ASIA

### Gulf

- The region is one of our largest trading partners with a trade of US\$ 123 billion in 2017-18, energy supplies with over 50 per cent of crude oil and 70 per cent of LNG requirements.
- A huge diaspora of over 9 million contributes to the goodwill between the countries besides contributing to annual remittances of over US\$ 38 billion (in 2017).

### Iran

- In December, the India Ports Global Limited company assumed responsibilities for operations in Iran's Chabahar port, which will provide sea land connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia.



- The Trilateral Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran for establishment of International Trade and Transit Corridor through Chabahar came into effect in 2018.

### **West Asia and North Africa (WANA)**

- This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash—the key raw materials for the production of various fertilizers.
- More than 80 per cent requirements of rock phosphates are sourced from the countries in this region.

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## **AFRICA**

### **East & South Africa**

- The year saw first ever visits by an Indian President to Swaziland (Eswatini) and Equatorial Guinea in 2018 and the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda.
- President also visited Zambia (2018) and Prime Minister visited Uganda after a gap of 21 years and South Africa.

### **West Africa**

- The region is rich in all known minerals. India sources about 18 per cent of its crude oil requirements from this region (Nigeria alone accounts for 11-12 per cent). India imports over US\$ 2 billion worth of gold from Ghana per year.
- India also sources a significant amount of raw cashew nuts from countries in the region including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal.
- A Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) or FC-G5S has been established by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger to deal with the threat of terrorism.
- India has been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic Of Congo).

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## **EUROPE AND EURASIA**

- **Central Europe:** PM Modi participated in the first ever India- Nordic summit at Stockholm and interacted with the leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.
- **Western Europe:** India and France marked twenty years of their Strategic Partnership which was established in 1998.
- **European Union:** A multi-tiered institutional architecture of cooperation exists between India and the EU with summit level meetings since 2000. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2004.
- **Russia:** The 'Special and Privileged' Strategic relationship with Russia, which constitutes an important dimension of India's foreign policy, attained a new high with the first landmark Informal Summit between Russian President and Indian Prime Minister in 2018.

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## **U.S.A**

- The first-ever Trilateral Summit involving leaders of India, the U.S. and Japan took place in Buenos Aires.

- India and the US held their first 2+2 dialogue between foreign and defence ministers, consolidating the global strategic partnership.
- India's elevation as a Strategic Trade Authorization Tier-I partner country for the purpose of U.S. trade in dual-use items reflected benefits to India as a major defence partner of the U.S.

## UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Peacekeeping

- India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 200,000 troops and police personnel since 1950s.
- As on 31 October 2018, India is the fourth largest Troop Contributing Country (TCC) with 6,608 personnel deployed in 9 peacekeeping missions.

### Election to international bodies

- India was also elected to following UN Bodies:
  - UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2019-2021.
  - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term 2019- 21;
  - Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS for the term 2019-2021;
  - UN-Women (Executive Board of UN-WOMEN) for the term 2019-2021;
  - CPD (Commission on Population and Development) from 2018 to 2021; and
  - CSoCD (Commission for Social Development) from 2018 to 2021.
- India was re-elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for 2019-2022 term.
- India was re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (CNGO) for the term 2019-2022.

### International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- India played a pioneering role on climate change and global warming issues with the **holding of the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in 2018.**
- The General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was inaugurated in Delhi, along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global Re-invest Meet.
- The ISA is the first UN-affiliated inter-governmental organization to be headquartered in India.

### G20

- The G20 Summit also saw the first ever Japan-America-India (JAI) trilateral meeting.
- India announced that it would host the G20 Summit in 2022, the 75th year of India's Independence.

## CONSULAR, PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES

- As on December 2018, over 7.96 crore citizens held valid passports. **India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance.**
- The Ministry, in association with the Department of Posts, has taken an innovative initiative to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices in the country to be known as 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK).

- **The mPassport Seva Mobile App** with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services was launched in 2018.

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**OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS**

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- As part of government's commitment to strengthen engagement with diaspora, among the major initiatives hosted during 2018-2019 were Videsh Sampark outreach programme, Know India Programme, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences, Scholarship programme for diaspora children, and Awareness Campaign on Safe and Legal Migration.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrations at Varanasi in 2019 further strengthened the bonds between the Diaspora and their homeland.

## 19. INDUSTRY

### INITIATIVES

- **The National Manufacturing Policy (NMP)** was notified with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so.
- **National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs)** are an important instrumentality of the Policy.
- The objective of the **National Plan for Manufacturing Clusters** is to bring about convergence in the multiple models of development of industrial clusters.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.
- **Make in India** initiative was launched in September, 2014 as a national effort towards making India an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.
- **The Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 (PPP-MII Order)** was issued in 2017 pursuant to Rule 153 (iii) of the General Financial Rules 2017 to promote domestic value addition in public procurement.
- **STARTUP INDIA** initiative was launched in 2016 to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- **Invest India** has been set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, FICCI, CII, NASSCOM and various state governments. It is the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India** and acts as the first point of reference for investors.
- Project Monitoring Group (PMG), was set up in Cabinet Secretariat in 2013 and has recently been merged with DPIIT from 2019, with Invest India providing support. The PMG is now known as **Project Monitoring- Invest India Cell (PMIC)**.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** is nodal department for administration of various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights.
- The office of the **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM)**, a subordinate office under DPIIT, carries out statutory functions related to grant of patents and registration of trademarks, Designs and Geographical Indications.
- **The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)**, established in 2003, is the appellate tribunal to hear appeals against decisions of the Controller of Patents as also Registrar of Trade Marks and Geographical Indications.
- **The National Productivity Council (NPC)** represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), of which India is a founder member.

- **The Quality Council of India**, another autonomous body under this Department, promotes adoption of quality standards relating to Quality Management Systems.

### INDUSTRIAL / ECONOMIC CORRIDORS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

1. **The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC):** DMIC project was launched in pursuance of an MoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan in 2006.
2. **Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)**
3. **Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor**
4. **Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC):** It will be structured around the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC).
5. **Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC):** It is a key part of the east Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), India's first coastal corridor.

### PERFORMANCE OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) monitors production of eight core industries i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity every month.
- In line with the base year change in IIP, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, revised the **base year** of Index of Eight Core Industries to **2011-12**.
- These eight industries have combined **weight of around 40.27 per cent** in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

### KEY INDUSTRIES

- **Leather Industry:** Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDIP) aims at augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology upgradation of leather units.
- **Cement Industry:** Cement industry was de-licensed in 1991 under Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. India is the second largest manufacturer of cement after China in the world.
- **Ceramic Industry:** India continues to rank No.3 in terms of production and consumption of tiles in the world after China and Brazil.
- **Cigarette Industry:** The cigarette industry is an agro-based labour intensive industry. Cigarette included in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development & Regulations) Act, 1951 requires industrial license.
- **Newsprint:** The newsprint sector in the country is governed by the Newsprint Control Order (NCO), 2004. The mills listed under the schedule of this order are exempt from excise duty.
- **Salt Industry:** India continues to hold third position in the production of salt in the world after China and USA and second largest producer of iodized salt, next to China.
- **Ferrous Castings:** The Coimbatore cluster is famous for pump sets castings, the Kolhapur and Belgaum for automotive castings, Rajkot cluster for diesel engine castings and Batala and Jalandhar for machinery parts and agricultural implements.
- **Seamless Steel Pipes and Tubes:** Oil sector accounts for around 60 per cent of the total requirement of seamless pipes. Bearings and boiler sector contribute around 30 per cent of demand.

- **Bicycle Industry:** India is the second largest bicycle producer of the world, next only to China. Most of the manufacturing units are located in Punjab and Tamil Nadu with Ludhiana (Punjab) being a major bicycle production hub.

## MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- **The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006** provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of “enterprise” which comprises both manufacturing and service entities.
- As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 73<sup>rd</sup> round, conducted by National Sample Survey Office, in 2015-16, there were **633 lakh unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs**.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is a statutory organization under Ministry of MSME.
- **The Coir Board** is a statutory body established under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 for promoting overall development of the coir industry.

## TEXTILES

- **The Textile Industry** contributes to 7 per cent of industry output in value terms of 2 per cent of India’s GDP and to 15 per cent of the country’s export earnings.
- **Silk:** In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir. Three other commercially important types of silk fall into the category of non-mulberry silks namely: eri; tasar; and muga.
- **Cotton:** India has the largest area under cotton in the World. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry, is the principal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations.
- **Jute:** India is the largest producer of jute in the world.
- **Wool:** Integrated Wool Development Programme, (IWDP) is being implemented through Central Wool Development Board in major wool producing states in next three years. A programme for development of Pashmina sector in J&K was announced.
- **Weavers’ Mudra Scheme** was launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers.
- Govt. of India launched **e-Dhaga mobile App** in 2016 to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers.
- To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries “**Bunkar Mitra**” -Helpline for handloom weavers was launched in 2017.
- **Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs** for handloom weavers & handicraft artisans are organized across country.

## STEEL

- **India was the 2nd largest crude steel producer in the world** in 2018 behind China.
- **The National Steel Policy (NSP) was launched in 2017.** The policy projects crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (MT), production of 255 MT and a robust finished steel per capita consumption of 160 kg by 2030-31, as against the current consumption of 74 kg.
- **Purvodaya:** The eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Northern Andhra Pradesh) are home to 80 per cent of the Indian iron reserves. Therefore, a flagship initiative - Purvodaya was envisaged for an integrated steel hub in the Eastern states.

- **Ispati Irada to encourage steel usage:** This is a collaborative branding campaign with the objective of promoting the benefits of steel usage in various facets of nation building and how it impacts the lives of citizens in the country.

## FERTILIZERS

- **Department of Fertilizers** comes under the ambit of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- The Department has one attached office under it, viz., **Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee (FICC)**.
- **The New Urea Policy-2015** was notified with the objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production; and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government.
- **Neem coating of urea (NCU)** has been made mandatory for all the indigenous producers.
- **Incorporated in 1961, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited** was re-organized along with National Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (NFCL) from 1978 into five companies namely, FCI, NFL, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCFL) and Projects and Development India Ltd. (PDIL).

## CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS

- In the chemical sector, **100 per cent FDI is permissible**.
- Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is implementing following schemes under the National Policy on Petrochemicals:- (i) setting up of plastic parks; and (ii) setting up of Centres of Excellence in Polymer Technology.

## PHARMACEUTICALS

- **Indian Medical Devices** industry depends on imports up to an extent of almost 70 per cent.
- The Jan Aushadhi Scheme was launched in 2008 with the aim of selling affordable generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets i.e., Jan Aushadhi Stores in various districts across the country.
- Recently, “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana” (PMJAY) has been renamed as “**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**” (PMBJP) and “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra” (PMJAK) as “**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra**” (PMBJK).

## MINES AND MINERALS

- The government launched **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** which is to be implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts. PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment and ameliorate the condition of the affected person.
- The monitoring of PMKKKY would be done under “**DISHA**”, the **District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee** of Ministry of Rural Development.
- **The Ministry of Mines** launched in 2016 Scheme of Star Rating of Mines/mining leases for implementation of Sustainable Development Framework (SDF).

### Mineral resources

- **Bauxite:** Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of bauxite.

- **Chromite:** About 96 percent resources of chromite are located in Odisha, mostly in the Sukinda valley in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts.
- **Copper:** Rajasthan is credited with 813.33 million tonnes ore (54 per cent) containing 4.48 million tonnes of copper metal in the country.
- **Gold:** The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent) and Karnataka (21 per cent), Iron Ore
- **Iron:** Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India. Major resources of hematite are located in Odisha (34 per cent) and Jharkhand (24 per cent). India's 72 per cent magnetite resources are located in Karnataka.
- **Lead and Zinc:** Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 89.44 share.
- **Manganese Ore:** Statewise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share followed by Karnataka (22 per cent).
- **Nickel:** Important occurrence is nickeliferous limonite in the overburden of chromite in Sukinda Valley, Jajpur district, Odisha, where it occurs as oxide.
- **Tungsten:** Resources are mainly distributed in Karnataka (42 per cent).
- **Diamond:** By states, Madhya Pradesh accounts for about 90.18 per cent resources.
- **Magnesite:** Substantial quantities of resources are established in Uttarakhand (59 per cent).

### Organizations

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, beginning in 1851, is the premier earth science organization of the country, is the principal provider of basic earth science information to the Government, Industry and the geoscientific sector.
- **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)** established in 1948 performs regulatory functions under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 amended in 2015.
- **National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)** is a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines. It was established in 1981 at Bhubaneswar.
- **Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)**, a Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, was incorporated in 1967.
- **National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM)** is the only institution in south Asia exclusively devoted to research in rock mechanics.
- **National Institute of Miners' Health, Nagpur (NIMH)** is an autonomous institute established under Ministry of Mines.
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur** is a Centre of Excellence set up in 1989 as a joint venture of Ministry of Mines, Government of India and UNDP.



## 20. LAW AND JUSTICE

### INTRODUCTION

- Ministry of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the **Charter Act, 1833** was enacted by the British Parliament.
- **Ministry of Law and Justice comprises the three Departments** namely the Department of Legal Affairs, the Legislative Department and the Department of Justice.
- **The main sources of law** in India are the Constitution, statutes (legislation), customary law and case law.

### JUDICIARY

- At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the Supreme Court of India with a High Court for each state or group of states and under the High Courts there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts.
- Panchayat Courts also function in some states under various names like Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Katchehri, etc., to decide civil and criminal disputes of petty and local nature.
- The highest court in each district is that of District and Sessions Judge.
- This district court is the principal court of civil jurisdiction and can try all offences including those punishable with death. He is the highest judicial authority in a district.
- Below him, there are courts of civil jurisdiction, known in different states as Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Civil Judges and the like. Similarly, criminal courts comprise Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrate of First and Second class.
- **On January 26, 1950, Supreme Court of India** was setup under the new Constitution. The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Justice Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde is the 47th Chief Justice of India.
- **There are 25 High Courts in the country**, three having jurisdiction over more than one state. Among the union territories, Delhi alone has a High Court of its own. Other six union territories come under the jurisdiction of different state High Courts.
- **National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms** was set up in 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability
- **The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project** is one of the e-Governance projects being implemented in High Courts and district/subordinate courts of the country.
- In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, is implementing a decade long programme on **Access to Justice for Marginalised People (2008- 2017)**.

**LEGAL AFFAIRS**

- **Department of Legal Affairs** is the nodal department for reciprocal arrangement with foreign countries for enforcement of arbitral awards pursuant to the **New York Convention** under section 44(b) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- The department of Legal Affairs is the Central Authority under the **Hague Convention of 1965** for service aboard of judicial and extra-judicial documents in civil and commercial matters.
- In line with Digital India mission, **Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS)** digitalizes the court case details and brings various stakeholders on a single platform.
- Department of Legal Affairs constituted a **high level committee to review Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India**, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble **Justice Shri B. N. Srikrishna**.
- **The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange** was established in 2000 under Section 18 of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

**ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police** was raised in the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962. Today, ITBPF guards 3,488 kms of Indo-China Border.
- **Border Security Force** was raised in 1965 for guarding the international borders with Pakistan.
- **The Assam Rifles** raised as Catchar Levy in 1835 is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India. It has its headquarters at Shillong and the Force is completely deployed in the North East for guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border.
- **National Security Guard (NSG)** was raised in 1985 as a Federal Contingency Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** was formed in 1939 at Neemuch as the Crown Representative's Police. It is the only Central Armed Police Force in the country which has 3 Mahila Battalions.
- In 1992, 10 Battalions of CRPF were reorganized and converted into 10 battalions of 4 coys each of **Rapid Action Force (RAF)**. The personnel in RAF are trained and equipped to be an effective strike Force in communal riots and similar situations.
- In order to effectively tackle the Maoists, the need for a Special Force, capable of striking at the core of naxal heartland was felt. With this idea, ten **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)** battalions were raised between 2008 and 2011.
- Raised in 1969, **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** is providing security cover to 303 units including 59 domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to 87 industrial undertakings.
- **The "Sashastra Seema Bal" (SSB)** is the newest border guarding force of Union of India entrusted with the guarding of Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.

**Police**

- Public order and police being state subjects under the Constitution, police is maintained and controlled by states.
- The police force in a state is headed by the Director General of Police/ Inspector General of Police.

- Police set up in big cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Pune, etc., is directly under a Commissioner of Police who enjoys magisterial powers.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

- **Civil Defence includes** any measures not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack.
- **The Amendment to the Civil Defence Act, 1968** accorded legal sanction to the additional role of the Civil Defence constituents in the field of disaster management.
- The training of master trainers and specialized training is conducted at the **National Civil Defence College, Nagpur.**
- **Home Guards** is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December, 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and rules of the states/union territories.

## FIRE SERVICES

- “Fire Services” is a state subject and has been included as a municipal function in the XII schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243-W.
- As such, it is the primary responsibility of the state governments/municipal bodies to enforce the National Building Code and allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping Fire Services.

## PERSONAL LAW

- The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III- Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature, namely Parliament and subject to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution.
- Persons governed by **The Special Marriage Act, 1954** can specifically register marriage under the said Act even though they are of different religious faiths.
- In Divorce Act, 1869 comprehensive amendments were made through **Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001** to remove discriminatory provisions against women in the matter of divorce and to provide for dissolution of marriage by mutual consent.
- Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, **right of maintenance** extends not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives.
- **The Indian Succession Act was enacted in 1925** to consolidate the law applicable to intestate and testamentary succession which was in existence at that time. **The Act does not apply to the residents of the union territory of Puducherry.**

### Adoption

- Although there is no general law governing adoption, it is permitted by The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 amongst Hindus.
- Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

**Anand Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2012**

- The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 was enacted to remove doubts as to the validity of the marriage rights of the Sikh called “Anand” and it does not provide for the provisions of registration of marriages.
- However, vide The Anand Marriage (Amendment), Act, 2012, The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 was amended to provide for registration of Anand marriages commonly known as Anand Karaj.

**ELECTION LAWS AND ELECTORAL REFORMS****Delimitation of Constituencies**

- The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973. The third delimitation exercise—based on 1971 census—was completed in the year 1975.
- The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years. The Government, as part of the National Population Policy strategy, decided to extend the current constitutional freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to 2026.

**Electronic Voting Machines**

- The use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was started in the country on experiment basis in 1982. During the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 2004, EVMs were used in all polling stations across the country.
- The EVMs were developed at the behest of the Election Commission jointly with two Public Sector Undertakings, Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad (ECIL) in 1989.

**Electors' Photo Identity Cards**

- The use of electors' photo identity cards by the Election Commission was started in 1993 throughout the country to check bogus voting and impersonation of electors at elections.
- The electoral roll is the basis for issue of EPICs to the registered electors.
- 25th January has been declared as the National Voters' Day to focus on enrolment of voters and making EPIC.

## 21. LABOUR, SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

### SHRAM YOGI MAAN-DHAN YOJANA

- Government of India introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for unorganised workers. Enrolment under the scheme has started since February, 2019.
- The unorganised workers whose monthly income is ₹ 15,000/ per month or less are eligible to enroll under PY-SYM subject to these conditions:
  - These should belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years;
  - Should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO); and
  - Should not be an income tax payee.
- PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis, where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the central government as per the scheme guidelines.

### NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE PROJECT

- The Ministry of Labour is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project to provide a variety of employment related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships etc.

### PRADHAN MANTRI ROJGAR PROTSAHAN YOJANA (PMRPY)

- The Ministry of Labour is also implementing PMRPY since 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation with an allocation of ₹ 1,000 crores.
- Under the scheme, Government of India will pay the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment.
- The scheme will be applicable to those having earnings of ₹ 15,000/- per month.

### SHRAM SUVIDHA PORTAL

- The Ministry has developed a unified web portal 'Shram Suvidha Portal', to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease compliance.
- It caters to four major organisations under the Ministry namely; Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central); Directorate General of Mines Safety; Employees' Provident Fund Organisation; and Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

**SINGLE UNIFIED ANNUAL RETURN**

- Ministry of Labour and Employment has started Single Unified Annual Return for eight Labour Acts.
- This facilitates filling of simplified Single Online Return by the establishments instead of filing separate Returns, under these Acts.

**DRAFT SMALL FACTORY BILL**

- The Bill provides for regulation of working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers.
- The Bill amalgamates, simplifies and rationalizes the provisions of six Labour Laws at one place for these small factories.

**EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION**

- To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948.
- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** is implementing the ESI Scheme introduced since 1952.
- **e-Pehchan:** A process of establishing the identity of the insured person through Adhaar number has been set up by seeding Adhaar number to the insurance number.
- ESIC has launched new scheme "**One IP-Two Dispensaries**" for the benefit of migrant workers. Now, through employer, the insured women/persons can choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for family residing at different locations of the country.

**EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION (EPFO)**

- The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule-I to the Act.
- The following three schemes framed are: Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

**UNIVERSAL ACCOUNT NUMBER**

- The facility of Universal Account Number (UAN) for EPF subscribers was formally launched in 2014.
- It provides automatic portability of Provident Fund account on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

**MINIMUM PENSION**

- During the year one of the long awaited demands for implementation of the minimum pension was given effect to.
- The Central Government is providing a minimum pension of ₹ 1,000/- per month for member/widow(er)/disabled/nominee/dependent parent pensioners, ₹ 750/- per month for orphan pensioners and ₹ 250/- per month for children pensioners.

**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

- Twenty-two Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT) -cum-Labour Courts have been set up under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for adjudication of industrial disputes in organizations for which the Central Government is the appropriate authority.
- Through Finance Act, 2017, the powers to settle the Appeals arising out of EPF&MP Act, 1952 have also been entrusted upon to these Tribunals.

**CHILD LABOUR**

- **The National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987**, addresses this complex issue in a comprehensive, holistic and integrated manner.
- **The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** calls for
  - complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes;
  - linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009;
  - prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act etc.
- **The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme** was started in 1988 to rehabilitate children rescued from child labour. It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme and at present sanctioned in 270 districts in the country.
- **Re-alignment of NCLP Scheme with RTE Act:** The NCLP Schools could now serve as special training centres for un-enrolled and out of school children in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the RTE Act and Rule 5 of the RTE Rules, 2010.

**BONDED LABOUR**

- A Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched in 1978.
- It was modified in 2000 to provide for 100 per cent assistance for conducting district wise surveys for identification of bonded labour, awareness generation activities, and evaluatory studies.
- The Rehabilitation grant has also been raised from ₹ 10,000/- per identified bonded labour, to ₹ 20,000/- per identified bonded labour.

**WAGES AND BONUS****The Minimum Wages Act, 1948**

- The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector.
- Under it, both the Central and state governments are the appropriate governments to fix, revise, review and enforce the payment of minimum wages to workers in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions.
- To have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, a concept of **National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW)** was mooted on the basis of

the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in 1991. NFLMW has been revised from time to time.

### Payment Of Wages

- **The Payment of Wages Act, 1936** ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers.
- **Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2017:** Section 6 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 was amended in 2017 to enable making payment of wages in cash or by cheque or by crediting in the bank account of the employee.

### OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

- **The Prime Minister's Shram Awards** are given to the workers employed in department/public sector undertakings of the Central and state governments and the manufacturing units employing 500 or more workers in the private sector in recognition of their performance, devotion to duty, etc.
- **The Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskars (VRPs)** are given to individual workers or group of workers for their outstanding suggestions leading to improvement in productivity, safety and health etc.

### RESEARCH AND TRAINING

- **The Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers' Education and Development**, with headquarters at Nagpur, was established in 1958 to implement the Workers' Education Programmes at national, regional and unit/village level.
- **V.V. Giri National Labour Institute** an autonomous body of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, set up in 1974, has grown into a premier institute of labour research and training.

### SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- As opposed to developed countries, where the percentage of skilled workforce is between 60 and 90 per cent of the total workforce, **India records an abysmal 4.69 per cent of workforce with formal vocational skills.**
- A separate ministry was created in 2014, namely, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**. It is aided by its function arms - **National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)**.
- **The National Skill Development Mission** was launched in 2015. Seven sub-missions have been proposed in the following areas: (i) Institutional Training, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Trainers, (v) Overseas Employment, (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods, (vii) Leveraging Public Infrastructure.
- The new **National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** was notified 2015 which replaces the policy of 2009.

### SCHEMES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of youth to take up outcome based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood. The scheme was launched in 2015.



- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK):** The Skill Development Ministry through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), implements PMKK Scheme for setting up of model skill centre in every district of the country while ensuring coverage of all the parliamentary constituencies.

**SCHEMES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana:** This Scheme aims at creating an enabling eco-system for entrepreneurship promotion among youth through entrepreneurship education and training, advocacy, easy access to entrepreneurship support network and promotion of social entrepreneurship.
- **Udaan:** The Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir is funded by Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

# 22. MASS COMMUNICATION

### PRASAR BHARATI

- Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is the public service broadcaster in the country, with Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan as its two constituents.
- It came into existence in **1997**. The major objectives of the Prasar Bharati Corporation as laid out in the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990**.
- The Corporation, is governed by the **Prasar Bharati Board**. The Chairman is a part-time member with a three year tenure subject to an age limit of seventy years.
- **National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) (Programme)** hitherto known as Staff Training Institute (Programme) is the apex training institute of Prasar Bharati.

### ALL INDIA RADIO

- **The first radio programme** was broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in 1923. It was followed by the **setting up of a Broadcasting Service** that began broadcasting in 1927.
- The Indian State Broadcasting Service was **renamed as All India Radio in 1936**.
- All India Radio came to be known as **Akashvani** from 1957. The entertainment channel of AIR named **Vividh Bharati** was started on October 3, 1957.
- **The first ever FM service** was started in Madras in 1977.
- **The News Services Division (NSD)** of All India Radio has been expanding its presence across various domains with the aim of reaching diverse cross section of people.
- **External Services Division:** All India Radio entered the domain of external broadcast on October 1, 1939 purely as a tool for propaganda for the Allies during the World War II with a service in Pushto language to counter the German Radio Blitzkrieg.

### DOORDARSHAN

- From an experimental service begun at Delhi in September 1959, **Doordarshan (DD)** over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organizations of the world. Doordarshan is headed by the Director General.
- **DD National Channel**, a public service broadcaster is the largest terrestrial network in the world. It covers about 92.0 per cent population and 81.0 per cent land area of the country.
- **DD News** is the only terrestrial-cum-satellite, multilingual news channel of the country. The news channel has been successfully discharging its responsibility
- **DD India:** Doordarshan opened its windows to the world by launching its international channel on March 14, 1995. The Channel, initially known as DD-World was renamed DD-India in 2002.
- In India, **Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)** is entrusted with the task of monitoring the content being aired by TV channels.

**PRESS AND PRINT MEDIA**

- The Office of the **Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)** is an attached office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Under its Statutory and derivative functions, it verifies and approves titles of newspapers and registers them.
- **The Press Information Bureau (PIB)** is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print, electronic and social media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements.
- **PM's Publicity and Reference Unit** is a dedicated unit for the publicity and media support for the Prime Minister's Office and cabinet.
- **Journalists' Welfare Scheme:** A scheme of providing financial assistance to journalists and their families facing acute financial hardship on account of serious ailment is being implemented by PIB which provides for one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis.

**NEWS AGENCIES**

- India's largest news agency, **Press Trust of India (PTI)** is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers. Founded in August, 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949.
- **United News of India (UNI)** was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in December, 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961. It also has a full-fledged Hindi wire service 'UNIVARTA' since 1982.
- **NAM News Network (NNN)** is the internet-based news and photo exchange arrangement of the news agencies belonging to member countries of the nonaligned movement.

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

- The Press Council of India is a **statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority**.
- It has the responsibility to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.
- It comprises a **Chairman and 28 members**. The Chairman has, by convention, been a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **The National Press Day** is celebrated annually on November 16 as a symbol of a free and responsible press in the country.

**BODIES UNDER MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

- Set up in 1945, the Research, Reference and Training Division now renamed as "New Media Wing" functions as information unit for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. It provides background, reference and research material for use of the Ministry, its media units and others engaged in mass communication.
- The Division compiles a reference book, '**India-A Reference Annual**', on development and progress made by Central ministries/departments, states/ union territory administrations and PSUs/autonomous bodies. It is simultaneously published in Hindi titled- '**Bharat**'.

- **Photo Division**, an independent media unit meant for the visual support of the varied activities of the Government of India, is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Photo Division was established in late 1959.
- **Publications Division**, a repository of books and journals highlighting subjects of national importance and India's rich cultural heritage, was established in 1941.
- **Journals:** Besides books, the Publications Division also publishes 18 monthly journals, which include Yojana, Aajkal, Bal Bharati, Kurukshetra and a weekly journal Employment News.

## FILMS

- Since 1990, Films Division organises the biennial **Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films (MIFF)**.
- The **National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC)** was inaugurated in 2019 at the Films Division Complex, Pedder Road, Mumbai. The Museum showcases history of India Cinema.
- **The National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC)**, incorporated in 1975, (100 per cent owned GOI body) was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of promoting integrated development of the Indian film industry.
- **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- **The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF)** was set up in 1973 with the prime objective of promoting good cinema. It organizes the: (a) the International Film Festival of India; and (b) the National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- **The National Film Awards along with cinema's highest honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, are presented by the President of India. To commemorate the release of the first Indian Feature Film, Raja Harishchandra on 3rd May 1913, It has been decided to confer the National Film Awards on 3rd May of every year.
- **The National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** was established as a media unit in 1964 to trace, acquire and preserve for posterity the heritage of national cinema.
- **National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**, a prestigious mission of Government of India project was set up in 2014 for restoring and preserving the film heritage of India. This new plan scheme has taken care of digitization/restoration of films available with NFAI.
- **Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)** which started functioning in 1955 as an autonomous body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is mandated to produce children's film.
- **The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune** was set up in 1960. It became a Society in 1974 under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. It provides the latest education and technological experience in the art and technique of film making and television production.
- **Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata** was established as an autonomous educational institution and was registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.
- **The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)**, registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 came into existence in 1965.
- **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd. (BECIL)**, a profit making PSE was constituted in 1995 to provide the national broadcasters' expertise to the private broadcasters in the country.

## 23. PLANNING

### NITI AAYOG

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) came into existence in 2015 replacing the Planning Commission which was established in 1950. The NITI Aayog is the successor to the Planning Commission.
- The stated aim for NITI Aayog's creation is to foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India.
- It has adopted a "bottom-up" approach in planning. One of the important mandates of NITI Aayog is to bring cooperative competitive federalism and to improve centre state relation.
- NITI Aayog will provide opportunities to represent the economic interests of the State Governments and Union Territories of India.

#### The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:

- Prime Minister of India is the **Chairperson**.
- **The Governing Council** comprises the Chief Ministers of all the states & union territories with legislatures, viz., Delhi and Puducherry and Lt. Governors of other union territories.
- Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as **special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister**.
- The full time organizational framework will consist of, in addition to the Prime Minister as **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson is to be appointed by the Prime Minister**.
- Full time and part-time members will be maximum of 2, from leading universities, research organizations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part time members will be on a rotational basis.
- **Ex-officio Members** will be maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer** is to be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

### ERSTWHILE PLANNING COMMISSION

- The Planning Commission was set up in March, 1950.
- It was charged with the responsibility of making assessment of all resources of the country augmenting deficient resources, formulating plan for the most effective and balanced utilization of resources and determining priorities.
- Jawaharlal Nehru was the first chairman of the Planning Commission.

**First Plan (1951–1956)**

- Keeping in view the large-scale import of food grains in 1951 and inflationary pressures on the economy, the First Plan (1951-56) accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects.
- The Plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from five to about seven per cent of the national income.

**Second Plan (1956–1961)**

- The plan followed the Mahalanobis model, an economic development model developed by the Indian statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in 1953.
- The plan attempted to determine the optimal allocation of investment between productive sectors in order to maximise long-run economic growth.
- The plan assumed a closed economy in which the main trading activity would be centred on importing capital goods.

**Third Plan (1961–1966)**

Its immediate objectives were to :

- secure an increase in the national income of over five per cent per annum;
- achieve self-sufficiency in food grains; and
- expand basic industries and establish machine building capacity so that the requirements of further industrialization could be met within a period of about 10 years mainly from the country's own.

**Annual plans**

- The situation created by the Indo-Pakistan conflict in 1965, two successive years of severe drought, devaluation of the currency, general rise in prices and erosion of resources available for Plan purposes delayed the finalization of the Fourth Five Year Plan.
- Instead, between 1966 and 1969, three Annual Plans were formulated within the framework of the draft outline of the Fourth Plan.

**Fourth Plan (1969–1974)**

- Efforts were directed towards reduction of concentration of wealth, income and economic power to promote equity. The Indira Gandhi government nationalised 14 major Indian banks and the Green Revolution in India advanced agriculture.
- The average annual compound rate of growth envisaged was 5.7 per cent.

**Fifth Plan (1974–1979)**

- The Fifth Plan (1974-79) was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures.
- The major objectives of the plan were to achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below the poverty line.
- This Plan also gave high priority to bring inflation under control and to achieve stability in the economic situation. It targeted an annual growth rate of 5.5 percent in the national income.

- Four Annual Plans pertaining to the Fifth Plan period were completed. It was subsequently decided to end the Fifth Plan period with the close of the Annual Plan 1978-79.

### **Sixth Plan (1980–1985)**

- Removal of poverty was the foremost objective of the Sixth Plan (1980-85).
- The strategy adopted was to move simultaneously towards strengthening the infrastructure for both agriculture and industry.
- The average annual growth rate targeted for the Plan was 5.2 per cent.

### **Seventh Plan (1985–1990)**

- The plan laid stress on improving the productivity level of industries by upgrading of technology. Due recognition was accorded to the role of small-scale and food processing industries.
- During this Plan period, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 5.8 per cent exceeding the targeted growth rate by 0.8 per cent.
- Food grains production during the Seventh Plan grew by 3.23 per cent as compared to a long-term growth rate of 2.68 per cent between 1967-68 and 1988-89

### **Annual Plans (1990–1992)**

- The Eighth Plan could not take off in 1990 due to the fast changing political situation at the centre and the years 1990–91 and 1991–92 were treated as Annual Plans.
- The basic thrust of these Annual Plans was on maximization of employment and social transformation.

### **Eighth Plan (1992–1997)**

- The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) was launched immediately after the initiation of structural adjustment policies and macro stabilization policies, which were necessitated by the worsening Balance of Payments positions and the position of inflation during 1990-91.
- Modernization of industries was a major highlight of the Eighth Plan. Under this plan, the gradual opening of the Indian economy was undertaken to correct the burgeoning deficit and foreign debt.
- The Eighth Plan envisaged an annual average growth rate of 5.6 per cent. Against this, an average annual growth rate of 6.8 per cent was achieved during this plan period.

### **Ninth Plan (1997–2002)**

- The Ninth Plan envisaged an average target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in GDP.
- Against this, the achievement in the growth-rate on an average was to be 5.5 per cent per annum.

### **Tenth Plan (2002–2007)**

- The Tenth Plan had a number of new features that include, among others, the following:
  - Firstly, the Plan recognised the rapid growth in the labour force. The Tenth Plan therefore aims at creating 50 million job opportunities during the period, by placing special emphasis on employment intensive sectors.

- Secondly, the Plan addresses the issue of poverty. Although these have been the objectives in earlier Plans, in the current Plan there are specific monitorable targets, which will need to be attained along with the growth target.
- The average growth rate in the last four years of the 10th Plan (2003-04 to 2006-07) was little over 8 per cent, making the growth rate 7.7 per cent for the entire 10th Plan period. Though this was below the target of 8 per cent, it is the highest growth rate achieved in any Plan period.

### **Eleventh Plan (2007–2012)**

- The Plan provided a comprehensive strategy for inclusive development, building on the growing strength of the economy, while also addressing weaknesses that have surfaced.
- It set a target for 9 per cent growth in the five year period with acceleration during the period to reach 10 per cent by the end of the Plan.

### **Twelfth Plan (2012–2017)**

- The Approach Paper to the Twelfth Plan, had set a target of 9 per cent average growth of GDP over the Plan period (2012 to 2017).
- However, while our full growth potential remains around 9 per cent, acceleration to this level can only occur in a phased manner, especially since the global economy is expected to remain weak for the first half of the Plan period.

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## **ATAL INNOVATION MISSION**

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The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the Central Government, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.

### **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**

- AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts across the country.
- These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces where latest technologies are installed using a grant of ₹ 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to create innovative solutions.

### **Mentor India**

- The Mentor India programme launched by AIM is a path-breaking initiative to catalyse the academia– industry partnerships.
- Under it, more than 3,200 mentors from all over the country belonging to various industry sectors have been assigned to work with 1800+ ATLs on a continuous basis.

### **Atal Incubation Centres**

- Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) are intended to provide incubation facilities to innovative startups like capital equipment and operating facilities along with sectoral experts for mentoring, business planning support, access to seed capital, industry partnerships, training and other critical components.



**Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)**

- It is an initiative by Atal Innovation Mission aimed at supporting innovators to create products/solutions based on advanced technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based mechanism.

**ARISE**

- Moving forward, AIM is also planning to launch another programme ARISE to promote collaborative Applied Research and Innovation between various central ministries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

**INITIATIVES AND REFORMS****Agriculture Reforms**

- Ministry of Agriculture launched Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) in 2018 including three mechanisms: price support scheme or market assurance scheme, price deficiency payment scheme and pilot on private procurement stockists.

**Contract Farming**

- The Model Act on Contract Farming called the State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018 was formulated in consultation with NITI Aayog for its adoption by the states/union territories.
- The Model Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post – harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.

**Reforms in Nutrition**

- A Scheme for holistic nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Launched in 2018, POSHAN Abhiyaan intends to significantly reduce malnutrition in the next three years.

**Health Sector Reforms**

- Ayushman Bharat comprising twin missions is set to transform the nation's health system by:
  - operationalizing 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres offering preventive and primary care, on the supply side; and
  - offering financial protection of up to ₹ 5 lakhs per year per family for the deprived 10 crores plus households towards secondary and tertiary care, on the demand side.

## 24. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- In 1991 the Department of Rural Development was upgraded as Ministry of Rural Development.
- Presently, the Ministry of Rural Development consists of two departments, namely, Department of Rural Development and Department of Land Resources.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP)

- In 1952, an organization known as Community Projects Administration was set up under the Planning Commission to administer the programmes relating to community development.
- The Community Development Programme, inaugurated in 1952, was an important landmark in the history of rural development.

### MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA)

- The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing not less than one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Measures like electronic fund management system (eFMS), Aadhaar seeding, geo-tagging of assets and strengthening of Social Audit System are some steps towards bringing in more transparency and accountability in the programme implementation.
- To streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 24 States and 1 union territory.

### DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA—NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION

- National Rural Livelihoods Mission, renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) was launched in 2011.
- It seeks to reach out to 8-9 crore rural poor households and organize one woman member from each household into affinity based women SHGs and federations at village level and at higher levels.
- The key components of DAY-NRLM include :
  - Promoting Institutions of Poor
  - Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building
  - Community Investment Support Fund
  - National Special Fund Support for Convergence
  - Infrastructure Creation and Marketing Support
  - Sensitive Support Structures

- Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

### **RURAL SELF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE (RSETI)**

- It has been decided to set up one RSETI in each district of the country. RSETIs are bank lead initiative with the active support of state government.
- RSETIs are expected to train 750 rural poor youth each year to take up self-employment in the area they reside.

### **PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA**

- Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the State List under the Constitution.
- The primary objective of Scheme is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 census) and above in plain areas.
- In respect of 'Special Category States' (North- East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the desert areas, the tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88 selected tribal and backward districts, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations as per Core-Network with a population of 250 persons and above (census 2001).

### **RURAL HOUSING**

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana—Gramin (PMAY-G) came into effect from the financial year 2016-17. The main features of the scheme include:

1. providing assistance for construction of 1.00 crore houses in rural areas over the period of 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19;
2. enhancement of unit assistance from ₹70,000 to ₹1.20 lakh in plains and from ₹75,000 to ₹1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas and IAP districts;
3. identification of beneficiaries based on the socio-economic and caste census (SECC 2011) data;
4. setting up of national technical support agency at national level to provide technical support to the implementing agencies and to the beneficiaries in taking up construction of houses and help in achieving the target set under the project.

### **NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

- Government of India introduced National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in 1995 as a social assistance programme for poor households—for the aged, widows, disabled and in the case of death of the breadwinner.
- Presently NSAP comprises the following schemes for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households:
  - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
  - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
  - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
  - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

- Annapurna

**DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA (DDU-GKY)**

DDU-GKY is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Key Features:

1. The focus of this programmes is on the rural youth from poor families, in the age group of 15 to 35 years, belonging to: a) MGNREGA worker household; b) RSBY household; c) Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household; d) BPL PDS card households; e) NRLM-SHG household; f) Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011.
2. Full social inclusion of candidates is ensured by the mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups—50 per cent allocation to SC/ST groups, 15 per cent to minorities, 33 per cent for women and 3 per cent for persons with disabilities.
3. Placement in wage employment is mandated for a minimum of 70 per cent of all successful candidates, with a minimum salary of ₹ 6,000/- per month or the minimum wages, whichever is higher.

**SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA**

- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to develop one village by each Member of Parliament as a model village by 2016 and two more by 2019.
- The Gram Panchayats adopted under SAGY prepared Village Development Plans (VDPs) containing prioritized time-bound activities to achieve holistic progress of the village, through convergence of resources.
- The Ministry has developed Panchayat Darpan, a 35 point impact monitoring tool to gauge the impact of SAGY in the GPs.

**NATURAL LAND REFORMS MODERNIZATION**

- The scheme of National Land Reforms Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is being implemented since 2008.
- Under it, 27 states/ UTs have computerized the registration of records (RoRs) of land in their respective areas.

**PANCHAYATI RAJ**

- The mandate of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), which was set up in 2004, is to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution, provisions regarding the District Planning Committees as per Article 243 ZD, and PESA.
- Part IX of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states of union territories having population less than 2 million):
  - gram panchayats at village level;
  - district panchayats at district level; and
  - intermediate panchayats at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats.

- Constitution India has fixed five year term for these panchayats and has made provision for the **reservation of seats for women and marginalized sections (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes)** of Indian society.
- While reservation of schedule castes (SCs) & scheduled tribes (STs) is in proportion to their share in population, that for women is at least 33.33 per cent. However, many states have increased the reservation of seats and chairperson posts for women in panchayats to 50 per cent.
- The Constitution of India also stipulates direct elections of all members of panchayats. For conducting these elections, all states are mandated to constitute a **State Election Commission**.
- Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a **State Finance Commission (SFC)** every fifth year for recommending principles for division of financial resources between state and local governments (both urban and rural).

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## SANITATION

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### Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014. The Mission aims to increase the access to sanitation from 39 per cent in 2014 to 100 per cent by October, 2019.
- The main objectives of the SBM(G) are:
  - bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation;
  - accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019;
  - encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

### Swachhata Pakhwada

- Swachhata Pakhwada was started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging Gol ministries and departments in their jurisdiction.

### Swachhta Action Plan (SAP)

- Swachhta Action Plan (SAP), a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta, is a concrete realization of the vision that swachhta is everyone's business.

### Swachh Iconic Places

- The Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across the country that are "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.
- This initiative is in partnership with ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation being the nodal agency.

### Namami Gange

- Namami Gange Programme is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, comprising making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management.

- Ganga Gram is another inter-ministry project between Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the Namami Gange Programme. The Project is focused on better cleanliness and infrastructure facilities, through convergence with other departments.

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**NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME (NRDWP)**

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- NRDWP is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing adequate and safe drinking water to the rural population of the country.
- The NRDWP is a component of Bharat Nirman which focuses on the creation of the infrastructure.

## 25. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### ORGANIZATIONS

- **The Department of Science and Technology (DST)** functions as the nodal agency to connect science and technology sector to Government verticals.
- The research and development in frontier areas of science and engineering has received an overwhelming support with the establishment of the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**.
- **Survey of India (SOI)** is the National Principal Mapping Agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology. It was set up in 1767.
- **Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad** established under UNDP assistance is a premier institution for training in various disciplines of surveying.
- Some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users are taken care of by the **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)** operating under DST.
- **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, (CSIR)** constituted in 1942 is an autonomous body which is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse S&T areas. CSIR has a network of 38 national laboratories.
  - It is the custodian of **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**.
  - It maintains **Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank**.

### INITIATIVES

- Science, research and innovation system for high technology led path for India (SRISHTI) is the main policy goal of the new **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy** unveiled in 2013.
- **Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme** launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in academic institutions such as IITs, IISc, IISERs, national labs, etc., located nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working.
- **Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE)** is an ongoing initiative for attracting talent for science and research.
- DST has launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)**.
- **National Mission of Nano Science and Technology** - an umbrella programme was launched in 2007 to promote R&D in this emerging area of research in a comprehensive fashion.
- **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC)** launched under National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) are under implementation by the Department.
- **National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)** is an umbrella scheme for a seamless innovation ecosystem booster.

## ATOMIC ENERGY

- **The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, established in 1954 is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology.
- **The Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad** manufactures fuel assemblies for pressurised heavy water reactors, boiling water reactors and fast breeder reactor.
- **The Heavy Water Board (HWB)** has contributed successfully to the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme by producing heavy water for all pressurised heavy water reactors.
- **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)** continued the accelerated pace of exploration activities for augmentation of uranium, thorium and rare metals.
- **Fast Breeder Reactors**
  - For the second stage of the Nuclear Power Generation Programme, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is pursuing development of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors. Breeder reactors produce more fuel than they consume.
  - The Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operating at Kalpakkam for over 25 years, also caters to technology development related to fast reactors.
- **Thorium Based Reactors:** The Indian Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3 aims at using thorium as fuel for power generation on a commercial scale. In the thorium fuel cycle, thorium 232 is transmuted into the fissile isotope uranium 233 which is a nuclear fuel.
- **Kalpakkam Mini (Kamini) Reactor** was operated successfully for neutron radiography of various pyro devices for Department of Space.
- **Dhruva Research Reactor** operated at rated power of 100 MWt at a high safety level and availability factor.
- **The Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)** accredited as a deemed university by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) completed ten years of its existence.

## INDIAN SPACE PROGRAMME

### Organizations

- Space activities in the country were initiated with the setting up of **Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)** in 1962.
- In the same year, work on **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)** near Thiruvananthapuram was also started.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** was established in August, 1969. The Government of India constituted the space commission and established the Department of Space (DOS) in 1972 and brought ISRO under DOS in 1972.
- **Space Commission** formulates the policies and oversees the implementation of the Indian space programme.
- **DOS** implements these programmes through, mainly, ISRO, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) and Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL).
- **Antrix Corporation**, established in 1992 as a government owned company, markets the space products and services.



- **The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)**, a deemed university, was established at Thiruvananthapuram in 2007.

### Initiatives

- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, **GSLV MkIII-M 1**, successfully launched **Chandrayaan-2** spacecraft into its planned orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 45,475 km.
- Remote Sensing applications projects at national, state and local levels made significant progress through a well-established multi-pronged implementation architecture of **National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)** in the country.
- **National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM)** continued to provide disaster related inputs for states/UTs.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)**, which is India's first inter-planetary spacecraft mission, has successfully completed three years in its orbit.
- **AstroSat**, India's first multi-wavelength observatory, completed two years in orbit. The satellite is now being operated as an 'Observatory.'

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### EARTH SCIENCES

- Earth system sciences deals with all the **five components of the earth system**, viz., atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere and biosphere and their complex interaction.
- **The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** holistically addresses all the aspects relating the earth system science.
- **The Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)** operates as an executive arm of the MoES for its policies and programmes. It was established in 2007.
- The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides the **Agromet Advisory Services (AAS)** for the benefit of farmers.
- **Forecasts for Heat and Cold Waves: A Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS)** for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model was commissioned in 2018.
- **Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)**, has been put in place for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 for addressing ocean development activities.
- **Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services (ACROSS)** pertains to the atmospheric science programmes of the Ministry.
- **A mobile App named "DAMINI"** has been developed to disseminate the information on lightning to the public.
- The field campaign namely the **Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX)** Phase-IV campaign was conducted near Solapur in Maharashtra to understand the physical process involved in enhancement of precipitation.

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### OCEAN SERVICES: TECHNOLOGY AND OBSERVATIONS

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) provides **Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) Advisories** to 2.75 lakh fishermen on a daily basis to help them to easily locate the areas of abundant fish in the ocean.

- The ocean forecast services were extended to Sri Lanka and Seychelles under the umbrella of **Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)** for Afro-Asian Region.
- **The Indian Tsunami Warning System** established by the Ministry at the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad has been recognized as the **Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RSTP) for the Indian Ocean region by UNESCO.**
- Indigenously developed 500m depth rated shallow water/**Polar Remotely Operated Vehicle (PROVe)** was successfully deployed, in the Andaman coral islands.
- National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa established a high altitude research station in Himalaya called **HIMANSH**, situated above 13,500 ft at a remote region in Spiti Himachal Pradesh.
- **Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) Programme** is a scheme that provides support to academic/research organizations in various sectors of earth system sciences including technology development.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

- National Biotechnology Board (NBTB) was upgraded to a full-fledged Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1986. DBT has formulated the **National Biotechnology Development Strategy.**
- India has the **second-highest number of US Food and Drug administration (USFDA)-approved plants**, after the USA.

### The autonomous institute of DBT:

- National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi
- National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune
- Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad
- Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar
- National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar
- National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), Delhi
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram
- Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal
- Centre of Innovative and Applied Bio-processing (CIAB), Mohali
- National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani
- Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad
- Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad
- National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad
- Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bengaluru
- National Agri Food Biotechnology Centre (NABI), Mohali
- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi

### Public Sector Undertakings

- As an interface agency **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** has been set up to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

- **Biotech Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme** under BIRAC is encouraging scheme for the young investigators for entrepreneurial and managerial development of SME's in biotechnology through incubators.
- The Department is also having two PSUs namely **Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL) in Uttar Pradesh and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**

## 26. TRANSPORT

### RAILWAYS

- From a very modest beginning **in 1853, when the first train steamed off from Mumbai to Thane, a distance of 34 kms**, Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,349 stations spread over a route length of 67,368 km.
- **The rolling stock fleet** of Indian Railways in services comprised 39 steam, 6,023 diesel and 5,399 electric locomotives.
- About 35.32 per cent of the route kilometre and 47.09 per cent of running track kilometre and 48.26 per cent of total track kilometre is **electrified**.
- The network is divided into **18 zones**. In February 2019, Union Railways Minister announced “South Coast Railway (SCoR)” as 18th Zone of Indian Railways comprising existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions.
- There are **sixteen Central Public Sector Enterprises** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.
- **The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) at Lucknow** is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. RDSO has developed a new design of wider and heavier pre-stressed concrete sleeper RT-8527 for 25 T axle load to achieve higher frame resistance against bucking, higher rubber pad life.
- Though a part of the overall financial figures of the Government of India, the **Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924- 25**. The Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from the 2017-18.
- **New Catering Policy 2017** was issued in 2017 with the objective to provide quality food to rail passengers by unbundling of catering services on trains.
- The important train/coach services offering **package tours are:** (i) Luxury Tourist trains, (ii) Semi-luxury trains, (iii) Buddhist Special trains, (iv) Bharat Darshan trains, (v) Astha Circuit trains, (vi) Glass Top (Vistadome) Coaches etc.
- Railways has been operating the **luxury tourist train** ‘Palace on Wheels’ since 1982. Four more trains namely ‘Deccan Odyssey’, ‘Golden Chariot’, ‘Heritage Palace on Wheels’ and ‘Maharajas Express’ on similar lines have been added over the years.

### ROADS

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** was formed in 2009.
- It encompasses construction and maintenance of national highways (NHs), administration of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, National Highways Act, 1956 and National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

- **India has about 58.98 lakh kms of road network, which is the second largest in the world.**  
This comprises national highways, expressways, state highways, major district roads, other district roads and village roads.
- **The breakup is:** national highways/expressways–1,32,500 kms; state highways– 1,56,694 kms; other roads–56,08,477 kms totalling to 59,97,671 kms.
- **While highways / expressways constitute only about 1.7 per cent of the length of all roads,** they carry about 40 per cent of the road traffic.
- In order to assist the state governments in the development of state roads, central government also provides financial assistance out of the **Central Road Fund (CRF) and Inter State Connectivity and Economic Importance (ISC & EI) Scheme.**
- **The National Highways Development Project (NHDP)** was mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), and is spread over seven phases.
  - The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under the NHAI Act, 1988.
  - The NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry.
  - Some of the major National Highways constructed under this programme include Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) North South & East West Corridors (NS-EW), road connectivity of major ports of the country to national highways.
  - The remaining works under NHDP have now been subsumed under the Ministry's new flagship programme - Bharatmala.
- **The Bharatmala Pariyojana** envisages development of about 26,000 km length of economic corridors, which along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors are expected to carry majority of the freight traffic on roads.
- The Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of level crossing on national highways by Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) under a scheme known as **Setu Bharatam.**
- **Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana** envisages development of easy access to the four prominent Dhams, namely, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, situated in Uttarakhand.
- **Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** is a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry. It was set up in 1983.
- **Transport Mission Mode Project** has successfully automated RTO operations, set up a consolidated transport database.
- The Government has approved a **National Road Safety Policy and National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS)** so as to minimise road accidents.
- **The Green Highways (Plantation Transplantation. Beautification and Maintenance) Policy** was firmed up in 2016 to develop eco-friendly national highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector.

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## SHIPPING

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- India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km. Approximately **95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value** is moved through maritime transport.
- India has embarked on the ambitious **Sagarmala Programme** to promote port-led development in the country. The objectives of the Programme include: port modernisation, new port development, port connectivity, coastal community development, etc.

- A **shipbuilding subsidy scheme** was in existence to promote Indian Shipbuilding industry for Central PSU Shipyards since 1971. The scheme was extended to all Indian shipyards in 2002.
- There are **27 shipyards in the country**, 6 under central public sector, 2 under state governments and 19 under private sector.
- India has 25-30 per cent share in the global ship recycling industry. Ship recycling is carried out mainly at Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat. **Alang-Sosiya is the largest ship recycling yard in the world.**
- **Indian Maritime University (IMU)** was set up in 2008 in Chennai with campuses at Chennai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam as a central university.
- **The Directorate General of Shipping**, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- **The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)** was formed in 1961. SCI continues to be the country's premier shipping line, owning a fleet of 70 vessels.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, located in Kochi in Kerala is the only yard which has regularly undertaken dry dock repairs of the aircraft carriers of Indian Navy. It is currently building the Indian Navy Indigenous Aircraft Carrier.
- **Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL)** was formed in 1976 to provide integrated dredging and related marine services.
- **Andaman and Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW)** a subordinate office under Ministry of Shipping was established during 1965 for the service of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.
- **Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata** became a Central Public Sector undertaking in 1984.

### Major Ports

- **There are 12 major ports** and about 200 non-major ports along India's coastline which is about 7517 km.
- The 6 major ports—Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidambaranar are on the east coast and the other major ports viz., Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Sheva, Navi Mumbai) and Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla) are on the west coast.
- The major ports are under the direct administrative control of the central government and fall in Union List 7th Schedule of Constitution.
- Ports other than the major ones are under the jurisdiction of the respective maritime state government and fall in the **Concurrent List**.
- Of the total traffic handled by all Indian ports, **57 per cent is handled by major ports and 43 by others.**
- **Kolkata Port** is the only riverine major port in the country. The port has twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex on the western bank of river Hooghly.
- **Visakhapatnam Port** is the only Indian port possessing three international accreditations viz., ISO 14001; 2004 (EMS)/OHSAS 18001 and ISO 90001:2000 (QMS).
- **Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore)** is the only corporate port amongst the major ports administered by the central government.

## INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

- **Cargo transport through inland waterways** is, presently less than 1 per cent of the total cargo movement in the country.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** was constituted in 1986, for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
- 111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the **National Waterways Act, 2016**.
- **Jai Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** is being implemented by the IWAI for the capacity augmentation of national waterway I on the Haldia–Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank.

## CIVIL AVIATION

- **Integrated Civil Aviation Policy** was notified in 2016, which aims at creating an ecosystem that will push the growth of the civil aviation sector.
- **The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN** was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 with the twin objective of promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses.
- **Air Sewa** is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 2016 to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience.
- **Government of India has raised the FDI limit** for 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non scheduled air transport services, FDI in scheduled airlines upto 49 per cent permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49 per cent through Government approval.
- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation). The headquarters are located in New Delhi.
- **The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** is the regulator for civil aviation security in the country. The BCAS has its headquarters in New Delhi.
- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** came into being in April 1995. AAI is a Mini Ratna-Category-I PSE involved in building, upgrading, maintaining and managing airports infrastructure across the country. It owns and maintains 125 airports comprising **21- international airport (3 - civil enclaves)**.
- AAI provides **Air Navigation Services (ANS)** at all civil airports in the country.
- **GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN)** is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO.
- **Air India Ltd.** is in transport services sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. **Air-India Charters Limited (AICL)** operates a low cost airline under the brand name "Air India Express".
- **Pawan Hans Limited (PHL)** was incorporated in 1985 as a government company under the Companies Act.
  - It was established for providing helicopter support services to the oil sector in offshore exploration, operate in hilly and inaccessible areas and make available charter flights for promotion of travel and tourism.

- The registered office of Pawan Hans is located in New Delhi, corporate office at Noida and its regional offices are at Mumbai, New Delhi and Guwahati.
- At present, there are three units of **Hotel Corporation of India Limited** viz., Centaur Lake View Hotel (CLVH), Srinagar, Centaur Delhi Airport (CHDA) including Chefair Flight Catering (CFCD), Delhi and Chefair Flight Catering (CFCM), Mumbai.
- **The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)** was set up at Fursatganj, Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to bring about a quantum improvement in the standards of flying and ground training of commercial pilots in the country.
- **The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)** is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 in 2009 with its head office at Delhi.
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU)** is a central university under the administrative control of the Ministry. The university has been established by the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013. It is situated at Fursatganj, Raebareli, district Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.



## 27. WATER RESOURCES

### ORGANIZATIONS

- The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation lays down policies and programmes for development and regulation of the water resources of the country.
- The Ministry has been renamed **Ministry of Jal Shakti** with two departments—Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- **Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), New Delhi**, is a premier research organization in the field of geotechnical engineering and civil engineering materials, particularly for construction of river valley projects and safety evaluation of existing dams.
- **The National Water Development Agency** was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of the links under peninsular component of national perspective plan. The NWDA is fully funded by Government of India.
- **The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH)**, established in 1978 as an autonomous organization under this Ministry, is a premier R&D institute to undertake research on all aspects of hydrology and water resources development. The Institute has its headquarters at **Roorkee (Uttarakhand)**.
- **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC)** was established in 1957 as a premier construction company for execution of civil works for thermal and hydro-electric projects, river valley projects.
- **Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS)** was established in 1969.
- **The North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM)** was established at Tezpur, Assam by North Eastern Council (NEC), in 1989.

### WATER AVAILABILITY

- As per National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) report, the **total water availability of the country** received through precipitation is about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum.
- After evaporation, **1869 BCM water is available as natural runoff**. Due to geological and other factors, the **utilizable water availability** is limited to 1137 BCM per annum comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable ground water.
- **The average annual per capita water availability** in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively.
- Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as **water stressed condition**, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a **water scarcity condition**.

## INITIATIVES

- **The National Water Policy, 2012** was adopted by the National Water Resources Council.
- **National Water Mission** is one of the missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- In 2015, the “**Namami Gange**” - **Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission programme** was launched.
- In 2016, through the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016, NGRBA has been replaced with a **National Ganga Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga** as an authority. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also been converted in to an authority.
- Ministry launched **Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18)** to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic approach involving all stakeholders.
- **Jal Manthan** is an initiative of this Ministry for wider consultations among various stakeholders for churning out new ideas and tangible solutions to various water sector issues.

## IRRIGATION

- During 2015-16, **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- Major and medium irrigation/ multipurpose irrigation (MMI) projects are being funded under **PMKSY-AIBP**.
  - **The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)** was launched in 1996-97 to provide Central Assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country.
- Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) projects are being funded under **PMKSY-Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)**.
  - The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme was launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers' field.

## FLOOD MANAGEMENT

- A new scheme called **Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)** has been proposed with merged components from the existing Flood Management Programme (FMP) and River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA) schemes.
- With the objective to effectively tackle critical and chronic flood problems in the Ganga Basin, **Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB)** was set up in 1972.
- **Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC)**, a subordinate office of this Ministry with its headquarters at Patna, was also created in 1972 to act as the secretariat and executive limb of GFCB.

## GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT

- **Central Ground Water Board** carries out periodic assessment of ground water resources jointly with the state ground water departments.

- In the XII Plan, CGWB has taken up the **National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM)** to facilitate identification, delineation, characterization and effective management of aquifers to ensure sustainability of ground water resources.
- **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling ground water development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose.
- **The Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute (RGNGWTRI)** is the training arm of Central Ground Water Board and is located at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

### CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION

- **Central Water Commission (CWC)** is headed by a Chairman, with the status of an ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India.
- **The main functions of CWC include:** to carry out techno-economic appraisal of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects proposed by the state governments; to collect, compile, publish and analyse the hydrological and hydro-meteorological data relating to major rivers in the country, consisting of rainfall, runoff and temperature, etc.;
- **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** is the World Bank assisted project for rehabilitation of 223 large dams in the seven participating states along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission.
- As per the latest information compiled under the **National Register of Large Dams (NRLD)** maintained by CWC, there are 5701 large dams in the country.
- **India-WRIS (Water Resource Information System)**, a portal for providing information on water resources has been jointly developed by CWC and ISRO.
- **National Water Academy**, the training institute of CWC, is located at Pune for training of central and state in-service engineers, NGO's, etc.

### INTER-STATE COOPERATION

- **Farakka Barrage Project** with headquarters at Farakka in Murshidabad district of West Bengal is a subordinate office under the Ministry. The main objective of the Project is to divert adequate quantity of Ganga waters to Bhagirathi- Hoogly river system.
- **Betwa River Board (B.R.B)** was constituted in 1976 to execute the Rajghat Dam Project and Power House. The benefits and cost of the above project are shared equally by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **The Tungabhadra Board** was constituted in 1953. The Board consists of representations from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Government of India.
- **Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)** is a subordinate office under this Ministry. The Board was constituted in 1994 with Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi as its measure.
- **Brahmaputra Board**, an autonomous statutory body was set up and started functioning in 1982. The jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board includes both Brahmaputra and Barak valley and covers all the states of North Eastern Region, Sikkim and Northern part of West Bengal falling under Brahmaputra basin.

- **The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT)** was constituted in 1969 to adjudicate upon the water dispute pertaining to river Narmada. Central Government has framed the Narmada Water Scheme inter alia constituting the Narmada Control Authority (NCA).
- **The Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC)** was constituted by the Government of India in accordance with the directives of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) in 1980.
- **Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)** was constituted in 2014 with autonomous status under this Ministry.
- Polavaram Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project which is on the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village of Polavarammandal about 42km upstream of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

- **An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)** is functioning since 1972. A Treaty was signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in 1996 for the **sharing of Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka** during the lean season.
- **Indo-Nepal bilateral mechanisms** for the management of floods due to the rivers flowing into India from Nepal are: (i) Joint Committee on Inundation of Flood Management (JCIFM) and (ii) Joint Committee on Kosi Gandak Projects (JCKGP).
- **Under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, India and Pakistan** have each created a Permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. The two Commissioners together form the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).

#### **MINOR IRRIGATION AND WATER BODIES CENSUS**

- In 2017-18, the "Irrigation Census" scheme was brought under the umbrella scheme, 'Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchai Yojana and other Schemes'.
- The main objective of the Irrigation Census scheme is to build up a comprehensive and reliable database in the Minor Irrigation (MI) sector.

## 28. WELFARE

### SCHEDULED CASTE WELFARE

- In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in 1976 as the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**.
- **The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (The PoA Act)** aims at preventing commission of offences by persons other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 and 2016:** There have been addition of several new offences. The establishment of exclusive special courts for the speedy trial of offences of atrocities are provided.
- **The National Commission for Scheduled Castes** is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also to review issues concerning their welfare. Functions of the NCSC are enumerated in the Article 338(5).

### Educational Empowerment

- **Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students Scheme** was introduced in 2012. The Scheme is centrally sponsored and implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations.
- **National Overseas Scholarship for SCs Scheme** provides for fees charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium, annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance.
- **The objective of Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana** is to provide hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.

### Special Central Assistance

- **Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)** is a central sector Scheme, started in 1980, under which 100 per cent grant is given to the states/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).
- The centrally sponsored scheme for participating in the equity share of the **Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)** in the ratio of 49:51 (central/state) was introduced in 1979.
- **The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)** was set up in 1989 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 to provide financial assistance in the form of concessional loans to scheduled caste families.

## WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- A separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2012.
- **According to Census 2011**, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in the country (who constitute 2.21 per cent of the total population).
- **Eleventh Schedule to Article 243-G and Twelfth Schedule to Article 243-W**, which pertain to the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats and municipalities respectively with respect to implementation of schemes for welfare and safeguarding the interests of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Legislations for Persons with Disabilities:** The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; and The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), has formulated the **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**, as a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs.
- **Scheme of Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA)** is an umbrella scheme run by the DEPwD for implementing various initiatives for social and economic empowerment of PwDs.
- **Section 2 (t) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**, defines a person suffering from not less than 40 per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority.
- **Mental illness** has been recognized as one of the disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur** is a public sector body, engaged in manufacturing of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.
- **The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) is an apex-level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development.**

## TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- **The Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of Constitution defines “Scheduled Areas”** as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state.
- **The criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area” under the Fifth Schedule are:**
  - preponderance of tribal population,
  - compactness and reasonable size of the area,
  - a viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and
  - economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas.
- **The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution** relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as **“Tribal Areas”** and provides for district councils and/or regional councils for such areas.
- **The term scheduled tribes is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 366(25)** as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be scheduled tribes.

- **The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are:** (a) indications of primitive traits; (b) distinctive culture; (c) shyness of contact with the community at large; and (d) geographical isolation i.e., backwardness.
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003.
- **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)** is an exclusive Scheme for the economic development of ST women, at a highly concessional rate of interest.
- **The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)**, was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.
- **The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.
- The central government launched an approach, namely, **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)** with a view to translate the available resource into overall development of tribal population with an outcome-based orientation.

#### **WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

- The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as **Mandal Commission**), constituted under Article 340, submitted its report in 1980.
- In the light of this report, the Government of India provided 27 per cent reservation in central government posts for persons belonging to the socially and economically backward classes, (also referred to as “Other Backward Classes” or OBCs).
- **With the amendment of Article 15 of the Constitution in 2006** and the enactment of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act in 2007, listing of other backward classes has become relevant for admission in central educational institutions also.
- Under this Act, OBC students are entitled to 27 per cent reservation in central educational institutions in a phased manner, over a period of three years commencing from the academic session 2008-09.
- **The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** was set up in 1993 as per the provision of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. **The Constitution (102 Amendment) Act of 2018** gave constitutional status to the Commission.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans:** The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels:** This is a centrally sponsored Scheme launched from 2014-15 being implemented through state governments/UT administrations/central universities. The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.

- **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** was incorporated in 1992 as a Company not for profit with an objective to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of backward classes.

## OLDER PERSONS

- The existing **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP)** was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons.
- The government has reconstituted **National Council for Older Persons (NCOP)** to advise and aid the government on developing policies and programmes for older persons. The Council has been reconstituted and renamed as **National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC) in 2012.**

## MINORITIES

- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs** was established in 2006. It has been mandated for welfare of 6 notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. From 2016, the mandate of the Ministry has been expanded to manage Haj Pilgrimage as well.
- **The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities** was announced in 2006.
- This Ministry is implementing three **scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment** of students belonging to the notified minority communities:- (i) pre-matric scholarship; (ii) post-matric scholarship; and (iii) merit-cum-means based scholarship.
- The **Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme** for minority students was launched in 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).
- **Naya Savera:** The "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities was launched in 2007 by this Ministry.
- **Nai Udaan:** The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions
- **Padho Pardes:** The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad.
- This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme '**Nai Roshni**' for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government
- The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 after which it was renamed as the **National Commission for Minorities.**
- For the purpose of advising the central government on matters relating to working of the state Wakf Boards and the proper administration of the Wakfs in the country, the **Central Wakf Council** was established as a statutory body in 1964, under Section 8A of the Wakf Act, 1954.
- The Office of the **Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)** was established in 1957. in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution.



- **Article 29 and 30** seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognize their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 350B** provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

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**WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

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**Initiatives for Women**

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** is one of the flagship programmes of the Government, launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and address other related issues of disempowerment of women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**: Government announced pan India implementation of maternity benefit programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Government of India approved the **Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme** in 2017 for its implementation from 2017-18 to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation.
- A new initiative to establish **One Stop Centres (OSC)** is being implemented across the country since 2015. A woman who has suffered violence can get medical, police, legal and psychological counselling assistance at these centres.
- To provide emergency response to women in distress, MWCD had taken up the installation of **Physical panic button on mobile phones**. The 'Panic Button and Global Positioning System in Mobile Phone Handsets Rules, 2016' have been notified by the Department of Telecommunications.
- The broad mandate of **Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs)** is to report to authorities/police the incidences of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.
- The Ministry is implementing the **Swadhar Greh Scheme** which targets the women who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.
- The recently enacted **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.
- The setting up of **Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs)** in all ministries/departments was mandated by the Ministry of Finance in 2007. The MWCD as the nodal agency for gender Budgeting.
- **33 per cent posts of heads of Gram Panchayats** have been reserved for women.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has **enhanced maternity leave** under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development is working towards the effective implementation of the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**.
- **Women of India Exhibitions/Festivals**: The Initiative was started in 2014 to link women organic farmers and entrepreneurs directly to the market.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "**Mahila e- Haat**", a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHOs/NGOs in 2016.

- **Ujjawala Scheme** was launched in 2007 with the objective to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.
- The Government had set up a dedicated fund called **Nirbhaya Fund** in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.

### Children's Issues

- A new citizen based **Khoya-Paya Portal** was launched in 2015 which enables posting of information of missing and sighted children.
- **POCSO e-Box**: In order to provide Children with a safe and anonymous mode of making a sexual abuse complaint, an internet based facility, e-Box, has been provided.
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016** were notified.
- **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)** is proposed to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children (0-6years), adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner over a period of three years with the objectives of
  - preventing and reducing under-nutrition in children (0-3 years);
  - reducing the prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months) and
  - reducing the prevalence of anaemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years).
- **The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme** now known as Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objective to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)** was introduced in 2010-11 and is operational in 205 selected districts across the country. It aims at all-round on pilot basis development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years.
- **The National Creche Scheme** is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme through the states/UTs from 2017 to provide day-care facilities to children of working mothers and other deserving women.

### Organisations under Ministry of Women and Child Development

- **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development. It was established in New Delhi in 1966 under Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- **The National Commission for Women** was set up as statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women
- **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** was set up in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body that functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)** was established in 1993 as an autonomous body and was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

## 29. YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

### INTRODUCTION

- India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with about 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of 15- 29 years comprise 27.5 per cent of the population.
- It is estimated that by the year 2020, the population of India would have a median age of 28 years only. This 'demographic dividend' offers a great opportunity.

### NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

- The National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014) was launched in 2014, replacing the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003.
- The Policy defines 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years.

### RASHTRIYA YUVA SASHAKTIKARAN KARYAKRAM

#### Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world. NYKS currently has about 8.7 million youth enrolled through 3.04 lakh youth clubs/mahila mandals.
- NYKS has presence in 623 districts through Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs).
- The objective of the programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

#### National Youth Corps

- The Scheme of National Youth Corps (NYC) was launched in 2010-11 and the same is being implemented through NYKS.
- Under it, youth in the age-group of 18-25 years are engaged as volunteers to serve upto maximum 2 years in nation-building activities.

#### National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) scheme was introduced in 2008.
- Under it, financial assistance is provided to government/non-government organisations for taking up youth and adolescent activities.

**National Youth Festival**

- Under promotion of national integration, of NPYAD, a National Youth Festival is organised in January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12th January), which is celebrated as National Youth Day.

**Youth Hostels**

- Youth Hostels are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- The construction of the youth hostels is a joint venture of the central and state governments.

**Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisation**

- The Department provides assistance to the scouting and guiding organisations, with a view to promote the scouts and guides movement in the country.
- This is an international movement aimed at building character, confidence, idealism and spirit of patriotism and service among young boys and girls.

**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**

- National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the youth through voluntary community service.
- Education through Service is the purpose of the NSS.

**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1975 and was conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under 'de-novo' category in 2008, by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- The Institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions.

**NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY, 2001**

The salient features of this Policy are:

- broadbasing of sports and achievement of excellence; upgradation and development of infrastructure; incentives to promote sports;
- support to national sports federations and other appropriate bodies; (iv) strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth etc.

**SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (SAI)**

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984 as a registered society primarily to ensure effective maintenance and optimum utilization of the sports infrastructure that was built in Delhi during ASIAD, 1982.

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- It is now the nodal agency in the country for broadbasing sports and for training of sportspersons to achieve excellence in national and international sports.
- SAI also operates a High Altitude Training Center (HATC) at Shillaroo (HP).
- **National Sports Academies** have been set up by SAI, in collaboration with the National Sports Federations to attract sports talent in the respective sports discipline in the age group of 14-25 years.
- SAI launched the 'Come and Play Scheme' in all its centres spread across the country from 2011 with the objective of encouraging the local youth to use the sports facilities available at these centres.

## LAKSHMIBAI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION (LNIFE)

- The Institute was established initially as a college in 1957. It was upgraded to a "Deemed University" in 1995.
- The University is located at Gwalior. LNIFE is fully funded by the Government of India.
- A North East Campus of LNIFE has also been established at Guwahati (Assam) and is functioning since 2010-11.

## NATIONAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY

- In recognition of the talent and contribution of the sportspersons of the North Eastern states in general and Manipur in particular, the Government of India decided to set up a National Sports University in Manipur.
- The University will impart Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes in sports coaching, sports sciences and physical education in various disciplines.

## KHELO INDIA

- A new umbrella Scheme "Khelo India" was launched during 2016-17 after merger of existing scheme Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search System Programme (NSTSSP).
- The Scheme is being implemented as a central sector scheme.
- The revamped Khelo India has twelve components, which aim at achieving the twin objectives of the National Sports Policy 2001- broadbasing of sports and achieving excellence in sports.

## PROMOTION OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

- **Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations:** Under it, the Government of India provides assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for conducting national championships and international tournaments, participation in international tournaments abroad, organizing coaching camps, procuring sports equipment, engagement of foreign etc.
- **Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports:** It was launched in the 2013-14 to give emphasis on the academic and intellectual side of sports management by awarding Fellowships to deserving candidates for specialized studies at Masters' and Doctoral level etc.

**NATIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (NSDF)**

- NSDF was instituted to mobilize resources from the government as well as non-governmental sources for promotion of sports and games in the country.
- To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100 per cent exemption from income tax is available on all contributions.

**INCENTIVE SCHEMES FOR SPORTSPERSONS**

- **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games** is the highest sporting honour of the country. The recipient(s) are selected and honoured for their “spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years” at international level. It was instituted in 1991-92.
- **The Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games**, is sports coaching honour of the country. It is awarded annually to selected people for meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabled sportspersons to excel in international events” over a period of four years. It was instituted in 1985.
- **The Arjuna Awards** are given to recognize outstanding achievement in sports. It was instituted in 1961.
- **The Dhyan Chand Award** is the lifetime achievement sporting honour of the country. It was instituted in 2002.
- **The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** is conferred in four categories: (a) Identification and nurturing of budding/young talent; (b) Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility; (c) Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures ; and (d) Sports for Development. It was instituted in 2009.
- **The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy** is a running trophy by the Ministry of Education and awarded each year to a University which has all round best performance in sports at inter-university, national and international competitions. It was instituted in 1956-57.
- **Special Awards to winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches:** This Scheme was introduced in 1986. Under it, special awards are given to sportspersons and their coaches for winning medals in recognized international sports events held in a year.

**SCHEME OF PENSION TO MERITORIOUS SPORTSPERSONS**

- This Scheme was launched in 1994.
- Those sportspersons, who are Indian citizens and have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup / World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Para-Olympics and Para-Asian Games, have attained the age of 30 years and have retired from active sports career are eligible for pension for life.

**PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAY NATIONAL WELFARE FUND**

- The name of National Welfare Fund for sportspersons was changed to Padit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for sportspersons from 2017.

- This Fund was set up in 1982 with a view to assisting outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in indigent circumstances who had won glory for the country in sports.

#### **SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE FOR ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES**

##### **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**

- NADA set up in 2009, is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country.

##### **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)**

- NDTL is an autonomous body under this Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs.
- It is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for ISO:IEC 17025 (2003) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for testing of urine and blood samples from human sports.
- NDTL was registered in 2008 under Registration of Society Act, 1860.

## 30. STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

### ANDHRA PRADESH

- The earliest mention of the Andhras is said to be in **Aitereya Brahmana (2000 BC)**.
- After Independence, Telugu-speaking areas were separated from the composite Madras Presidency and a new Andhra State came into being on 1st October 1953.
- With the passing of the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, there was a merger of Hyderabad State and Andhra State, and consequently Andhra Pradesh came into being on 1 November 1956.
- **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 commonly called Telangana Act** is an Act of Indian Parliament proclaiming the bifurcation of the Andhra Pradesh into two states, Telangana and residuary Andhra Pradesh.
- **Geography:** The state has the second longest coastline of 974 km (605 mi) among all the states of India, second only to Gujarat.
- **Irrigation:** Jalayagnam programme aims at completing the ongoing and new projects in a record time to provide immediate irrigation to water starved areas.
- **Mines and Geology:** The state has the largest deposits of quality chrysotile asbestos in the country. The state produces about 100 to 110 million tonnes of industrial minerals and 200 million cubic metres of stone and building material. AP stands first in barytes and limestone production in the country.
- **Ports:** There is one major port at Visakhapatnam under the Central Government.
- **Tourist Centres:** Charminar, Salarjung Museum, Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, Thousand Pillar Temple and Fort in Warangal, Araku valley are the major tourist attractions of the state.

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- **History:** Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987. Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
- **The capital of the state is Itanagar** in Papum Pare district. Itanagar is named after Ita fort, meaning fort of bricks, built in the 14th century AD.
- Arunachal Pradesh finds mention in the literature of Kalika Purana and Mahabharata.
- **Festivals:** Some of the important festivals of the state are Mopin and Solung of the Adis, Lossar of the Monpas, Boori-boot of the Hill Miris, Sherdukpens, Dree of the Apatanis, Si-Donyi of the Tagins, Reh of the Idu-Mishmis, Nyokum of the Nyishis, etc.

### ASSAM

- The state is also known as a “**Land of Red River and Blue Hills**”.



## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- **History:** Assam was known as Pragjyotisha or the place of eastern astronomy during the epic period and later named as **Kamrupa**. The word 'Assam' came from the Ahoms, who ruled the land for about six hundred years prior to its annexation by the British.
- **Physiography:** Assam contains three of six physiographic divisions of India—the Northern Himalayas (eastern Hills) the Northern Plains (Brahmaputra Plain), and Deccan Plateau (Karbi Anglong).
- **Festivals:** Bihu is by far the most important festival of Assam. Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu, coinciding with the Assamese New Year, is the principal Bihu. The harvest festival is known as the Bhogali Bihu or Magh Bihu. Kangali Bihu or Kati Bihu is solemnly observed to prey of love and yearning.

## BIHAR

- **History:** From Magadha arose India's first greatest empire, the Maurya Empire, as well as Buddhism. It was in Bihar that the ancient universities of India Nalanda and Vikramshila were built to convey the educational riches of the state.
- **Tourism:** Prominent places of interest include Sitamarhi — the birth place of Sita, Barabar Caves, Kesaria Stupa, 100 feet tall Dev Sun Temple of Aurangabad etc.

## CHHATTISGARH

- **History:** Chhattisgarh, carved out of Madhya Pradesh came into being in November 2000 as the 26th state of the Union.
- In ancient times the region was known as **Dakshin- Kausal**. This finds mention in Ramayana and Mahabharata also.
- **Industry:** One of the most mineral-rich states in India, Chhattisgarh provides a lucrative opportunity for cement production at the most competitive prices.

## GOA

- **Names:** Goa, known in the bygone days as Gomanchala, Gopakapattam, Gopakapuri, Govapuri, Gomantak, etc., abounds in a rich historical heritage.
- **History:** After the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco-da- Gama in 1498, many Portuguese expeditions came to India. In 1510, Alfonso de Albuquerque with the help of the emperor of Vijayanagar attacked and captured Goa. On 19 December 1961, Goa was liberated.
- **Geography:** On its north runs the Terekhol river which separates Goa from Maharashtra.
- **Health:** Goa became the first state in the country to launch diabetic registry.

## GUJARAT

- **History:** It is believed that Lord Krishna left Mathura to settle in the west coast of Saurashtra which later came to be known as Dwarka. It was during the rule of Chalukyas (Solankis) that Gujarat witnessed progress and prosperity.
- **Agriculture:** 'Krishi Mahotsav' is being organized every year to make farmers aware of modern technologies and methods of scientific farming.
- **Electricity:** Gujarat has become the first state in the country to come with a solar policy in 2009, with a view to give boost to the solar energy sector.

- **Ports:** There are 41 minor and intermediate and one major port—Kandla Port.
- **Festivals:** Tarnetar fair is held at village Tarnetar of Surendranagar district in the honour of Lord Shiva. Madhavrai fair at Madhavpur near Porbandar is held in the month of Chaitra (March/April).

## HARYANA

- It was on the soil of Haryana that Saint Ved Vyas wrote Mahabharata.
- The Mughals defeated the Lodhis in the historic battle of Panipat in 1526. Another decisive battle was fought in 1556 at this very site, establishing the supremacy of the Mughals.
- Haryana has the second highest per capita income in India, after Goa.
- Haryana was the first state in the country to have achieved hundred per cent rural electrification way back in 1970.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

- Himachal Pradesh, is also called as “Dev Bhumi: the abode of gods and goddesses”.
- The territory of this state can be divided into three zones, Outer Himalayas or the Shivaliks, Inner Himalayas or Mid-Mountains and the Greater Himalayas or Alpine Zone.
- Himachal Pradesh is called the “Fruit Bowl” of the country. The state has favourable climatic conditions to produce a variety of fruits such as apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, mango, litchi, guava, strawberry and citrus fruits.

## JHARKHAND

- Jharkhand which came into being in November 2000 as another state of the Union.
- According to legend, Raja Jai Singh Deo of Odisha had declared himself the ruler of Jharkhand in the 13th century.
- Some of Jharkhand’s major industries are Bokaro Steel Plant in the public sector, Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) in Jamshedpur in the private sector.
- The state is rich in mineral resources.
- Tourist Centres; There are many scenic attractions in the state, namely, Ichagarh Bird Sanctuary, Udhwa Sanctuary-Sahibganj (Pataura Lake), Chachro Crocodile Breeding Centre—Koderma (Tilaya Dam), Chandrapura Bird Sanctuary.

## KARNATAKA

- Karnataka came to have indigenous dynasties like the Kadambas of Banavasi and the Gangas from the middle of the 4th century AD.
- The world renowned Gomateshwara monolith at Shravanabelagola was installed by a Ganga minister Chavundaraya. The colossal rock cut image of Sri Gomateshwara is the most magnificent among all Jaina works of art.
- The Chalukyas of Badami (500-735 AD) reigned over a wider area, from Narmada to the Kaveri from the days of Pulikeshi II (609-642 AD) who even defeated the mighty Harshavardhana of Kanauj.
- **Biotechnology:** Karnataka and Bengaluru city in particular have become the largest bioclusters in the country.

- **Ports :** The state has a maritime coastline of 155 nautical mile (300 kilometres) and has only one major port at Mangalore, i.e., New Mangalore Port
- **Tourism:** The Golden Chariot named after the famous Stone Chariot in Hampi, a world heritage site, in southern India will travel through timeless historical heritage sites, resplendent palaces, wildlife and golden beaches.

## KERALA

- Kerala is dubbed as “God’s Own Country.”
- **Ports:** It has one major port at Kochi.
- **Air Transport:** Kerala has three airports at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode, handling both international and domestic flights.
- **Festivals:**
  - Onam is the most typical of festivals which coincides with the harvest season.
  - The Vallamkali or boat race is typical of Kerala. All the boat festivals have a religious origin except Nehru Trophy Boat Race conducted in the Punnamada Lake.
  - Thrissur celebrates Poomam festival in April - May every year with an impressive procession of caparisoned elephants.

## MADHYA PRADESH

- **Geography:** Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Indian state in size.
- **History:** King Ashoka, first of all, ruled over Ujjain. Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore, the Gond Maharani Kamalapati and Queen Durgawati, etc., were women rulers from the region known for their outstanding rule.
- **Agriculture:** Madhya Pradesh has posted country’s highest agricultural growth rate which had averaged above 20 per cent over last four years.
- **Irrigation:** Narmada-Kshipra Link Project has been implemented.
- **A Department of Happiness** has been set up in the state as part of efforts to create an enabling atmosphere for people to live a happy and blissful life.
- **Festivals:** An important tribal festival is Bhagoriya marked by traditional gaiety and enthusiasm. An annual Narmada Festival has been started from this year at Bedhaghat in Jabalpur, famous for its marble rocks.

## MAHARASHTRA

- **History:**
  - The first well-known rulers of Maharashtra were the Satavahanas (230 BC to 225 AD), who were practically the founders of Maharashtra.
  - A uniquely homogeneous evolution of Maharashtra as an entity became a reality under the able leadership of Shivaji.
  - Sevagram was the capital of nationalistic India during the Gandhian era.
- **Maharashtra is a plateau of plateaus**, its western upturned rims rising to form the Sahyadri Range parallel to the sea-coast and its slopes gently descending towards the east and south-east.
- **Agriculture:** The state is a major producer of oilseeds.

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- **Aviation:** There are 3 international and 5 domestic airports in the state. To reduce congestion in Mumbai International Airport, an additional airport is coming up at Navi Mumbai.
- **Ports:** Mumbai is a major port. There are 2 major and 48 notified minor ports in the state.
- **Some important tourist centres are** Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, Kanheri and Karla caves, Mahabaleshwar, Matheran and Panchgani etc.

### MANIPUR

- **History:** The political history of Manipur could be traced back to 33 A.D. with the coronation of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba.
- **Geography:** This state is in a geographically unique position, since it virtually is the meeting point between India and South-East Asia. The hill covers about 9/10 of the total area of the state.
- **Industries:** The handloom industry is by far the largest and most important cottage industry. As per the 3rd National Handloom Census of Weavers and Allied Workers 2010, Manipur topped in distribution of handloom workers.
- **Railways:** The state was included in the railway map of India with the opening of a rail head at Jiribam in 1990. The Jiribam - Tupul – Imphal railway line has been declared as a national project.
- **Important festivals of the state are:** Lai Haraoba, Rasa Leela, Cheiraoba, Ningol Chak-Kouba, Rath-Jatra, Idul Fitr, Imoinu Iratpa, Gaan- Ngai, Lui-Ngai-Ni, Idul Zuha, Yaoshang (Holi), Durga Puja, Mera Houchongba etc.

### MEGHALAYA

- Meghalaya literally means the '**Abode of Clouds**' and is essentially a hilly state.
- It is predominately inhabited by the tribal **Khasis, Jaintias and Garos population.**
- **Industry:** The most important non-agro based industry is cement. Because of its rich limestone deposits, the state has a number of cement plants operating in different parts.
- **Aviation:** The only airport in the state at Umroi, 35 km from Shillong is functional.
- Nokrek Peak (1412m) is the highest peak in western Meghalaya.

### MIZORAM

- Mizo language has no script of its own. The missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education.
- **Agriculture:** The main pattern of the agriculture followed is jhum or shifting cultivation. To replace the destructive and unproductive jhum cultivation with sustainable means of occupation, the state government has launched New Land Use Policy.
- **Floriculture** is a growing occupation in Mizoram. Cultivation of anthurium was introduced in 2002 and today anthurium cut flowers are exported outside the state and overseas market.
- **India State of Forest Report-2015** indicated that about 91.47 per cent of the state's total geographical area is under forests cover.
- **Railways:** Broad gauge rail link has been established in Bairabi, Mizoram near Assam border.
- **Aviation:** The airport at Lengpui is connected by flights to and from Kolkata, Imphal and Guwahati.
- **Festivals:** 'Kut' is the Mizo term for festival. Among the various cultural festivals, only three, viz., Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Thalfavang Kut are being observed now a days.
- **Phawngpui is the highest peak** at an elevation of 2157 m.

## NAGALAND

- **The Naga languages** differ from tribe to tribe and sometimes even from one village to another. They are, however, under the Tibeto-Burman family.
- **Forest:** There are Rangapahar wildlife sanctuaries in Dimapur district, Fakim wildlife sanctuaries in Tuensang district and Singphan wildlife sanctuaries in Mon district, Intanki National Park in Peren district and Zoological Park in Dimapur district.
- **Festivals:**
  - The Hornbill festival conceived by the Tourist Department and held in the first week of December is an annual event.
  - Three traditional festivals, namely Sekrenyi at Toupheema in Kohima district (Feb), Monyu at Pongo in Longleng sub-division (April) and Moatsu at Chuchuyimlang in Mokokchung district (May) have been identified as festival destinations.

## ODISHA

- **Agriculture:** The state has emerged as the largest producer of sweet potato in the country contributing 30 per cent of total national production and third largest state in production of cashew.
- **Industry:** Most large-scale industries in the state are mineral based, while 25 per cent of the iron ore reserves in the country are in Odisha.
- **Ports:** Paradeep Port is the only major port in Odisha and the first major port on the East Coast commissioned in Independent India.
- **Aviation:** Government has taken proactive steps for implementation of RCS-UDAN Scheme in Utkela and Jeypore Airstrips. Jharsuguda airport is fully developed now.
- **Chilika, the largest brackish water inland lake in Asia** nestles in the heart of coastal Odisha. It has been declared a Ramsar site.
- **Bhitarkanika, situated in the district of Kendrapara, is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India** with an area of 672 sqkms of wildlife sanctuary of which 175 sqkm was declared a national park in 1998.

### History

- The history of Odisha dates back to antiquity, its most famous old names being Kalinga, Utkal and Odra.
- Mauryan Emperor, Ashoka's invasion of Kalinga was an epoch-making event of ancient times.
- The next great era of Odishan history commenced during the reign of Mahameghavahana Kharavela who ruled in the 1st half of the second century B.C.
- The world famous Sun Temple at Konark was built in the thirteenth century by Narasimha Deva, the famous Jagannath temple at Puri in the twelfth century by Anangabhima Deva and the Lingaraj temple, Bhubaneshwar in the eleventh century by Jajati-II.

## PUNJAB

- **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, in the works of a Persian writer, changed Punjab from Madam-Kada to Bagh-Bahist (from the abode of sorrow to the garden of paradise).
- After two abortive Anglo-Sikh wars, **Punjab was finally annexed to the British Empire in 1849.**

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- **Agriculture:** The state ranks 4th in the world in terms of productivity of wheat whereas it stands first in India amongst all the other states. It stands third in terms of productivity of rice producing countries after China and Japan.
- **Aviation:** Punjab has two international airports at Amritsar (Rajasansi) and Mohali.
- **Important festivals/fairs/melas are:** Maghi Mela at Mukatsar, Rural Sports at Kila Raipur, Basant at Patiala, Holla Mohalla at Anandpur Sahib, Chappar Mela at Chappar, Ram Tirath Mela at Village Ram Tirath, Shaheedi Jor Mela at Sirhind etc.

### RAJASTHAN

- Rajasthan is the **largest state in India area-wise**.
- **Important fairs organized in the state are:** Teej, Gangaur, Holi-Dhulandi, Kite and Rajasthan Divas (Jaipur), annual Urs of Ajmer Sherif and Galiakot Pushkar Fair (Ajmer), Ramdevji Cattle Fair (Nagaur), Camel Festival (Bikaner), Desert Festival (Jaisalmer) etc.
- The state is second only to Jharkhand as regards to mineral wealth. It is referred to as **museum of minerals** having resources of both metallic and non-metallic minerals.
- **Presently it is the sole producer of lead- zinc, wollastonite, calcite and selenite** and leading producer of silver, gypsum, marble, ochre, ball clay, rock phosphate, cadmium and feldspar in the country.
- More than **85 per cent of the country's potash, lead-zinc, silver and wollastonite resources** are located in the state.
- With the discovery of oil and natural gas in western Rajasthan the state has become the **second highest producer of crude oil after Bombay High**.

### SIKKIM

- Sikkim became an integral part of the Indian Union in 1975.
- The world's third highest mountain, Khangchendzonga, is regarded as the guardian deity of Sikkim. Sikkim is one of the 18 biodiversity hotspots in the world.
- The state has its **first airport at Pakyong in East Sikkim**.
- CSC in Sherethang has been declared as the **highest cyber cafe in the world** by the Limca Book of Records.

### TAMIL NADU

- The state is pioneer in IT initiatives for agriculture and continuing with it, a mobile App - Uzhavan - was launched to provide 15 vital personalised agricultural information.
- **It has five UNESCO declared World Heritage sites**, namely, Shore Temple, Five Rathas, Arjuna's Penance - Mamallapuram, Brahadeeswarar Temple -Thanjavur, Iravatheeswarar Temple - Darasuram, Brahadeeswarar Temple -Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Nilgiri Mountain Railway.
- **Four international airports**, namely, Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore and **two major ports** Chennai and Thoothukudi are the major connecting points.

### TELANGANA

## VAJIRAM & RAVI

- In 2014 Telangana was formed as 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its capital. Earlier Telangana was part of Andhra State.
- The name Telangana refers to the word Trilinga Desa, earned due to the presence of three ancient Shiva temples at Kaleswaram, Srisailem and Draksharamam.
- **Arts and Crafts:** The region offers many astounding handicrafts like bidri crafts, banjara needle crafts, dokra metal crafts, nirmal arts, bronze castings, lacquerware, etc.
- **Festivals:** 'Bathukamma' is a colourful and vibrant festival and this unique festival of flowers stands as a symbol of cultural identity. "Bonalu" is an annual Hindu festival celebrated in the state in which Goddess Mahakali is worshipped.

### TRIPURA

- The history of Tripura can be learnt from Rajmala chronicles of King Tripura.
- According to Rajmala, the rulers were known by the surname Fa meaning father.
- Nineteenth century marked the beginning of the modern era in Tripura when King Maharaja Bir Chandra Kishore Manikya Bahadur modelled his administrative set-up on the British India pattern and brought in various reforms.
- His successors ruled Tripura till 15 October 1949 when the state merged with the Indian Union.
- In 1972, Tripura attained the status of a full-fledged state.

### UTTARAKHAND

- It is often called the **Land of the Gods (Dev Bhoomi)** because of its various holy places and abundant shrines.
- **History:** In January 1950, the United Province was renamed as Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal remained a part of Uttar Pradesh before it was carved out in 2000 as the 27th state of India.
- **Prominent fairs/festivals are** Devidhura Mela (Champawat), Purnagiri Mela (Champawat), Nanda Devi Mela (Almora), Gauchar Mela (Chamoli), Uttaraini Mela (Bageshwar), Vishu Mela (Jaunsar Bhabar), Peerane-Kaliyar (Roorkee), and Nanda Devi Raj Jat Yatra held every twelfth year.

### UTTAR PRADESH

- Many great sages of the Vedic times like Bhardwaja, Gautam, Yagyavalkaya, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra and Valmiki flourished in this state.
- **It was at Sarnath that Buddha preached his first sermon** and laid the foundations of his order and it was in **Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh where Buddha breathed his last.**
- Ramananda and his Muslim disciple Kabir, Tulsidas, Surdas and many other intellectuals contributed to the growth of Hindi and other languages.
- The biggest congregation, perhaps of the world, **Kumbha Mela is held at Prayagraj every twelfth year and Ardh Kumbh Mela every sixth year.**
- Among other fairs is the fortnight long **Jhoola fair of Mathura, Vrindavan and Ayodhya**, when dolls are placed in gold and silver jhoolas or cradles.
- A famous **cattle fair is held at Bateswar in Agra district. Dewa in Barabanki district** has become famous because of the Muslim saint Waris Ali Shah.

**WEST BENGAL**

- Stone Age tools dating back 20,000 years have been excavated in the state.
- Bengal was referred to as Gangaridai by the ancient Greeks around 100 BC, meaning, speculatively, a land with the river Ganga in its heart.
- The first recorded independent King of Bengal was Shashanka, reigning around the early 7th century.
- The Battle of Plassey in 1757 changed the course of history when the English first gained a strong foothold in Bengal and India as well. Bengal was partitioned in 1905 to achieve some political returns.
- The state celebrates festivals like the Durga Puja, Poila Baishakh (the Bengali New Year), Dolyatra or Basanta-Ursab and Ganga Sagar Yatra.

**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

- The union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is situated between 6° and 14° latitude and 92° and 94° longitude. The Islands located north of 10° north latitude are known as Andaman Group of Islands while islands located south of 10° north latitude are called Nicobar Group of Islands.
- **There are four Negrito tribes**, viz., Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinalese in the Andaman Group of Islands and **two Mongoloid tribes**, viz., Nicobarese and Shompens in the Nicobar Group of Islands.
- A large variety of timbers are also found. The most valuable **timbers are padauk and gurjan**. These species are not found in Nicobar.
- **Reefs** are mostly fringing type on eastern coast and barrier type on the western coast.

**CHANDIGARH**

- The city nestles in a picturesque setting in the foothills of Shivalik hills and enjoys the popular epithet the “**City Beautiful**”.
- Representative of modern architecture and town planning, the city is a creation of the French architect, **Le Corbusier**.
- Chandigarh and the area surrounding it, were constituted as a **Union Territory on 1 November 1966**.
- It serves as the **joint capital of both Punjab and Haryana states**. It shares its boundary on north and west by Punjab and on the east and south by Haryana.

**DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI**

- The Portuguese ruled this territory until its liberation in 1954. From 1954 till 1961 the territory functioned almost independently by what was known as “Free Dadra and Nagar Haveli Administration”.
- However, the territory was merged with the Indian Union in 1961 and since then is being administered by the Government of India as a Union Territory.
- **Geography**: Dadra and Nagar Haveli has an area of 491 sq km and it is surrounded by Gujarat and Maharashtra. **Silvassa** is also the capital of this UT.



- **Festivals:** Diwaso is celebrated by Dhodia and Varli tribes and Raksha Bandhan is celebrated by Dhodia tribe. Other festivals include Bhawada amongst Varlis, Koli tribes and Khali Puja by all tribes after harvesting of crops and Gram Devi before harvesting of crops.

### DAMAN AND DIU

- **History:** Daman and Diu along with Goa was a colony held by the Portuguese even after Independence. In 1961, it was made an integral part of India. After Goa was conferred statehood on 30 May 1987, Daman and Diu was made a separate Union Territory.
- **Daman** is bound on the east by Gujarat, on the west by the Arabian Sea, on the north by the Kolak river and on the south by Kalai river. The neighbouring district of Daman is Valsad in Gujarat.
- **Diu** is an island connected by two bridges. The neighbouring district of Diu is Junagadh of Gujarat.
- **Railways:** There is no railway link with Daman and Diu.
- **Aviation:** There are airports both in Daman and Diu.

### DELHI

- Delhi finds prominent reference right from the times of the epic Mahabharata.
- In the latter half of the 18th century and early 19th century, British rule was established in Delhi. **In 1911, Delhi became the centre of all activities after the capital was shifted from Kolkata (Calcutta).**
- It was made a Union Territory in 1956. The **69th constitutional amendment** is a milestone in Delhi's history as it got a Legislative Assembly with the enactment of the National Capital Territory Act, 1991.
- **It has three airports:** Indira Gandhi International Airport for the international flights, Palam Airport for domestic air services and Safdarjung Airport for training purposes.

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- According to the books Rajtarangani and Nilmat Purana, Kashmir was once a large lake and it was Kashyap Rishi who drained off the water, making it a beautiful abode.
- But according to geologists, geographical changes made way for the outflow of water by subsidence of the mountain at Khadianayar, Baramulla and thus emerged the Valley of Kashmir.
- It was governed by Dogra rulers till 1947 when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in favour of the Indian Union on 26 October 1947.
- **Roads:** The UT is connected to the rest of the country through just one highway (NH 1A), 400 km stretch (approx.) maintained by Border Roads Organization (BRO).
- **Aviation:** Srinagar airport has been upgraded as international airport (named as Sheikh-ul-Alam Airport).

### Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the two union territories-one to be eponymously called Jammu and Kashmir, and the other Ladakh.

- Accordingly, the 'State Legislature including Legislative Council of the State' has been abolished and shall now onwards be construed as 'Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir'.

## LADAKH

- The union territory of Ladakh has two districts - Kargil and Leh - with each having its autonomous district council.
- Ladakh does not have an elected legislative assembly or chief minister.

## LAKSHADWEEP

- **Geography:** Lakshadweep, a Group of Coral Islands, lie scattered in the Arabian Sea about 280 km off Kerala coast between 8° and 12°3' North Latitude and 71° and 74° East Longitude.
- **Polity:** In 1956, the Islands were constituted into a single territory and since then, have been directly administered by the Union Government through an administrator.
- **Fisheries:** Fishing is a major activity. The sea around the Islands is highly productive. The Islands stand first in the country in per capita availability of fish.

### Coconut

- Coconut is the only major crop. Lakshadweep coconut is branded as an **organic product**.
- In India, **Lakshadweep stands first in coconut production**. The Lakshadweep coconuts are the **highest oil content nuts in the world (82 per cent)**.
- Coconut fibre extraction and conversion into fibre products is the main industry in the Islands.

## PUDUCHERRY

- The Union Territory of Puducherry, an ex-French enclave, comprises four isolated region of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.
- Puducherry, the capital of the territory was once the original headquarters of the French Government in India. The French Government handed over the administration of their territories in November 1954.
- The territories thus handed over were constituted into the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- Some must-see sights include
  - Arikanmedu, a famous historical site that was discovered by the Romans in 200 B.C and is being excavated,
  - Aayi Mandapam, a monument built during the reign of Napoleon III, and
  - the Mansion of Ananda Rangapillai, a fine specimen of Indo-French architecture that was built in 1773.

## 31. Diary of National Events

January 1, 2019—December 31, 2019

### January, 2019

- The Constitution (103rd Amendment Act), 2019 providing ten per cent reservation in government jobs and education to Economically Weaker
- Sections (EWS) in the general category comes into force.
- Prime Minister dedicates the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial in Dandi,
- Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.
- 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Varanasi.
- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C44, successfully injected Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 satellites into their designated orbits.
- First ever National Museum of Indian Cinema inaugurated in Mumbai.
- The government approves merger of Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda; first-ever three way merger in Indian banking.
- Womaniya on Government e-Marketplace initiative launched to enable women entrepreneurs to sell items online. e-Court services initiated through common service centres across the country.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

### February, 2019

- President presents the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The 2018 Gandhi Peace Prize was conferred on Yohei Sasakawa for his contribution in leprosy eradication.
- Khelo India App launched to develop sporting ecosystem.
- The President of India presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh); and Shri Ram Sutar Vanji for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively.
- Prime Minister launches the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) scheme from Gorakhpur.
- National Mineral Policy, 2019 to ensure effective regulation of mining sector approved.
- The scheme - 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' for farmers' welfare approved.
- e-AUSHADHI portal for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy medicine launched.
- National Institute of Design at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam inaugurated.

- Digital India Awards, 2018 conferred for excellence in web space.
- Human Resources Development Ministry launches SHREYAS – ‘Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills’ for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry launches Van Dhan - the scheme for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest produce and development of value chain.

### March, 2019

- India conducts its first anti-satellite missile test ‘Mission Shakti’ from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.
- Maharashtra’s second metro lane inaugurated in Nagpur.
- New series of visually impaired friendly ₹ 1, ₹ 2, ₹ 5, ₹ 10 and ₹ 20 coins released.
- ISRO launched a special programme for school children titled ‘Young Scientist Programme’ or ‘Yuva Vigyani Karyakram’ from 2019.
- World Consumer Rights Day, 2019 observed with the theme ‘Trusted Smart Products’ highlighting the security and privacy issues associated with smart products.
- Kumbh Mela entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest traffic and crowd management plan, largest sanitation drive and largest painting exercise of public sites.
- President launches countrywide Pulse Polio programme on the eve of National Immunisation Day.
- A book titled ‘Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio’ was released in New Delhi. The book is based on 50 episodes of Prime Minister’s heart to heart talk with the citizens of India, broadcast on All India Radio.
- Former Goa Chief Minister and BJP leader Manohar Parrikar passes away in Panaji.
- Common smart card format for driving licences and registration certificates prescribed across the country.
- Pinaki Chandra Ghose appointed as India’s first Lokpal.
- President presents the Nari Shakti Puraskar, 2018 to 44 awardees on International Women’s Day.

### April, 2019

- PSLV-C45 successfully launches EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR in Sriharikota.
- India finishes fourth by winning 17 medals at Asian Athletics Championships 2019 in Doha, Qatar.
- Jet Airways, India’s leading private airlines, shut operations due to mounting fund crunch.

### May, 2019

- Shri Narendra Modi sworn in as Prime Minister for second term. Leaders of all BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries attend the swearing-in ceremony.
- The United Nations listed Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him.
- PSLV-C46 successfully launches RISAT-2B, a radar imaging earth observation satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test fires AKASH MK-1S surface-to-air missile from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Human Resource Development Ministry launches Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education.

**June, 2019**

- The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha commences. BJP MP from Rajasthan, Om Birla, unanimously elected as the Speaker.
- Prime Minister approves the re-constitution of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme extended to all farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.
- New centralised air traffic flow management system inaugurated in Delhi to optimise utilisation of airspace and regulate air traffic.
- International Yoga Day (21 June) observed.
- World's largest multi-purpose lift irrigation project - Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – inaugurated in Telangana.

**July, 2019**

- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launches the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth orbit.
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan for water conservation and water security launched.
- Ministry of AYUSH conceptualised AYUSH GRID Project for digitizing AYUSH healthcare delivery at all levels.
- India jumped five places to 52nd position in the 2019 Global Innovation Index. It is co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO, a specialized agency of the United Nations).
- Former Chief Minister of Delhi and senior Congress leader Sheila Dikshit passes away in Delhi.
- Parliament passed the Triple Talaq Bill making the practice of Triple Talaq an illegal, unconstitutional and punishable act.
- Sprinter Dutee Chand becomes the first Indian to win gold in the 100m race at the World University Games held in Naples, Italy.
- Sprinter Hima Das won five successive gold medals in a month in different meets across Poland and the Czech Republic.
- Floods wreak havoc in many districts of Bihar and Assam.

**August, 2019**

- President confers country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna on former President Pranab Mukherjee and posthumously on social activist Nanaji Deshmukh and singer Bhupen Hazarika.
- The Parliament passes the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 and approved the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. The move ended the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and paved the way for splitting the state into two union territories.
- President presents the National Sports and Adventure Awards on National Sports Day.

- Shuttler P. V. Sindhu becomes the first Indian to win gold at Badminton World Federation Championship after defeating Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.
- Para-badminton player Manasi Joshi created history by securing gold at the BWF Para-Badminton Championships in Basel, Switzerland.
- Prime Minister launches Fit India Movement on National Sports Day.
- Wrestler Deepak Punia wins gold in the 86kg category at Junior World Championships in Talinn, Estonia. He becomes the first Indian in 18 years to win the title.
- Senior BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passes away in Delhi.
- 'Janaushadhi Sugam' mobile application launched for locating outlets and searching generic medicines anywhere in the country.
- Human Resource Development Ministry launched school education portal 'Shagun'.
- Former Finance Minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley passes away in Delhi.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry launches e-version of Rozgar Samachar to spread awareness about job opportunities.
- India became the first country in the world to issue facial biometric cards known as Biometric Seafarer Identity Document for seafarers.
- One Nation, One Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

### September, 2019

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 comes into force.
- India hosts the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- India's ambitious lunar mission, Chandrayaan 2's lander 'Vikram' lost communication with the ground stations during its final descent and made a hard landing.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana to provide social security net for the small and marginal farmers launched.
- India successfully flight-tested indigenously developed Air-to-Air Missile 'Astra' from Sukhoi-30 MKI.
- National Rural Sanitation Strategy for next decade (2019-2029) launched to increase access to solid and liquid waste management.

### October, 2019

- Nation celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Jammu and Kashmir bifurcated into two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Indian-origin economist Abhijit Banerjee wins the 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics for his work on global poverty.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade launches website, mobile app for start-ups to protect their Intellectual Property Rights.
- Tenth edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav held in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- e-Portal and YouTube channel of CCRT 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' launched.
- Nationwide Paryatan Parv - 2019 to promote tourism held in New Delhi. India and Pakistan signed an agreement to operationalise the historic Kartarpur Corridor.

- India climbed 14 places to 63rd position among 190 nations in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking.

**November, 2019**

- 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev celebrated across the country.
- Prime Minister inaugurates the Kartarpur corridor, and flags-off first batch of 500 pilgrims.
- The Supreme Court in its verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case orders the construction of Ram temple at the site and directs the union government to allot a five-acre plot for Muslims in Ayodhya.
- President inaugurates the Constitution Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.
- The Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 for the social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders and protection of their rights.
- Mumbai and Hyderabad became members of UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the fields of film and gastronomy.
- 50th International Film Festival of India held in Goa from 20th to 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- Uddhav Thackeray takes over as the 18th chief minister of Maharashtra.

**December, 2019**

- Vice President of India gives away the 66th National Film Awards. Actor Amitabh Bachchan honoured with 50th Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- India participates in the annual United Nations Climate Conference COP25 held in Madrid, Spain.
- The Citizenship Act of 1955 was amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Parliament on December 11 and received the President's assent on December 12, 2019.
- The Parliament passes a bill to merge Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli – two separate UTs presently. The new union territory is to be called Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Prepaid rechargeable tags for toll collection - FASTags - made mandatory for all vehicles.
- Indian Railways recorded zero passenger deaths in 2019, making it the national transporter's safest year.
- Hemant Soren takes over as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- The Union Cabinet approved creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff to head new Department of Military Affairs under Ministry of Defence. General Bipin Rawat appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff.
- General. Manoj Mukund Naravane appointed as the 28th new Chief of Army staff.
- Indian Air Force decommissioned the last MiG-27 squadron.

## 32. GENERAL INFORMATION

### TABLE OF PRECEDENCE

The Table, with respect to the rank and precedence of the persons named therein as approved by the President, is given as under (The order in this Table of Precedence is meant for State and Ceremonial occasions and has no application in the day-to-day business of Government):

1	President
2	Vice-President
3	Prime Minister
4	Governors of States within their respective States
5	Former Presidents
5A	Deputy Prime Minister
6	Chief Justice of India Speaker of Lok Sabha
7	Cabinet Ministers of Union; Chief Ministers of States within their respective States; Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog; Former PMs; Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha
7A	Holders of Bharat Ratna Decoration
8	Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and High Commissioners of Commonwealth Countries accredited to India Chief Ministers of States outside their respective States Governors of States outside their respective States
9	Judges of Supreme Court
9A	Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission Chief Election Commissioner Comptroller & Auditor General of India
10	Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chief Ministers of States Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha Members of the NITI Aayog Ministers of State of the Union (and any other Minister in the Ministry of Defence for defence matters)
11	Attorney General of India, Cabinet Secretary, Lieutenant Governors within their respective Union Territories



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

12	Chiefs of Staff holding the rank of full General or equivalent rank
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**PRESIDENTS OF INDIA**

NAME	TENURE
Rajendra Prasad	26-Jan-1950 to 13-May-1962
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	13-May-1962 to 13-May-1967
Zakir Hussain	13-May-1967 to 3-May-1969
Varahagiri Venkata Giri (Acting)	3-May-1969 to 20-Jul-1969
Justice Muhammad Hidayatullah (Acting)	20-July-1969 to 24-Aug-1969
Varahagiri Venkata Giri	24-August-1969 to 24- August-1974
Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	24-August-1974 to 11-Feb-1977
Basappa Danappa Jatti	11-Feb-1977 to 25-July-1977
Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	25-July-1977 to 25-July-1982
Giani Zail Singh	25-July-1982 to 25-July-1987
Ramaswamy Venkataraman	25-July-1987 to 25-July-1992
Shankar Dayal Sharma	25-July-1992 to 25-July-1997
Kocheril Raman Narayanan	25-July-1997 to 25-July-2002
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	25-July-2002 to 25-July-2007
Pratibha Patil	25-July-2007 to 25-July-2012
Pranab Mukherjee	25-July-2012 to 25-July-2017
Ram Nath Kovind	25-July-2017 – till date

**VICE-PRESIDENTS OF INDIA**

NAME	TENURE
Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1952-1962

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

Dr Zakir Hussain	1962-1967
Varahagiri Venkatagiri	1967-1969
Gopal Swarup Pathak	1969-1974
B.D. Jatti	1974-1979
Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah	1979-1984
R. Venkataraman	1984-1987
Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma	1987-1992
K.R. Narayanan	1992-1997
Krishan Kant	1997-2002
Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	2002-2007
Mohammad Hamid Ansari	2007-2017
Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu	2017 – Incumbent

**PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TENURE</b>
Jawaharlal Nehru	August 15, 1947 - May 27, 1964
Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting)	May 27, 1964 - June 9, 1964
Lal Bahadur Shastri	June 09, 1964 - January 11, 1966
Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting)	January 11, 1966 - January 24, 1966
Indira Gandhi	January 24, 1966 - March 24, 1977
Morarji Desai	March 24, 1977 - July 28, 1979
Charan Singh	July 28, 1979 - January 14, 1980
Indira Gandhi	January 14, 1980 - October 31, 1984
Rajiv Gandhi	October 31, 1984 - December 01, 1989
Vishwanath Pratap Singh	December 02, 1989 - November 10, 1990

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

Chandra Shekhar	November 10, 1990 - June 21, 1991
P.V. Narasimha Rao	June 21, 1991 - May 16, 1996
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	May 16, 1996 - June 01, 1996
H.D. Deve Gowda	June 01, 1996 - April 21, 1997
I.K. Gujral	April 21, 1997 - March 18, 1998
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	March 19, 1998 - October 13, 1999
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	October 13, 1999 - May 22, 2004
Dr. Manmohan Singh	May 22, 2004 - May 26, 2014
Narendra Modi	May 26, 2014 – Incumbent

**CHIEF JUSTICES OF INDIA**

Name	Tenure
Harilal J. Kania (First)	26 January 1950 – 6 November 1951
Sharad Arvind Bobde (Incumbent)	18 November 2019 – Incumbent

**CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF INDIA**

Name	Tenure
Sukumar Sen (First)	21 March 1950 – 19 December 1958
Sunil Arora (Incumbent)	02 December, 2018 – Incumbent

**CABINET SECRETARIES**

Name	Tenure
N.R. Pillai (First)	1950 – 1953
Rajiv Gauba (Incumbent)	30-9-2019 – Till date

**CHAIRMAN OF UPSC**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
Sir Ross Barker	First (1926-1932)
Arvind Saxena	Incumbent

**BHARAT RATNA AWARDEES**

The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954. There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only. The award has been awarded to a naturalized Indian citizen, Mother Teresa (1980) and to two non-Indians - Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Nelson Mandela (1990).

<b>AWARDED IN</b>	<b>NAME OF RECIPIENT</b>
1954	CV Raman C Rajagopalachari Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
1955	Bhagwan Das M Visvesvaraya Jawaharlal Nehru
1957	Govind Ballabh Pant
1958	Dhondo Keshav Karve
1961	Bidhan Chandra Roy Purushottam Das Tandon
1962	Rajendra Prasad
1963	Zakir Husain Pandurang Vaman Kane
1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri
1971	Indira Gandhi
1975	VV Giri

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

1976	K Kamaraj
1980	Mother Teresa
1983	Vinoba Bhave
1987	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
1988	MG Ramachandran
1990	BR Ambedkar Nelson Mandela
1991	Rajiv Gandhi Vallabhbhai Patel Morarji Desai
1992	Abul Kalam Azad JRD Tata Satyajit Ray
1997	Gulzarilal Nanda Aruna Asaf Ali APJ Abdul Kalam
1998	MS Subbulakshmi Chidambaram Subramaniam
1999	Jayaprakash Narayan Amartya Sen Gopinath Bordoloi Ravi Shankar
2001	Lata Mangeshkar Bismillah Khan
2009	Bhimsen Joshi

2014	CNR Rao Sachin Tendulkar
2015	Madan Mohan Malaviya Atal Bihari Vajpayee
2019	Pranab Mukherjee Nanaji Deshmukh Bhupen Hazarika

### PADMA AWARDS

- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.
- However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

### JEEVAN RAKSHA PADAK SERIES OF AWARDS

- **Objective:** Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person.
- **Categories:** The award is given in three categories, namely,
  - Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak,
  - Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and
  - Jeevan Raksha Padak.
- **Eligibility:** Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred **posthumously**.
- **Award ceremony:** The decoration of the award (medal, certificate signed by the Union Home Minister and lump sum monetary allowance) is presented to the awardee in due course by the respective Union Ministries/Organizations/State Government to which the awardee belongs.

**NOBEL LAUREATES FROM INDIA**

LAUREATE	YEAR	FIELD/RATIONALE
Abhijit Banerjee	2019	Economic Sciences "For their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty"
Kailash Satyarthi	2014	Peace "For their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education."
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	2009	Chemistry "For studies of the structure and function of the ribosome."
Amartya Sen	1998	Economic Sciences "For his contributions to welfare economics."
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar	1983	Physics "For his theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars."
Mother Teresa	1979	Peace "In recognition of [her] work in bringing help to suffering humanity"
Har Gobind Khorana	1968	Physiology or Medicine "For their interpretation of the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis."
C. V. Raman	1930	Physics "For his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him."
Rabindranath Tagore	1913	Literature "Because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, by which he has made his poetic thought, expressed in his own English words, a part of the literature of the West."

**COMMANDERS IN CHIEF**

NAME	TENURE
General Sir Rob Lockhart	15 August 1947 – 31 December 1947
General Sir Roy Bucher	1 January 1948 – 14 January 1949
General (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa	15 January 1949 – 14 January 1953
General Maharaj Rajendra Sinhji	15 January 1953 – 31 March 1955

**GALLANTRY AWARDS**

Independent India saw the introduction of awards such as Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Shaurya Chakra etc.

<b>Param Vir Chakra (PVC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is the highest gallantry award for officers and other enlisted personnel of all military branches of India for the highest degree of valour in the presence of the enemy.</li> <li>• Introduced on 26th January 1950, this award may be given posthumously.</li> <li>• Flying Officer Nirmal Jiit Singh Sekhon was awarded the Param Vir Chakra posthumously in the year 1971. He is the lone Indian Air Force officer to have been honoured with the Param Vir Chakra till date.</li> </ul>
<b>Ashok Chakra</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ashok Chakra series of awards are open to civilians also.</li> <li>• These awards are biannual and are given on the Republic Day and Independence Day.</li> </ul>
<b>Shaurya Chakra</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is awarded for gallantry other than in the face of the enemy.</li> <li>• This award may be granted to civilians or to military personnel and may be awarded posthumously.</li> </ul>

**NATIONAL SPORTS AND ADVENTURE AWARDS**

Refer Topic of “Incentive Schemes For Sportspersons” under “Chapter 29. Youth Affairs and Sports”