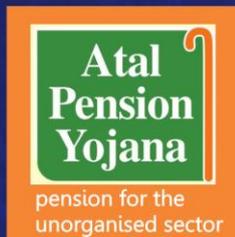


# IAS PARLIAMENT

A Shankar IAS Academy initiative

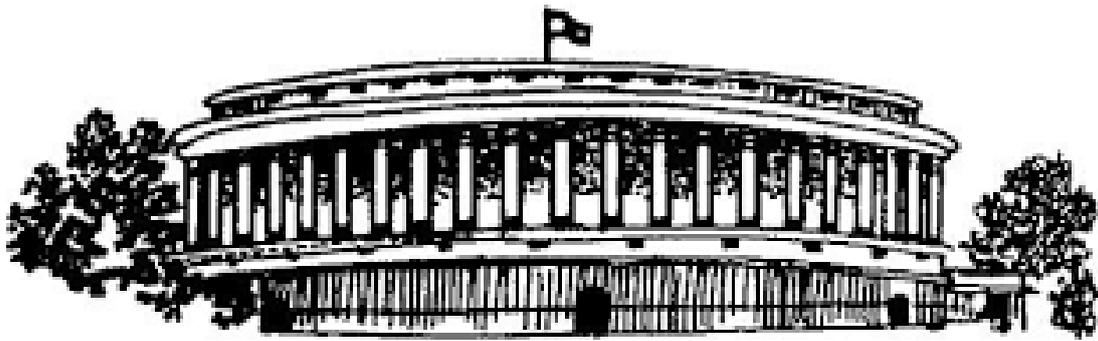
## MAINSTORMING - 2017

### Govt Acts, Policies, Schemes - I



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative*



## MAINSTORMING - 2017

**GOVERNMENT ACTS, POLICIES AND SCHEMES  
(PART- I)**



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# INDEX

| TITLE   | PAGE NO |
|---|---------|
| <b>1. ACTS AND BILLS</b>  | 5       |
| 1.1 The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 | 5       |
| 1.2 NGO - Public Servants   | 6       |
| 1.3 Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act  | 8       |
| 1.4 Real Estate Act, 2016   | 9       |
| 1.5 Child Abduction Draft Bill  | 10      |
| 1.6 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill  | 11      |
| 1.7 The Marriages Bill  | 13      |
| 1.8 Seed Bill   | 14      |
| 1.9 Maternity Benefit Bill  | 15      |
| 1.10 Mental Healthcare Bill   | 16      |
| 1.11 The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill  | 17      |
| 1.12 Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017  | 19      |
| 1.13 The Enemy Property Ordinance   | 20      |
| 1.14 Companies Amendment Bill   | 21      |
| 1.15 Draft Trafficking of Persons Bill  | 22      |
| 1.16 Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016   | 23      |
| 1.17 Bill on Statutory Powers for IIMs  | 24      |
| 1.18 HIV And AIDS Prevention Bill, 2017   | 25      |
| 1.19 Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill  | 27      |
| 1.20 GST Bills  | 28      |
| 1.21 Aadhaar - Money Bill   | 29      |
| 1.22 Section 107A - Indian Patents Act  | 30      |
| 1.23 Uniform Asylum Law   | 31      |
|   |         |
| <b>2. POLICIES</b>  | 33      |
| 2.1 New Litigation Policy   | 33      |
| 2.2 National capital goods policy 2016  | 34      |
| 2.3 National Steel Policy, 2017   | 35      |
| 2.4 National Health Policy 2017   | 36      |
| 2.5 Defence blacklisting policy   | 38      |
| 2.6 Draft National Energy Policy  | 39      |
| 2.7 Draft National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy   | 40      |
| 2.8 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy  | 41      |
| 2.9 National Capital Goods Policy 2016  | 42      |
| 2.10 New National Educational Policy  | 43      |

| <b>TITLE</b>   | <b>PAGE NO</b> |
|--|----------------|
| 2.11 Automotive Mission Plan, 2016-26                          | 44             |
| 2.12 National Action Plan for Children                         | 45             |
| 2.13 Centre to allow Swapping of Coal                          | 45             |
| 2.14 Water in Concurrent List                                  | 46             |
| 2.15 Mandatory Aadhaar   | 47             |
| 2.16 Censor Board  | 48             |
|  |                |
| <b>3. SCHEMES</b>  | 50             |
| 3.1 Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare                | 50             |
| 3.2 Ministry AYUSH   | 54             |
| 3.3 Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers                      | 55             |
| 3.4 Ministry of Civil Aviation                                 | 55             |
| 3.5 Ministry of Commerce and Industry                          | 56             |
| 3.6 Ministry of Communication and IT                           | 57             |
| 3.7 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution | 58             |
| 3.8 Ministry of Culture  | 59             |
| 3.9 Ministry of Defence  | 59             |
| 3.10 Ministry of Electronics and IT                            | 60             |
| 3.11 Ministry of Finance                                       | 61             |
| 3.12 Ministry of Food Processing Industries                    | 64             |
| 3.13 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare                     | 64             |
| 3.14 Ministry of Home Affairs                                  | 70             |
| 3.15 Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation               | 70             |
| 3.16 Ministry of Human Resource Development                    | 72             |
| 3.17 Ministry of Labour and Employment                         | 74             |
| 3.18 Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)    | 75             |
| 3.19 Ministry of Minority Affairs                              | 76             |
| 3.20 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy                      | 77             |
| 3.21 Ministry of Power   | 78             |
| 3.22 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways                   | 79             |
| 3.23 Ministry of Rural Development                             | 80             |
| 3.24 Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship        | 84             |
| 3.25 Ministry of Tourism                                       | 84             |
| 3.26 Ministry of Tribal affairs                                | 85             |
| 3.27 Ministry of Urban Development                             | 85             |
| 3.28 Ministry of Women and Child development                   | 88             |
| 3.29 Niti Aayog  | 93             |

## GOVERNMENT ACTS, POLICIES AND SCHEMES – I

### 1. ACTS AND BILLS

#### 1.1 *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*

##### **Why FRA?**

The aim of the act was to ensure recognition of the rights of the forest dwellers and also involve the traditional forest dwellers in conservation of forests and biodiversity.

##### **What are the eligibility criteria?**

- Eligibility to get rights under the Act is confined to those who "**primarily reside in forests**" and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood.
- Further, either the claimant must be a member of the Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area or must have been residing in the forest for 75 years.

##### **What are the rights conferred?**

- Right to **hold and live in the forest land** under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers.
- Community rights such as nistar.
- Right of ownership, **access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce**( includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin).
- Right to **protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource** which they have been traditionally protecting.
- Right of access to biodiversity and community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity.

##### **What is the process of recognition?**

- The Act provides that the **gram sabha**, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised.
- This resolution is then screened and approved at the level of the sub-division and subsequently at the district level.
- The **screening committees** consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. They also hear appeals.

##### **What are the provisions for resettlement?**

- People can be resettled from areas if it is found to be necessary for wildlife conservation.
- The first step is to show that relocation is scientifically necessary and no other alternative is available.
- The second step is that the local community must consent to the resettlement.
- Finally, the resettlement must provide not only compensation but a secure livelihood.

## What are the issues?

- **Inclusion of “Other Traditional Forest Dwellers”** diluted the law by taking the focus away from the “Scheduled Tribes” who have a symbiotic relationship of the tribals with forest, which was the original intent of the 2005 Bill.
- The **cut-off date to qualify** for holding of rights was initially prescribed as 25 October 1980. It **was changed to 13 December 2005**. Tribal activists feel that it was meant to benefit the other traditional forest dwellers, who are required to prove that they have been occupying the forestland for three generations as laid down in the Act.
- **The cap of 4 hectares** in the land entitlement of actual occupation. This provision hurts those Scheduled Tribe families who have ancestral land in excess of 4 hectares.
- **The individual rights trumped over community rights.** According to these statistics from the report on FRA, people are predictably keen to claim individual rights as this enables them to encash real estate and other financial opportunities.
- The effectiveness of the act lies in the implementation, which largely depends on the inclination of the forest officials to implement the act in its spirit.

## 1.2 NGO - Public Servants

### What is the issue?

There are several ambiguities in the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (L&L Act), which in current form, strongly discourages the participation of citizens in social and humanitarian activities.

### What are the provisions of L&L Act?

- Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the level of the states.
- Lokpal will consist of a chairperson and a maximum of eight members, of which 50% shall be judicial members.
- 50% of members of Lokpal shall be from SC/ST/OBCs, minorities and women.
- The selection of chairperson and members of Lokpal shall be through a selection committee consisting of
  1. PM,
  2. Speaker of Lok Sabha,
  3. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha,
  4. Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court judge nominated by CJI,
  5. Eminent jurist to be nominated by the President on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.
- Prime Minister has been brought under the purview of the Lokpal.
- Lokpal’s jurisdiction will cover all categories of public servants.
- All entities receiving donations from foreign source in the context of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) **in excess of Rs 10 lakh per year** are brought under the jurisdiction of Lokpal

### What was the amendment?

- Going by this definition, public servants should furnish particulars of their assets and liabilities as well as those of their spouses and dependent children to the authorities.
- Non-compliance is liable for action against him/her under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.
- Centre moved an amendment to address concerns arising from the mandatory declaration of assets and liabilities under the Lok Pal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.
- While the amended Act continues to hold it is compulsory for public servants to file their returns, **the form and procedure for doing so is left open with “as may be prescribed”**.
- In doing so, it does away with sub-sections of **Section 44 of the Act**, which required public servants to **disclose the assets of their spouse and dependent children**. It also dispenses with the requirement such disclosure be made publicly available on websites, as laid down by Section 44 (6).
- While this means that employees of NGOs will not have to file returns this year, NGO employees will still have to declare their assets if the Centre decides to lay down when and how this should be done.
- In other words, NGOs and their employees will still remain public servants under the Lokpal Act.

### Why NGOs are opposing the move?

- Unfortunately, the Indian NGO sector has brought it upon itself.
- Instead of challenging the categorisation of NGO workers as ‘public servants’, they chose to raise the issue of asset declaration of spouses and children.
- **Government employees** - The government has used this opening to set the clock back on transparency i.e under the amended law, no distinction is made between Central government employees and those of NGOs.
- As a result, Central government employees will also no longer need to file returns on assets and liabilities for now.
- **Privacy** - The unease among NGOs led some members to resign from their posts. Partly, this arose from a sense that their **privacy was being violated** by the demand that their assets had to be made public.
- In many cases, trustees and members of the governing body have nothing to do with the day-to-day operations of a non-profit. They are professionals chosen for their expertise in certain areas. Therefore it is not right to label them as public servants.
- **Against Principle** - NGOs are essentially private organisations working for public good.
- **Discourage volunteers** - The other concern was that a great proportion of social work is carried out by volunteers. NGOs fear this could discourage people from getting involved in social causes.
- Finally, the Opposition stemmed from a suspicion that the notifications had less to do with tackling corruption than harassing civil society organisations that question the government’s decisions.
- **Impracticality** - India has around 6 million NGOs. Even if we assume that only 50 percent, or 3 million, are government-funded, and if we take an average of four board members and 4 staffers per NGO, that leaves us with 24 million public servants for Lokpal to monitor. Its impractical for Lokpal to manage it.

- Financial irregularities by institutions and individuals are covered through several other pieces of legislation such as the IPC, the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Foreign Currency Regulation Act, the Companies Act, ITax Act and so on

### Why the move is desirable?

- But not everyone agrees that employees of NGOs that receive government funding should be treated differently from government employees.
- An NGO gets tax breaks under Section 12-A of the IT Act, when it gets registered. When it gets funding from the Government, it is public money. Therefore, it stands to reason that the assets of all involved should be disclosed and that includes those of spouses and dependents.
- There is also no significant evidence of privacy being violated in the case of disclosures.

### 1.3 Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

#### Why in news?

The Supreme Court recently **declined a woman's plea** to abort her 26-week-old foetus detected with Down's Syndrome.

#### What was the court's rationale?

- It was contended that the congenital abnormality found in the woman's foetus and the woman's anguish about the future were the reasons for her decision of abortion.
- It was also argued that it was the **woman's constitutional right** to terminate her pregnancy.
- The court refused permission by **calling the foetus 'a life'**.
- It cited that the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 places a 20-week ceiling on termination of pregnancy.

#### What is MTP Act, 1971?

- Abortion in India is **legal only up to twenty weeks of pregnancy** under specific conditions and situations.
- One, the continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or of grave injury of physical or mental health, or
- Two, there is a substantial risk that if the child were born, it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

#### Was the law challenged on any other occasion?

- On 2015, a 14-year-old rape victim sought and received permission from the Supreme Court to abort after the 20 weeks deadline had passed.
- Her petition was treated as a "special case", meaning it could not be used as a precedent.
- On January 2017, the Judges had relaxed the 20-week cap to permit another woman to terminate her 24-week pregnancy.
- In that case the foetus was diagnosed with anencephaly — a congenital defect in which the baby is born without parts of the brain and skull.

- The court had said that the abortion **was necessary to preserve the woman's life**.
- In the case of the foetus with Down's Syndrome, the court said the foetus posed no danger to the woman's life.

#### What the draft MPT bill 2014 provides?

- The draft MTP increased the legal limit for abortion from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
- It provides for **abortion beyond 24 weeks** under defined conditions.
- The Bill amends Section 3 of the 1971 Act to provide that "the length of pregnancy shall not apply" in a decision to abort a foetus diagnosed with "substantial foetal abnormalities" or if it is "alleged by the pregnant woman to have been caused by rape".
- It also takes into account the reality of a massive shortage of both doctors and trained midwives, and seeks to allow Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha practitioners to carry out abortions.

#### Why is it essential to change the MTP law?

- **Foetal abnormalities show up only by 18 weeks**, so just a two-week window after that is too small for the would-be parents to take the difficult call on whether to keep their baby.
- Even for the medical practitioner, this window is too small to exhaust all possible options before advising the patient.
- There is an urgent need to empower women with sexual rights, legal protection against sex crimes and sex choices both in their own interest and for the sake of reducing the fertility rate as a whole.
- The lack of legal approval moves abortion to underground and they are done in unhygienic conditions by untrained professionals.

#### 1.4 Real Estate Act, 2016

##### Why in news?

- Central government has cautioned the States of a vacuum arising if necessary institutional mechanisms, as required by the Real Estate Act were not put in place before April 30, 2017.

##### What is Real Estate Act, 2016?

- The Act which is envisaged to regulate both commercial and residential real estate projects, seeks to set up a state level regulatory authority called **Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERAs)** for regulation and promotion of the real estate sector.
- The Act makes it mandatory for uploading the details of a Real Estate project on the website of the RERAs. Real estate agents also need to register with the RERAs.
- The Act also makes it mandatory for the builders to put 70% of the amount collected from buyers in a separate bank account. This must only be used for construction of the project. However, the state government can alter this amount to less than 70%.
- The Act also seeks to establish fast track dispute resolution mechanisms for settlement of disputes through adjudicating officers and **Appellate Tribunal**.

### What are some of the key issues?

- Major issue is Parliament's jurisdiction to make laws related to real estate as **"land" is in the State List** of the Constitution. However, the primary aim of the act is to regulate contracts and transfer of property, both of which are in the Concurrent List.
- Some states already have laws to regulate real estate projects. And the act differs from these state laws on several grounds.
- The Bill mandates that 70% of the amount collected from buyers of a project be used only for construction. In certain cases, the cost of land more than 30%.
- The real estate sector has some other issues such as a lengthy process for project approvals, lack of clear land titles, and prevalence of black money. Some of these also fall under the State List.

### Why establishing RERA is important?

- Only 4 States and 6 Union Territories so far notified the final Real Estate Rules. So, the Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has urged the Chief Ministers of states to implement the Act before April 30, 2017.
- From May 1, 2017, under the provisions of the Act, both buyers and developers of real estate property can approach RERA seeking relief against violation of the contractual obligations and other provisions of the Act.
- For this to happen, Real Estate Authorities and Appellate Tribunals were required to be in place and in a position to start functioning.

### 1.5 Child Abduction Draft Bill

#### Why in news?

The ministry of women and child development (WCD) has been working on an Act to bring Indian law in line with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1980.

#### What is Hague Convention?

- Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty that provides an expeditious procedure to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- The contracting states will have to cooperate with each other in expeditiously sending back the runaway parent and the child to the country of the child's 'habitual residence'.
- However, a return order would not decide the issue of custody but would only ensure that the custody battle is settled in the jurisdiction of the country where the child has lived for most part of his life.

#### What is the need for the bill in India?

In the absence of a domestic law on "inter-parental child abduction" in India, very often children of NRI's who have grown up abroad become silent victims of their parents' marital dispute when they are forcibly brought back by one of the parents.

#### What are the provisions of the Draft Bill?

- The draft Bill would be applicable to all such cases of inter-country "parental abductions" where a child, less than 16 years old, is taken away from India by one of the parents without the consent of the other.
- The draft law mandates setting up of a central authority, to be headed by a joint secretary level officer, where an aggrieved parent can approach for the return of a child.

- The authority would have the power to decide all such cases.
- Makes an exception only in cases where the child has been taken away with consent or where returning the child poses some kind of grave risk to him or her.

#### **What are the factors to be considered?**

- In a majority of the cases, such children who have adapted to the culture of the country they are residing, find it difficult to cope up, when brought to India.
- Signing the convention will ensure enforcement of custody orders of foreign courts.
- To find the child, the coordination mechanism between law enforcement, the legal process and the new body proposed in the draft bill is not clear.
- A 2014 Berkeley University study for the US Justice Department, records that a lot of women are fleeing unfavourable conditions. Forcing them to go back is not the solution.

#### **What are the recommendations by Law Commission?**

- Recommends adding jail sentence and making the absconding parent pay for related proceedings.
- The Law Commission only makes an exception in cases where the parent, involved in the alleged wrongful removal or retention, did so in an attempt to escape from any act of domestic violence.

#### **What are its shortcomings?**

- Majority of those fleeing with children are women, it is not clear whether the penalisation, if findings of violence or abuse are inconclusive.
- A subsection allows for refusal to return the child to 'non-conducive' situations - But no further explanation is given of what these might be.
- The recommendations do not safeguard the rights of the weaker party — a person unable to cover costs of litigation abroad.

### **1.6 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill**

#### **Why in news?**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2014, introduced in Lok Sabha in 2014, was passed in the Rajya Sabha recently.

#### **What is the Disability Bill, 2014 about?**

- The draft legislation is based on the 2010 report Sudha Kaul Committee, and will replace the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.
- The Bill is being brought to comply with the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which India became a signatory in 2007.
- The 1995 Act recognised 7 disabilities - blindness, low vision, leprosy-cured, hearing impairment, locomotor disability, mental retardation and mental illness.
- The 2014 Bill expanded the definition of disability to cover 19 conditions, including cerebral palsy, haemophilia, multiple sclerosis, autism and thalassaemia among others.

- The Bill also allowed the central government to notify any other condition as a disability.
- Persons with at least **40% of a disability are entitled** to certain benefits such as reservations in education and employment, preference in government schemes, etc.
- The Bill confers several rights and entitlements to disabled persons. These include disabled friendly access to all public buildings, hospitals, modes of transport, polling stations, etc.
- In case of mentally ill persons, district courts may award two types of guardianship. A limited guardian takes decisions jointly with the mentally ill person. A plenary guardian takes decisions on behalf of the mentally ill person, without consulting him.
- Violation of any provision of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to six months, and/or fine of Rs 10,000. Subsequent violations carry a higher penalty and longer imprisonment.

### What are the changes made to the 2014 Bill?

- The government brought 119 amendments to the Bill, and this legislation has been pending in the House since February 2014.
- **Additional Categories** - The amended version recognises two other disabilities i.e **resulting from acid attacks** and **Parkinson's Disease**, taking the number of recognised conditions to 21, and defines each one of them.
- It makes a special mention of the needs of women and children with disabilities, and lays down specific provisions on the guardianship of mentally ill persons.
- **Establishment definition** - The amendments also include private firms in the definition of 'establishments'. All such establishments have to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with barrier-free access in buildings, transport systems and all kinds of public infrastructure, and are not discriminated against in matters of employment.
- **Reservation** - The 1995 law had 3% reservation for the disabled in higher education institutions and government jobs. The 2014 Bill raised the ceiling to 5%. But the amendments cut the quota to 4%.
- **Imprisonment** - It removed the jail term entirely, and only keep fines for breaking the law or discriminating against persons with disabilities.
- **Reasonable Restriction**- The proposed amended law defines discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction on the basis of disability" which impairs or nullifies the exercise on an equal basis of rights in the "political, social, cultural, civil or any other field".

### What are the issues?

- **Larger coverage** - The 2011 Census put the number of disabled in India at 2.68 crore, or 2.21% of the population. This is a gross underestimation, especially in the light of the proposed amendments, which greatly widen the current Census definition of disability.
- The Bill makes a larger number of people eligible for rights and entitlements by reason of their disability, and for welfare schemes and reservations in government jobs and education.
- The amendments also dilute safeguards provided in the originally proposed Bill. When a greater number of disabilities are being brought under the purview of the Act, the percentage of reservation should go up proportionately, instead it has been reduced.

- **Chief Commissioner** - The amendments do away with the provision in the 2014 Bill for strong National and State Commissions for Persons with Disabilities, with powers on a par with a civil court.
- The chief commissioner has only recommending powers and there is no provision to ensure he or she too is a disabled person.
- **Exception Clause** - The exception clause to the discrimination is justified that certain jobs cannot be carried out by people with disabilities. However, every job has certain basic requirements, and no person with disability will apply for it unless he or she meets the criteria. Therefore this provision is unnecessary and paves way for extreme interpretations.
- The bill fails to specify the degree of disability for thalassaemia, learning disabilities or autism. Moreover, in India there are no suitable tools to quantify autism or learning disabilities.
- **State Subject** - Though it has the legal space under Article 253 to make a law to implement an international treaty, the question is whether it is appropriate for Parliament to impose legal and financial obligations on states and municipalities with regard to disability, which is a State List subject.

## 1.7 The Marriages Bill

### Why in news?

The Marriages (Compulsory Registration and Prevention of Wasteful Expenditure) Bill was introduced by private members in the Lok Sabha.

### What is a private member's bill?

- Members of parliament other than ministers are called private members and bills presented by them are known as private member's bills.
- Till date, only 15 private members' bills have ever been passed by the Indian Parliament. Six of these were in 1956 alone.
- The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill passed in 2015 was the first private member's bill to get the upper house's approval in the past 45 years.
- In the current Lok Sabha, 588 private bills have already been introduced. Only 11 of them have actually come up for discussion.

### What does the bill say?

- The aim of the bill is to “**prevent extravagant and wasteful expenditure**” in weddings.
- The bill states that, if a family spends above Rs 5 lakh on a wedding, it should contribute 10% of that amount to a welfare fund that is to be used to facilitate marriages of girls from poor families.
- It seeks to limit the number of guests one can invite and dishes that can be served in weddings.

### What are the advantages?

- The intention behind is undoubtedly a noble one if the govt welfare fund stays free of corruption and mishandling.
- It could provide the much needed relief to low income families in doing **social justice** to their key life events.
- It will **encourage simplicity** because weddings in India perpetuates a negative social pressure of spending more to show value.

- It would **ease some pressure of the paying parties** i.e usually the bride's family, who could possibly be under pressure to spend beyond their comfort levels.
- Much of the food and other perishables used in weddings so waste. This undermines the food security of the country.

### What are the disadvantages?

- An enforcement on how to celebrate a wedding is not democratic in nature.
- A legal solution for a social issue is often seen as an aggressive policy.
- It will be seen as unnecessary and unwarranted **government interference in private affairs**.
- The mandatory 10% contribution would be perceived as yet another tax levied on the citizens.
- The cap of 5 lakhs is a very low amount even to an average urban middle class standards.
- The enforcement of the law would also be extremely difficult as it is likely to result in complications of tracking expenses and thus evading the 10% payment.
- Regulations will be hard to manage and it will call for a significant state apparatus.
- The scope for loopholes is huge. e.g It would be difficult to distinguish weddings from engagements and receptions which are held at an earlier or later date.
- Some families see weddings as a perfect occasions for reunions and don't mind investing heavily for once in providing for their guests.
- The bill does not account for the fact that **weddings are an economic activity for many** who work in the supply chain towards organizing them.

### 1.8 Seed Bill

#### Why in news?

The government is planning to revive the Seeds Bill

#### What are the features of the bill?

- The Bill requires every seller of seeds (including farmers) to meet certain minimum standards.
- It replaces the Seeds Act, 1966.
- Under the new Bill, all varieties of seeds for sale have to be registered.
- If a registered variety of seed fails to perform up to expected standards, the farmer can claim compensation from the producer or dealer.
- A compensation committee shall hear and decide these cases.
- The bill also provides for an appellate mechanism to be set up by notification.
- It also exempts farmers from the requirement of compulsory registration while prescribing huge penalty for contravening any provision of the Act for those selling misbranded or substandard seeds.

**What will be the effect?**

- The proposed Bill is expected to give a major boost to agricultural growth.
- It seeks to regulate seeds and plant material to ensure quality, increase private participation in production and distribution, liberalise imports while incorporating measures to protect rights of farmers.
- Its early passage with the proposed amendments is quintessential for doubling farmers' income.
- It will bring in competition among players and promote healthy crops.

**1.9 Maternity Benefit Bill****Why in news?**

Lok Sabha recently passed The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

**What are the salient features of the bill?**

- The bill to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
- It increases the paid maternity leave for pregnant women working in the organised sector from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- The 26 weeks of leave will be for the first two pregnancies.
- For the third child, it will be of 12 weeks and 6 weeks for the fourth.
- It allows 12 weeks of paid maternity leave to mothers who are adopting a child below the age of three months and also to commissioning mothers who opt for surrogacy.
- It mandates employers to allow a woman to work from home.
- Organisations which employ more than 30 women (or 50 people, whichever is less) will now have to provide a crèche.
- The mother is allowed to visit the crèche four times during the day.

**What are the positives?**

- The enhancement of paid maternity leave for women is a progressive step.
- India is in third place, only Canada and Norway, in the level of maternity benefits such as paid time off work extended to women.
- The amendment is in line with several expert recommendations including that of the World Health Organisation, which recommends exclusive breastfeeding of children for the first 24 weeks.
- Giving benefits to adoptive mothers as well as women who get children using embryo transfers signals India is in step with social changes.

**What are the shortcomings?**

- The amended law covers only women in the organised work sector i.e only 1.8 million women, a small subset of women in the workforce.

- It ignores roughly 90% of the Indian women who are employed in the unorganised sector i.e shops, small service providers and cottage industries, in households as domestic helps etc.
- The only support available to them is a small conditional cash benefit of ₹ 6,000 during pregnancy and lactation offered under the Maternity Benefit Programme.
- The Bill excludes paternity leave. Therefore the benefit burden may discourage employers to hire women.
- Demands for inclusion of a non-discrimination clause in the bill were also made to ensure that no person is discriminated against for having availed any parental benefits.

### What is the present condition of women in India?

- India lags far behind when it comes to maternal and infant mortality indicators.
- Every third woman in the country is undernourished and every second woman is anaemic.
- An undernourished woman is most likely to give birth to a low-weight baby.
- The UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2014 states that India recorded the highest number of maternal deaths, and accounted for 17% of global deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth-related complications.
- The Infant Mortality Rate is 40 per 1,000 live births.
- As per UNDP's Human Development Report 2015, women clock 297 minutes of unpaid work daily, compared to just 31 minutes for men.

### What should be done?

- The income guarantees during the 26-week period should be ensured through a universal social insurance system.
- Such a policy would harmonise the varying maternity benefit provisions found in different laws that govern labour at present.
- Paternity leave should be included to stop discrimination against women in recruitment by employers who currently have to factor in benefit payments.
- Attitudinal change is also critical. Apart from not paying full benefits, many employers in corporate sector avoid appointing women in critical functions out of unwillingness to cope with women's life cycle changes, even seeking undertakings on avoiding pregnancy.
- Also the effectiveness of the revised Maternity Benefit Act depends on its proper implementation.

## 1.10 Mental Healthcare Bill

### Why in news?

The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 was recently passed by Parliament.

### What are the provisions of the bill?

- **Definition** - It defines "mental illness" as a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life.

- It also includes mental conditions associated with the **abuse of alcohol and drugs**.
- It **does not include mental retardation** which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, characterised by sub-normality of intelligence.
- **Rights** - It ensures every person shall have a right to access mental health care and treatment from mental health services run or funded by the appropriate government.
- It assures free treatment for homeless or people Below Poverty Line, even if they do not possess a BPL card.
- It ensure right to live with dignity and there shall be no discrimination on any basis including gender, sex, sexual orientation, religion, culture, caste, social or political beliefs, class or disability.
- A person with mental illness shall have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health.
- **Advance Directive** - A person with mental illness shall have the right to make an advance directive i.e how he wants to be treated for the illness and who his nominated representative shall be.
- This should be certified by a medical practitioner.
- If a mental health professional/ relative/care-giver do not wish to follow the directive, he can make an application to the Mental Health Board to review the advance directive.
- **Mental Health Authority** - The Bill empowers the government to set-up Mental Health Authority at national and state levels.
- Every mental health institute and mental health practitioners will have to be registered with this Authority.
- A **Mental Health Review Board** will be constituted to protect the rights of persons with mental illness and manage advance directives.
- **Mode of treatment** - A medical practitioner shall not be held liable for any unforeseen consequences on following a valid advance directive.
- A person with mental illness shall not be subjected to electro-convulsive therapy without the use of muscle relaxants and anaesthesia.
- Also, electro-convulsive therapy will not be performed for minors.
- Sterilisation will not be performed on such persons.
- They shall not be chained under any circumstances.
- They shall not be subjected to seclusion or solitary confinement.
- Physical restraint may only be used, if necessary.
- **Suicide** - A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time and will not be punished under IPC.
- The government shall have a duty to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to a person, having severe stress and who attempted to commit suicide, to reduce the risk of recurrence of attempt to commit suicide.

### 1.11 The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill

#### What is Surrogacy?

When an another woman carries and gives birth to a child for a couple who want to have a baby but are unable to do so, because of infertility or some other problem, it is called surrogacy. This has been in the grey legal area in India.

**What is the need for the bill?**

- In 2002, India became the first country to legalise commercial surrogacy.
- By 2012, India had become the 'surrogacy capital' of the world with surrogacy tourism valued at approximately \$500 million annually.
- Surrogate mothers practice it as a way of earning livelihood and are often abused.
- Legal issues also emerge
- e.g In 2008, a Japanese couple began the process with a surrogate mother in Gujarat, but before the child was born they split and there were no takers for the child.
- In 2012, an Australian couple commissioned a surrogate mother, and arbitrarily chose one of the twins that was born.
- So the 228th report of the Law Commission of India recommended prohibiting commercial surrogacy.

**What is the aim of the bill?**

- It aims to prevent exploitation of women, especially those in rural and tribal areas.
- It prohibits couples who already have biological or adopted children from commissioning babies through surrogacy.
- It ensures parentage of children born out of surrogacy is "legal and transparent."

**What are the features of the Bill?**

- The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in November 2016.
- It bans commercial surrogacy.
- Commercial surrogacy will result in a jail term of at least 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- The commissioning couples should be Indians, should have been married for at least five years and should have 'proven infertility' are candidates.
- Only a married blood relative to the commission parents can be a surrogate mother. She must have herself borne a child, and should not be a NRI or a foreigner,
- Under no circumstances money shall be paid to her, except for medical expenses.
- She can be a surrogate only once in her lifetime.
- Overseas Indians, foreigners, unmarried couples, single parents, live-in partners and gay couples are barred from commissioning the services of surrogate mothers.
- In essence, the Bill limits the practice of surrogacy to heterosexual Indian couples who have been married for five years, have no children, and are able to persuade a relative to become a surrogate altruistically for them.
- The Bill will apply to the whole of India, except Jammu and Kashmir.

### What are the shortcomings?

- Disqualifying on the basis of nationality, marital status, sexual orientation or age, is against the **right to equality**.
- The **right to life** includes the right to reproductive and right to parenthood. So the state should not decide the modes of parenthood
- Sudden interruption would just push the \$400 million industry underground. Thus the very purpose of the bill- to protect surrogate mothers from exploitation would be defeated.
- Fertility specialists and attached business would suffer.
- Commissioning mothers, who are carrying a child, would be left in a limbo.
- Restricting only a blood relative to be a surrogate mother is illogical and unreasonable.

### 1.12 Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017

#### Why in news?

The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

#### What are the problems in present set-up?

- With increasing demand for water, inter-state river water disputes are on the rise.
- The present Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956 that provides the legal framework to address such disputes has many drawbacks.
- Under the present Act, a separate Tribunal has to be established for each dispute.
- There are eight inter-state water dispute tribunals, including the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal and Krishna River Water Dispute Tribunal. But only three of the eight tribunals have actually given awards accepted by the states.
- There is no time limit for adjudication or publication of reports.
- Tribunals like those on the Cauvery and Ravi Beas have been in existence for over 26 and 30 years respectively without any award.
- There is no upper age limit for the chairman or the members.

#### What are the proposals of the new bill?

- The bill proposes a single standing tribunal with multiple benches instead of multiple tribunals that exist at present.
- The total time period for adjudication of dispute has been fixed at maximum of 4.5 years.
- The decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding with no requirement of publication in the official gazette
- As per the proposed bill, the Tribunal shall have one chairperson, one vice-chairperson and not more than six other members.
- It limits the tenure of the chairperson to five years or till they attain the age of 70, whichever is earlier.

- It also proposes to introduce mechanisms to resolve disputes amicably by negotiations through a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) before a dispute is referred to the tribunal
- DRC to be established by the central government consisting of experts.
- It also provides for a transparent data collection system at the national level for each river basin.
- It calls for the appointment of assessors to provide technical support to the tribunal.

### 1.13 The Enemy Property Ordinance

#### Why in news?

- The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance has been promulgated for the fifth time.
- President Pranab Mukherjee approved it although he had reservations about its repeated re-promulgation.

#### What is an enemy property?

- After the wars against China in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, the government took over the properties and companies of such persons who had taken Pakistani and Chinese nationality.
- The Centre designated these properties as “enemy properties”.
- Later the Enemy Property Act, 1968 was passed to vest all such immovable and movable property in a ‘Custodian’.
- The maximum numbers of such properties are in Uttar Pradesh.

#### What is the value of the enemy property?

- Pakistan had sold or disposed of property belonging to Indians nationals and firms in 1971, while in India such property is in the hands of a Custodian.
- The immovable properties belonging to Pakistani nationals in India number 9,280.
- The total value is estimated to be around Rs. 1.04 lakh crore, with shares in companies valued around Rs. 2,600 crore.
- Investments in gold, jewellery, bank accounts, deposits and government securities are also with the Custodian.
- There are 149 properties belonging to Chinese nationals in India.

#### What is the need for the ordinance?

- The son of a person whose property in India had been taken over after he emigrated to Pakistan wanted it to be returned to him on the ground that he was a citizen of India.
- He also stated that the property concerned was no more enemy property after his father’s death.
- The Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the Custodian did not have any title to the property and was only a trustee managing it.
- This ruling meant that legal heirs of erstwhile owners of enemy property, if they were Indian citizens, could get it back.

- Therefore the Centre promulgated an ordinance in 2010 so that these properties would continue to be with the Custodian.
- The ordinance lapsed then, and was issued afresh in January 2016. Since then, it has been issued again repeatedly.

### What are the provisions of the ordinance?

- The Ordinance amends several provisions of the Enemy properties Act, 1968 retrospectively.
- **Definition of enemy** - The 1968 Act defined an 'enemy' as a
  1. Country and its citizens that committed external aggression against India (i.e., Pakistan and China).
  2. Legal heirs of enemies even if they are citizens of India or of another country which is not an enemy
  3. Nationals of an enemy country who subsequently changed their nationality to that of another country, etc.
- **Vesting of enemy property** - The properties of these enemies will continue to vest with the Custodian even after
  1. The enemy's death,
  2. If the legal heir is an Indian or citizen of a country that is not an enemy,
  3. Enemy changes his nationality to that of another country, etc.
- **Power of sale** - It allows the Custodian to sell or dispose of enemy property.
- **Transfers by enemies** - It prohibits all transfers by enemies and renders transfers that had taken place before or after the commencement of the 1968 Act as void.
- **Bar of jurisdiction** - It bars civil courts and other authorities from entertaining cases against enemy properties.
- **Powers of the Custodian** - It removes the duty of the Custodian to maintain the enemy and his family.
- The Custodian is allowed to carry out selling, mortgaging or leasing fixing and collecting rent, license fee, etc. from enemy property, and evicting unauthorised occupants from such properties.

### Why it could not take the form of normal legislation?

- The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in March 2016, but the Rajya Sabha sent it to a Select Committee.
- Six members of the Select Committee have opposed
  1. The declaration of Indian legal heirs of enemies as enemies too,
  2. The bar on their inheriting the property,
  3. The vesting of the title in the Custodian.

### 1.14 Companies Amendment Bill

#### Why in news?

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is making amendments to Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016 based on standing committee report before taking up for consideration in the Parliament.

### What are the highlights of the bill?

- It amends the Companies Act, 2013 in relation to structuring, disclosure and compliance requirements for companies.
- The 2013 Act limits the number of intermediary companies through which investments can be made in a company. It also limits the number of layers of subsidiaries a company can have. The current bill removes these limits.
- It also requires a group of persons who exercise beneficial control (above 25%) in a company to disclose such interest.
- The Act requires a separate offer letter to be issued to individuals to whom a private offer of shares has been made. The Bill removes the requirement of such an offer letter.
- The Act permits the appointment of members at the level of Joint Secretary to the quasi-judicial tribunal. The Bill mandates that a technical member must be at least of the level of an Additional Secretary. These provisions are in line with a 2015 Supreme Court judgment.
- However some CLC recommendations like residence requirements for directors; and compliance requirements for dormant companies were included.

### 1.15 Draft Trafficking of Persons Bill

#### Why in news?

The draft trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) bill is about to be introduced.

#### What does the draft say?

- The draft bill addresses trafficking for prevention, rescue and rehabilitation.
- It seeks to levy severe financial penalties and jail terms ranging from seven years to life term for violators and repeat offenders punished with nothing short of a life sentence.
- It also seeks to bring focus on rehabilitation as a right.
- From inclusion of aggravated forms of trafficking and other offences to establishment of well-coordinated institutional mechanism from district to national level, the law covers a wide range of concerns.
- Trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, marriage, child bearing and administering narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, alcohol and hormones for the purpose of trafficking is proposed to be punished with term not less than 10 years but which may extend to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 1 lakh.
- The same penalty provision is proposed to be applied in case of offence where a child is trafficked for the purpose of human shield, child soldiers or for commission of crime.
- It also proposes a national Anti-Trafficking Bureau for investigation and prosecution of Trans border crimes and for national level coordination.
- It denotes that an appropriate Government shall maintain either directly or through voluntary organisations, protection homes selected and managed in the manner, as may be prescribed for the immediate care and protection of the victims.

- It calls for setting up of shelter homes either directly or through voluntary organisations or use the existing shelter homes, as the case may be, one or more Special Homes in each district for the purpose of providing long- term institutional support for the rehabilitation of victims.
- The draft also puts in place the state anti-trafficking and the district anti trafficking committee.
- The draft puts much focus on monetary reliefs and provision for a rehabilitation fund.
- There is special emphasis on victim- witness protection and time bound investigation and trial and time bound inter- state and cross border repatriation.
- The proposed legislation calls for the constitution of special courts to try cases relating to trafficking.
- The proposed draft legislation also introduces stringent provisions to punish and deter traffickers and their associates from committing similar crimes in the future by way of confiscation, forfeiture and attachment and further auction of the property.

### 1.16 Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016

#### Why in news?

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which was introduced in Lok Sabha on July is now before a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

#### Who are illegal migrants?

- One, if a foreigner comes into India without valid travel documents, like a visa and passport, or two, having come in legally, they stay beyond the time period permitted to them under their travel documents.
- Illegal migrants may be imprisoned or deported..
- The largest number among the illegal migrants are from Pakistan (15%), followed by Sri Lanka (14%), South Korea (6%) and Iraq (6%).

#### What are the new amendments?

- Illegal migrants and their children are ineligible for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- The amendment Bill provides that illegal migrants belonging to the specified six minority communities.e Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan will not be treated as illegal migrants and will, therefore, be eligible for Indian citizenship.
- The Bill also relaxes the eligibility criteria for citizenship for persons from these six minority communities of the three neighbouring countries.
- As of now, a person must have resided in India for 12 of the 15 years preceding the date of application; the Bill relaxes the 12-year requirement to 7 years for this particular group of individuals.
- The Bill seeks to add a new ground for cancelling OCI registration — violation of any law in force in the country. OCI cardholders are foreigners who are persons of Indian origin.An OCI enjoys benefits compared to other foreigners, such as the right to travel to India without a visa, or to work and study here.

#### What are the issues?

- This amendment makes it easy to obtain India citizenship, for those fleeing religious persecution in mentioned three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh). But it has lot of negatives.

- The Bill does not cover illegal migrants who are Muslim, or who belong to other minority communities such as Jews and Bahais from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- The Bill makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship on the basis of religion. This is in **violation of Article 14 of the Constitution** which guarantees right to equality and **Article 15 of the Constitution** which prevents the state from discriminating.
- This would mean, for instance, that the sizeable population of Hindu migrants from Bangladesh living in Assam would become citizens while Muslims who migrated to Assam from East Bengal, half a century ago would continue to be harassed as 'illegal migrants' from Bangladesh.
- India is not like Israel, which is a Jewish state, offering the "right to return" to Jews anywhere in the world. Since **India is constitutionally secular**, this amendment against its spirit.
- The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. This is a wide ground that may cover a range of violations, including minor offences like parking in a no parking zone.
- This Bill **does not actually give citizenship to anybody**. It only proposes to enable the post-1971 stream of non-Muslim migrants to apply for Indian citizenship via the route of naturalisation.

#### How it violates Assam accord of 1985?

- As per the Citizenship Act, a person whose name or whose ancestors name was registered as a citizen in the National Register of Citizens of India in 1951, is considered an Indian citizen.
- But in Assam, the rule is different. As per the Assam Accord, signed in 1985, people whose names were not registered as citizens till the year 1951 but are registered after that till 24 March, 1971, are also considered as Indian citizens.
- The proposed piece of new legislation seeks to extend this to December 31, 2014. There is a huge number of Bengali Hindu population living in Assam, who have migrated to Assam illegally.
- The new amendment of the Citizenship Act seeks to provide them with Indian citizenship. If that is done the demographic pattern of the state will transform. The natives will lose their political say in their own land.

#### 1.17 Bill on Statutory Powers for IIMs

##### Why in news?

A bill to grant statutory powers to the Indian Institutes of Managements (IIMs) is to be presented shortly to the Union Cabinet for approval.

##### What is the need for the bill?

- The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are autonomous institutes of management, education and research and are presently registered as societies under the Indian Societies Registration Act.
- It is governed by a Board of Governors.
- The government has been looking to grant more autonomy to these institutes and more powers have been granted to their Governing Boards.
- It also decided to lay down a clear rule on the line of succession in case the post of director falls vacant.

##### What are the provisions of the bill?

- It seeks to declare existing IIMs as institutes of national importance.

- **Powers of the IIM** - The IIMs will have powers to regulate admission, management and fees.
- Currently, these institutes can offer diplomas and not degrees. The bill enables IIMs to grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
- It also allows IIMs to conduct examinations and establish and maintain necessary infrastructure.
- **Authorities** - The Board of Governors shall be the principal executive body of each institute, responsible for policy decisions, approving the annual budget estimates, etc.
- It grants powers to the Board of Governors to get an inquiry conducted by a person not below the rank of a High Court judge against a director in case it is felt that an institute has not performed as per the provisions of the proposed Act.
- The Board may even remove the director of the institute after proper enquiry.
- The Boards of Governors of IIMs would evaluate the performance of the institutes after every few years.
- A coordination forum with an eminent person as the chairperson will take up matters common to all the IIMs.
- The Academic Council shall be the principal academic body of each institute and will specify the academic content of programmes and the criteria and process for admission to courses.
- **Powers of the central government** - Any regulations made by the Board are subject to prior approval of the central government in matters relating to
  1. Admission and specifying fees,
  2. Determining posts and emoluments of faculty and staff,
  3. Establishment and maintenance of buildings,
  4. Conferring degrees and
  5. Determining powers of the Academic Council, Chief Administrative Officer and the Board, etc.
- **Funding** - The IIMs will discharge their functions on the basis of grants received from the central government. All institutes will be required to maintain a fund.
- The new IIMs proposed by the central government will be situated in Vishakhapatnam, Bodh Gaya, Sirmour, Nagpur, Sambalpur and Amritsar.
- Each institute will offer post graduate programme courses. These courses will involve research and consultancy in the field of management and allied areas. The academic sessions for these IIMs will begin in 2015-16.

### 1.18 HIV And AIDS Prevention Bill, 2017

#### Why in news?

Recently, the Parliament passed the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017.

#### What is the aim of the bill?

- The Bill seeks to **prevent and control the spread** of HIV and AIDS, **prohibits discrimination** against persons with HIV and AIDS.

- It provides for informed consent and confidentiality with regard to their treatment, places obligations on establishments to safeguard their rights, and creates mechanisms for redressing their complaints.

### What are the provisions of the bill?

- **Prohibition of discrimination against HIV positive persons:** The Bill lists the various grounds on which discrimination against HIV positive persons and those living with them is prohibited.
- These include the denial, termination, discontinuation or unfair treatment with regard to: employment, educational establishments, health care services, residing or renting property, standing for public or private office, and provision of insurance.
- The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited.
- Every HIV infected or affected person **below the age of 18 years** has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household.
- It also prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.
- **Informed consent and disclosure of HIV status:** The Bill requires that no HIV test, medical treatment, or research will be conducted on a person without his informed consent.
- No person shall be compelled to disclose his HIV status except with his informed consent, and if required by a court order.
- Informed consent for an HIV test will not be required in case of screening by any licensed blood bank, a court order, medical research, and epidemiological purposes where the HIV test is anonymous and not meant to determine the HIV status of a person.
- Establishments keeping records of information of HIV positive persons shall adopt data protection measures.
- **Role of the central and state governments:** The central and state governments shall take measures to:
  - prevent the spread of HIV or AIDS,
  - provide anti-retroviral therapy and infection management for persons with HIV or AIDS,
  - facilitate their access to welfare schemes especially for women and children,
  - formulate HIV or AIDS education communication programmes that are age appropriate, gender sensitive, and non stigmatizing, and
  - lay guidelines for the care and treatment of children with HIV or AIDS.
- Every person in the care and custody of the state shall have right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counselling services.
- **Role of the Ombudsman:** An ombudsman shall be appointed by each state government.
- The Ombudsman shall submit a report to the state government every six months stating the number and nature of complaints received, the actions taken and orders passed.
- **Guardianship:** A person between the **age of 12 to 18 years** who has sufficient maturity in understanding and managing the affairs of his HIV or AIDS affected family shall be competent to act as a guardian of another sibling below 18 years of age.

- The guardianship will be apply in matters relating to admission to educational establishments, operating bank accounts, managing property, care and treatment, amongst others.
- **Court proceedings:** Cases relating to HIV positive persons shall be disposed off by the court on a priority basis.
- In any legal proceeding, if an HIV infected or affected person is a party, the court may pass orders that the proceedings be conducted (a) by suppressing the identity of the person, (b) in camera, and (c) to restrain any person from publishing information that discloses the identity of the applicant.

### 1.19 Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill

#### Why in news?

Medical professionals and parents of medical aspirants in the state have raised concerns over the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, introduced by the Union health ministry earlier this week.

#### Why concerns arise?

- The draft makes provision for an exit test (National Exit Test or NEXT) for MBBS graduates to qualify for medical practice.
- The draft states that NEXT will replace the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for post-graduation courses.
- This provision, while aimed at providing a level-playing field to both government and private college students, has been opposed by doctors and parents alike.
- In their feedback, the parents have contested the validity of the NEXT and the 50 per cent reservation in post-graduation seats for candidates in government services.
- In India we already have a continuous evaluation process for medical students all through the five and a half years of their MBBS programme. Taking a NEXT exam at the end makes the university exams and assessments redundant.
- Further people allege that such a tedious process will discourage meritorious students to take up medical courses.
- While many parents and doctors agreed that NEXT would help maintain uniform standards in medical education, the 50 per cent reservation clause has not been well-accepted.
- Some parents said that the reservation went against the current merit-based system of admission.
- Some doctors have also suggested that the Bill should allow students to take NEXT multiple times as it was a qualifier for admission to post-graduate courses.

#### Will this draft discourage the students?

- With the current 50 per cent constitutional reservations at the undergraduate and post-graduate entry level, an additional 50 per cent reservation for government medical officers will leave less than 25 per cent chance for open category students. This restriction will compel MBBS graduates to look for post-graduation courses abroad.
- With a five and a half year course for MBBS, a compulsory government service of at least a year and an ME programme, it will take a doctor at least 13 years to complete their education. This will discourage students from taking up medical education.
- The parents and doctors have asked the ministry to reconsider these clauses before passing the Act.

## 1.20 GST Bills

### Why in news?

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is proposed to be implemented as a new, consolidated indirect tax regime from July 1, 2017.
- Lok Sabha passed four Bills, relating to the implementation of the GST.

### What are the new bills passed?

- The Central GST Bill, the Integrated GST Bill, the GST Compensation Bill, and the Union Territory GST Bills are the four new bills.
- The fifth legislation i.e the State GST Bill, will be passed by the Assemblies of each of the States and the Union Territories with legislature.

### What were the objections made to the bill?

- The disempowerment of Parliament in setting tax rates as GST council will be formed for this purpose.
- There is still need for several tax rates when the principle is to be of 'one nation, one tax'. The ceiling rates are expected to be 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- The reduction in the fiscal autonomy of the States.
- The uncertainty over the addition of petroleum products, land etc. under GST.
- Concerns raised by banks and insurance companies over the need for multiple registrations under GST.
- The levy of additional cess.
- The law allows the States leeway to depart from a recommended SGST rate. Therefore, the challenges ahead lie in GST Council's leadership skills to carry everyone along.
- The monthly filing of GST returns is 'auto-populated' – which means that a registered supplier must upload all details of his transactions, with the tax element.
- Such humongous data gathering has not been attempted elsewhere, and the software should be tested.
- The capacity of State tax authorities, so far used to taxing goods and not services, to deal with the latter is an unknown quantity.
- The success of GST depends on political consensus, technology and the capacity of tax officials to adapt to the new requirements.

### What is the justification of the government?

- **Parliamentary power** - The recommendation of the rates will come from the Council but the GST Council has been given the power to only make a recommendation regarding the model law.
- The Constitutional amendment gave that power in Article 279A. The plenary power to frame legislation can only be with Parliament or the state legislative assemblies.
- **State Autonomy** - The Council has two-thirds voting by the States and one-third by the Centre.

- But the states and the Centre must be guided by the federal nature of the agreement between the Centre and the states.
- If every state decided not to act on the GST Council's recommendations and set a different rate, then the implementation of GST become practically very difficult.
- **Multiple Rates** - If there was only a single rate, then the GST regime would be a highly regressive one as luxury goods would then be taxed at the same rate as necessities.
- **Real Estate** - The Council had taken a decision that the aspect of bringing the real estate sector under GST would be reviewed in the first year of rollout.
- **Petroleum Products** - The Constitution provides that these items would attract GST, though the rate has been kept at zero.
- Going forward, it would require only an executive decision on setting a rate on petroleum products.
- **Multiple Registrations** - A clause has been provided that can provide an exemption in exceptional circumstances and the GST Council will take a call on it.

### 1.21 Aadhaar - Money Bill

#### Why in news?

The Supreme Court is about to begin hearing final arguments on a writ petition questioning the legality behind the Union government's move in introducing the Aadhaar Act as a money bill.

#### What is money bill?

- A money bill is defined by **Article 110** of the Constitution, as a draft law that contains only provisions that deal with all or any of the matters listed in that article.
- These comprise a set of seven features, broadly including items such as the imposition or regulation of a tax; the regulation of the borrowing of money by the Government of India; the withdrawal of money from the Consolidated Fund of India; and so forth.
- Article 110 further clarifies that in cases where a dispute arises over whether a bill is a money bill or not, the Lok Sabha Speaker's decision on the issue shall be considered final.
- The provision requires that a bill conform to the criteria prescribed in it for it to be classified as a money bill.
- Where a bill intends to legislate on matters beyond the features delineated in Article 110, it must be treated as an ordinary draft statute.

#### What is AADHAAR?

- Originally, Aadhaar was conceived as a scheme to provide to every Indian a unique identity number for enabling a fair and equitable distribution of benefits and subsidies
- A draft of a statute was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, in December 2010 as an ordinary bill.
- This meant that both Houses of Parliament had to provide their vote to the bill for it to become law.
- However it was not passed due to concerns over privacy and protection of data security.
- In March 2016, the Union government withdrew the earlier bill, and introduced the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial & Other Subsidies, Benefits & Services) Bill, 2016 as a money bill.

- Hence now it required only the Lok Sabha's affirmation for it to turn into law.
- The legislation endangers the core liberties, in manners both explicit and implicit ways.
- Therefore this move was designed to bypass opposition in Rajya Sabha bill.

### What is the government's stand?

- In the Supreme Court's judgment in **Mohd. Saheed Siddiqui v. State of UP (2014)**, the court ruled that a Speaker's decision to classify a draft statute as a money bill was not judicially reviewable, even if the classification was incorrect.
- The court justified that this is because the error in question constituted nothing more than a mere procedural irregularity.
- The government sites this case to justify its stand.

### What should be done?

- But it brushes aside the verdict of a Constitution Bench in **Raja Ram Pal v. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha (2007)**.
- In this case, the court had ruled that clauses that attach finality to a determination of an issue is not altogether outside the court's jurisdiction.
- The bench held that there are numerous circumstances where the court can review parliamentary pronouncements like instances
  1. where a Speaker's choice is grossly illegal, or
  2. disregards basic constitutional mandates, or
  3. where the Speaker's decision is arrived at through dishonest intentions.
- Therefore it should be understood that the Speaker's decision to confirm the government's classification is not merely a procedural error but one that constitutes an unmitigated violation of Article 110.

## 1.22 Section 107A - Indian Patents Act

### Why in news?

The Delhi High Court has ruled that Indian companies Alembic and Natco Pharmaceuticals can export generic versions of two of German drug maker Bayer's medicines for research and regulatory purposes.

### What is the case about?

- Bayer owns the patent of the kidney cancer drug Sorafenib, which is marketed as Nexavar.
- NatcoPharma was given compulsory license to produce the generic version of the drug for the local population, on the payment of royalty to Bayer.
- Nexavar was at that time priced at Rs. 2.8 lakh per patient per month, while Natco's version of the drug was pegged at Rs. 8,800.
- Similar was the case for Alembic Pharmaceuticals which was manufacturing generic form of Bayer's blood thinner drug 'Xarelto'.

- Bayer had initiated proceedings against the two Indian pharma companies to stop them from exporting the drug.
- Indian companies claimed that they were being exported for purposes of experimentation and generation of valuable clinical trial data.
- Bayer had claimed that under the compulsory license provided to Natco, the company could only sell drug 'Sorafinat' within India and export of 90 kilograms of drug worth 3 crore is not covered under the exception provided under Section 107A of the Indian Patents Act, 1970.

### What did the Judgment say?

- **Section 107-A** of the Patents Act explains what will not constitute infringement of a patent, and includes selling of a patented invention for the purposes of development.
- The court held that the export of the pharmaceuticals for informational and data gathering purposes is in line with the global Agreement on TRIPS and also covered under the constitutional right enshrined under Article 19(1)(g).
- Thus, the court disposed of Bayer's pleas saying that sale for the purposes prescribed in section 107A would not be an infringement and thus cannot be prevented.

### What might happen because of the judgment?

- This could create a rift between the US and India on intellectual property.
- India's Patents Act has been a subject of controversy, particularly Section 3(d), which seeks to prevent 'evergreening' of patents.
- India and the rest of the developed world have sought to use flexibilities in TRIPS to produce cheaper versions of life-saving drugs.
- e.g South Africa has benefited from firms such as Cipla bringing about a drastic reduction in the prices of HIV medicines.
- With the US Trade Representative's IP report card, **the Special 301 report**, is expected later next month, the issue is expected to be brought again.
- The shortage of patents and innovation in India is a larger ecosystem issue, related to the standards of science and technology education.
- But, to attribute inadequate R&D to a weak patents system and to put the health of people over profit would be a gross oversimplification.

## 1.23 Uniform Asylum Law

### Why in news?

Baloch leader Brahamdagh Bugti's request for asylum in India has prompted calls for a uniform and apolitical asylum law.

### Who are Asylum seekers and Refugees?

- According to the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, **asylum seekers** are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for **refugee status have not yet been determined**.
- Asylum has no defining criteria other than the willingness of a state to grant it.
- **Refugees** are individuals recognised under

1. **The 1951 Convention** relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol,
  2. **The 1969 OAU Convention** Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa,
  3. In accordance with **the UNHCR Statute**, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, or those enjoying temporary protection
  4. **The UN's Refugee Convention of 1951** links refuge to persecution on racial, religious, national, social, or political grounds. Therefore refugee status is narrowly defined.
- In 1969, Africa recognised that during war, people do not wait to be individually persecuted, they flee en masse, and they are all refugees.
  - During the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, many of those displaced were not technically refugees. Therefore the European Union treated a new form of asylum distinct from refugee status.
  - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) followed suit. The distinction between asylum and refugee status has been recognised by the EU Court of Justice and several countries.

### What is the significance of Asylum?

- The duty to protect refugees is a widely accepted, binding norm of international law.
- But the refugee convention refuses protection to people accused of “serious non-political crimes” such as terrorism.
- Therefore governments routinely slap fabricated terror accusations against their political dissidents, to prevent them to seek refugee status.
- For such people Asylum is the last resort.
- Asylum need not be tied to national territory. It can be granted by diplomatic missions abroad e.g Asylum to Julian Assange by Ecuador's embassy in London.

### What is the practice around the world?

- As asylum is undefined, it has been widely interpreted by states to result in multiple forms of protection.
- Latin America has been protecting political dissidents who are excluded from refugee status. In 1954, Latin American states recognised each other's sovereignty to grant asylum.
- This conception of asylum travelled to Africa too. Black liberationist leaders and Anti-apartheid fighters were protected through asylum.

### What is the misconception?

- It is generally believed that political versus humanitarian conflict affects the heart of asylum but there is actually no conflict at all.
- **Asylum can be granted for political reasons and refuge for humanitarian reasons** and it does not have to be mixed up.
- But asylum and extradition are related concepts. Extradition law exempts a country from handing over a criminal if the offence committed is of a political character. This is known as the ‘political offence exception.’ It enables political asylum.

- It is recognised in the Extradition Act 1962, that it is the government's discretion to allow people like Mr. Bugti to shelter in India.

### Is the uniform law necessary?

- If Mr. Bugti is accepted, it would not be the first time that Indian asylum has been politicised. e.g Welcoming Dalai Lama in 1959 continue to be politicised.
- But the law need not be uniform.
- Indeed it should vary so that victims of targeted persecution are individually protected, large groups fleeing war are protected as a group, and people displaced by natural disasters are given transient protection.
- The principle that governments have wide discretionary powers regarding foreigners is as old as the concept of sovereignty. It has been reiterated by the Supreme Court several times.
- Protecting refugees in line with international law is a duty which India must meet. But denying the government the ability to make sovereign decisions about who can receive India's asylum is counterproductive.
- Therefore what is desirable for India is a law which recognises that asylum and refuge need not overlap.
- It should enable India to provide **discretionary political asylum regime** for people like Mr. Bugti as well as a **mandatory refugee regime** to ensure humanitarian protection.

## 2. POLICIES

### 2.1 New Litigation Policy

#### Why in news?

- On the occasion of the Delhi High Court's golden jubilee in October, the Prime Minister broached the **problem of excessive government litigation**.
- The Supreme Court, since the 1970s, has berated successive governments for being **callous and mechanical** in pursuing litigation.

#### What is the need for a litigation policy?

- Government litigation reportedly constitutes nearly **half of all litigation** in the Indian judiciary.
- Government litigation **entails huge sum from the public exchequer** every year.
- It has **contributed to judicial backlog**, thus affecting justice delivery in India.
- A litigation policy can have a profound effect on how the government thinks about itself as a litigant, and can help curb the problem, provided it is a constructed with a thorough understanding of the problem and offers solutions based on evidence rather than conjecture.

#### What are NLP 2010's shortcomings?

- Government had launched a "National Litigation Policy" (NLP) in 2010 to transform the government into a **"responsible and efficient"** litigant.
- The NLP 2010 fails to provide a yardstick for determining responsibility and efficiency.

- The policy states that there should be greater accountability regarding governmental litigation, and mandates “suitable action” against officials violating this policy.
- However, **the text does not define this “suitable action”, or prescribe any method to conduct any disciplinary proceedings.**
- The policy creates “Empowered Committees” at the national and regional levels, to regulate the implementation of the policy. But there is ambiguity about their role and powers, resulting in lack of transparency in their functioning.
- The NLP 2010 also **lacks any form of impact assessment** to evaluate actual impact on reducing government litigation.

## 2.2 National capital goods policy 2016

### What is National Capital Goods Policy?

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for National Capital Goods Policy.
- This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector.
- ‘National Capital Goods Policy’ was first presented by the Department of Heavy Industry to the Prime Minister in the ‘Make in India’ workshop held in December, 2014.
- The aim of the policy is create game changing strategies for the capital goods sector.
- The key recommendations and elements of the policy have been formulated to support and boost development of this crucial sector.
- The policy has been finalized after extensive stakeholder consultations with industry, academia, different ministries etc.
- Some of the key issues addressed include availability of finance, raw material, innovation and technology, productivity, quality and environment friendly manufacturing practices, promoting exports and creating domestic demand.

### What are its objectives?

- To increase production of capital goods from Rs.2,30,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.7,50,000 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.
- The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27 percent to 40 percent of production.
- It will increase the share of domestic production in India’s demand from 60 percent to 80 percent thus making India a net exporter of capital goods.
- The policy also aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- The objectives of the policy will be met by the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises in a time bound manner through obtaining approval for schemes as per the roadmap of policy interventions.

### Why we need such a policy?

- India's manufacturing contributes approximately 2 percent of the world's gross value added and 17 percent for its own economy. To sustain its economic growth over the coming decades, manufacturing is identified as critical and also a prerequisite to employ millions of youth entering its labour market every year.
- In a draft submitted in 2015, capital goods sector was reported to contribute 12 percent of India's manufacturing output, in turn translating into 2 percent of India's gross domestic product (GDP).
- Its multiplier effect on overall economic growth, by way of providing the durable secondary consumption goods, was noted as significant.
- A globally competitive and dynamic capital goods sector is to bear a similar effect on India's manufacturing.

### What are the advantages?

- The Policy will help in realising the vision of 'Building India as the World class hub for Capital Goods'.
- It will also play a pivotal role in overall manufacturing as the pillar of strength to the vision of 'Make in India'.
- It also advocates adoption of a uniform Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime ensuring effective GST rate across all capital goods sub-sectors competitive with import duty after set-off with a view to ensure a level-playing field.

### 2.3 National Steel Policy, 2017

#### Why in news?

The Ministry of Steel released the draft National Steel Policy 2017.

#### What is the need for the policy?

- The steel sector presently employs about 25 lakh people and has a capacity of little over 120 million tonnes.
- Steel production in the country has witnessed an annual average growth of 8.3% between 2000-01 and 2015-16.
- However, the industry has been facing challenges due to slow economic growth and idle steel capacity globally.
- India has been a net importer of finished steel every year since 2007-08 except 2013-14.
- Growth of the Indian steel industry has been affected due to delays in land acquisition.
- The draft Policy seeks to create a self-sufficient steel industry that is technologically advanced and globally competitive.

#### What are the objectives?

- Increasing crude steel capacity to 300 metric tonne (MT) by 2030-31.
- Increasing per capita steel consumption to 160 kg by 2030-31 (currently 61 kg)
- Increasing domestic availability of washed coking coal and reducing import of coking coal to 50% by 2030-31
- Becoming a net exporter of steel by 2025-26.

### What are the guidelines?

- **Steel demand and capacity** - The policy envisages to more than double the India's domestic steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030-31.
- Creation of such additional capacity will require extensive mobilization of natural resources, finances, manpower, and infrastructure and a capital investment of about Rs 10 lakh crore
- **Land requirement** - In order to increase steel production capacity, around 91,000 acres of land will be required.
- The Steel Ministry will coordinate with respective state governments to ensure timely availability of litigation-free land to the industries.
- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** – The draft policy seeks to improve availability of raw materials by providing long term linkages with the coal industry, and adopt energy efficient technologies.
- The Steel Ministry has proposed setting up Greenfield steel plants along India's coastline to tap cheap imported raw materials such as coking coal and export the output in a more cost-effective manner.
- **Coking Coal** - To cut down reliance on expensive imports of coking coal, gas-based steel plants and technologies such as electric furnaces to bring down the use of coking coal in blast furnaces are proposed.
- It anticipates a requirement of ₹ 10 lakh crore of fresh investments to meet that goal and expects at least 11 lakh new jobs being created in the process.
- It lays out two alternatives of its vision i.e to create a globally competitive steel industry that promotes inter-sectoral growth or to create a self-sufficient steel industry that is technologically advanced, globally competitive and promotes inclusive growth.

### 2.4 National Health Policy 2017

#### Why in news?

The National Health Policy, 2017, was approved by the Union Cabinet which will replace the previous policy adopted in 2002.

#### What are the key highlights?

- The broad principles of the Policy are centered on professionalism, integrity and ethics, equity, affordability, universality, patient centered and quality of care, accountability and pluralism.
- It aims to achieve universal access to good quality health care services **without anyone having to face financial hardship** as a consequence.
- It intends on gradually increasing public health expenditure to **2.5% of the GDP**.
- It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals.
- The policy advocates allocating **two-thirds of resources to primary care**.
- It proposes two beds per 1,000 of the population to enable access within the first 60 minutes after a traumatic injury.

- To reduce morbidity and preventable mortality of **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) by advocating pre-screening.
- It highlights AYUSH as a tool for effective prevention and therapy that is safe and cost-effective.
- It **proposes introducing Yoga** in more schools and offices to promote good health.
- It also proposed reforming medical education.
- The policy also lists quantitative targets regarding life expectancy, mortality and reduction of disease prevalence in line with the objectives of the policy.

#### What are the key targets?

- Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Reduce Fertility Rate to 2.1 by 2025.
- Reduce Infant Mortality Rate to 28 by 2019.
- Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025.
- Achieve the global 2020 HIV target (also termed 90:90:90 global target).
- To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25 per cent by 2025.
- Reducing the prevalence of blindness to 0.25 per 1000 persons by 2025.
- The disease burden to be reduced by one third from the current levels.
- Elimination of leprosy by 2018, kala-azar by 2017 and lymphatic filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.

#### What are the positives?

- It seeks to **promote universal access to good quality healthcare services** and a wide array of free drugs and diagnostics.
- The proposed steps such as a **health card for every family** will certainly help improve health outcomes in India.
- The recommended **grading of clinical establishments** and active promotion and adoption of standard treatment guidelines can also help improve the quality of healthcare delivery in India.

#### What are the lacunas?

- The policy duplicates portions of the Health section of Finance Minister's 2017 Budget speech, reiterates health spend targets set by the erstwhile Planning Commission for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- It **fails to make health a justiciable right** in the way the Right to Education 2005 did for school education.
- A **health cess** was a pathbreaking idea that was proposed in the draft policy but it was dropped.
- Whether Health should continue to be in the State List, or in the Concurrent List is not answered in the policy.

- Among the most glaring lacunae in the present context is the lack of capacity to use higher levels of public funding for health.
- Although a major capacity expansion to produce MBBS graduates took place between 2009 and 2015, this is unlikely to meet policy goals since only 11.3% of registered allopathic doctors were working in the public sector as of 2014.

## 2.5 Defence blacklisting policy

### Why in news?

The Defence ministry is currently in the process of framing a new blacklisting policy.

### What is blacklisting in defence sector?

- Blacklisting of defence companies relates to, preventing those firms that are found to have resorted to unscrupulous means to acquire the defence deals from the government, from participating in future defence deals and it may also involve termination of ongoing defence deals.
- At present, 15 entities, including six foreign firms, are blacklisted by the Ministry, while 23 others are under the scanner.

### What is the Current Government's stand?

- Blanket blacklisting policy used by the previous governments, led to shortages of ammunition and artillery guns and hampered the acquisition process.
- e.g The new submarines being acquired by the Indian Navy under the P-75 programme, developed by France's DCNS will be without torpedoes for a long period of time, because of the blacklisting of WASS, a Finmeccanica company.
- In 2014 Finmeccanica and its group companies were blacklisted for Agusta Westland VVIP chopper scam and kept out of future defence projects.

### What are the negatives of Blanket ban on defence firms?

- Unavailability of certain weapon systems when only one company manufactures that particular system.
- In complex defence acquisitions like fighter jets and submarines, many companies may be involved as component manufacturers. In such a situation, blacklisting even one among them, will lead to incomplete weaponry being delivered. This compromises the capability of the weapon system.
- Single vendor situation: When only few companies produce a particular weapon system and if all except one of those companies are blacklisted, then that single company that has not been blacklisted, gains an absolute monopoly when participating in tenders to that particular weapon system.

### What are the expectations in the new policy?

- New norms are expected to be a mixture of heavy fines, graded blacklisting and other penalties.
- Instead of blocking a business from defence deals, India will impose an economic penalty on the company.
- Defence ministry is in favour of allowing those companies that have already been blacklisted, to participate in defence projects so long as they agree to deferred prosecution.

## What is the way forward?

- A strict, no-nonsense policy to deal with irregularities should be put in place, but care should be taken that no step is taken to harm the effective use of already-induced equipment.
- India needs to balance considerations of integrity with considerations of national security, based on international best practices.

## 2.6 Draft National Energy Policy

### Why in news?

- Coal Ministry opposes NITI Aayog's Draft Energy Policy.

### What is the Policy about?

- NITI Aayog's National Energy Policy is aimed at curbing imports by increasing production of renewable energy in the country fivefold to 300 billion units by 2019 and tripling coal production to 1.5 billion tonnes.
- Coal imports are envisaged to come down by 10% by 2022 and by 50% by 2030.
- This policy will replace the Integrated Energy Policy of the previous government.
- The new policy will have a focus on clean energy resources such as solar and natural gas.
- In addition, the policy will also look at ways to improve the quality of air which has deteriorated significantly over the past years.
- NITI aayog also plans to set up the National Energy Data Agency on the lines of the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- The agency will aim to provide oil and gas mapping by working with the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, transmission line mapping, energy demand mapping and solar irradiation mapping, among others.

### What are Government's targets?

- Indian government has pledged to provide electricity to all Indians by 2022.
- India wants to improve its per capita electricity consumption of 1,010 kWh.
- The government targets to generate 175GW from renewable sources by 2022, including 100GW solar power.
- Ministry of Coal has raised reservations over the draft National Energy Policy.
- It cites that the new policy favours aligning domestic coal prices with international rates.
- As of now, Coal India sells at prices approved by the company board. The new National Energy Policy links domestic coal prices with international rates.
- Coal Ministry officials fear that this may erode profits of state-run Coal India.
- The ministry is also concerned about losing its control over coal prices.
- The lack of consensus between the Centre and the ministry has delayed the policy, which has been in the works at NITI Aayog, the government's thinktank, for more than a year now.

## 2.7 Draft National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

### Why there is a need for a hybrid policy?

- India has set an ambitious target of reaching 175 GW of installed capacity from renewable energy sources including 100 GW from solar and 60 GW from wind by the year 2022.
- The country has already crossed a mark 26.8 GW of wind and 7.6 GW of solar power installed capacity during May 2016.
- **Solar and winds are almost complementary to each other and hybridization of two technologies would help in minimizing the variability** apart from optimally utilizing the infrastructure including land and transmission system.
- Superimposition of wind and solar resource maps shows that there are large areas where both wind and solar have high to moderate potential.
- The existing wind farms have scope of adding solar PV (Photo voltaics) capacity and similarly there may be wind potential in the vicinity of existing solar PV plant.
- Suitable policy interventions are required not only for new wind-solar hybrid plants but also for encouraging hybridization of existing wind and solar plant

### How Wind-Solar Hybrid Systems are formed?

- Under the category of wind-solar hybrid power plants, Wind and Solar PV systems will be configured to operate at the same point of grid connection. There can be different approaches towards integrating wind and solar depending upon the size of each of the source integrated and the technology type.
- On the technology front, in case of **fixed speed wind turbines** connected to grid using an induction generator, the integration can be on the HT side at the AC output bus.
- However, in case of **variable speed wind turbines** deploying inverters for connecting with the grid, the integration can even be on the LT side before the inverter i.e. at the intermediate D.C bus.
- In order to achieve the benefits of hybrid plant in terms of **optimal and efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and better grid stability by reducing the variability** in renewable power generation, appropriate size should be chosen.
- In the locations where the wind power density is quite good, the size of the solar PVs capacity to be added as the solar-hybrid component could be relatively smaller.
- On the other hand, in case of the sites where the wind power density is relatively lower or moderate, the component of the solar PV capacity could be relatively on a higher side so that the.

### What is the strategy of implementation?

- The implementation of wind solar hybrid system will depend on different configurations and use of technology detailed below:
  - **Wind-Solar Hybrid- AC integration** - In this configuration the AC output of the both the wind and solar system is integrated either at LT side using three-winding step-up transformer or at HT side. In the later case both system uses separate step-up transformer and HT output of both the system is connected to common AC Bus-bar.

- **Wind-Solar Hybrid- DC integration** - DC integration is possible in case of variable speed drive wind turbines using invertors. In this configuration the DC output of the both the wind and solar PV plant is connected to a common DC bus and a common invertors suitable for combined output AC capacity is used to convert this DC power in to AC power.
- **Hybridisation of existing wind/solar PV plants** - Existing wind power or solar power projects, willing to install solar PV plant or wind turbine generators (WTGs) respectively to avail benefit of hybrid project, may be allowed to do so with following Conditions:
  - The hybrid power injected in to the grid will not be more than the transmission capacity/grid connectivity allowed/sanctioned for existing wind/solar project. This will ensure that no augmentation of transmission capacity is required.
  - No additional connectivity/transmission capacity charges will be levied by the respective transmission entity for installing the solar PV/wind turbine generators considering that same transmission capacity is being used.
- **New Wind-Solar Hybrid Plants** - In case of new wind-solar hybrid projects, the developer have option to use the hybrid power for captive use or third party sale or may sell the hybrid power to Distribution Company. The hybrid power may be procured through a transparent bidding process under different mechanisms.
- **Regulatory Interventions** - The Central Commission should lay down the guidelines for determination of generic tariff for wind-solar hybrid system.
- **Incentives** - Low cost financing for hybrid projects may be made available through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions including multilateral banks.
- **R&D** - Government will support the technology development projects in the field of hybrid systems.

## 2.8 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

### What is NELP?

- The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was formed in 1997-98 for exploration and production of oil and natural gas (excluding coal bed methane) and separate coal bed methane (CBM) policy was formulated.
- The main objective of NELP was to provide level playing field for both the public and private sector companies in exploration and production of hydrocarbons.
- The policy opened the exploration and production to private and foreign investment with 100% FDI.

### What were the problems with it?

- There are separate policies and licenses for different hydrocarbons such as conventional oil and gas, coal-bed methane, shale oil and gas and gas hydrates.
- Unconventional hydrocarbons (shale gas and oil) were unknown when NELP was framed.
- The production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) under NELP are based on the principle of “profit sharing” (i.e.) company is expected to share with the Government the profit. It leads to delay in implementing the projects.
- The exploration is confined to blocks which have been put on tender by the government.
- The pricing of gas in the current system is fixed administratively by the Government. This led to loss of revenue and large number of disputes.

### What is HELP?

- This policy is formulated to replace NELP and objectives of HELP are
- To enhance domestic oil and gas production
- Bring substantial investment
- Generate sizable employment
- Enhance Transparency
- Reduce administration discretion.

### What are the major aspects of the policy?

- **The Uniform license** for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbons enables the contractor to explore conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources under a single license.
- **Anopen acreage policy** – It gives the option to a hydrocarbon company to select the exploration blocks throughout the year without waiting for the formal bid from the government.
- **Revenue sharing model** – The Government will not be concerned with the cost incurred and will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil & gas.
- **Marketing and pricing freedom** – It provides the freedom of marketing and pricing to the gas production subject to ceiling price limit.
- Exploration is allowed through-out the contract period.
- Exploration phase for onshore areas have been increased and concessional royalty regime will be implemented for deep water and ultra-deep water areas.

### What will be the impact?

- The revenue sharing model of this policy reduces the government intervention in scrutinising the profit accumulated in implementing the property. This is in tune with the policy of “**Ease of Doing Business**”.
- The policy provides the marketing freedom for crude oil and natural gas, which is in tune with the policy of “**Minimum Government and Maximum Governance**”.
- This new hydrocarbon policy can help India reduce its import dependency.
- The policy provides ample opportunity to speed up the exploration process.
- HELP 2016 is more about gas than oil, giving more thrust to natural gas which is the cleanest fossil fuel and also has lower amounts of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides than other fossil fuels.
- Thus this policy aims to achieve the target of cutting the crude oil import dependence to 67% by 2022.

## 2.9 National Capital Goods Policy 2016

### What is the aim?

- The aim of the policy is create game changing strategies for the capital goods sector.

- The key recommendations and elements of the policy have been formulated to support and boost development of this crucial sector
- Some of the key issues addressed include availability of finance, raw material, innovation and technology, productivity, quality and environment friendly manufacturing practices, promoting exports and creating domestic demand.

### **What are its objectives?**

- To increase production of capital goods from Rs.2,30,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.7,50,000 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.
- The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27 percent to 40 percent of
- It will increase the share of domestic production in India's demand from 60 percent to 80 percent thus making India a net exporter of capital goods.
- The policy also aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- The objectives of the policy will be met by the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises in a time bound manner through obtaining approval for schemes as per the roadmap of policy interventions.

### **What are its advantages?**

- The Policy will help in realising the vision of 'Building India as the World class hub for Capital Goods'.
- It will also play a pivotal role in overall manufacturing as the pillar of strength to the vision of 'Make in India'.
- It also advocates adoption of a uniform Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime ensuring effective GST rate across all capital goods sub-sectors competitive with import duty after set-off with a view to ensure a level-playing field.

## **2.10 New National Educational Policy**

### **Why in news?**

The government has decided to junk the TSR Subramanian committee report on education reform.

### **What were the recommendations of Subramanian committee?**

- T.S.R.Subramanian committee was formed in the year 2015 and the committee submitted following recommendations.
- Indian Education Service (IES) should be established as an all India service with the cadre controlling authority vesting Resource HRD ministry.
- The outlay on education should be raised to at least 6% of GDP without further loss of time.
- Teacher Entrance Tests (TET) should be made compulsory for recruitment of all teachers.
- Compulsory licensing for teachers in government and private schools should be made mandatory.
- Pre-school education for children in the age group of 4 to 5 years should be declared as a right .

- The no detention policy must be continued for young children until completion of class V when the child will be 11 years old.
- A National Level Test open to every student who has completed class XII from any School Board should be designed.
- The mid-day meal (MDM) program should now be extended to cover students of secondary schools.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) needs to be made leaner and thinner and given the role of disbursal of scholarships and fellowships.
- Top 200 foreign universities should be allowed to open campuses in India.

#### **What are the issues with these recommendations?**

- The original report recommended that political parties to be banned from appointing Vice Chancellors for universities.
- A radical reform it had recommended is separate bureaucratic framework for HRD functions.
- An autonomous body to handle the selection of teachers for government schools and colleges was also recommended.
- These recommendations may not have been new, but nearly all of them broke with the dogmas of the past.

#### **What is the purpose of new committee?**

- The government is not satisfied with the reports of TSR Subramanian Committee.
- Fresh and comprehensive reports are the main objectives for the government to announce the new committee.
- The new committee will be headed by ISRO chief K Kasturirangan.
- The new committee will consider inputs from the Subramanian committee reports.

#### **What should be done?**

The government's intention on reforming education would be successful only when it is ready to accept the recommendations and implement them.

### **2.11 Automotive Mission Plan, 2016-26**

#### **What is the policy about?**

- It was released by Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
- The Automotive Mission Plan [AMP 2026] envisages creation of 65 million jobs.
- The salient features of the Automotive Mission Plan 2016-26 [AMP 2026] are:-
- The Indian Automotive industry to be a top job creator – 65 million additional jobs.
- The Indian Automotive industry to be the prime mover of Manufacturing sector and “Make in India” Programme.
- The Indian Automotive industry to aim at increasing exports of vehicles by 5 times and components by 7.5 times.
- For success of AMP 2026, there is a need of coordinated and stable policy regime for the automotive sector.
- Specific interventions are envisaged to sustain and improve manufacturing competitiveness and to address challenges of environment and safety.

## 2.12 National Action Plan for Children

- National Action Plan for Children, 2016 (NPAC) was developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- The Plan has four key priority areas –
  1. survival,
  2. health and nutrition
  3. education and development
  4. protection and participation.
- NPAC defines objectives, sub-objectives, strategies, action points and indicators for measuring progress under the four key priority areas and also identifies key stakeholders for the implementation of different strategies.
- The plan also puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change, etc.
- The strategies and action points largely draw upon the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments. However, for new and emerging issues related to children; it also suggests formulation of new programmes and strategies, as required.
- The plan also takes into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a roadmap towards achieving them through co-ordination and convergence with different stakeholders.

## 2.13 Centre to allow Swapping of Coal

### Why in news?

Power Minister has announced schemes to raise liquidity and enable swapping of coal.

### What are the measures?

- **Raising Liquidity** - Power minister Piyush Goyal said that the ministry was looking at making regulatory changes to enable public sector entity Power Grid to divert some of its operational assets and use the liquidity for future projects.
- Currently, Power Grid has accumulated gross fixed assets worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore. The company has been investing over Rs 20,000 crore as capital expenditure each year in the last few years and is expected to spend Rs 25,000 crore in the current fiscal.
- Government officials, however, said that the proposal for hiving off Power Grid assets was still at a conceptual stage and any further development would require an extensive study of various options.
- **Coal Swapping** - In May, the government had allowed coal swapping among central and state-owned power plants to bring in operational efficiency.
- Now it also announced that the government would allow swapping of coal among government and private firms.

### What is Coal Mitra Portal?

- To facilitate the coal swapping, Goyal launched 'Coal Mitra' web portal, which would indicate the most efficient way of utilising coal from by an end-user.
- The Portal has been designed to bring about flexibility in Utilization of Domestic Coal by transferring the reserves to more cost efficient State/Centre owned or Private sector generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers
- The portal would be used by the state and central generation companies to display information about normative fixed and variable charges of electricity for the previous month as well as margin available for additional generation to enable the utilities in identifying stations for transfer of coal.
- It would host data on operational and financial parameters of each coal based station; quantity and source of supply coal to the power plant; and distance of power plant form the coal mine.

### 2.14 Water in Concurrent List

#### Why in news?

The Centre recently held discussions with states on the issue of bringing water into the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

#### What is the current situation?

- India water is a State subject, but the provisions are quite complicated.
- The primary entry in the Constitution relating to water **Entry 17** in the State List.
- It brings water including water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power under state list.
- But it also enables the Union to deal with Inter-State rivers if Parliament legislates in public interest, via Entry 56 in the Union List.
- This provision has not been used by Parliament.
- Under Entry 56, Parliament enact the River Boards Act 1956 to the establish River Boards for inter-State rivers.
- But no such board has been established under the Act.
- It is because of the strong resistance by State governments to any enhancement of the role of the Central government.
- Therefore each riparian state has an unrestrained hold over the portion of the river that runs through its territory.
- The Centre cannot intervene unless asked by the contending parties or directed by the judiciary to do so.

#### What will happen due to the change?

- If a subject is added to the concurrent list, both the state and the centre can make laws on that subject.
- In case of conflict between the central and state law on the subject, the central law prevails.

- But if the state law is reserved for the consideration of the President and he gave his assent, then the state law will prevail in that state.

### What is the need?

- **Principle** - The current provision disregards the principle of equitable sharing of common property.
- Countless inter-state water disputes of the present days are due to this.
- **Resource depletion** - The extravagant and wasteful usage of river water one state deprives other states to meet even their essential needs.
- Same is the case of over-exploitation of ground water at one spot can have detrimental effects in neighbouring areas.
- **Non Compliance** - The states most often reject pleas by the Centre or awards of tribunals appointed by it to arbitrate on these matters.
- The court judgments also remain unimplemented. e.g Verdict on Cauvery waters and Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal.
- **Constitutional Error** - Moreover, the Constitution-makers could not have anticipated the water scarcity and crisis of present times. Neither they could have foreseen the climate change and its impact on water resources.

### What should be done?

- In 2011 Ashok Chawla Committee underscored the need for a comprehensive national legislation on water either by bringing water in the Concurrent List or through a legal framework for treating water as a unified common resource.
- The parliamentary standing committee on water resources and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee also have favoured the shift.
- The states should co-operate with centre on this.
- If the states refuse, the Centre should explore other options effectively using Entry 56 in the Union List.
- But at the same time enough safeguards should be taken to avoid centralisation which deprives states of their rights.

## 2.15 Mandatory Aadhaar

### Why in news?

Aadhaar is being made mandatory for many government schemes like withdrawing pension money to access to mid-day meals at school.

### What is Aadhaar?

- Aadhaar is a 12 digit unique-identity number issued to all Indian residents based on their biometric and demographic data.
- The data is collected by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- It is a statutory authority established by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.
- Over a billion Aadhaar numbers have now been handed out.

### What are the positives of having Aadhaar?

- The number would serve as a unique identifier, suitable for all forms of identification.
- The government can transfer welfare payments directly to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, cutting out India's notoriously corrupt middlemen.
- It could be used to borrow money, tap into a pension account.
- It was a simple, lightweight, elegant solution with a minimal cost.
- Initially using it was voluntary.
- Proving one's identification is very simple.
- Aadhaar designers promised robust privacy legislation.

### What are the problems of Aadhaar?

- Presently in India, providing certificates for one's identity is sometimes impossible.
- Supreme Court has mandated that Aadhaar should be voluntary and limited to the programs that require it. But the government is forcing Indians to use their ID number to access all available government services.
- Concerns about the security of the Unique ID system still remain.
- Indians do not have no fundamental right to privacy.
- Therefore citizens are left trusting Aadhaar's administrators i.e UIDAI. It needs to be clearly accountable, but that's not the case.

## 2.16 Censor Board

### Why in news?

- The Central Board of Film Certification i.e the 'Censor Board' has turned down a film KaBodyscapes recently.
- It has been viewed thrice by the Board.

### What is CBFC?

- CBFC is a statutory body under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- It regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by CBFC.
- The Board consists of non-official members and a Chairman (all of whom are appointed by Central Government) and functions with headquarters at Mumbai.
- It has **nine Regional offices**, one each at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati.
- The Regional Offices are assisted in the examination of films by Advisory Panels.
- The members of the panels are nominated by Central Government by drawing people from different walks of life for a period of 2 years.

- The Certification process is in accordance with The Cinematograph Act, 1952, The Cinematograph (certification) Rules, 1983, and the guidelines issued by the Central government u/s 5 (B)

### **What is the film about?**

- It revolves around three characters.
- It includes a homosexual couple, of which one happens to be a Muslim and the other is a Hanuman-bhakt who comes from a family of right-wingers.
- Third is a feministic woman.
- The story is about how they struggle to find space and happiness in a conservative Indian City.
- The movie makers clarify that the film is about societal attitudes towards individual freedom and is not a critique of religion.

### **What are the Board's objections?**

- The board is of view that the film is glorifying the subject of gay and homosexual relationship.
- They also held that the film is explicit of scene offending Hindu sensibilities depicting vulgarity, nudity and obscenity through the movie.
- It also held that the movie might invoke a 'law and order' problem.

### **Why is the move wrong?**

- It is against the freedom of expression
- The view that the homosexuality is against culture is unwarranted as many temple sculpture in India celebrates sexual union of every kind.
- Moreover, there is no stricture against the depiction of nudity in Hinduism.
- Court judgments have categorically rejected the argument of 'law and order' as a criterion for banning a film.
- The Constitution gives an individual the freedom to practise his or her religion.
- It does not give the right to be protected from any reference to the religion that may be interpreted as giving offence. All practices are open to scrutiny and no 'religious immunity' is offered.
- India is a secular republic and no special rights are accorded to religion. The political rights are due only to individuals not to a whole religion.

### **What should be done?**

- The Board's authority to effectively ban films should go.
- CBFC should only be a film certification body whose scope should be restricted to categorizing the suitability of the film to audience groups on the basis of age and maturity.

### 3. SCHEMES

#### Central sector schemes and Centrally Sponsored Scheme

- Central sector schemes are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery.
- Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. They account for 11% of the Central Government's expenditure.
- In Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States and the implementation is by the State Governments.
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention. They account for 10% of Central governments expenditure.

#### 3.1 Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

##### Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana

- It is to provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss.
- It is compulsory for farmers availing crop loans for notified crops in notified areas and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.
- **Premium rate** - There is no capping in premium and one premium rate on pan-India basis. It is 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops, respectively.
- There is no upper limit on the government subsidy i.e the difference between premium and insurance charges paid by the farmer.
- **Losses covered** - Non-Preventable risk such as Natural Fire, Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone and Inundation has also been included as a localized calamity. Post Harvest losses also covered.
- A **cluster approach** will be adopted under which a group of districts with variable risk profile will be allotted to an insurance company
- Use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smart phones & Drones for quick estimation of crop losses to ensure early settlement of claims.

It differs from the previous schemes like National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) in the following ways,

| Features                     | NAIS | MNAIS                             | PMFBY   |
|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Premium rates                | Low  | High                              | Lower than even NAIS                                |
| One Season – One Premium     | Yes  | No                                | Yes   |
| Insurance Amount cover       | Full | Capped                            | Full  |
| Localized Risk coverage      | No   | Hail storm<br>Land slide          | Hail storm, Land slide<br>Inundation                |
| Post Harvest Losses coverage | No   | Coastal areas - for cyclonic rain | Coastal areas - for cyclonic rain and seasonal rain |
| Use of Technology            | Yes  | Intended                          | Mandatory   |

### Soil Health Card Scheme

- It is a report provided to all farmers which informs of the nutrient content in the soil.
- It gives crop-wise recommendation of appropriate dosage of fertilizers and nutrients.
- It will be provided once in 3 years.
- The scheme is to be implemented on 50:50 sharing pattern between centre and state.

### Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

- It is to promote organic farming and the products will be linked with the market.
- It will be implemented in a cluster based approach and farmers will be funded to meet the expenditure from farm to market.
- There is no liability for farmers for expenditure on certification.

### Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

- It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- NAM is a virtual market but it is connected to a physical market (mandi) at the back end and promotes genuine price discovery.
- Funding - Funded by Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) which is set up through the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
- License - Liberal licensing of traders and commission agents by state authorities and one license for a trader is valid across all markets in the state.
- Market Fee - Single point levy on the first wholesale purchase from the farmer.
- Implementation - A Central Sector Scheme. Willing states enact suitable provisions in their APMC act for integration with the e-platform.
- Soil Testing Laboratories available in the mandis itself.

### National Food Security Mission

- It is launched to enhance the production of Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and commercial crops ( Cotton, jute and Sugarcane).
- Targets - Production of rice, wheat and pulses would be increased by 10, 8, 4 million tonnes respectively and Coarse cereals by 3 million tonnes.
- Funding - 50:50 by Centre and State for food crops and 100% centre funding for cash crops.
- It would be implemented through cluster demonstration, distribution of high yield seeds with farm mechanization, & Integrated pest management.
- (**Note** - National Food Security Act is different from the Mission and the act is administered by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs).

### Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- Main objectives are -
  1. Extending the coverage of irrigation
  2. Improving water use efficiency
  3. End to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.
- It is formulated by amalgamating ongoing schemes
  1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR).
  2. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) - Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development.
  3. On Farm Water Management (OFWM) - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).
- Implementation - Decentralised manner through State Irrigation Plan and District Irrigation Plan.

### National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

- The mega project has three major objectives of Strategic research, Technology demonstrations and Capacity building.
- It was launched by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).
- Its aims to make farmers self-reliant by use of climate resilient agricultural technologies and management of natural and manmade resources for sustaining agriculture in the era of climate change.
- It has four components:
  1. Strategic research on adaptation and mitigation,
  2. Technology demonstration to cope with current climate variability in 100 vulnerable districts,
  3. Capacity Building
  4. Sponsored competitive research to fill critical gaps.

### Small Farmer's Agriculture-Business Consortium (SFAC)

- The scheme aims to support new ventures in agro-based industries and to promote the farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and their integration in agriculture value chain.
- SFAC gives Venture Capital Assistance and Project Development Facility to supports the new ventures in agro based industries.
- **Beneficiaries:** Individuals, farmers, producer groups, partnership, propriety firms, Self Help Groups and companies etc.

### Krishi Vigyan Kendras

- KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs) are agricultural extension centers created by ICAR to provide various types of farm support to the agricultural sector.

- It is created to serve as a single window mechanism for addressing the technology needs of farmers and acts as a link among researchers, extension functionaries like NGOs and farmers.
- The farm support includes farm advisory service including climate resilient technologies, training programme for NGOs and front line demonstration and on Farm testing.
- KVK operates under the administrative control of State Agricultural University(SAU) or central institute.

#### **MeraGaon - MeraGaurav**

- The scheme envisages scientists to select villages and provide information to the farmers on technical and other related aspects.
- It includes scientist functioning at the various centers and institutes of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and working with state agricultural universities.
- They may function with the help of KVKs and Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

#### **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**

- It incentives states to enhance investments in Agriculture and Allied sectors to achieve 4% growth rate.
- It is a State Plan scheme with 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The allocations are based up on the State plan expenditure for Agricultural sectors which is determined based on the average expenditure incurred by the State Government during the three years prior to the previous year.
- The preparation of the District and State Agriculture Plans is mandatory and encourages convergence with other programmes such as NREGS.
- Sub-schemes include
  1. Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)
  2. Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP)
  3. Saffron Mission
  4. Crop Diversification Program
  5. Livestock Health & Disease Control / Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)
  6. Beekeeping
  7. Targeting Rice Fallow Areas (TRFA)

#### **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme**

- It was launched to promote agricultural education.
- Under the scheme 100 centres are opened with a fund of Rs.5.35 crore.
- “Attracting and retaining youth in Agriculture (ARYA)” is a project sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR) and is being implemented at KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVKs).
- The main objective of the project was to provide complete knowledge and skill on processing, value addition and marketing of coconut and banana products through capacity building programmes involving research and development organizations.

## DAIRY SECTOR

### Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- The mission is launched for conservation and development of indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner.
- It is a project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.
- The objectives of this mission includes Conservation of indigenous breeds and their development to improve their genetic makeup, enhancing the milk productivity and distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission is being implemented through “State Implementing Agencies (SIA) viz Livestock Development Boards.
- Scheme is implemented on 100% grant-in-aid basis and throughout the country.
- Implementation
  1. Establishment of Integrated Indigenous cattle centres "Gokul Gram".
  2. Establishment of Breeder's societies "GopalanSangh".
  3. Award to Farmers "GopalRatna" and Breeders' societies "Kamadhenu".
  4. Assistance to institution which are repositories of best germplasm.

### Pashudhan Sanjivani

- An animal wellness programme encompassing provision of Animal Health Cards - "NakulSwasthyaPatra".
- It also issues UID identification of animals in milk and establish a National Database for controlling the spread of animal disease and keep tracking of trade in livestock and its products.

### E-Pashudhan Haat Portal

- It is launched under the National Mission on Bovine Productivity for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds.
- This portal helps farmers to be aware about breed wise information on indigenous breeds. Farmers/breeders can sale animals of indigenous breeds through this portal.

## 3.2 Ministry of AYUSH

### Swasthya Raksha Programme

- To organize Swasthya Rakshan Out Patient Departments (OPD), SwasthyaParikshan Camps and Health/Hygiene awareness programme.
- Awareness about cleanliness of domestic surroundings and environment.
- Provide medical aid/incidental support in the adopted Colonies/villages.
- Documentation of demographic information, food habits, hygiene conditions, seasons, lifestyle etc., incidence/prevalence of disease and their relation to the incidence of disease.
- Assessment of health status and propagation of Ayurvedic concept of pathya-apathya and extension of health care services.

### 3.3 Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana

- It is a direct market intervention scheme of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- Its objective is to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, especially the poor, throughout the country, through outlets known as **Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs)**.
- It also encourages doctors to prescribe generic medicines and reduces unit cost of treatment per person.
- The State Governments are required to provide space in Government Hospital premises or any other suitable locations for the running of the JAS'.
- Any Civil Society with experience of minimum 3 years of successful operation in welfare activities can also open the JAS outside the hospital premises.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency which will provide one-time assistance in furnishing and establishment costs of the outlet.
- It is a self-sustaining business model not dependent on continuous government subsidies or assistance.

### 3.4 Ministry of Civil Aviation

#### Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN

- The objective is to facilitate regional air connectivity by making it affordable.
- It offers concessions to the airlines to encourage them to fly on regional routes like levies or charges imposed by the airport operators, excise duty at 2% and VAT at 1% on aviation turbine fuel etc
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency.
- The airfare per RCS seat should not exceed Rs 3,500 and will be determined based on the flight distance.
- The selected airlines will have to commit 50% of the seats on RCS flights as RCS seats with 3-7 operational flights per week.
- A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) will be created to subsidise operations under the RCS.
- The central government will fund 80% of the losses incurred and the rest will be covered by the states.
- This is provided through the **Viability gap funding (VGF)** to the selected airline operators from RCF, and state governments will be required to reimburse the applicable share. VGF will be provided for three years from the date of commencement of operations of such RCS flights.
- Benefits under the Scheme will be available for **a period of 10 years** from the date of its notification.
- RCS will be made operational only in states and at airports which are willing to provide concessions required under the Scheme.
- Maharashtra is the first state to sign agreement with centre for RCS.

### 3.5 Ministry of Commerce and Industry

#### Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC)

- It aims at protecting the growers from the risks such as yield loss, pest attacks and income decline caused by fall in prices through crop insurance mechanism, thereby stabilizing income of growers to ensure their sustainability.
- It is available only to plantation crops, for which crop insurance can no longer be availed from PMFBY.
- The duration of the pilot scheme shall be one crop cycle commencing from the year 2016-17 which may spread over 2 years.
- RISPC is an improved form of the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme which was closed in 2013.
- It covers small growers of Rubber, Tea, Coffee (Robusta and Arabica), Tobacco and Cardamom having 10 ha or less landholding.
- The scheme is compulsory for growers registered with the respective Commodity Boards (CBs) and it is implemented on pilot basis in 7 states.
- The scheme will operate on the principle of 'Area Approach' and Commodity Board in consultation with the concerned State Government shall designate an area as Insurance Unit (IU), which can be a village panchayat or any other equivalent unit.
- Scheme will cover income loss arising out of yield loss due to non-preventable risks viz. drought, dry spells, flood, pest and diseases, hail storm etc and price fluctuation due to fall in international/domestic prices below the average price of last 5 years excluding the current year.
- Losses arising out of war and nuclear risk, malicious damage and other preventable risks are excluded.

**Note** - PSF for pulses is under Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

#### Start Up India Scheme

- It aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for growth of Start-ups.
- According to the scheme, a startup is an entity that is headquartered in India which was opened less than five years ago and has an annual turnover less than 25 crore.
- It provides -
  - Simple Compliance Regime for startups based on Self-certification.
  - Single window clearance based on mobile App.
  - Startup India Hub to handhold startups during various phases of their development
  - Legal support and fast-track patent examination by reducing 80% of the patent cost.
  - Faster exit for startups through modified new bankruptcy code ensuring 90 days exit window.
  - Credit Guarantee Fund for startups through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
  - Providing funding support through a Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rupees 10,000 crore

- Tax exemption on capital gains invested in Fund of Funds
- Tax exemption to startups for 3 years.
- Exemption from labour inspection for 3 years.
- Launch of innovation hub through Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with Self –Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) Program of NITI Aayog
- Harnessing private sector expertise for setting up incubators.
- The initiative is also aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among **SCs/STs, women communities.**
- Rural India's version of Startup India was named the **DeenDayalUpadhyaySwaniyojanYojana.**

### **e-Biz**

- It is a part of the 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under National e-Governance Programme.
- The platform is to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government- to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal.
- It enables a shift in the Governments' service delivery approach from being department-centric to customer-centric with single window portal.
- A business user can avail all services 24\*7 online end-to-end services i.e., online submission of forms, attachments, payments, tracking of status and also obtain the license/permit from eBiz portal.

### **Niryat Bandhu Scheme**

The objective of the NiryatBandhu Scheme is to reach out to the new and potential exporters and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.

## **3.6 Ministry of Communication and IT**

### **National Optical Fibre Network**

- It is to provide broadband connectivity to over two lakhs Gram Panchayats through optical fibre network with a minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps.
- It is aimed to fill the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayat and Block level.
- Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the special purpose vehicle created as a PSU for execution of NOFN.
- It is funded by **Universal Service Obligation Fund.**
- The project was intended to enable the government of India to provide e-services and e-applications nationally like e-health, e-education and e-governance etc.
- All the Service Providers like Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), ISPs, Cable TV operators etc. will be given non-discriminatory access to the National Optic Fibre Network and can launch various services in rural areas.
- It is under the Digital India program.

## Jeevan Pramaan

- One of the main requisites for the pensioners to avail pension is to provide life certificates.
- Jeevan Pramaan aims to streamline the process of getting Life certificate and making it hassle free and easier to get.
- It is a AADHAR Biometric Authentication based digital life certificates for Pensioners.
- It will do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate every year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into their account.
- Submission of Digital Life Certificate also ensures authenticity of pension payments.

## Digi Locker

- A secure dedicated personal electronic space for storing the documents of resident Indian citizens will be created.
- It is to provide citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud.
- The space can be utilized for storing personal documents like University certificates, PAN cards, voter id cards, etc., and the URI's of the e-documents issued by various issuer departments.
- It is a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents.
- There is also an associated facility for e-signing documents.

## 3.7 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

### National Food Security Act, 2013

- It aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of India's population i.e 75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas.
- It converts the various existing food security schemes into legal entitlements (i.e.) from welfare based approach to rights based approach.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, ICDS scheme and the PDS. It also recognizes maternity entitlements.
- Under NFSA, each beneficiaries is entitled to 5 kilograms of food grains per month at Rs3 ,Rs. 2 , Rs. 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively.
- However, the beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana will keep receiving the 35 Kg per household per month at same rates.
- It guarantees age appropriate meal, free of charge through local anganwadi for children up to 6 months and one free meal for children in age group 6-14 years in schools.
- Every pregnant and lactating mother is entitled to a free meal at the local anganwadi as well as maternity benefits of Rs 6,000, in instalments. Maternal benefits not extend to Government employees.
- The identification of eligible households is left to state governments.

### Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- The scheme aims to make Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more focused and targeted towards the poorest section of population.
- Beneficiary families under the scheme are distributed 35 kg of rice and wheat at the rates of Rs. 3 per kg and Rs. 2 per kg respectively. Coarse grains, on the other hand, are distributed at the rate of Rs. 1 per kg.
- Other families that are not part of AAY but are covered under NFSA receive grains at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg.
- Under the scheme, subsidies are fully borne by the central government and States/UT bear the distribution cost.
- The scheme has been expanded to cover 2.50 cr households and scale of issue has been increased to 35 kg per family per month.

### 3.8 Ministry of Culture

#### Project Mausam

- Project 'Mausam' is to showcase a **Transnational Mixed Route** (including Natural and Cultural Heritage) on the World Heritage List.
- It aims to understand how the knowledge and manipulation of the monsoon winds has shaped interactions across the Indian Ocean and led to the spread of shared knowledge systems, traditions, technologies and ideas along maritime routes.
- Archaeological Society of India (ASI) is the nodal agency and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is its Research Unit and National Museum & IGNCA is its Associate bodies.
- The project collates archaeological and historical research and document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions among the 39 Indian Ocean countries.
- Goals - Reviving lost linkages with nations, Creating links to existing World Heritage sites, Redefining 'Cultural Landscapes', Achieving transnational nomination under World Heritage.

### 3.9 Ministry of Defence

#### One Rank One Pension

It seeks to ensure that a uniform pension is paid to the defence personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, irrespective of their date of retirement.

#### Issues

As for the implementation status, about Rs.5,500crore had been disbursed; of the roughly 20.6 lakh pensioners, only one lakh are still to get the money.

- These are the following difficulties
- **Financial** - The scheme is effective July 1, 2014, with 2013 as the base year. The veterans wanted OROP from April 1, 2014 and 2015 as the base year.
- The veterans wanted to take the highest pay scale of 2013 for revising pension and not the average of the maximum and minimum as intended by the government and not to link the OROP with the Seventh Pay Commission.

- Implementing OROP will cost the government at least an estimated Rs. 8,300 crore annually and the Finance Ministry has to take the final call on it now.
- **Administrative** – The records going back further than 25 years were no longer available which is a major administrative “difficulty in introducing the concept”.
- If today’s pension and emoluments are passed automatically to someone who retired 30 years ago, there will be inherent discrimination against terms and conditions of service which would lead to discrimination under the Constitution.
- **Setting precedent** - There is also the likelihood of civilian employees raising the demand for OROP.
- The government has proposed a review of every five years. The veterans want an annual review.
- There is still no clarity on the **criteria of premature retirement**. Around 40% opt to take premature retirement because they are not promoted and have to work on the same rank till their compulsory retirement.
- The another issue is that the long delay in the implementation of the OROP. Around 2 million military personnel covered under the OROP scheme. The arrears are to be paid in four half-yearly instalments. Only first instalment has been completely paid so far.

### 3.10 Ministry of Electronics and IT

#### Digital India

- It is a programme to transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy.
- The scheme is coordinated by the department of Electronics and IT and implemented by all government departments.
- The scheme is to be monitored by a Digital India committee comprised of several ministers.
- The programme will be implemented in phases from the current year till 2018.
- Digital India has three core components. These includes
  1. The creation of digital infrastructure,
  2. Delivering services digitally,
  3. Digital literacy
- 9 Key points of Digital India Programme are
  1. Universal Access to Phones
  2. Broadband Highways
  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 – Target NET ZERO Imports
  8. IT for Jobs
  9. Early Harvest Programmes

- It is an umbrella programme which includes the hitherto National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) to connect 2,50,000 gram Panchayats by providing internet connectivity to all citizens.
- Digital India includes development of an electronic development fund and envisages Net-Zero Electronics Import Target by 2020.

### **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)**

- It is the new scheme to make rural households **digitally literate by 2019**.
- This scheme is initiated under Digital India Programme and expected to be one of the largest digital literacy programs in the world.
- It would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers/digital access devices.

### **3.11 Ministry of Finance**

#### **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana**

- The programme was launched to give access to cheap credit to poor and small fledgling businesspersons.
- It will provide loans from public sector, regional, rural, State and urban cooperative banks to non-farm income generating enterprises in manufacturing, trading and services whose credit needs are below Rs.10 lakh.
- PMMY can be availed under three categories – Shishu, which will cover loans up to Rs. 50,000; Kishor for loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh; Tarun for loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh.
- Mudra debit cards are issued to borrowers. Using these, they can withdraw the loan from any ATM in India, as and when they need the money.

#### **Krishi Kalyan Cess (KKC)**

- It is a levy/tax imposed by the Union Government on all services, which are liable to service tax, at the rate of 0.5% for financing improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers.
- The proceeds are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament, utilise the money for such specified purposes as it may consider necessary.
- KKC is different from the Krishi Kalyan Surcharge (KKS). Surcharge levied at 7.5% of the undisclosed income will be called as KKS, which is also to be used for agriculture and rural economy.

#### **Gold Monetisation Scheme**

- It is a gold savings account which will earn interest for the gold that you deposit in it.
- Deposited gold can be in any physical form – jewellery, coins or bars.
- The tenure of gold deposits is likely to be for a minimum of one year.
- The long-term objective is to reduce the country's reliance on the import of gold to meet domestic demand.
- The scheme will also help in mobilizing the large amount of gold lying as an idle asset with households.

#### **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**

- Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) are government securities denominated in grams of gold.

- They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- Investors have to pay the issue price in any of our branches or through Internet Banking.
- The bonds will be redeemed to the customer's account on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.
- The risks and costs of storage of physical gold are eliminated.
- Investors are assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest.

### **National Pension Scheme**

- NPS is a government approved pension scheme for Indian citizens in the 18-60 age group.
- While central and state government employees have to subscribe to NPS, it's optional for others.
- The NPS is regulated by the Pension Funds Regulatory Development Authority(PFRDA).

### **Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)**

- AABY is a Government of India Social Security Scheme administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- It provides Death and Disability cover to persons between the age group of 18 yrs to 59 yrs.
- It is a group insurance scheme providing insurance cover for a sum of Rs 30,000/- on natural death, Rs. 75,000/- on death due to accident, Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability due to accident and Rs. 75,000/- for total permanent disability due to accident.
- The total annual premium under the scheme is Rs. 200/- per beneficiary of which 50% is contributed from the Social Security Fund created by the Central Government and maintained by LIC. The balance is contributed by the State Government / Nodal Agency / Individual.

### **Project Shaksham**

- The project is for creation of a New Indirect Tax Network (System Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- The project will help in
  1. Implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST),
  2. Extension of the Indian Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) and
  3. Other taxpayer-friendly initiatives under Digital India and Ease of Doing Business of Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- It is to ensure readiness of CBEC's IT systems by April, 1, 2017, when GST is to be introduced.

### **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana**

- It is a part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.
- The scheme will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

- It is to provide social security to elderly persons aged 60 years and above by giving an assured pension at a guaranteed rate of 8% per annum for 10 years.
- The differential return, i.e., the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis.

### **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**

- APY will be 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).
- It is open to all bank account holders who are not members of any statutory social security scheme.
- It mainly targets on unorganised sector workers.
- Under the APY, the subscribers would receive the fixed pension ranging from Rs. 1000 - Rs. 5000 per month, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.
- The age of joining APY is 18 years to 40 years. Therefore, minimum period of contribution by the subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more.
- The Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower for a period of 5 years upto 2020.

### **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**

- It is aimed at providing accidental insurance cover at an highly affordable premium of Rs.12 per year.
- The Scheme will be available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a savings bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit on an annual renewal basis.
- The risk coverage available will be Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and Rs. 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.
- It is offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company who are willing to offer the product on similar terms.
- Individuals can exit and re-join the scheme subjecting to conditions.
- It has simplified procedures and the documentary requirements.
- It serves the goal of financial inclusion by achieving penetration of insurance down to the weaker sections of the society, ensuring their or their family's financial security, which otherwise gets pulled to the ground in case of any unexpected and unfortunate accident.

### **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**

- It offers coverage for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years ( life cover upto age 55) having a savings bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.
- A life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs is available for a one year period at a premium of Rs.330/- per annum per member and is renewable every year.
- It is administered through LIC and other Indian private Life Insurance companies.
- A person can join PMJJBY with one Insurance company with one bank account only.

- Eligible persons can join the scheme without giving self-certification of good health.
- A death certificate and simple claim form is required to submit and the claim amount will be transferred to nominees account.

### Stand Up India Scheme

- It is to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women.
- The schemes provides for composite loans by banks between Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 100 lakh for setting up a new enterprise in the non-farm sector.
- These loans would be eligible for refinance and credit guarantee cover.

### Google Tax

- The Google Tax was announced to introduce a tax on the income as accrue to a foreign e-commerce company outside of India.
- Any person or entity that makes a payment exceeding Rs 1 lakh in a financial year to a non-resident technology company will need to withhold 6% tax on the gross amount being paid as an equalisation levy or Google tax.
- This tax, however, is only applicable when the payment has been made to avail certain B2B services from these technology companies.

## 3.12 Ministry of Food Processing Industries

### Mega Food Parks

- The Scheme aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers
- The food parks aims to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers' income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.
- It is based on “**Cluster**” approach and envisages a well-defined processing zone containing state-of-the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well-established supply chain.
- Pattern of Assistance -
- In General areas - one time capital grant of 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.50 crore.
- In Hilly & Difficult terrain - Capital grant of 75% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 crore in North East Regions.

## 3.13 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

### National Health Mission

The broad objectives of National Health Mission includes the following

1. Reduce MMR to 1/1000 live births
2. Reduce IMR to 25/1000 live births
3. Reduce TFR to 2.1
4. Prevention and reduction of anaemia in women aged 15–49 years

5. Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non-communicable; injuries and emerging diseases
  6. Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure
  7. Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half
  8. Reduce prevalence of Leprosy to <math><1/10000</math> population and incidence to zero in all districts
  9. Annual Malaria Incidence to be <math><1/1000</math>
  10. Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts
  11. Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <math><1</math> case per 10000 population in all blocks
- The Mission has two sub missions such as National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission.
  - Public health being a state subject, support is being provided under NHM to the States/UTs for strengthening their health care delivery systems

### **National Rural Health Mission**

- NRHM aims to provide Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Health and Adolescent (RMNCH+A) services to the rural deprived people through its network of ASHA, ANMs and AWWs.
- It focus on providing fully functional, community owned and decentralised health delivery system in rural areas.
- NRHM, also called NRHM-RCH Flexipool is one of the components of NHM and is for all towns and villages below the population of 50,000.
- Various initiatives under NRHM
  1. Accredited social health activists
  2. Janani Suraksha Yojana
  3. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
  4. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)
  5. Mainstreaming AYUSH – revitalizing local health traditions.

### **ASHA, ANM and AWW**

- Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is a trained female community health activist who acts as a interface between the community and the public health system.
- ASHA must be women resident of the village who is literate with formal education upto class eight and preferably in the age group of 25-45 years.
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) is a resource person for ASHA and provides on-job training and guidance and ensures that ASHA gets the compensation for performance.
- Anganwadi Worker (AWW) guides ASHA in performing activities such as organising Health Day at Anganwadi Centre and AWW is a depot holder for drug kits and will be issuing it to ASHA.

### Janani Suraksha Yojana

- The objective of the JSY is to reduce maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women by **providing conditional cash assistance of Rs.1400.**
- There is no bar on age of mother, number of children or type of institution i.e a government or accredited private health facility.
- Financial assistance under JSY is available to all pregnant women in states that have low institutional delivery rates, namely, UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha, and J&K. They are categorized as **Low Performing States (LPS).**
- In **High Performing States (HPS)**, where the levels of institutional delivery are satisfactory, pregnant women from BPL/SC/ST households only are entitled for JSY benefit.
- The scheme also provides performance based incentives to ASHAs.

### Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- The scheme entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to an absolutely free and no expense delivery including C- section.
- All expenses are borne by the government.
- A pregnant woman is also entitled to free transport from home to the government health facility.
- Entitlements include free drugs and consumables, free diagnostic, free blood, free diet up to 3 days for normal delivery and 7 days for C-section.
- Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick newborns accessing public health institutions for healthcare till 30 days after birth.
- It also provides for free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home.
- This initiative will also help in reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

### Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- RBSY envisages Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services and subsumes the existing school health programme.
- The scheme aims at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 'D's viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability.
- The 0 - 6 years age group will be specifically managed at District Early Intervention Center ( DEIC ) level while for 6 -18 years age group, managed at existing public health facilities.
- DEIC will act as referral linkages for both the age groups.
- Children under 6 years will be screened by Mobile Block Health teams at the Anganwadi centre and those between 6-18 years will be screened at the local schools at least once a year in government and government aided schools

### **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)**

- It is a **health programme for adolescents**, which focuses on age groups 10-19 years with universal coverage.
- Key Principles are adolescent participation and leadership, Equity and inclusion, Gender Equity and strategic partnerships with other sectors and stakeholders.
- **Focus areas**
  1. Improve nutrition - Reduce the prevalence of malnutrition and iron-deficiency anaemia (IDA) among adolescent girls and boys.
  2. Improve sexual and reproductive health
  3. Enhance mental health
  4. Prevent injuries and violence
  5. Prevent substance misuse
  6. Address Non-Communicable diseases such as hypertension, stroke, cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes.
- Thus it envisions enabling all adolescents in India to realize their full potential by making informed and responsible decisions related to their health and well-being and by accessing the services.

### **National Urban Health Mission**

- To meet health care needs of the urban population with the focus on urban poor, slum dwellers, by making available to them essential primary health care services and Reducing their out of pocket expenses for treatment.
- It seeks to strengthen the existing health care service delivery system converging with various schemes implemented by the Ministries of Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Human Resource Development and Women & Child Development.
- It works in partnership with community and local bodies and NGOs and District health action plan is prepared.
- NUHM would cover all State capitals, district headquarters and cities/towns with a population of more than 50000.
- Centre-state funding pattern will be 75:25 for all the states and 90:10 for Special Category s States.

### **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**

- The scheme aims to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- It has two components
  1. Setting up of AIIMS like institutions and
  2. Upgradation of Government medical college institutions.

### Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

- The main objective of this scheme is to
  1. Provide financial protection against catastrophic health costs
  2. Improve access to quality health care for below poverty line households and other vulnerable groups in the unorganized sector
- It is a centrally sponsored health insurance scheme designed to target Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and unorganized workers like covering construction workers, street vendors etc.
- The premium cost is shared by Centre and the State.
- The beneficiaries are entitled to hospitalization coverage up to Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis i.e can be utilised by any family member.
- The coverage extends to maximum five members of the family which includes the head of household, spouse and up to three dependents including the provision to pay transport expense.
- The beneficiaries need to pay only Rs. 30 as registration fee for a year.
- Beneficiaries get a biometric-enabled smart card containing their fingerprints and photographs and this Single central smart card also to include other welfare schemes like Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and national old age pension scheme.
- Earlier the scheme was under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

### Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)

- It aims to provide financial assistance to BPL patients, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the 13 listed super specialty institutes or government hospitals.
- The central government/state government/PSU employees are not eligible.
- The financial assistance to such patients is provided in the form of 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has is being received.
- The States are needed to create their own State Illness Assistance funds in which central government contribute 50% of the fund and the fund is granted to Medical superintendent for treatment.
- The State government can grant up to Rs. 1.5 lakh in each individual case in their state and forward the cases that exceed Rs.1.5 lakh to RAN headquarters.
- A "Revolving Fund" which has been set up in 13mat Central Government hospitals/institutes.
- These hospitals can sanction financial assistance up to Rs.5 lakh, but beyond Rs.5 lakh it has to be referred to RAN headquarters.

### Mission Indra dhanush

- The mission aims to cover all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases.
- It includes diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B.
- It aims to fully immunize children under the age of two years and pregnant women with all available vaccines.

- The Mission is being implemented in 201 high focus districts in the country in the first phase which has nearly 50% of all unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children.
- The campaign is part of the Universal Immunisation Programme by 2020.
- The Ministry will be technically supported by WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and other donor partners.

### **Mission Parivar Vikas**

- The aim of the mission is to accelerate access to high quality family planning
- The focus of this initiative will be on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, dovetailing with new promotional schemes, ensuring commodity security, building capacity (service providers), creating an enabling environment along with close monitoring and implementation.
- It will be implemented initially in 145 districts where Total Fertility Rate is highest.
- These 145 districts are in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

### **Project Sunrise**

- The project is to tackle the increasing HIV prevalence in the North-Eastern states.
- It aims to diagnose 90 per cent of such drug addicts with HIV and put them under treatment by 2020.
- It will cover one lakh people living with HIV/AIDS by giving them treatment and care facilities free of cost.
- It will be implemented in addition to the existing projects of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).
- The project has been sponsored by US based Centre for Disease Control and would be implemented by Family Health International 360.

### **National Deworming Mission**

- According to WHO, India has the highest burden of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH) in the world.
- The mission is aimed to protect **children in the ages of 1-19 years** from intestinal worms i.e Helminths.
- Albendazole tablets will be given to all targeted children through Anganwadi centres and all schools.
- National Deworming day is observed on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**

- Under the scheme, **the pregnant ladies who are in 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters** will be given free health check-up and required treatment for free on every month.
- The health check-up includes a minimum package of prenatal care/antenatal care services i.e care given during pregnancy and medicines such as IFA supplements, calcium supplements etc would be provided to all pregnant women.
- The service will be completely free at designated government health facilities.
- The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector.

- Thus it aims to improve the quality and coverage of Antenatal Care (ANC) including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy.

### National Health Protection Scheme

- National Health Protection Scheme is an insurance policy under which poor people can get life insurance coverage up to 1 lakh.
- The main aim of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to those families who have lost their earning member in any accidents or natural calamities.
- Also the insurance scheme aims to protect the person from health diseases and other long term health issues due to any accidents.
- Beneficiaries are people below poverty line, economically weaker section and people who are listed under the deprivations according to socio-economic caste census of India.
- For Senior citizens of the age 60 years and above belonging to above mentioned category, an additional top-up package up to Rs.30,000 will be provided.

### Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

- The UIP basket has vaccines for ten diseases i.e BCG for **TB**, OPV for **poliomyelitis**, monovalent measles vaccine for **measles**, Rota Virus vaccine for **Diarrhoea**, JEV for **Japanese Encephalitis** & Pentavalent Vaccine for DPT (**diphtheria, pertussis** i.e whooping cough & **tetanus**) and **Hepatitis B & Pneumonia** due to Hib.
- Measles-rubella vaccine (MR) is added now to the UIP.
- India has set a target of **eliminating measles** and **controlling congenital rubella syndrome (CRS)**, caused by the rubella virus, by 2020

## 3. 14 Ministry of Home Affairs

### Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)

- It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Plan of Govt. of India.
- It is aimed to create a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Police.
- A nationwide networked infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system around “**investigation of crime and detection of criminals**” will be created to automate police functions at police Station and higher levels.
- It will also create facilities and mechanism to provide public services like registration of online complaints, ascertaining the status of case registered at the police station, verification of persons etc.

## 3.15 Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation

### Housing for All (URBAN)

- It envisions Housing for All by 2022 and it subsumed Rajiv Awasojana and Rajiv RinnYojana.
- It seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers through following programme

1. **Slum rehabilitation** with participation of private developers.
2. Promotion of **Affordable Housing for weaker section** through Credit Linked Subsidy
3. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors
4. Subsidy for beneficiary-led **individual house construction**

- It covers all 4041 statutory towns as per Census 2011 with focus on 500 Class I cities in three phases.
- **Centre and state will be** funding in the ratio of 75:25 and in case of North Eastern and special category States in the ratio of 90:10.
- **Beneficiaries** – Urban poor who does not own a pucca house, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG – eligible only for credit linked subsidy scheme).
- States/UTs have flexibility to redefine the annual income criteria with the approval of Ministry.
- Under the mission, a beneficiary can avail of benefit of **one component only**.
- HUDCO and NHB have been identified as **Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs)** to channelize this subsidy to the lending institutions.
- Credit Linked Subsidy – It is an interest subsidy available to a loan amounts upto Rs 6 lakhs at the rate of 6.5 % for tenure of 20 years or during tenure of loan whichever is lower.
- The houses will be allocated preferably in the name of Women in the family.
- **Rajiv Awas Yojana** - It envisages a "Slum Free India" with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and decent shelter.
- **Rajiv Rinn Yojana** - Rajiv Rinn Yojana (RRY) is an instrument to address the housing needs of the EWS/LIG segments in urban areas, through **enhanced credit flow**.

#### **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) – National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)**

- It replaces the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).
- NULM & NRLM has been subsumed into DAY.
- NULM aims at universal coverage of the urban poor for skill development and credit facilities.
- It focuses on organizing urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions, creating opportunities for skill development and helping them to set up self-employment venture by ensuring easy access to credit.
- It is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner and also addresses livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors.
- Funding will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. For North Eastern and Special Category - the ratio will be 90:10.

#### **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**

- It aims at integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to the urban poor.

- It has two components - Basic Services for Urban poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).
- Cities identified based on urban population (Census 2001), cultural and tourist importance was covered under BSUP and the remaining cities were covered under IHSDP.
- Reforms taken under JNNURM
  1. Earmarking of 25% of municipal budget for the urban poor for provision of basic services including affordable housing to the urban poor.
  2. Implementation of 7- Point Charter, namely provision of land tenure, affordable housing, water, sanitation, education, health and social security to the poor in a time-bound manner ensuring convergence with other programmes.
  3. Reservation of 25% of developed land in all housing projects, public or private, critical for slum improvement.

### 3.16 Ministry of Human Resource Development

**SSA** - It is aimed at the universalisation of elementary education as mandated by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India which made free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14 as a fundamental right.

#### Initiatives and Sub-Programmes under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Ssa)

- **Shagun Portal** - It has two components i.e Repository of best practices to learn from success stories & Online Monitoring of the SSA implemented by States and UTs.
- **Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat** - To improve the reading and writing skills of children in classes I and II, along with their mathematics skills.
- **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA)** - It aims to motivate and engage children of the age group of 6-18 years, in Science, Mathematics and Technology by Institutions of Higher Education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's.
- **Vidyanjali** - To enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country.

**Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme with the objective to enhance access to secondary education.

#### Initiatives under RMSA

1. **Shaala Siddhi** - It is a web portal developed by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to enable schools to evaluate their performance in 7 key domains under the prescribed framework.
2. **Shaala Darpan** - It is an e-Governance platform that covers all the Kendriya Vidyalayas, to improve quality of learning, efficiency of school administration, governance of schools & service delivery.
3. **e-PATHSHALA** - It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to disseminate all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video and non-print materials.
4. **Kala utsav** - To promote Arts (Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts and Crafts) in education in secondary stage of the education to bring art in an inclusive environment.

5. **Seema Darshan** -It is an initiative by HRD in collaboration with Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs for the students of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas to provide an opportunity for the children to experience the border environment and to foster patriotism among the students.

#### **All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis (ASMITA)**

- It is launched under Shala Asmita Yojana (SAY).
- SAY aims to track the educational journey of school students from Class I to Class XII across the 15 lakhs private and government schools in the country.
- ASMITA will be an online database which will carry information of student attendance and enrolment, learning outcomes, mid-day meal service and infrastructural facilities among others.
- Students will be tracked through their Aadhaar numbers and in case those not having unique number will be provided with it.

#### **Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative**

- It is a collaborative effort of Central Government, State and UT in partnership with PSU's and Private Corporate to provide funding to built functional toilets in every school.
- **Awards under this initiative**
  1. **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar** - To Government schools for showing excellence in Sanitation and hygiene practice.
  2. **Swachhtam Vidyalaya and Harit Vidyalaya** – Tokendriya Vidyalayas at regional level which shows excellence in clean and green environment.

#### **Global Initiative Of Academic Networks (GIAN)**

- It is an initiative aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientist and entrepreneurs internationally by collaborating Indian institutes of Higher Education in India with Foreign academics.
- It is to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform and elevate the scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.

#### **Impacting Research Innovation And Technology (IMPRINT) India**

- It is an IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in technology domains relevant to India.
- It aims at direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance.

#### **Uchchatar Aavishkar Abhiyan**

- It aims to promote industry-specific need-based research in the educational institutions to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market.
- All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required.

#### **SWAYAM**

- **Study Webs of Active Learning For Young Aspiring Minds** is an indigenous IT platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

- Professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, central universities will offer online courses to citizens of India through this platform.

### **Swayam Prabha**

- It is the project for telecasting high quality educational programmes through DTH channels.
- The programme will cover IIT-PAL which assist the students in the classes 11 and 12 aspiring to join IITs by encouraging scientific thinking.

### **Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA)**

It is to actively engage the youths/students of Higher Education Institutions to encourage them to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of funds.

### **Ishan Uday**

- Scholarships for undergraduates from northeast.
- Under the scheme ten thousand fresh scholarships are to be provided for general degree course, technical and professional courses including medical and para-medical courses and will be given through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary student
- **Ishan Vikas** - Select students from northeast to be taken to IITs, NITs etc. for internships/ exposure

### **Unnat Bharat**

- It aimed at providing rural India with professional resource support from institutes of higher education
- Connecting institutions of higher education, including IITs, NITs and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) etc. with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

## **3.17 Ministry of Labour and Employment**

### **Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram**

- The scheme is launched to provide conducive environment for industrial development.
- Various initiatives under the scheme includes -
  - **Shram Suvidha Portal** -
    1. Allocation of Unique labour identification number (LIN) to labour to facilitate online registration.
    2. This portal will help timely redressal of grievances.
    3. Single Harmonized Form to make filing complaints simple.
    4. Filing of self-certified and simplified Single Online Return by the industry.
    5. Labour inspector to upload inspection report within 72 hours.
  - **Random Labour Inspection scheme** - A computerized list of inspections will be generated randomly to reduce inspector raj. Inspector has to upload report within 72 hours

- **Universal Account Number (UAN) for Employee Provident Fund (EPF) -**
  1. An UAN is allotted to EPF subscribers to make Provident Fund account more portable and universally accessible by centrally compiling & digitizing their information.
  2. The portability of the Social Security Benefits to the labour of organised sector across the jobs and geographic areas will be ensured.
- **Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana -**
  1. It envisages on imparting on-the-job training to apprentices.
  2. Government will reimburse 50 percent of stipend paid by employers to increase employability of youth by giving them skills.
- **Revamped Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana -** Introduction of convergence of social security schemes namely Aam Admi Bima Yojna and National Old Age Pension Scheme on RSBY smart card through improved IT framework.

### Swavalamban Scheme

- Under the scheme, GOI will contribute Rs.1000 per year to each Nation Pension Scheme- Swavalamban account opened in the year 2010-2013 for five years.
- The scheme is voluntary and open to eligible citizens in the age group of 18-60 years.
- Eligible individuals in the unorganized sector can open an account through their Aggregator and get an Individual subscriber Account.
- The account is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authorities (PFRDA).
- There is no minimum amount required per annum or per contribution and subscriber is free to choose the amount he/she wants to invest every year.
- Subscriber should not be covered under any other social security schemes like Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act etc.
- The existing subscribers of Swavalamban Scheme would be automatically migrated to APY, unless they opt out.

### 3.18 Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

#### A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)

- The scheme is launched with an objective to set up a network of technology centers, incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote start-ups for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and agriculture based industry.
- The planned outcomes of ASPIRE are setting up Technology Business Incubators (TBI), Livelihood Business Incubators (LBI) and creation of a Fund of Funds for such initiatives with SIDBI.

#### Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

SFURTI is to organize the traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and provide support for their long term sustainability by way of enhancing the marketability of products, improving the skills of artisans, making provision for common facilities and strengthening the cluster governance systems.

## Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

PMEGP is the flagship programme of the government offering credit linked subsidy to establish new enterprises for generating continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country.

### 3.19 Ministry of Minority Affairs

#### Nai Manzil

- It aims to engage constructively with **Poor Minority youth** and help them obtain sustainable and gainful employment opportunities that can facilitate them to be integrated with mainstream economic activities.
- Integrated Skill Training is being provided to the youth in market driven skills.
- The other objectives include, raise awareness and sensitization in health and life skills, Mobilize school drop-out minority youths with formal education and certification upto level 8th or 10th through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) or other State open schooling systems.
- It was launched for the first time in J&K in 2016, where girls from minority communities are being imparted three-month skill development training in seven identified sectors relevant to the region.

#### Nai Roshni

- It is a scheme for leadership development among Minority Women.
- The objective is to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels.

#### Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS)

- MANAS is a skill development architecture aimed at providing an all India Level training framework.
- The training framework is based upon tie-ups with National/International training organizations (on PPP mode) for **imparting training to the minority population**, for skills that are currently in demand.
- It will also provide concessional credit for minority community after meeting their Skilling Needs for expanding their existing businesses and setting up new businesses.

#### HunarHaat

- HunarHaat (Skill Haat) is an exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery etc made by the artisans from the Minority Communities organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- They will be provided free of cost stall, the arrangements for their transport and their daily expenses.
- Two such Haats has been conducted so far and the Ministry has been working to establish "Hunar Hub" in all the states where programmes such as "HunarHaat" and other cultural events will be organized.

#### USTAAD

- Upgrading the Skills in Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTAAD) is a 100% central sector scheme.
- The scheme aimed at capacity building and updating the traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans. These trained master craftsmen/artisan will train the minority youths in various specific traditional arts/crafts.

- Under the Scheme, skill development programme will be provided for all important traditional arts/crafts being practiced by minority communities, for their development and market linkages.

### Other Schemes

- **PadhoPardesh** -It is the Scheme for providing interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for the students belonging to the minority communities.
- **HamariDarohar** - A scheme to Preserve Rich Heritage of Minority Communities of India and will implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Culture.
- **JiyoParsi**- It is a Central Sector scheme to contain the population decline of Parsis in India.
- **Cyber Gram** - It is launched under Multi-sectoral Development Programme(MsDP) to provide hands on training in computers to the students of minority communities and enable them to acquire basic Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills.
- Begum HazratMahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Minorities implemented through Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
- **MahilaSamridhiYojana** - Skill development training in women friendly trades is provided along with stipend and formation of self-help group during the training period followed by infusion of micro credit for income generation.

### 3.20 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

#### Surya Mitra Scheme

- The scheme is aimed at creating 50,000 trained solar photovoltaic technicians by March 2020.
- The course is a 600 hours (i.e. 3 months) skill development program designed to create skilled manpower in installation, commissioning, and Operation & Maintenance of solar power plants and equipment.
- The objective is to provide employability and entrepreneurship to rural and urban youth & women. Special emphasis is given to skill youth from SC/ST/OBC categories.
- The qualification required to participate in the program is ITI (Electrical & Wireman) / Diploma in Engineering (Electrical, Electronics & Mechanical).
- Higher qualified participants such as B.Techetc are not eligible for this programme.
- The programme is 100% funded by GOI and implemented by National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE) across the country.
- In addition, short term training programmes for small hydro, entrepreneurship development, operation & maintenance of solar energy devices and boiler operations in co-generation plants have been organized.
- National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) is an autonomous institution of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)).

#### Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM)

- The mission is also known as National Solar Mission and is also one of the eight National Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

- The Mission has set the ambitious target of deploying 20,000MW of grid connected solar power by 2022, which was later revised to 1,00,000 MW by 2022.
- The target will principally comprise of 40GW Rooftop and 60GW through large and medium scale grid connected solar power projects.
- There is also 30% capital subsidy for installation of SPV applications like solar lighting systems, solar PV power plants and solar pumps under solar off-grid application scheme of JNNSM in rural as well as urban areas throughout India.

### Solar City

- The basic aim is to motivate the local Governments for adopting renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.
- The Solar City aims at minimum 10% reduction in projected demand of conventional energy at the end of five years.
- In a Solar City all types of renewable energy based projects will be installed.

### 3.21 Ministry of Power

#### Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

- It is the flagship programme of Ministry of Power to provide 24X7 power supply to rural areas.
- It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
- This will help in providing round the clock power to rural households and adequate power to agricultural consumers.
- Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in it.
- **Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)** -It is to provide 24x7 power supply in the urban area.
- **Remote Village Electrification Programme (RVEP)** is a scheme implemented by Ministry of New & Renewable energy in various states to provide basic lighting through Renewable Energy Sources in un-electrified villages and hamlets of electrified census villages.

#### National LED Programme

- It is to ensure promotion of energy efficiency in the country.
- It has two components - Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).
- DELP - UJALA Scheme was launched to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers.
- SLNP - It aims to replace conventional street light with smart and energy efficient LED street lights by March, 2019.

#### UJALA Scheme

- UJALA – Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All is an energy efficiency scheme to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.

- Under this scheme, LED bulbs at 40% of the market price will be distributed to every grid connected consumer.
- It is implemented by the Electricity Distribution Company and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

### **Coal Mitra Web Portal**

- The portal is designed to bring about flexibility in Utilization of Domestic Coal.
- The portal helps to transfer the domestic coal reserves to more cost efficient State/ Centre owned or private sector generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers.

### **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)**

- It is to provide financial and operational turnaround of power distribution companies and aims at long term affordable and accessible 24x7 power supply to all.
- It has target of making all DISCOMs profitable by 2018-19 through four initiatives such as Improving operational efficiencies of Discoms, Reduction of cost of power, Reduction in interest cost of Discoms, Enforcing financial discipline on DISCOMs through alignment with state finances.
- Under this programme, States shall take over 75% of DISCOM debt over two years i.e 50% of DISCOM debt shall be taken over in 2015-16 and 25% in 2016-17.
- Government of India will not include the debt taken over by the states as per the above scheme in the calculation of fiscal deficit of respective states in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- States will issue non-SLR including SDL bonds in the market or directly to the respective banks / financial institutions (FIs) holding the DISCOM debt to the appropriate extent.
- DISCOM debt not taken over by the state shall be converted by the banks / FIs into loans or bonds.

## **3.22 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

### **Bharatmala**

- It is an umbrella program that will subsume unfinished parts of National Highway Development Program (NHDP).
- It also focus on the new initiatives like development of Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal & port connectivity roads, National Corridors Efficiency improvements, Economic corridors development and others.

### **Setu Bharatam**

- It is a program for building bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.
- The aim is to make National Highways free of railway level crossings by 2019 by building Railway Over Bridges/ Under Passes and old & worn down bridges to be improved by replacement/widening/strengthening.

### **Char Dham Highway Project**

- The Char Dham highway development project is an initiative to improve connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas i.e **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.**

- This objective is to provide 900 km highway roads with paved shoulders, provision for landslide mitigation and other road safety measures, which will provide all weather road connectivity for pilgrims and for movement of defence forces.
- Generally the Char Dham pilgrimage centre four pilgrimage sites in India i.e **Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri and Rameswaran** but the **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath** in Uttarkhand state were known as Chota Char Dham.

### INFRACON

It is the National Portal that acts as a bridge between consultancy firms working in the road engineering and construction sector and domain experts and key personnel who are deployed both for project preparation and supervision.

### INAM PRO

- It is a web-based application for Infrastructure and Material Providers.
- It brings together the material providers and the prospective buyers engaged in executing central/state funded roads and highways and bridge construction projects in a common platform.
- Given the success of INAM-PRO with cement, other materials like steel and steel slag have also been brought on this platform so as to make this as a comprehensive e-market place for infrastructure providers.

### 3.23 Ministry of Rural Development

#### Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - NRLM

- National Rural Livelihood Mission/Aajeevika has been subsumed into Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY).
- The Scheme is assisted by investment from World Bank.
- It aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

#### Features :

- **Universal Social Mobilisation** - At least one woman member from each identified rural poor household, is to be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network.
- **Participatory identification of Poor** - Target Group is identified through the Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) method and it is delinked from BPL. The responsibility of identification of poor must be vetted by the Gram Sabha and approved by the Gram Panchayat.
- **Community Funds as Resources** - NRLM provides Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Fund (CIF) as resources in perpetuity to the institutions of the poor to strengthen their institutional and financial management capacity.
- **Financial Inclusion** - It promotes financial literacy among the poor.
- **Livelihoods** –It also promotes existing livelihood portfolio of the poor through its 3 pillars - 'Vulnerability reduction and livelihoods enhancement', 'employment' and 'enterprises'.
- Partnerships with NGOs and linkages with Panchayat Raj Institutions

### Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- DDU-GKY is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- It aims at transforming **rural poor youth** into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.
- It focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- **Special initiatives under DDU-GKY -**
  1. Himayat: A special scheme for the youth (rural & urban) of Jammu & Kashmir.
  2. Roshni: A special initiative for the rural youth of poor families in 27 Left-wing Extremist (LWE) districts across 9 states.

### Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

- SVEP is aimed at creating an ecosystem for rural population to be able start their own enterprises for sustainable livelihood.
- To be launched on the lines of the DDU-GKY to generate livelihood through self-employment.
- Loans will be made available through Self Help Groups for starting the enterprise

### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin

- It replaces Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which was launched as a sub scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1985.
- IAY aims at helping rural people below the poverty-line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutch houses by providing assistance in the form of full grant.
- **Beneficiaries** are people belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, Disabled persons and Minorities.
- It will be implemented in rural areas across the country except Delhi and Chandigarh
- Government to construct 1 crore pucca (permanent) houses for the rural poor in the next three years.
- The project will be implemented in a span of three years and expected to boost job creation in rural areas.
- Beneficiaries of the rural houses would be chosen according to data taken from the Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011
- An allowance of Rs. 120,000 in plain areas and Rs. 130,000 in hilly areas will be provided for construction of homes
- The unit size will be enhanced from the existing 20 sq.mt. to up to 25 sq.mt. including a dedicated area for hygienic cooking.
- Funds will be transferred electronically directly to the account of the beneficiary.
- The beneficiary would be facilitated to avail loan of up to Rs.70,000 for construction of the house which is optional.

### National Rurban Mission (NRuM)

- NRuM is also called as Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban mission and aimed at strengthening rural areas by provisioning of economic, social and physical infrastructure facilities
- The objective is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters i.e Smart Villages.
- **Smart village** is an area which possesses the economic characteristics and lifestyles of an urban area while retaining its essential rural area features.
- It follows **cluster based approach** and the State Governments would identify 'geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities.
- It provides Skill development training, Digital literacy, mobile health unit, electronic delivery of citizen centric services, e-gram connectivity, public transport, inter village road connectivity etc.
- The funding will be through various schemes of the government through public -private partnerships.
- In addition to it, there will be critical gap funding of 30% of project cost as central Government share for clusters.

### Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- PMGSY aimed at providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations.
- A habitation which was earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad.
- It is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme and 50% of the Cess on High Speed Diesel (HSD) is earmarked for this Programme.
- The target year of achieving 100% rural road connectivity under PMGSY is 2019.
- The unit of this programme is habitation and not revenue villages.
- Major District Roads, State Highways and National Highways cannot be covered under the PMGSY, even if they happen to be in rural areas.
- All habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas and 250 persons and above in hill states, the tribal and the desert areas will be connected by PMGSY.

### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- To enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed demand based wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Beneficiaries are willing rural population, unskilled manual labourers and seasonally unemployed.
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained.
- No contractors and machinery is allowed.

- Wages are linked to Consumer Price Index (Agriculture labour).
- The central government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
- MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats.
- At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women.
- Social audit has to be done by the gram sabha atleast once in every 6 months.
- Focuses on creation of durable assets as per local needs.

### **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**

- SAGY is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure and improve the standard of living in three villages by 2019.
- Lok Sabha MP chooses these villages from the constituency he represents and the Rajya Sabha MP chooses it from the state he represent.
- Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams will be selected and developed by 2024.
- Gram Panchayat would be the basic unit for development.
- MPs cannot pick villages which belong to themselves or their spouses
- The scheme requires MP to draft a village development plan, identify gaps in funding and mobilizing MPLAD funds to create additional resources specifically from CSR initiatives of various corporate houses, in areas of sanitation and water supply.
- District Collectors will carry ground-level surveys along with monthly review meetings to monitor progress .
- At the State-level, Chief Secretaries will head empowered committee on the same and the Minister for Rural Development and Secretary, Rural Development, will chair two national-level committees to track the scheme.

### **National Social Assistance Program(NSAP)**

- It is a social security and welfare programme to provide support to aged persons, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary bread winner, belonging to below poverty line households.
- It comprises of five schemes, namely - (1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), (2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), (3) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), (4) National Family Benefit Scheme NFBS) and (5) Annapurna.
- Under NSAP 100% Central Assistance is extended to the States/UTs to provide the benefits in accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government.

### **Neeranchal Watershed Program**

- Neeranchal is a World Bank assisted National Watershed Management Project.
- Neeranchal is designed to further strengthen and provide technical assistance to the Watershed Component of PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana).

### Annapurna Scheme

- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Rural development** and Department of Food and Public Distribution allocates food grains as per the requirements of Ministry of Rural Development.
- 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 kg of food grains per person per month free of cost.

### 3. 24 Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

#### Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- It is an outcome based skill certification scheme implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The objective is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.
- The Various components are short term training, recognition of prior learning, special projects, kaushal and rozgarmela, placement guidelines and monitoring guidelines.

#### UDAAN

- The programme aims to provide skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed **youth of J&K**.
- The scheme covers graduates, post graduates and three year engineering diploma holders.
- The key stakeholders are Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Government (Jammu & Kashmir), Corporates and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- **UDAAN (Giving Wings to Girl Students)**
- Another scheme of the same name is implemented by **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- This project aims at addressing the lower enrolment of girls in engineering colleges/IITs and technological institutions.
- It involves training 1000 selected girl students to compete for admission at premier Engineering colleges in India by providing course in an online and offline format.
- The girl students enrolled in classes XI of KV/NVs/other Government run Schools affiliated to any Board in India are eligible for the Scheme.

### 3.25 Ministry of Tourism

#### Swadesh Darshan

- It is to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.

- Under the scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, for development - 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.

### **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)**

- It is to identify and develop pilgrimage tourist destination on the principles of high tourist visits, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.
- Under the PRASAD scheme thirteen sites have been identified for development, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwaraka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna.
- Under the 'PRASAD' scheme the focus is on development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations.
- Whereas, in the 'Spiritual Circuit' identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the thrust is on development of particular thematic circuit consisting of various religious/spiritual destination in a State and Union Territory.

**Note** - HRIDAY includes 12 Cities covering all PRASAD sites except Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna. Instead it includes Warangal, and Badami. HRIDAY comes under the Ministry of Urban Development

### **3.26 Ministry of Tribal affairs**

#### **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana**

- It is launched for the holistic development and welfare of tribal population in India by plugging the infrastructure gaps and lags in human development indices.
- The scheme focuses on
  1. Provision for a better standard of living and quality of life
  2. Improving access to and quality of education
  3. Generating resources for long-term and sustainable growth
  4. Bridging infrastructural gaps
  5. Protection of tribal culture and heritage.

### **3.27 Ministry of Urban Development**

#### **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**

- The focus of the Mission is on infrastructure creation that has a direct link to provision of better services to the citizens.
- It ensures that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.
- It proposes to increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open and reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities.
- 500 cities will be covered under the Scheme

1. All Cities and Towns with a **population of over 1 lakh** with notified Municipalities, including Cantonment Boards (Civilian areas),
  2. All **Capital Cities/Towns** of States/ UTs, not covered in above,
  3. All Cities/ Towns classified as **Heritage Cities** by MoUD under the HRIDAY Scheme,
  4. Thirteen Cities and Towns **on the stem of the main rivers** with a population above 75,000 and less than 1 lakh, and
  5. Ten Cities **from hill states, islands and tourist destinations** (not more than one from each State).
- This scheme is a **new avatar of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**.
  - Unlike JNNURM, AMRUT will not appraise individual projects and appraise only State Annual Action plans.
  - It is a **centrally Sponsored Scheme** and funds will be allocated to states and Union territories.
  - The states will transfer funds to Urban Local Bodies within 7 days of transfer by central government and no diversion of funds.
  - Central assistance will be to the extent of 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of up to 10 lakhs and one-third of the project cost for those with a population of above 10 lakhs.
  - (**Note:** Some of the inadmissible components under AMRUT are Power, Telecom, Health, Education and Wage employment programme and staff component and Purchase of land for projects or project related works, Staff salaries of both the States/ULBs. The list is not exhaustive.)

### Smart Cities

- The objective is to promote sustainable and inclusive 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 focus is on creating a replicable model which are meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalyzing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.
- **Core infrastructure elements**
  1. Water Supply
  2. Assured electricity supply
  3. Sanitation, including solid waste management
  4. Efficient urban mobility and public transport
  5. Affordable housing, especially for the poor
  6. Robust IT connectivity and digitalization
  7. Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation
  8. Sustainable environment
  9. Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly
  10. Health and education.

- **Components of Smart Cities Mission -**
  1. City improvement (Retrofitting),
  2. City renewal (Redevelopment),
  3. City extension plus a Pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.
- **Approach -** Area-based development.
- **Selection Process**—Each state will get at least one smart city.
- Each aspiring city competes for selection as a smart city in what is called a ‘City Challenge’. There are two stages in the selection process.
- The State/UT begins with short listing the potential smart cities.
- The first stage of the competition will be intra-state based on the criteria specified and the highest scoring potential smart cities will be recommended to MoUD.
- The 100 such potential smart cities nominated by all the States and UTs will prepare Smart City Plans which will be rigorously evaluated in the Stage-2 of the competition for prioritizing cities for financing.
- The chosen ones will get Central fund of Rs 500 crore in the course of 5 years.
- **Implementation -**By SPVs which will be promoted by the State/UT and the Urban Local Body (ULB) jointly both having 50:50 equity shareholding.

### Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- SBM is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development in Urban areas and by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Rural areas.
- **Objectives**
  1. Elimination of open defecation
  2. Eradication of Manual Scavenging
  3. Modern and Scientific Municipal Solid Waste Management
  4. To effect behavioural change regarding healthy sanitation practices
  5. Generate awareness about sanitation and its linkage with public health
  6. Capacity Augmentation for ULB’s
  7. Creating an enabling environment for private sector participation.
- **Components**
  1. Household toilets, including conversion of insanitary latrines into pour-flush latrines;
  2. Community toilets
  3. Public toilets
  4. Solid waste management
  5. Public Awareness and IEC (Information, Education and Communication).

- **Target** - The Mission will be in force till 2nd October 2019.
- **Funding** - States will contribute a minimum of 25% funds towards all components to match 75% Central Share. This will be 10% in the case of North East and special category States.

## HRIDAY

- **National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)** is focused on holistic development of heritage cities.
- The main objective of HRIDAY is to preserve character of the soul of heritage city and facilitate inclusive heritage linked urban development in partnership with State Government
- The duration of HRIDAY schemes would be Four Years starting from December 2014 (i.e. Till December 2018).
- It is a central sector scheme with 100 percent funding coming from Central Government.
- The scheme will broadly focus on **four theme areas** i.e. Physical Infrastructure, Institutional Infrastructure, Economic Infrastructure & Social Infrastructure for reviving and revitalizing the soul of Heritage City.
- The projects can be funded directly or through support from other stakeholders **including private sector**.
- **Coverage (12 Cities)** - Ajmer, Amravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni, Warangal.
- The Scheme supports development of core heritage infrastructure projects that include revitalization of urban infrastructure for areas around heritage assets.

## 3.28 Ministry of Women and Child development

### Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

- ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and union territories.
- It aims at providing supplementary nutrition, immunization and pre-school education to the children.
- **Objectives**- To prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (% underweight children 0-3 years) by 10 percentage points, enhance early development and learning outcomes in all children 0-6 years of age, improve care and nutrition of girls and women and reduce Anaemia prevalence in young children, girls and women by one fifth by the end of 12th five year plan.
- **Beneficiaries** -Children in the age group of 0-6 years, Pregnant women and Lactating mothers.
- **Services under ICDS** -It offers a package of six services such as Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services.
- The services are offered at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHS) at grassroots level.
- All components of ICDS except Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) are financed through a 60:40 ratio (central : state). The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) component was funded through a 50:50 ratio. The North East states have a 90:10 ratio.

**SABLA - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls**

- SABLA is a centrally sponsored scheme to empower adolescent girls of 11-18 years and it is implemented through the State Governments/UTs.
- **Objectives:** Enable the adolescent girls for self-development and empowerment, Improve their nutrition and health status, Promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, adolescent reproductive and sexual health (arsh) and family and child care and to educate, skill and make them ready for life's challenges.
- It provides an integrated package of services such as
  - Nutrition provision
  - Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation
  - Health check-up and Referral services
  - Nutrition & Health Education (NHE)
  - v. Counseling/Guidance on family welfare, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) , child care practices and home management
  - Life Skill Education and accessing public services
  - vii. Vocational training for girls aged 16 and above under National Skill Development Program (NSDP)
- All Components except nutrition provision will get 100% financial assistance from the Central Government. The nutrition provision will be funded by Central government up to the extent of 50%.

**SAKSHAM - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys**

- It aims holistic development of Adolescent Boys, on the pattern of SABLA.
- It would aim at the all-round development of Adolescent Boys to make them self-reliant, gender-sensitive and aware citizens, when they grow up.
- The scheme will focus on all Adolescent Boys between 11 to 18 years and will primarily focus on out-of-school boys.
- The main objectives of SAKSHAM includes
  - i. To make the Adolescent Boys gender sensitive, self-development and empowerment.
  - ii. To address the health needs i.e. the physical, mental and emotional health of ABs.
  - iii. To create sensitized Ahimsa Messengers to address Violence against Women.
  - iv. To provide relevant information and vocational skills through National Skill Development Program (NSDP) for future work-participation.
  - v. To promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition and Adolescent Reproductive & Sexual Health (ARSH) and family and child care.
- The scheme will utilize the structures made under ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services Scheme).
- The Anganwadi centers are the central points to deliver the services, and if the Anganwadi infrastructure is inadequate, it will be provided by the local Panchayat or Municipal Committee.

### **Kishori Shakthi Yojana**

This scheme is a redesign of the already existing Adolescent Girls (AG) Scheme being implemented as a component under the centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

### **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (BBBPS)**

- The scheme is launched to address the issue of decline in CSR in 100 gender critical districts and to provide convergent efforts to ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child.
- The objectives of the Scheme are
  1. Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
  2. Ensure survival & protection of the girl child
  3. Ensure education of the girl child
- The initiative has two major components,
  1. Mass Communication Campaign
  2. Multi-sectoral action in 100 selected districts (as a pilot) with adverse CSR, covering all States and UTs
- It involves coordinated efforts from Ministry of WCD, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of HRD.

### **Digital Gudda Guddi Board**

- It is a platform for dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material on BBBP, to update monthly birth statistics.
- The digital board displays audio video material as well as still frames for disseminating information and is being displayed at important state offices.

### **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**

- It is launched as a part of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- It is a small deposit scheme for girl child to motivate parents to open an account in the name of a girl child and for her welfare to deposit maximum of their savings.
- The account can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years in any post office or authorized branches of commercial banks.
- A minimum of Rs. 1000 and maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh can be deposited during a financial year and fetch an interest rate of 9.1 % and provide income tax rebate.
- The account will get matured in 21 years from the date of opening of account or marriage of the girl child after attaining 18 years of age.
- Partial Withdrawal for girl child education can be done when she cleared 10th class or turned 18 years.
- 100% of the amount can be withdrawn after girl child turns 18 is allowed and the provision of not allowing the withdrawal till the age of 18 is to prevent early marriage.

### UJJAWALA Scheme

- It is comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- The Objectives of the Schemes -
- To **prevent trafficking of women** and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, etc.
- To facilitate **rescue of victims** from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- To provide **rehabilitation services**
- To facilitate **reintegration of the victims** into the family and society at large.
- To facilitate **repatriation of cross-border victims** to their country of origin.

### Swadhar

- It caters to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances.
- This is a Central sector scheme for integrated services to women in difficult circumstances like destitute widows, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, trafficked women/girls, mentally challenged women etc.
- The package of services include provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care, counselling and legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill upgradation.

### Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

- It is a 'Central Sector Scheme' that aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs.
- The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country.
- The grant under the Scheme is given to an institution/ organization including NGOs directly and not the States/ UTs.
- The assistance will be available in any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship.

### National Mission For Empowerment Of Women (NMEW)/ Mission Poorna Shakti

It aims to achieve holistic empowerment of women through convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Department of Government of India as well as State Governments.

### Priyadarshini Scheme

- It is a women Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme in the **Mid Gangetic Plains**
- The focus of the project is on livelihood enhancement, the beneficiaries will be empowered to address their political, legal, health problems issues through rigorous capacity building.

## Nari Shakti Puraskar

It is an award conferred on eminent women, organization and institutions rendering distinguished service to the cause of women especially belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD).

## Mahila E-Haat

- It is an initiative for meeting aspirations and needs of women.
- It is a bilingual portal provides unique direct online marketing platform leveraging technology for supporting women entrepreneurs/SHGs/ NGOs for showcasing their products / services.

## Dhanalakshmi Scheme

- The objective of the scheme is to provide a set of financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain a girl child, educate her and prevent child marriage.
- The scheme provides for cash transfers to the family of the girl child on fulfilling certain specific conditions like immunization, enrolment and retention in school, insurance cover etc.

## Maternity Benefit Programme

- Since 2005, JSY pays ₹ 1,400 to poor women who deliver in a hospital, for the first two deliveries.
- National Food Security Act (2013) mandated the payment of no less than ₹ 6,000 to all pregnant women, irrespective of their income status.
- So the Ministry has formulated **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana**.
- It was implemented using the platform of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in selected 53 districts across the country.
- MBP is the Pan-India Expansion of Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana.
- The Scheme provides cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women.
  1. for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery;
  2. to improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation;
  3. to breastfeed the child during the first six months of the birth, which is very vital for the development of the child.
- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those in regular employment with the Government or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.
- The cash incentive is payable in three instalments for the first live births in three stages.
- The cash transfer would be Aadhaar linked through the individual bank/post office account etc. in DBT mode.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40 for all the States and UTs (with legislature), 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% GoI share for UTs without legislatures.

### 3. 29 Niti Aayog

#### Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana

- NITI Aayog announces the launch of the schemes Lucky Grahak Yojana and the Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana for consumers and merchants respectively.
- It is to give cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures.
- The primary aim of these schemes is to incentivize digital transactions so that electronic payments are adopted by all sections of the society, especially the poor and the middle class.

#### Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- It will be an Innovation Promotion Platform involving academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers drawing upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D in India.
- The platform will also promote a network of world-class innovation hubs and grand challenges for India.

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