

**06 March 2019**

1. **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) Scheme**

- Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) Scheme in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

**About the scheme**

- It is a central sector scheme open to unorganised workers, whose monthly income is Rs 15000/- or below and who have an Aadhar number as well as savings bank account.
- It is a voluntary and contribution based scheme under which the subscriber gets an assured minimum monthly pension of Rs 3000/- from the age of 60 years onwards.
- The minimum age for joining the scheme is 18 years and the maximum is 40 years.
- The contribution of a subscriber ranges from Rs 55/- to Rs 200/- depending on his entry age which is 18 to 40.
- Under the scheme, the Central Government will also give a matching contribution towards the beneficiary's pension account.
- Further, it has a unique feature that in case of an exit, the subscriber would be returned his entire contribution.
- It will be implemented through the Common Service Centre (CSC) across the country.

**Benefits**

- It is estimated to benefit 42 crore workers in the unorganized sector constituting around 85% of the total Labour force of the country.

**Topic- GS Paper 2 –Important Scheme**

**Source-PIB**

2. **AL NAGAH 2019 – Military Exercise between India and Oman**

- Exercise Al Nagah III, third in the series of bilateral joint military exercise between India and Oman to be held at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
- The exercise will see both the armies exchanging expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing, with an aim to enhance interoperability in counterterrorist operations in semi-urban mountainous terrain.
- Exercise Al Nagah III follows the first two joint exercises that were held in Oman in January 2015 and India in March 2017 respectively.

**Topic- GS Paper 3 –Defence**

**Source-PIB**

3. **National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19**

- The Survey is conducted by an Independent Verification Agency under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G).

### **Finding of the Survey**

- It has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.
- The survey has also re-confirmed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of 90.7% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF by various districts and states.

### **Related Information**

- The government claims that since its Swachh Bharat Mission programme started in October 2014, 500 million people have stopped defecating in the open, down from 550 million at the beginning of the programme to less than 50 million today.
- Over 9 crore toilets have been built across rural India under the Mission.
- Over 5.5 lakh villages and 615 districts have been declared ODF, along with 30 ODF States and Union Territories, as per the government.

### **Topic- GS Paper 2 –Governance**

#### **Source- Business Standard**

#### **4. National Rural Economic Transformation Project**

- The World Bank and the GOI signed a \$250 Million Agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP).
- The project will help women in rural households shift to a new generation of economic initiatives by developing viable enterprise for farm and non-farm products.
- The Project will be to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across the value chain.
- It will also enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and generate employment.
- The NERTP will support enterprise development programs for rural poor women and youth by creating a platform to access finance including start-up financing options to build their individual and/or collectively owned and managed enterprises.
- It will also support youth skills development, in coordination with the Deen Dayal Upadaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
- The Project is currently being implemented across 13 states.

### **Topic- GS Paper 2 –Governance**

#### **Source- Economics Times**

#### **5. Seven banks fined for SWIFT violation**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slapped penalties on seven more commercial banks for not adhering to regulatory directions relating to global messaging platform SWIFT.

### **SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)**

- The SWIFT is a global member-owned cooperative that is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
- It was founded in 1973 by a group of 239 banks from 15 countries which formed a co-operative utility to develop a secure electronic messaging service and common standards to facilitate cross-border payments.
- SWIFT neither holds funds on its own nor manages external client accounts.
- Its core role is to provide a secure transmission channel so that Bank A knows that its message to Bank B goes to Bank B and no one else.
- Bank B, in turn, knows that Bank A, and no one other than Bank A, sent, read or altered the message in route.
- Banks, of course, need to have checked in place before actually sending messages.

### **Related Information**

#### **What happened in the PNB case?**

- SWIFT established the customer security programme (CSP) in early 2016 to support customers in the fight against a growing cyberthreat.
- In the PNB case, one of its biggest failures was the missing link between SWIFT and the bank's backend software.
- This allowed fraudulent use of a key credit instrument — letters of understanding or a loan request to another bank through the SWIFT network — to transfer funds.

### **Topic- GS Paper 3 –Economics**

#### **Source- Economics Times**

### **6. Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme**

- Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has notified a scheme for Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products.

#### **About the Scheme**

- The scheme aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce which is likely to mitigate disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agriculture products due to trans-shipment and to promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products in the specified overseas markets.
- The scheme would be suitably included in the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20).
- All exporters, duly registered with relevant Export Promotion Council as per Foreign Trade Policy, of eligible agriculture products, shall be covered under this scheme.

- The assistance shall be admissible only if payments for the exports are received in Free Foreign Exchange through normal banking channels.
- The scheme shall be admissible for the exports made through EDI (Electronic Data Exchange) ports only.
- The scheme covers freight and marketing assistance for export by air as well as by sea (both normal and reefer cargo).

### **Topic- GS Paper 2 –Important Scheme**

#### **Source- TOI**

#### **7. Fall Armyworm (FAW) has infested crops in over 50 countries**

- In order to counter and combat the outbreak of FAW, the government is creating awareness among and distributing chemicals to farmers.
- In early 2016, strains of FAW were first spotted in Nigeria.
- FAW damages economically important cultivated grasses such as maize, millet, wheat, potato, soybean, cowpea, peanuts, sorghum, rice, sugarcane and even vegetables and cotton.
- FAW thrives due to climate change. Its entire life cycle is completed in 30 days during warm weather. It can take up to 90 days during cooler weather.

#### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

- It is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas.
- In the absence of natural control or good management, it can cause significant damage to crops.
- FAW was first detected in Central and Western Africa in early 2016 and has quickly spread across virtually all of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In July 2018 it was confirmed in India and Yemen.