



Important Govt. Schemes January to October 2018

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Current Affairs Important Govt. Schemes January to October 2018

Dear readers,

This PDF is a complete docket of important Government Schemes which was launched in last **10 months (1st January 2018 – 31st October 2018)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like, Banking, SSC, UPSC, PCS, State, and other Govt. Exams.

Schemes by Union/State Govt.

October

1. **SPARC' scheme** - The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar launched the 'SPARC' scheme.

- The objective of the scheme is to boost India specific research in social and pure sciences.
- Here 'SPARC' stands for - 'Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration'.

"SPARC will focus on joint research projects in focus areas, including technology, science and social sciences, which are of relevance to India.

Aim of the SPARC scheme -

- SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

Key points of the Scheme:

- The SPARC scheme envisages supporting around 600 proposals for a total outlay of Rs 418 Crores over two years.

Budget Outlay - Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry announced a budget of Rs 418 crore from 2018-20 on collaborative research between Indian and foreign institutes.

Collaboration with foreign countries:

- SPARK scheme will facilitate academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations.

National Coordinating Institute

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

Eligibility

- All Indian Institutions ranked in the overall top-100 or category-wise top-100 in the India Rankings (NIRF) are eligible to apply.



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- Only such private institutions which are falling in the above category, and also recognised under Section 12(8) of UGC Act are eligible.
- The partner institution shall be in the top-500 of Q5 World University Rankings or in the top-200 of Q5 World University Rankings by subject.

2. IMPRESS' scheme launched

- With an aim to promote policy research in social science areas Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 'IMPRESS' scheme in the country.
- 'IMPRESS' stands for - Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences.

Key points:

- The scheme will provide an opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country which includes all universities (central and state).
- **Budget Outlay** - The scheme will be implemented at a total cost of Rs. 414 crores till March 2021.
- **Implementing Agency** – The scheme will be implemented by the Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR).
- The IMPRESS scheme will open up new avenues in Research aiming at visible impact on Technology, Economy, Society, Culture - B.B. Kumar (ICSSR Chairman)
- Under IMPRESS, **1,500 research projects** will be awarded for two years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions.

Objective of IMPRESS Scheme - The objective of the scheme is as follows

- To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
- To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode.
- To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC.

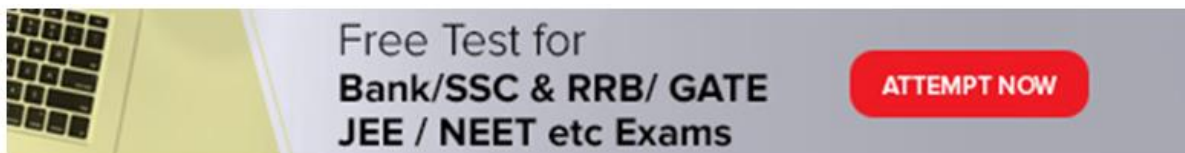
The identified domains under IMPRESS are as:

- State and Democracy
- Urban Transformation
- Media, Culture and Society
- Employment Skills and Rural Transformation
- Governance, Innovation and Public Policy
- Growth, Macro Trade and Economic Policy
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health and Environment
- Science and Education
- Social Media and Technology
- Politics, Law and Economics

3. Govt. launches Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme

- Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi.
- It is Public-private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).
- This programme will help Government to achieve its target of reducing road accidents by 50% by 2020.

4. Delhi Government launches Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme: Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship



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Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges. It was announced by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

- The fellows will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month and Rs 75,000 per month to Associate Fellows.

5. Government opens new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription - Union Government has opened new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription.

- Under this scheme, sovereign gold bonds will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019.
- This bond will be sold through Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Post Office, Stock Exchange (NSE and BSE).

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme

- It is aimed at providing alternative to buying physical gold.
- Under it, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof.
- These gold denominated bonds are restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals, Hindu undivided families (HUF), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.
- The minimum subscription for individual and HUF is 1 gram and maximum is 4 kg.
- For trusts and similar entities, maximum subscription is 20 kg per fiscal.
- RBI has notified rate of interest of **2.50% per annum** on SGB bonds is payable on half yearly basis.

6. Digi Yatra: Govt. releases policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports

- Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra.
- The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel.

- It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.
- In later phase, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out this initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April 2019.

Key points:

- Under Digi Yatra, there will be one-time verification at departure airport while travelling for first time using ID.
- After successful verification, facial recognition biometric will be captured and stored in Digi Yatra ID.
- With this initiative, ticket booking, airport entry and boarding pass security check-in will be made digital.
- For this system, passengers will be registered through centralized system and will be given Digi Travel ID.

7. Udyam Abhilasha: SIDBI launches national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched Udyam Abhilasha a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign.
- It was launched in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States.

Objectives of Udyam Abhilasha

- To inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise.
- To impart trainings through digital medium across the country,
- To create business opportunities for CSC-VLEs.
- To focus on women aspirants in aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship.
- To assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

8. Odisha govt. launched 'Nirman Kusuma' scheme – Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Nirman



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Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state.

Key points:

- The children of construction workers would get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- While an ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600, a diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum.
- A total of 1,878 students will get benefit from the programme.

9. Odisha govt. launch Food Security Scheme - Odisha government launched the State's own food security scheme to cover the poor people.

- As per the provisions of the scheme, 25 lakh poor people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act, will get rice of 5 kg per month for one rupee.

10. Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women:

Assam Government has become the first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.

Key points

- Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby.
- The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments - Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.

September

1. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act.

Key points:

- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- The eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person has now been relaxed to insurable employment of **one year with 156 days of contributions.**
- The ESIC also approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing **10 thousand rupees to 15 thousand rupees** being paid on the death of Insured Person.

2. Swayangsiddha scheme - In an attempt to combat human trafficking, the West Bengal government rolled out a scheme, Swayangsiddha, in different districts of the State. As per the NCRB data, West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.

Aim of the scheme -

- The scheme aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.
- Swayangsiddha means self-reliance and it will be executed by the West Bengal Police.

3. Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) scheme - Union Government has approved Rs 8,606 crore for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM).

- The projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the



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international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

- The scheme include construction of roads, schools, primary health centres, promotion of rural tourism, border tourism, cleanliness mission, promotion of sports activities, supply of drinking water, protection of heritage sites, community centres, connectivity, drainage, to enable sustainable living in border areas.

4. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), under Ayushman Bharat umbrella at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The scheme aims to provide annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to 10.74 crore beneficiary families i.e. over 50 crore beneficiaries across India.
- It is touted as world's largest healthcare scheme that will serve beneficiary population that equals 27-28 European countries and almost equal to population of Canada, Mexico and US put together.
- The scheme will become operational from September 25, 2018 i.e. on birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

- PMJAY is government-sponsored health insurance scheme, that will provide free coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year in any government or empanelled private hospitals all over India.
- It will cover beneficiaries families identified on the basis of Socio Economic Caste Survey (SECC) 2011 in 444 districts of 30 states/Union Territories.

5. Tamil Nadu Government announces scheme for protection of exotic Neela Kurinji plants

- Tamil Nadu government has announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji

(*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years.

- This scheme comes following complaints that these rare and ecologically unique flowers are being packaged and sold on the commercial basis.

Neelakurinji plant

- Neelakurinji is a tropical plant species. It is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats.
- It is also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.

6. Delhi Government launches India's first scheme for doorstep delivery of essential government services

- Delhi Government has launched scheme for doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services like caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections.
- It is first home delivery scheme of various essential government services in the country.
- It will help to deal with corruption in delivery of essential government services and promote transparent governance.

7. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a new Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA). The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

- **Aim** – The scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
- **Objective** – To empower farmers and strengthen the Agriculture sector.
- **Allocation** - The Cabinet has sanctioned **Rs 15,053 crore** to implement the PM-AASHA in the next two financial years, of which Rs 6,250 crore will be spent this year.



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Components of PM-AASHA: Under the PM-AASHA, states would be allowed to choose from three schemes –

- Price Support Scheme (PSS),
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

8. Govt. extends Atal Pension Yojana indefinitely - Union Cabinet decided to indefinitely extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018. To further incentivize people's participation in the scheme.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) –

- It is a social security scheme launched by the government in 2015 to provide a defined pension between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.
- It had replaced earlier government-backed pension Swavalamban scheme.

Key features of the schemes:

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit has been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.

9. Govt. revised Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) – The government has revised the PMJDY scheme, to further incentivize people's participation in the scheme.

Key points

- **Overdraft facility doubled** - The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.
- **Age limit increased** - The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.
- **Accidental insurance cover raised** - The accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh.

10. Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Tourism Ministry sanctions Rs. 80.37 crore for developing cruise tourism in Kerala.

Note:

- The scheme was launched by Union Tourism Ministry with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: **Imphal and Khongjom**' was inaugurated in Manipur.
- The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom in Manipur.

August

1. O-SMART' scheme – The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences

Key points –

- (O-SMART) stands for - Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science.
- O-SMART scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects related to ocean development activities and

science for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20.

- The CCEA approved the scheme for implementation during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs 1623 crore.

2. HRD Ministry launches Innovation Cell at AICTE - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has



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established Innovation Cell at AICTE premises in New Delhi.

Aim - It aims to systematically foster culture of innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

3. Government launches third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 - Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has third edition of Smart India Hackathon 2019 (SIH-2019).

- Smart India Hackathon is world's biggest open innovation model which aims to provide students with platform to solve some of pressing problems faced by people in their daily lives.

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – Govt. has appointed senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Key points

- It is farmers' welfare scheme launched in 2016 to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers.
- It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.
- Under this scheme, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by Government.
- Moreover, there is no upper limit on Government subsidy, so farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.

5. PMS-OBC scheme - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuation and revision of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes** Students for studying in India (PMS-OBC) till 2020.

Key points

- PMS-OBC is flagship scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in operation since 1998-99.
- It is fully centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide financial assistance to OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
- Under revised PMS-OBC, annual parental income ceiling has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- Now onwards, 30% of funds will be earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.

6. CCEA approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) – The scheme was launched on 25 December 2000.

- It aims to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.
- Union Ministry of Rural Development is nodal ministry for implementation of Scheme.

7. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Union Government, NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) have signed revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

Key points:

- PMKSY was launched in July 2015 with overarching vision to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation for all agricultural farms in the country and to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity.
- It is implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development.
- It has outlay of Rs 50000 crore with implementation period of over five-year till April 2020.

Note:

- The government has approved a corpus of **Rs 5,000 crore** for the setting up of a dedicated **micro**

irrigation fund (MIF) under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard).

8. Govt. approves 122 new research projects under IMPRINT scheme: Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its IMPRINT-II (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) scheme.

Note:

- IMPRINT is first of its kind MHRD supported scheme to address major science and engineering challenges and boost original scientific and technological research in 10 technology identified domains in the country.
- It was launched in November 2015 with an aim to develop new engineering education policy and create road map to pursue engineering challenges.

9. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Government achieves 5 crore Free LPG Connections Target.

- Union Government has announced that it has reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) almost eight months ahead of schedule (i.e. in 27 months instead of 35 months).
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised PMUY as one of decisive intervention by Government to address indoor air pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in year in the country.

Key points:

- Union Government launched PMUY in May, 2016 with tagline of '**Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.**'
- It aims at providing clean-cooking fuel to poor households, who are otherwise vulnerable to

various health hazards associated with indoor air pollution and bringing in qualitative changes in living standards.

- PMUY is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Considering its huge success, government had revised target to 8 crores with budgetary allocation of Rs. **12,800 crore.**

Note: Uttar Pradesh has got the maximum number of LPG connections (87 lakh) followed by West Bengal (67 lakh) and Bihar (61 lakh).

10. Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam: Andhra Pradesh Government has approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide **Rs 1000 per month unemployed youth in state.**

- The allowance will directly credited in bank accounts of selected beneficiary through biometric authentication in transparent manner. It will not be applicable to those paying provident fund.

11. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) – NITI Aayog identified 117 Districts as Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme.

- During the second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in 'Aspirational Districts' identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and the Himalayan States.
- **Note: RUSA** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in 2013 aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.

July

1. Sukanya Samridhi Scheme: The Union Government has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana from **Rs 1000 to Rs 250**.

- The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to **Rs 250**.
- The move is aimed at enabling more people to take advantage of the girl child savings scheme.

Key points:

- **Aim** - The scheme aims to provide **financial security** to a girl till the time that she gets married.
 - **Age limit** - The Sukanya Samridhi Account scheme is meant **for girl children below the age of 10 years**.
 - The account matures in **21 years before** which it is in a lock-in period where funds cannot be withdrawn.
 - Also, the interest rate for the July-September quarter is **8.1%**.
 - **Flexible deposit amounts:** The account can be opened with a **minimum deposit of Rs.250** and in multiples of Rs.100 thereafter.
 - A maximum of **Rs.1.5 lakhs** can be deposited per account every year.
- 2. MP Government launched Subsidised Power Scheme 'Sambal':** The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families.
- Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of **Rs 200 per month**.
- 3. Govt. launches Student Police Cadet Programme:** Ministry of Home Affairs sponsored Student Police Cadet

(SPC) Programme was launched nationally in Gurugram, Haryana.

- It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- The programme aims to build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.

4. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018: Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in New Delhi.

5. It is a rural cleanliness survey to rank all states and districts on basis of qualitative and quantitative evaluation.

6. Govt. selects 734 athletes for Khelo-India scholarships - Sports Authority of India (SAI) under Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme.

- They will be provided with annual stipend of Rs. 1,20,000 on quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses.

Khelo India Talent Development Scheme

- The scheme was introduced by Ministry of Sports and Youth affairs to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level.
- Its objective is to build strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as great sporting nation.
- It aims to help scout young talent from schools in various disciplines and groom them as future sports champions

June

- 1. Solar Charkha Mission:** President Ram Nath Kovind launched Solar Charkha Mission under which Government will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to thousands of artisans, generating employment in rural areas.
 - It was launched during the event of Udyam Sangam (National MSME Conclave) on the occasion of World MSME Day (observed on 27 June).
- 2. Suryashakti Kisan Yojana' for Farmers:** The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers- Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.
- 3. Seva Bhoj Yojna, Union Ministry of Culture** launched a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
 - The Union Ministry of Culture has launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
 - Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) charged on the raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.
- 4. Swajal Scheme** launched in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.
 - Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.
 - It will involve outlay of **Rs. 700 crores** through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.
- 5. Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018** for laborers and poor families: The Madhya Pradesh government announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 for laborers and poor families.
 - Laborers falling under the unorganized sector in Madhya Pradesh will get power supply at a subsidized rate.
 - The state cabinet also approved **Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018** (a scheme to provide subsidized power) in the meeting.
- 6. Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana** a Health Insurance Scheme for Journalists: Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a new Health Insurance Scheme for the journalists launched by the state government in Odisha.
 - This scheme provides Rs. 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists of the state.

May

- 1. Samagra Shiksha scheme:** The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.
Note:
 - The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched Samagra Shiksha scheme to improve quality of school education.
- 2. Union Ministry of Power** launched the **PRAAPTI App** to bring transparency in electricity payments to Generators.
Note:
 - The scheme aims at improving quality of education, enhancing learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.

- The Union Ministry of Power launched web portal (www.praapti.in) and app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).
 - The webportal and app aims to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.
3. **IP Nani** - The union minister Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot **IP Nani** at the conference in New Delhi.
- Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson “Chhotu” aka Aditya.
 - The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.
4. **Gujarat govt.** launch free treatment scheme for the road accident victims.
- Note:**
- Under this scheme, the state govt. will bear medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours.
 - Free treatment includes dressing of wounds, X-ray, blood transfusion, treatment in ICU and MRI, and all other treatment available in a hospital.
5. **National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy** - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy to promote new projects as well as hybridization of the existing ones.
- Note:**
- The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for the promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.
 - These projects can be set up anywhere across the country depending on feasibility and land availability with bidders.
- The MNRE is also in the process of launching a scheme for new hybrid projects under this policy.
6. **Digital India Internship Scheme** - In May 2018, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the website of **Digital India Internship Scheme** in New Delhi.
- Key points -**
- Under this scheme, **25 interns** will be inducted for a period of three months, paid a stipend of **10 thousand rupees per month**.
 - The internship is an opportunity for a student to secure first hand and practical work experience under the guidance of qualified and experienced Supervisor and Mentor.
 - It also aims at active participation in the learning process through experimentation and putting into practice the knowledge acquired in the classrooms.
7. **Rythu Bandhu scheme** - The **Telangana government** launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) scheme at Dharmarajupalle-Indiranagar village in Karimnagar district on May 10, 2018.
- The scheme is a first-of-its-kind initiative providing investment support to farmers, who own land.
8. **‘SWAYAM’** - Human Resource Development Ministry has launched an initiative ‘SWAYAM’ to train teachers using digital platform.
- The government will use the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM aims to update the teaching technique of 1.5 million higher education faculty with focus on new and emerging trends.
 - To achieve this, in the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified to prepare online training material and keep the teachers well-informed of latest developments in their disciplines through the online refresher course.
 - Several institutions such as Central, State and Open Universities, National Institutes for

Technical Teachers Training, IITs, IIITs, NITs and other have been notified as NRCs in this regard.

April

- 'Project Dhoop'** - In order to address rising incidence of Vitamin 'D' deficiencies, particularly amongst the young people, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has launched a unique initiative, 'Project Dhoop' in association with NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.
 - This unique initiative urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time mainly between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
 - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** is an autonomous body established under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.**
 - Current Union Minister of Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.
 - He is a member of Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh.
- UTTAM App** - for Coal Quality Monitoring.
 - The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring.
 - UTTAM stands for** – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal
 - UTTAM App ensures accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in coal ecosystem.
 - It provides a platform for monitoring of sampling and coal dispatches.
- 'Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan'** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' at Ram Nagar in **Mandla district** of Madhya Pradesh.
 - The objective of the scheme is to enhance capacities and effectiveness of Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas.
- Atal New India Challenge** - On 26th April 2018, **NITI Aayog** launched **Atal New India Challenge** under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with an aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to the people.
Key points –
 - Grant** - Under the Atal Innovation Mission grants of **up to Rs 1 crore** will be provided to the applicants showing capability, intent, and potential to productize technologies.
 - Objective** - The objective of this initiative is to solve problems in different 17 areas, which would have direct impact on improving lives of citizens and also generate employment.
 - Partnership - Under this new initiative**, Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture and Family Welfare, Drinking Water & Sanitation and the Railway Board.
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** - The **Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** launched the second edition of the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** in New Delhi.
 - The objective of this mission is to students from 750 colleges and universities across the country will adopt the nearby villages and visit them to get familiar with the life of the village people and the problems faced by them in the day to day life.
- Study in India** - In April 18, the Government of India (GoI) has launched its flagship 'Study in India' programme to attract international students to study in India.

- It was jointly launched by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Human Resources Development Satya Pal Singh in New Delhi.
7. **'Rupshree Yojana'** - West Bengal introduced 'Rupshree Yojana' for marriage of poor girls of the state
 - In this scheme, there is a proposal to extend the financial assistance of Rs 25,000 to the girl's family, whose annual income is Rs 1.5 lakh.
 - The State Government of West Bengal had earlier initiated a scheme called Kanyashree Scheme to promote education among women.
 8. **'Atal Amrit Abhiyan'** - Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu launched an ambitious health assurance scheme 'Atal Amrit Abhiyan' in **Assam** state.
 - The scheme will offer free medical care of up to **2 lakh rupees** for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
- March**
1. **Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas** (Our Village, our development)" programme - **Odisha** state launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' programme -
 - Aim - to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.
 2. **KHUSHI' Scheme"** - Odisha government launched KHUSHI scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.
 3. **Udyam Sakhi Portal** - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the Udyam Sakhi Portal for women entrepreneurs of India.
 4. **"SATH-E"** project - to introduce system-wide Governance Transformation in school education.
 - The expand form of **"SATH-E"** is Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education.
9. **Ganga Haritkala Scheme (Ganga Hariyali Yojana)** - started by the state of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The scheme will cover 92% of the state's population with annual income below 5 lakh rupees.
 - The Assam govt. earmarked 400 crore rupees for the scheme in the financial year 2018-19.
 10. **DARPAN-PLI App - Minister of Communications**
Manoj Sinha launched the **DARPAN-PLI App in New Delhi**.
 - The DARPAN-PLI App will help in the collection of a premium for PLI and RPLI policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India.
 - DARPAN stands for - Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India.
5. **'Saubhagya' scheme – Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** union ministry partnered with the Ministry of Power to support household electrification scheme 'Saubhagya'.
 - It is an initiative launched by the NITI Aayog.
 - The Union Ministry of Power has partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states – Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh – for speedy implementation of its household electrification **scheme 'SAUBHAGYA'**.
 - The purpose of the SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) scheme is to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country in a time bound manner.

Schemes launched in Union Budget 2018 February

1. **KUSUM scheme 2018** - Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan scheme announced in the Union Budget 2018.
 - **Objective:** to encourage farmers for solar farming across the country.
 - **Budget allocation - Rs. 48,000 crore**
 - **Benefits** – Govt. will provide Solar Agricultural Pumps to the farmers.
 - **Target** – Doubling farmers income by 2022.
2. **Ayushman Bharat Scheme** – In the Union Budget 2018 two major initiatives in health sector as part of Ayushman Bharat programme announced by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitely.

(i) Health and Wellness Centre - Under this **1.5 lakh centres** will bring health care system closer to the homes of people. These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
Budget - The Budget has allocated **Rs.1200 crore** for this flagship programme.

(ii) National Health Protection Scheme - National Health Protection Scheme will cover over **10 crore** poor and vulnerable families. It will have **50 crore beneficiaries**. This scheme will be world's largest government funded health care programme.
3. **Operation Green** – On the lines of “Operation Flood” a new Scheme “Operation Greens’ is announced in the Union Budget 2018.
 - **Aim** – The aim of Operation Green scheme is to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
 - It is a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
 - The operation aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of onions, potatoes and tomatoes.
 - **Budget Allocation – Rs. 500 crore**
4. **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** – Terming Bamboo as ‘Green Gold’, the Union Finance Minister launched announced the scheme in the Union Budget 2018. It is a wholly-sponsored central scheme.
 - **Objective** - to double the income of farmers by the end of 2022.
5. **Gobar Dhan Yojana - Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resource Fund Scheme** - In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the new scheme for the villagers.

Objective - To make the villages open defecation free and improving the lives of villagers.

Key points

 - Under this scheme the solid waste and cattle dung will be composed into useful elements such as Bio-CNG and Bio-Gas that are needed in agricultural sector.
6. **Affordable Housing Fund (.Kifayati Aawas yojna)**– In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the new scheme to provide homes at low cost.

Objective – To boost demand and supply of low-cost homes.

Key points –

 - Government will establish a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) in National Housing Bank, funded from priority sector lending shortfall and fully serviced bonds authorized by the Government of India.
7. **Ekalavya Model Residential School** – In the Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the scheme to educate children from the Tribal Community.

Objective – To bring major revolutions in the education sector.

Key points

- Under this mission, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% Scheduled Tribes (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an **Ekalavya Model Residential School**.
- “Ekalavya schools will be on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture, besides providing training in sports and skill development.”

8. **Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)** - To make India produce better research and make its institutions climb up in global rankings.

- **Objective** - To step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.
 - **Agency** - Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) would be suitably structured for funding this initiative.
 - **Budget allocation** - a total investment of **₹1 lakh crore** in the next four years.
9. **Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme** – A ‘Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme’ was announced for top 1,000 B.Tech students in the country to provide opportunity to the students to pursue a PhD in IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

January

1. **Govt relaxes norms for Atal Pension Yojana** - The Union Finance Ministry has relaxed norms of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to allow small finance banks and payment banks to offer APY distribution. The move is expected to help expand coverage of the scheme.

Key features of the APY –

- It is a social security scheme.
- It replaced earlier Swavalamban scheme.
- Age limit – **18 – 40 years**
- Pension - Under scheme, subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of **Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month**, depending on his contribution, from age of 60 years.
- There is no exit to the scheme before the age of 60.

Note: Uttar Pradesh with 11.41 lakh subscriber (APY accounts) is highest contributing state of the scheme followed by Bihar (8.87 lakh subscribers) and Tamil Nadu (6.60 lakh).

2. **Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana (MGSVY)** – Punjab government launched the 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' (MGSVY) aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.

3. **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative** - The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.

Objective - to strengthen cybersecurity ecosystem in India in line Government’s vision for a ‘Digital India’.

Key points

- It was launched in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat is first public-private partnership of its kind.
- It will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.
- The founding partners include leading IT companies such as Microsoft, Intel, WIPRO, Redhat and Dimension Data.

4. **Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna** - Maharashtra state government launched the Yojna.

Objective – To promote climate-resilient agriculture in the state.

Total budget - Rs.4,000-crore.

Note:

- The yojna will be roll out in 2018-19 and continue till 2023-24.
 - The Scheme has been named after social activist Nanaji Deshmukh who has worked in fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance, and has been honoured with Padma Vibhushan.
5. **Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat**’ launched by HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar **in Kochi, Kerala.**
- The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
6. **'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana'** – Odisha state government launched the yojana assistance scheme for Artists in the state.
- Objective** – To provide financial assistance to the artists of the state.

Note:

- The government has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance.
- As per new eligibility criteria, a male artist can get assistance under after attaining the age of 50 years (earlier it was 60 years) and female artist can get it at age of 40 years (earlier it was 50 years).

7. **National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis scheme** – The scheme will be roll out by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Objective** - The focus will be on anti-viral treatment of Hepatitis C which will be provided free at all government health set-ups.
- Budget** - Rs 600 crore for the next three years.

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