

**UPSC**

# **GradeUP 365 Government Schemes**

**(January 2020-March 2021)**

**Yearly Current Affairs  
Compilation**



## UPSC Prelims 365 current affairs: “Abki Baar Prelims Paar”

### Schemes and Reports

1. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
2. Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme
3. Operation Greens
4. Godhan Nyay Yojana
5. Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana
6. Schemes for setting up of Bulk Drugs Parks & Medical Devices Parks
7. Production linked incentive scheme for electronics manufacturers
8. K. V. Kamath Committee
9. PM-SVANidhi
10. National Digital Health Authority
11. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
12. Schemes for setting up of Bulk Drugs Parks & Medical Devices Parks
13. National Council for Transgender Persons
14. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
15. Five Star Villages Scheme
16. UN's Commission on Status of Women
17. Safe Motherhood Assurance (SUMAN) Initiative
18. Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission
19. Swachha Bharat Puraskar
20. Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit
21. Production Lined Incentive scheme
22. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission
23. Thalassaemia Bal Sewa Yojana
24. KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness
25. Leather Sector Skill Council launches SCALE India Android App
26. Kisan Suryodaya Yojana
27. PLI Schemes for drugs & medical devices
28. Rural Development Fund
29. Bulk Drug Park
30. Operation Muskaan
31. Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)
32. Chhattisgarh launches scheme for distribution of fortified rice
33. One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme
34. Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana
35. Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme
36. National Mission on Saffron
37. Odisha to introduce fish in nutrition scheme
38. PM-KUSUM Scheme Expansion
39. Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana
40. National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)
41. POSHAN Abhiyan
42. Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPs)
43. Mission COVID Suraksha
44. Orunodoi Scheme
45. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER)
46. ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure’ Scheme
47. Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies
48. Kisan Kalyan Mission
49. Post Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)

## **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

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

- Recently **Prime Minister** has announced the **extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** till the end of **November 2020**.



### **About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

- **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** was announced as part of the first relief package during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Scheme** was announced for three months and ended on **June 30**.
- The Scheme aims to ensure sufficient foods with the **poor and needy amid the coronavirus crisis**.

### **Silent Features of the Scheme**

- The Scheme covered **80 crore ration cardholders** in the country.
- The **foodgrains** were to be **distributed to all the beneficiaries** under the targeted public **distribution system (TPDS)** for **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and priority **household (PHH) ration cardholders**.
- The eligible individuals were to **receive 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg Gram per month** for three months **between April and June 2020**, which has now been extended for **five more months**.

## **Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme**

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

- **Union Minister for Food Processing** has recently launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme** as a part of “**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**”.



### About PM FME scheme

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** which is to be **implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**.

### Fund Sharing

- The **expenditure under the Scheme** would be **shared in 60:40 ratios** between **Central and State Governments**, in **90:10 ratios** with **North Eastern and the Himalayan States**, **60:40 ratio** with **UTs with the legislature** and **100% by Centre** for other **UTs**.

### Objective

- To provide **financial, technical, and business support** for **upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises**.

### Impact

- The **Scheme** would **generate a total investment of Rs 35,000 crore** and **generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment** and **benefit 8 lakh units** through access to **information, training, better exposure, and formalization**.

### Implementation strategy:

- The **Scheme** adopts **One District One Product (ODODP)** approach to **reap the benefit of scale** in terms of **procurement of inputs, availing basic services and marketing of products**.
- The **Scheme** also **place focus on waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts**.

## **Operation Greens**

### Why in the news?

- Recently **Union Minister for Food Processing** announced the **Extension of Operation Greens from TOP (Tomato-Onion-Potato) crops to all Perishable Fruits & Vegetables (TOP to Total)**.
- The **objective of the intervention** is to **protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post-harvest losses**.

### Eligible Crops:

- **Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit; Vegetables: - French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.**
- **Any other fruit/vegetable can be added in future based on the recommendation by the Ministry of Agriculture or State Government.**

**Duration of Scheme: –**

- It is for **six months** from the **date of notification, i.e., 11/06/2020**.

### **Eligible entities**

- Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/marketing of fruits and vegetables.

### **Pattern of Assistance**

- Ministry will provide **subsidy @ 50 % of the cost** of the following **two components**, subject to the cost norms.
- **Transportation of eligible crops** from **surplus production cluster** to **consumption centre**; and/or
- **The hiring of appropriate storage facilities** for **eligible crops** (for a **maximum period of 3 months**).

## **Godhan Nyay Yojana**

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

- Recently **Godhan Nyay Yojana Yojana**, a **first of its kind scheme**, has been launched in **Chhattisgarh** on the occasion of **festival of Hareli**.



### **More about the scheme**

- Under the scheme, **government will procure cow dung at Rs 2 per kilogram** from livestock owners and use it to **prepare organic fertilizers**.
- The aim of this scheme to give a **boost to rural economy** and to **create employment opportunities in the rural areas**.
- The **procured cow dung** will be utilized for the **production of vermicompost fertilizer** which will be sold through **cooperative societies** to meet the **fertilizer requirement of the farmers**.
- The scheme will **encourage use of organic fertilizers, minimizing the use of chemical ones**.
- It is implemented through the **Suraaji Gaon Yojana** under which **construction of more than five thousand cowsheds** has been constructed.
- **Godhan Nyay Yojana** will be implemented through these cowsheds

### **About Hareli Festival**

- It is an **agricultural festival** celebrated by the **rural farming communities in Chhattisgarh**.

## **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**

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

- **Union Home Minister** has recently distributed (via **video conference**) **100 electric potter wheels** to **100 trained artisans** under **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana** of **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**.





### **About Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**

• Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Program is an **initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of **potter's community in the remotest of locations** in the country.

### **Target beneficiaries**

• The program reaches out to the **potters in: U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.**

### **Benefits provided**

This program provides the **following support to potters.**

- a. Training for **advanced pottery products**
- b. Latest, **new technology pottery equipments** like the electric Chaak
- c. **Market linkages** and visibility through KVIC exhibitions

### **Outcomes**

Due to the supply of **electric chaaks**, the potters have reaped the following benefits.

- More production with fewer hours of work.
- Less noise and better health benefits
- Less power consumption with smooth transition to higher speeds

### **About Khadi and Village Industries Commission**

• The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is a **statutory body formed in April 1957 (as per an RTI) by the Government of India**, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.

• It is an **apex organisation** under the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, with regard to khadi and village industries within India.

• The commission will seek to - **plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist** in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

## **Schemes for setting up of Bulk Drugs Parks & Medical Devices Parks**

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

• The **Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** has launched four schemes of **Department of Pharmaceuticals** for promotion of **domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices parks** in the country.

• The schemes have been **launched in line with the vision and clarion call for making India Atmanirbhar** in the pharma sector.

• The **Union government** has approved four schemes, **two each for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices parks.**

**The salient features of the four schemes are:**

### **Scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks**

• The scheme **envisages creation of 3 bulk drug parks** in the country.



### **Funding Pattern**

- The **grant-in-aid** will be **90% of the project cost** in case of **North-East and hilly States** and **70% in case of other States**.

- The **maximum grant-in-aid** for one **bulk Drug Park** is limited to **Rs.1000 crore**.

### **States will be selected through a challenge method:**

- The **States interested in setting up the parks** will have to **ensure 24\*7 supplies of electricity and water** to the **bulk drug units** located in the **park** and **offer competitive land lease rates** to bulk drug units in the park.

- The **ease of doing business ranking of the state, incentive policies of the State applicable to the bulk drug industry, availability of technical manpower in the state, etc,** will also be **factored in while selecting the States**.

- The **interested States** will be **scored and ranked on evaluation criteria**, which captures above parameters.

- The **States getting top 3 ranks** will be selected and the **grant-in-aid will be released to each state in four installments**.

- The selected **States will have to complete the park** as per the approved **Detailed Project Report (submitted by states) within two years of date of release of first installment of grant-in-aid**.

### **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for promoting domestic manufacturing of Medical Devices**

- The scheme (with a financial outlay **Rs.3,420 crore**) intends to **boost domestic manufacturing of medical devices** in four **target segments by giving financial incentives** on sales to a **maximum number of 28 selected applicants for a period of 5 years**.

- **Financial incentive** will be given at a **rate of 5% of the sales of domestically manufactured medical devices**.

### **Four target segments are:**

a. Cancer care / Radiotherapy medical devices

b. Radiology & Imaging medical devices (both ionizing & non-ionizing radiation products) and Nuclear Imaging devices

c. Anesthetics & Cardio-Respiratory medical devices including catheters of Cardiorespiratory Category & Renal Care medical devices

d. All Implants including implantable electronic devices

### **Beneficiaries**

- **Any company registered in India** and possessing a **minimum net worth** (including group companies) of **Rs.18 crore** is eligible to apply for incentives under the scheme.

### **Significance**

- It is expected that these schemes will make **India not only self-reliant** but also capable of catering to the **global demand for the selected bulk drugs and medical devices**.

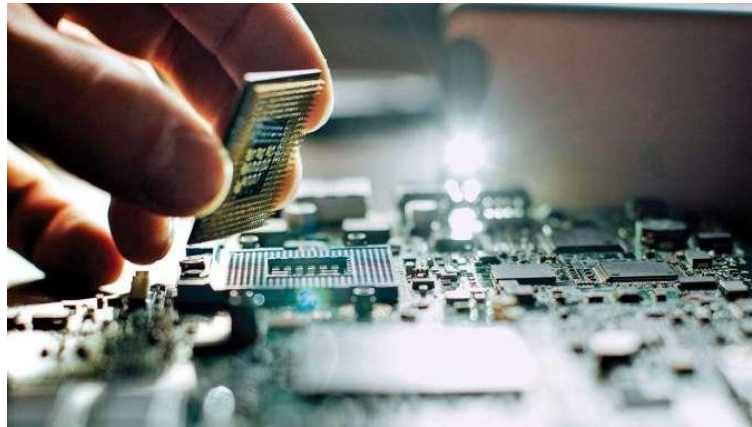
- It will **provide a golden opportunity** for the **investors since incentivisation to industry and world-class infrastructure support** simultaneously will help in **bringing down the cost of production** significantly.

- These **schemes along with the liberal FDI policy** in these sectors and an **effective corporate tax rate of about 17%** (including surcharge and cess) will give a **competitive edge to India** in the selected products vis-à-vis other economies.

## **Production linked incentive scheme for electronics manufacturers**

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

- Recently the **global electronics giants** such as **Samsung, Pegatron, Flex, and Foxconn** among others are in final stages of negotiations to benefit from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's production** linked incentive scheme.



### **About Production linked incentive scheme**

- This scheme is a **part of National Policy on Electronics** which would give **incentives of 4-6 per cent** to electronics companies.
- The incentives are given on **manufacture mobile phones** and other **electronic components such as transistors**, diodes, thyristors, resistors, capacitors, and nano-electronic components such as micro electromechanical systems.
- According to the scheme, **companies that make mobile phones** which sell for **Rs 15,000 or more** will get an **incentive of up to 6 per cent** on incremental sales of all such **mobile phones made in India**.
- In the same category, **companies which are owned by Indian nationals** and make such **mobile phones, the incentive has been kept at Rs 200 crore** for the next four years.

### **What is the tenure of the scheme?**

- The **PLI scheme** will be active for **five years with financial year (FY) 2019-20** considered as the **base year for calculation of incentives**.
- This means that **all investments and incremental sales registered after FY20** shall be considered while **computing the incentive** to be given to each company.

### **Significance**

- The scheme will on one hand **attract big foreign investment** in the sector, while also **encouraging domestic mobile phone makers to expand their units and presence in India**. **AIM has adopted a holistic framework in the achievement of its objectives.**
  - a. **Atal Tinkering Labs** – to promote creative, innovative mind set in schools
  - b. **Atal Incubators** – to promote entrepreneurship in universities and industry
  - c. **Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges** - to promote specific product innovations with social / economic impact
  - d. **Mentors of Change** – to mentor students at **ATL and AIC Incubators / Startups**

## **National Council for Transgender Persons**

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



- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has recently constituted the **National Council for Transgender Persons**.



### About National Council for Transgender Persons

- The **Council** has been formed under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**.
- The Council will also have **joint secretary level members** from **ministries of health, minority affairs, education, labour, rural development**.
- Apart from the ministries, the **council** will also have members from **Human Rights Commissions, NITI Aayog and National Commission for women**.
- **Five nominated members** from the **community** are also part of the **Council**.



### Functions of the Council

1. To **advise the central government** on **formulation of policies, legislation, programmes and projects with respect to transgender persons**
2. To **review and coordinate activities** of all departments
3. To **redress grievances** of **transgender persons**.
4. To **monitor and evaluate impact** of **policies and programmes** designed for **achieving equality and full participation of transgenders**.
5. To **perform other functions** as **prescribed by the centre**.

## **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

### Why in the news?

- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion completes six years of successful implementation.



### About Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- The scheme was announced by Prime Minister in his Independence Day address on 15th August 2014.
- It was launched on 28th August.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

### Objectives

- Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost.
- Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach

### Initial Features

The scheme was launched based upon the following 6 pillars:

- **Universal access to banking services** – Branch and BC
- Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every household
- **Financial Literacy Program**– Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking
- **Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund** – To provide banks some guarantee against defaults.
- **Insurance** – Accident cover up to Rs. 1, 00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015.
- Pension scheme for unorganized sector.

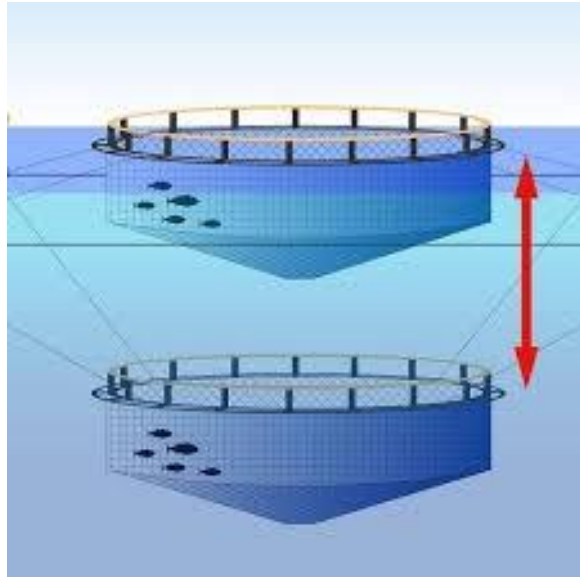
### Extension of PMJDY with New features

- The Government decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY program beyond 28.8.2018 with some modifications
- a. **Focus shift from 'Every Household' to Every Unbanked Adult'**
- b. RuPay Card Insurance - Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018.
- c. Enhancement in overdraft facilities –
- d. Overdraft limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 10,000/-; OD upto Rs 2,000/- (without conditions).
- e. Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years.

## **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**

### Why in the news?

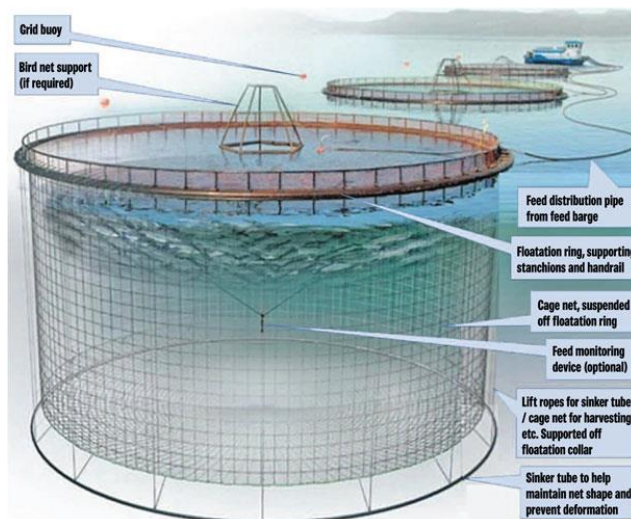
- Recently **Prime Minister** will **digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** on **10th September 2020**.



### Related Information

#### About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- It is a **flagship scheme** for **focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector** in the country.
- The scheme will be **implemented during a period of 5 years** from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25**.



It will have two separate Components namely

a. **Central Sector Scheme (CS)**

b. **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).**

- Under the **Central Sector Scheme Component**, an **amount of 1,720 crores** has been earmarked.
- Under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component**, an investment of **18,330 crores** has been envisaged,
- **PMMSY scheme** primarily focuses on adopting '**Cluster or Area based approaches**' and **creation of Fisheries clusters** through **backward and forward linkages**.

### **Aims and objectives of PMMSY**

- a. Harnessing of fisheries potential in a **sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner**
- b. **Enhancing of fish production and productivity through expansion**, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water
- c. **Modernizing and strengthening of value chain** - post-harvest management and quality improvement
- d. **Doubling fishers and fish farmers incomes** and generation of employment
- e. **Enhancing contribution to Agriculture GVA** and exports
- f. Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers
- g. **Robust fisheries management** and regulatory framework

**Intended Beneficiaries:**

- Fishers, Fish farmers, Fish workers, Fish vendors, SCs/STs/Women/Differently abled persons, Fisheries cooperatives/Federations, FFPOs, Fisheries Development corporations, Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and Individual Entrepreneurs.

**Other inaugurations related to Fisheries sector**

**e-Gopala App**

- It is a **comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal** for direct use of farmers.
- At present **no digital platform** is available in the **country for farmers managing livestock** including **buying and selling of disease-free germplasm** in all forms.
- There is **no mechanism to send alerts** (on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving etc) and **inform farmers about various government schemes** and campaigns in the area.
- The **e-Gopala App** will **provide solutions to farmers** on all these aspects.

Note:

- **Prime Minister** will announce the **establishment of Fish Brood Bank** at Sitamarhi, **and of Aquatic Disease Referral Laboratory at Kishanganj**, for which assistance has been provided under PMMSY.
- These facilities will help in **enhancing production and productivity of fish** by **ensuring timely availability of quality and affordable fish seed** for the **fish farmers and address the need for disease diagnosis** as well as **water and soil testing facilities**.
- He will **inaugurate one-unit fish feed mill at Madhepura** and two units of **'Fish on Wheels'** assisted at **Patna under Blue Revolution**.

## **Child Mortality**

**Why in the news?**

- According to a **UNICEF report**, **India's child mortality rate** has declined substantially between **1990** and **2019**.
- The **new mortality estimates report** has been released by **UNICEF**, the **WHO**, the **Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs** and the **World Bank Group**.



### Highlights of the report

- The **under-five mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined to **34 in 2019** from **126 in 1990**.
- The country registered a **4.5 per cent annual rate of reduction** in **under-five mortality between 1990-2019**.
- The **number of under-five deaths in India dropped** from 3.4 million in 1990 to 824,000 in 2019.
- The **infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India **declined from 89 in 1990 to 28 last year**.

### Government Initiatives to reduce child mortality

#### India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)

- It was **launched in 2014** to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goal of “**Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate**” and “**Single Digit Still-birth Rate**”.

#### National Health Mission (NHM)

- The **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** that **started in 2005** to provide **accessible, affordable, and quality health care** to the rural population (especially the vulnerable groups) **improved the health system in the country**.
- It is being **implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

#### Subcomponent of National Health Mission

- a. National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)
  - b. National Rural Health Mission
- Its **main programmatic components** include health system strengthening in rural and urban areas for- **Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases**.
  - **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) etc.** were started to promote institutional deliveries to **reduce the prevalence of Infant Mortality Rate**.

## **Five Star Villages Scheme**

### Why in the news?

- The **Department of Posts** has launched a **scheme called Five Star Villages**, to ensure **universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country**.
- The scheme is being **launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra**.

### About the Five Star Villages Scheme

- The **scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services**, especially in interior villages.
- All **postal products and services** will be **made available and marketed and publicized at village level**, under the **Five Star Villages scheme**.
- Branch offices will function as **one-stop shop to cater all post office - related needs of villagers**.



- The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:
  - i) Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates
  - ii) Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts
  - iii) Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts
  - iv) Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy
  - v) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

#### **Categorization**

- If a village **attains universal coverage** for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status.
- If a **village completes three schemes**, then that village get three-star status and so on.

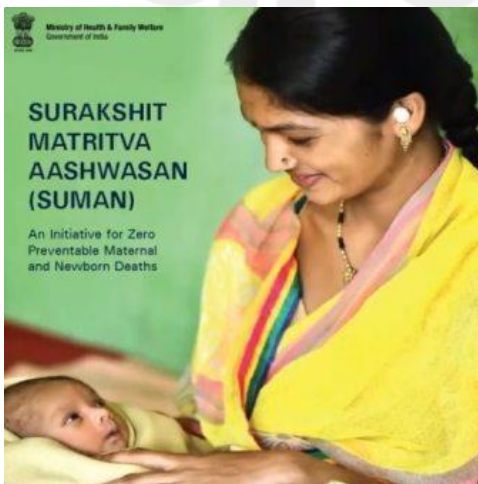
#### **Scheme Implementation Team**

- The scheme will be **implemented by a team of five Gramin Dak Sevaks** who will be **assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings, and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.**
- This team will be headed by the **Branch Postmaster** of the concerned **Branch Office.**

## **Safe Motherhood Assurance (SUMAN) Initiative**

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

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** participated in the **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) 'Accountability Breakfast'** and lauded the efforts of **Safe Motherhood Assurance (SUMAN) initiative.**



### **About Safe Motherhood Assurance (SUMAN) initiative**

- This initiative was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** during the **13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare** in **2019.**
- It focuses on **assured delivery of maternal and newborn healthcare services** encompassing wider **access to free and quality services.**

- It is aimed at zero tolerance for denial of services, assured management of complications along with respect for women's autonomy, dignity, feelings, choices, and preferences, etc.
- All Pregnant Women/Newborns visiting public health facilities are entitled to free services provided under the SUMAN initiative.
- Under this programme, Pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.

**These include:**

- At least four antenatal check-ups
- One checkup during the 1st trimester
- At least one checkup under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- Iron Folic Acid supplementation
- Tetanus Diptheria injection and
- other components of comprehensive ANC package and six home-based newborn care visits

**About Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFV)**

- It is an apex advisory body set up under Article 263 of the Constitution.
- It provides support and advice to the Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on policy formulation and to consider and recommend broad lines of policy regarding matters concerning health.

**Organizational Structure of Council:**

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare is the Chairperson of the Council and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare is the Vice-Chairperson of the council.

**Article 263 of the Constitution**

- Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between Centre and states.
- Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- Therefore, the president has established the following councils to make recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action in the related subjects:
  - Central Council of Health.
  - Central Council of Local Government and Urban Development.
  - Four Regional Councils for Sales Tax for the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Zones.

**Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation**

**Mission**

**Why in the news?**

- Union Social Justice Minister launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission under Venture Capital Fund for SCs, with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.



### **About Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission**

- Under **Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission initiative**, one thousand scheduled caste youth will be **identified in the next four years** with **start-up ideas** through the **Technology Business Incubators** in various **higher educational institutions**.
- They will be **funded 30 lakh rupees** in **three years** as **equity funding** to translate their **start-up ideas into commercial ventures**.
- Successful ventures would further **qualify for venture funding** of **up to five Crore rupees** from the **Venture Capital Fund** for **scheduled caste**.

### **About Venture Capital Fund for scheduled caste**

- The fund has been launched by **Social Justice Ministry** in **2014-15** with a view to **developing entrepreneurship** amongst the **scheduled caste** and **Divyang youth** and to **enable them to become job-givers**.
- The objective of this **fund** is to **provide concessional finance** to the **entities of the scheduled caste entrepreneurs**.
- Under this fund, **117 companies** promoted by **SC entrepreneurs** have been **sanctioned financial assistance** to set up **business ventures**.

## **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit**

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

- Recently, the **Prime Minister** has inaugurated **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit** on **Gandhi Jayanti**.



### **About Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit**

- It is a **collaborative initiative by Science & Technology and Academic Organisations of India.**
- It aims to **enable deliberations on thought process, practices, and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.**
- The **VAIBHAV initiative aims to bring out the comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher** for solving emerging challenges.
- The **aim of summit is to reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments** with academia and scientists in India.
- This will also bring out **mechanisms of advancements in education, research, and entrepreneurship in India** as an essential element of its overall sustainable development.

### **Production Linked Incentive Scheme**

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

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY)** has approved 16 eligible applicants under the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) Scheme.**

#### **About Production Linked Incentive Scheme**

- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing** was notified on **1st April 2020.**
- It extends an incentive of **4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods under target segments** that are **manufactured in India to eligible companies**, for a **period of five years** subsequent to the **base year (FY2019-20).**
- Over the **next 5 years**, the **approved companies** under the **PLI Scheme** are expected to **lead to total production** of more than **INR 10.5 lakh crore).**
- The **companies approved** under the scheme are expected to **promote exports significantly.** Out of the **total production of INR 10,50,000 crore** in the next 5 years, around **60%** will be contributed by exports of the **order of INR 6,50,000 crore.**
- The **companies approved** under the scheme will **bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing** to the tune of **INR 11,000 crore.**





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## Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing



**Incentive:** 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India



**Target Segments:** Mobile phones and specified electronic components



**Eligibility:** Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods



**Tenure of the Scheme:** Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)

gradeup

## **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission**

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

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved a **Special Package** worth **Rs. 520 crores** in the **UTs of J&K and Ladakh** for a period of **five years till FY 2023-24**.
- This will ensure **sufficient funds** under the **Mission**, as per need to the **UTs** and is also in line with **Government of India's** aim to **universalize all centrally sponsored beneficiary-oriented schemes** in the **UTs of J&K and Ladakh** in a time bound manner.



### **About Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

- It is a **centrally sponsored programme** that aims at **eliminating rural poverty** through **promotion of multiple livelihoods** for the **rural poor households across the country**.
- The **launch of DAY-NRLM** in **June 2011** to **address rural poverty** marks a paradigm shift in **poverty alleviation programmes**.
- **DAY-NRLM** seeks to **reach out to all rural poor households**, estimated at about **10 crore households**.
- The **Mission involves working with the community institutions** through **community professionals** in the **spirit of self-help**.
- This is the unique proposition of **DAY-NRLM** and that is **how it is different from the previous poverty eradication programmes**.
- It is **implemented in a Mission mode** by **special purpose vehicles** (autonomous state societies) with dedicated implementation support units at the national, state, district and block levels, **using professional human resources** in order to **provide continuous and long-term handholding support** to each **rural poor family**.

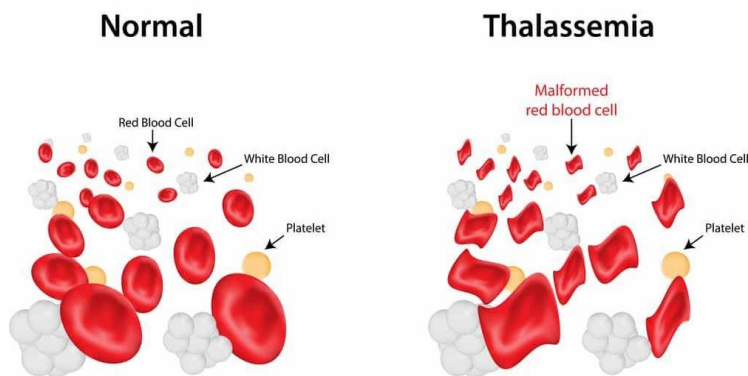
### **Background**

- DAY-NRLM has been **implemented in the erstwhile state of J&K** by the *Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM)* as "**Umeed**" programme.

## **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana**

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

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare** has launched the second phase of "**Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana**" for the **underprivileged Thalassemic patients**.



### About Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana

- It is a **Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)** program launched in **2017**.
- It aims to provide a **one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies** like **Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease** for patients who have a **matched family donor**.
- The **project will primarily benefit underprivileged** thalassemia patients who have a **matched sibling donor**.

### Related Information

#### About Thalassemia

- The **thalassemias are a group of anemias that result from inherited defects in the production of hemoglobin**.
- The thalassemias are among the **most common genetic disorders worldwide**, occurring **more frequently in the Mediterranean region, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and West Africa**.
- **Ineffective bone marrow erythropoiesis and excessive red blood cell hemolysis** together **account for the anemia**.

#### Types of Thalassemia

##### Thalassemia minor

- In this the **hemoglobin genes are inherited during conception**, one from the **mother and one from the father**.
- **People with a Thalassemia trait in one gene are known as carriers or are said to have thalassemia minor**.
- Thalassemia minor is **not a disease** and they **have only mild anemia**.

##### Thalassemia Intermedia

- These are patients who have **mild to severe symptoms**.

##### Thalassemia Major

- This is the **most severe form of Thalassemia**.
- This occurs when a **child inherits two mutated genes**, one from each parent.
- **Patients Children with thalassemia major** develop the symptoms of severe anemia within the **first year of life**.
- They **require regular transfusions** to survive or a **bone marrow transplant** and are at a **grave risk of iron overload** and other complications.

### About Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)

- The **outcome of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) for thalassemia major depends on several factors other than the type of donor.**
- It was first explored in humans in the **1950s** and was based on **observational studies in mice models.** Topic-

### KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness

#### Why in the news?

- Recently **Union Education Minister** launched the **'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness** campaign on the **89th** birth anniversary of former **President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.**
- It has also been decided to **celebrate the week of October 15th to 23rd** as **'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.**

#### About the KAPILA' Kalam Program

- Under the **'KAPILA' Kalam Program**, students **pursuing education in higher educational institutions** will get **information about the correct system of the application process for patenting their invention** and they will be aware of their rights.



## Related Information

- The **Institution Innovation Council (IIC 2.0) annual report** was also presented on **89th birth anniversary of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.**
- The **IIC 3.0 website** was also **launched on the occasion. About Institution Innovation Council**
- The **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program** was launched under **Innovation cell of Ministry of Education in New Delhi in 2018.**

## Objective

- The **purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs)** is to **encourage, inspire and nurture young students** by exposing them to **new ideas and processes** resulting in **innovative activities in their formative years.**
- The **successful implementation of this program** will lead to a **good rank in global innovation ranking in next 2-3 years.**

## Leather Sector Skill Council launches SCALE India Android App

### Why in the news?

- The **Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC)** recently announced the **launch of the Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE) India** android app.

### About the SCALE India Android App

- The **platform caters to the need of all the stakeholders** of the skilling and employment ecosystem namely – candidate/trainee, employer, employee, assessor, and trainer - all at one place.
- The **services are accessible** through the **web and android application** that virtually works on any smart handheld device, desktop/laptop, smartphones, tablets, or phablets.



- The **application will be providing end to end quality assurance** across training, assessment, and certification services,
- It will also **help employers engage** with other stakeholders seamlessly and provide a marketplace for human capital for the leather industry.



- **SCALE** will help candidates in the skilling ecosystem to get assessed and certified on their knowledge, skills, and behavior on a specific qualification pack.
- The **App also enables access to micro-learning modules** for **bridging the skill gaps** that are identified and can be re-assessed and certified at the end of the learning on the specific qualification pack.

## **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

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

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020 is being **observed on 17 October**.

### **About International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is an **international observance celebrated** each year on **October 17** throughout the world.
- The theme for the Day this year is "**Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all.**"
- In its **resolution 72/233**, the **General Assembly** proclaimed the **Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)**. Persons living in poverty experience many **interrelated and mutually**

reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their right and perpetuate their poverty, including:

- dangerous work conditions
- unsafe housing
- lack of nutritious food
- unequal access to justice
- lack of political power
- limited access to health care

### Background

- The first commemoration of the event took place in Paris, France in 1987 when 100,000 people gathered to honour victims of poverty and fear at the unveiling of a commemorative stone by Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

- In 1992, four years after Wresinski's death, the United Nations officially designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

### Related Information

#### Government Initiative for Eradicating Poverty

- Policies adopted in and after 1991 has helped in achieving Higher Economic Growth, which thus has helped in reducing poverty.
- Various Programs have been launched continuously, like Employment Generation Program, Income Support, Employment Guarantee (like MGNREGA) to eradicate poverty.
- Schemes for providing utilities like housing, electricity etc. to people to ease the financial expenditure of the poor households.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Housing for All by 2022 Scheme to provide housing to the rural and urban poor is an example.

#### Schemes for Empowering People

- Indian Government's latest schemes like Start-Up India and Stand Up India are about empowering people i.e. making people, self – sufficient, to earn their livelihood.

#### Note:

- Sustainable Development Goal 1 deals with End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Mission Shakti campaign

#### Why in the news?

- Recently the Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 6-month long women empowerment campaign 'Mission Shakti' to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state.

- The campaign was kicked off by Chief Minister from Devi Paatan Shakti Peeth (देवीपाटन शक्ति पीठ) in Balrampur.

#### About 'Mission Shakti campaign

- Under Mission Shakti, different awareness and training programs will be conducted regarding various schemes for the protection, respect and self- reliance of women and girls.



- Women nodal officers have been appointed by the government in all the districts for the execution and monitoring of the campaign.
- All efforts will be made that women are not afraid of coming out of their homes.
- Various competitive and cultural programmes on women empowerment awareness will also be connected during the campaign.

## Global Tuberculosis Report 2020

### Why in the news?

- According to **Global Tuberculosis Report 2020**, the **COVID-19 pandemic**, combined with impacts on **care-seeking behaviour**, threatens to **reverse the recent progress** in reducing the **global burden of tuberculosis (TB) disease**.



### Key Highlights of the Report

- The evidence from **several high TB burden countries** of **large reductions in the monthly number of people with TB being detected and officially reported in 2020** is available.
- **India** accounts for **26% of TB cases in the world** and the **TB notifications** during the period **January-June 2020** in India fell by **25% compared** to the same period in 2019.
- The **TB notifications in India in February 2020** increased **compared with January** but then **reduced sharply in April** to reach less than **40% of the January figure** before increasing to reach about **75% of January figure in the month of June**.

- The **dip in TB notifications** has not been **very sharp in India** and the **recovery after the dip** has been more in **India than Indonesia, Philippines, and South Africa**.
- In **India, notifications of people newly diagnosed with TB increased 74%** from **1.2 million to 2.2 million** between **2013 and 2019**.

### **About Global Tuberculosis Report**

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has published a **global TB report every year since 1997**.
- The **purpose of the report** is to provide a **comprehensive and up-to-date assessment** of the status of the **Tuberculosis epidemic**.
- The **report is based primarily** on data **gathered by World Health Organization (WHO)** in annual rounds of data collection.

### **Global targets**

- In **2014 and 2015**, all **Member States of WHO and the UN** adopted the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **WHO's End TB Strategy**.
- **TB is included under Goal 3 Target 3.3** of the **SDGs** which aims to “**end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases**” by the year **2030**.
- The **WHO End TB Strategy** aims for a **90 per cent reduction in TB deaths** and an **80 per cent reduction in the TB incidence rate by 2030**, compared to the **2015 baseline**.
- **Milestones for 2020** include a **20% reduction in the TB incidence rate** and a **35% reduction in TB deaths**.

### **India and Tuberculosis**

- **India is committed to eliminating tuberculosis** from the **country by 2025**, **five years ahead** of the global target by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** i.e. **2030**.

### **Initiatives by India**

#### National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

- To align with the **ambitious goal**, the Programme has been renamed from the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)** to **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.

#### The Nikshay Ecosystem

- It is the **National TB information system** which is a **one-stop solution to manage information of patients and monitor program activity** and performance throughout the country.

#### Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

- This scheme is aimed at **providing financial support to TB patients** for their **nutrition**

#### TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign

- It has been **launched In September 2019** it is showcasing the **highest level of commitment for the elimination of TB**.

#### The Saksham Project

- It is a project of the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** that has been providing **psycho-social counselling to DR-TB patients**.

## About Tuberculosis

- It is caused by **bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)** that most often affect the lungs.

### Transmission

- It is spread from **person to person** through the air.
- When people with **TB cough, sneeze, or spit**, they propel the **TB germs into the air**.

### Symptoms

- **Cough with sputum** and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats.
- **Tuberculosis notifications in 2020 down by 25% in India**, global report says

## Anemia Mukh Bharat Index

### Why in the news?

- Recently **Haryana State** has **topped the Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index** among **29 states** in the country.

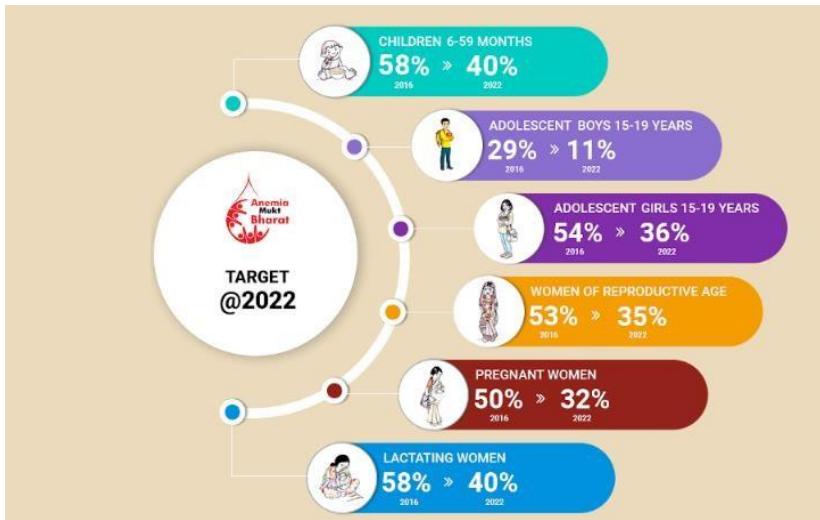
### Highlights of Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index

- **Haryana** was ranked at the **top slot** with an **AMB Index of 46.7** among the **29 states**.
- Haryana is one of **11 states** in the country that have achieved **National Health Policy targets well before 2020**.
- The institutional deliveries have increased to **93.7 per cent** and it was possible due to **24-hours delivery facilities in the state**.

### About Anemia Mukh Bharat

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF**.





### Aim

- It has been launched to **reduce the prevalence of Anemia** all over India.
- It also **aims to provide preventive and curative mechanisms** through a **6x6x6 strategy** including **six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms**, for all stakeholders to implement the strategy

### Target Beneficiaries

- The target beneficiaries are **Children (6-59 months), Children (5-9 years), Adolescent Girls & Boys of 10-19 years, Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years), Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.**

### Six Target Interventions

1. Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
2. Deworming
3. Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign (Solid Body, Smart Mind) including ensuring delayed cord clamping in newborns
4. Testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment
5. Mandatory provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods in government- funded health programmes
6. Addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis

### About Anaemia

- Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet the body's physiological requirements, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking habits, and during pregnancy.
- The manifestations of anemia vary by its severity and range from fatigue, weakness, dizziness and drowsiness to impaired cognitive development of children and increased morbidity.

### Effects in Pregnant Women

- Anemia in pregnancy is associated with post-partum haemorrhage, neural tube defects, low birth weight, premature births, stillbirths and maternal

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deaths. In malaria endemic regions, anemia is one of the most common preventable causes of maternal and child deaths.

- In its most severe form, anemia can also lead to death.

## **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**

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

- Recently, the **Prime Minister** has announced the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' along with other key **projects in Gujarat**.

### **About Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**

- It is an initiative for the **farmers of the Gujarat** to **provide day-time power supply for irrigation**.



- Under this scheme, **farmers will be able to avail power supply from 5 AM to 9 PM**.
- The state government has **allocated a budget of Rs.3500 crore** for installing **transmission infrastructure** under the **scheme by 2023**.
- **Dahod, Patan, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Kheda, Tapi, Valsad, Anand and Gir-Somnath** have been included under the **Scheme for 2020-21**.
- The **remaining districts** will be covered in a **phase-wise manner** by **2022-23**.

## **PLI Schemes for drugs & medical devices**

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

- **Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry** has recently **revised the Production Linked Incentive Schemes** for promoting **domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices**.



### More about the revised guidelines

- In the revised guidelines, the **minimum threshold investment requirement** has been replaced by **committed investment** considering **availability of technology choices** which varies from product to product.
- The change has been made to **encourage efficient use of productive capital**.

### Change in eligibility Criteria

- There is also **change in the eligibility criteria of minimum sales** threshold in line with **projected demand, technology trend** and **market development**, for the **purpose of availing incentive** under the scheme.

### Tenure

- The **tenure of the scheme** has been extended by one year keeping in view the **capital expenditure expected to be done by the selected applicants in FY 2021-22**.
- Accordingly, the **sales for the purpose of availing incentives** will be **accounted for 5 years** starting from **FY 2022-2023** instead of **FY 2021- 2022**.

### Background

- The **PLI schemes** were **approved by the Cabinet on March 20, 2020**, and **detailed guidelines for the implementation of the schemes** were issued by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals on July 27, 2020**.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals earlier come out with the **two Production Linked Incentive schemes**:

a. **Production Linked Incentive scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials, Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients in India.**

b. **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices.**

- After approval of Cabinet, **detailed guidelines for the implementation of the schemes** were issued by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** in July this year.

**Note:**

- Globally, the **Indian pharmaceutical industry** is the **third largest** in terms of **volume** and **contributes significantly** to **India's economic growth** and **export earnings**.

## **Rural Development Fund**

**Why in the news?**

- The **Union government's decision to withhold rural development fee from Punjab**, and letters asking the **Punjab Government** to explain its **utilisation of the Rural Development Fund (RDF)** that it gets largely from the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** has enraged the **state government**.

**Related Information**

**About Rural Development Fund**

- It is the **3 per cent cess levied** on the **purchase or sale of agricultural produce** under the **Rural Development Fund Act, 1987** which is executed by **Punjab Rural Development Board (PRDB)** with the **Chief Minister as its chairman**.



**What is Rural Development Board (RDB)?**

- The **RDB was incorporated in April 1987** under **Rural Development Act, 1987** and is **mandated with the promotion of better agriculture** and **granting relief for the loss and damage to agricultural produce**.
- It also **provides the facility of streets lights, dharamshalas, panchayat ghars, canals and drains, government health infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, and government educational institutions** in rural areas.

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- This **fund is supposed to be used for the creation and maintenance of rural infrastructure** in and **outside mandis**.
- But there have been **charges in the past** that it was **diverted by the state for other purposes**.

**Why has the central government suspended this fund?**

- The **central government**, in a letter from the **Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, has observed that the **fund is being diverted**, and has asked the **state government to explain** how it is **utilising this money**.
- It has also not **made any provision** for this fund in the **cost sheet** that it has **sent to the state**.

## **Bulk drug park**

**Why in the news?**

- Recently **Himachal Pradesh** is **one of the states vying for the allotment** of a **bulk drug park** under a **central government scheme** announced earlier this year for setting up **three such parks across the country**.

**What are bulk drugs or APIs?**

- A **bulk drug**, also called an **active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)**, is the **key ingredient of a drug or medicine**, which lends it the **desired therapeutic effect or produces the intended pharmacological activity**.
- For example, **paracetamol is a bulk drug**, which **acts against pain**.
- It is **mixed with binding agents or solvents** to prepare the finished **pharmaceutical product**, i.e., a **paracetamol tablet, capsule, or syrup**, which is **consumed by the patient**.



**What are key starting material and drug intermediates?**

- APIs are **prepared from multiple reactions** involving **chemicals and solvents**.
- The **primary chemical or the basic raw material** which undergoes **reactions to form an API** is called the **key starting material, or KSM**.
- **Chemical compounds** formed **during the intermediate stages** during these **reactions** are called **drug intermediates or DIs**.

**Factors responsible for promoting bulk drug parks**



- **India** has **one of the largest pharmaceutical industries in the world** (third largest by volume), but this **industry largely** depends on other countries, particularly **China**, for **importing APIs, DIs and KSMs**.
- This year, **drug manufacturers in India suffered** repeated setbacks due to **disruption in imports**.
- In **January**, **factories in China** shut down **when the country went** into a **lockdown**, and later, **international supply chains** were affected as the **Covid pandemic gripped the entire world**.
- The **border conflict** between **India and China** exacerbated the situation.
- All these **factors pushed the Indian government to call for greater self-reliance across all industries**, and in **June**, the **department of pharmaceuticals** announced a **scheme for the promotion of three bulk drug parks** in the country.

## **Operation Muskaan**

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

- Recently, a **total of 485 children**, including **child labourers, abandoned ones and runaway kids**, were **rescued by the city and the district police**, during the **two-day ‘Operation Muskaan’**.

### **About Operation Muskaan**

- It is an **initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

### **Objective**

- Its objective is to **rescue/rehabilitate missing children**.
- It is a **dedicated campaign for a month where several activities** are taken up by the **State Police personnel to trace and rescue the missing children and reunite them** with their families.

### **Background**

- The **“Operation MUSKAAN-III”** was taken up **during July 2017** throughout the country as a **follow up of the earlier campaigns to rescue/rehabilitate the missing children**.

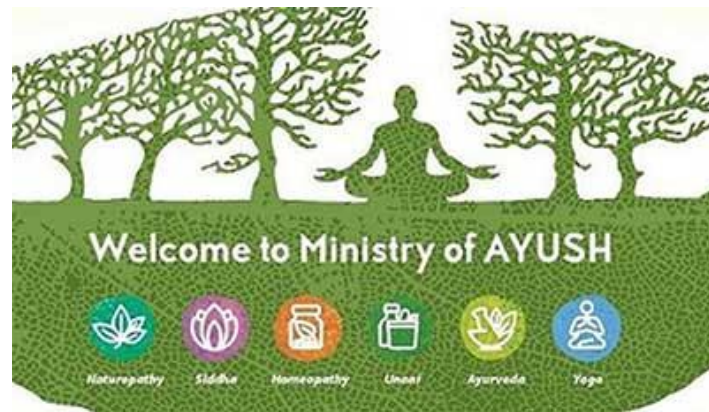
### **The objectives of the ‘Operation Muskaan’ are:**

- **Rescue and Rehabilitation** of the missing children.
- Integrating the activities with **Child protection activities in the state**.
- **Capacity building of district level SJPU** to tackle the issue of missing children; and
- **Develop greater co-ordination of Social Welfare** department functionaries, **CWCs, SJPU, NGOs and community organizations** at district level as part of the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme** operational throughout the country.

## **Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)**

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

- **Ministry of AYUSH and Invest India** will form a collaboration to set up a strategic policy unit called **“Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)”** to **facilitate planned and systematic growth of the Ayush Sector**.



## About Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)

### Aim

- To facilitate planned and systematic growth of the **Ayush sector, ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy)** plans to set up a **strategic policy unit** that will help it reach its **full potential** and **stimulate growth and investment**.

### The activities to be undertaken by the SPFB would include:

- Knowledge Creation and Management,
- Strategic & Policy-Making Support,
- State Policy Bench marking: Undertaking State Policy bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations regarding AYUSH sector in India,
- Investment Facilitation: Follow up and facilitation of investment cases and MoUs, and coordination among different Department, organisations and States.
- Issue Resolution: Invest India would work with companies and other institutions on issue resolution across States and among various sub-sectors.

### Role of AYUSH Ministry

- The Ministry of AYUSH would **assist the Bureau in responding to investment proposal**, issue and queries and **fund Invest India for undertaking activities assigned**.
- The Ministry will also **support the Bureau in building links** with various **stakeholders** such as **industry associations, affiliate bodies of Ministry and Industry representation**.

### About Invest India

- It was **set up in 2009** as a **non-profit venture** under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, and Industry**.
- It is the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India** and acts as the **first point of reference** for **investors in India**.


## **Chhattisgarh launches scheme for distribution of fortified rice**

### Why in the news?

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister** has launched a **scheme for distribution of fortified rice** through **Public distribution System (PDS)** and other **welfare initiatives** for the **people of Kondagaon district** of the **State** on a pilot basis.

## WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health



|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| ➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than <b>45 days</b> , so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long | ➤ According to National Family Health Survey, <b>78.7%</b> children and <b>75%</b> in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition | ➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals |
|--|---|--|

### About Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS)

- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution** has approved the “**Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on fortification of rice and its distribution through Public Distribution System.**”
- The **scheme was approved in February 2019** and allocated a **total budget outlay of ₹174.6 crore** for a **three-year period from 2019-20.**

#### Financial Assistance

- The **Scheme is funded by Government of India** in the **ratio of 90:10** in respect of **North Eastern, Hilly and Island States** and **75:25** in respect of the rest of the States.
- Further, the **Govt. has also advised all states and UTs** especially those states and UTs that are **distributing wheat flour through PDS** to distribute **fortified wheat flour through PDS.**
- The **Pilot Scheme** focuses on **15 districts, preferably 1 district per State.**
- So far, 15 States, i.e., **Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh** have consented for **implementation of the Pilot Scheme.**
- Out of these **States, Maharashtra and Gujarat** have already started distribution of **fortified rice under PDS** in the **Pilot Scheme from February 2020.**

#### Lag in implementation

- The **existing pilot scheme** to **distribute fortified rice** through the **Public Distribution System** in **15 districts** has only been **implemented in five districts** so far, although more than half the **project duration is over.**
- These **five States** are **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Chhattisgarh.**

- The **remaining 10 States** have only **now identified their respective districts**, and will soon start distribution, but less than **one-and-a-half years** remain in the **scheme period**.

### **Related Information**

#### **Fortification in India**

- **Fortification** refers to a **process of increasing** the content of an **essential micronutrient**, such as **vitamins or minerals**, in a food item to **improve its nutritional value** and **provide public health benefits** at minimal cost.
- **Rice is the fifth food item** that the **government is promoting with fortification** with salt, edible oil, milk, and wheat being the others.
- **Food Fortification** is a **scientifically proven, cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable global intervention** that addresses the **issue of micronutrient deficiencies**.
- In **October 2016**, **FSSAI** operationalized the **Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016** for **fortifying staples** namely:
  - Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D)
  - Double Fortified Salt (with Iodine and Iron)
  - Wheat Flour and Rice (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid)
- The **World Health Organization** also recommends **fortification of rice with iron, vitamins, and folic acid** as a **public health strategy** to improve the **iron levels of populations**.

#### **How is Rice fortified?**

- **Rice can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder** to the rice that **adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains** with a **vitamin and mineral mix** to form a **protective coating**.
- Rice can also be **extruded and shaped** into partially **precooked grain-like structures resembling rice grains**, which can then be **blended with natural polished rice**.
- **Rice kernels** can be **fortified with several micronutrients**, such as **iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc**.

#### **About Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)**

- The **FFRC is established under India's government department that regulates food i.e. FSSAI** in collaboration with **TATA Trusts**.
- The **FFRC works dedicatedly to provide essential support to stakeholders like relevant government ministries, food businesses, development partners etc.**, promoting and supporting **food fortification efforts across India**.

#### **Note:**

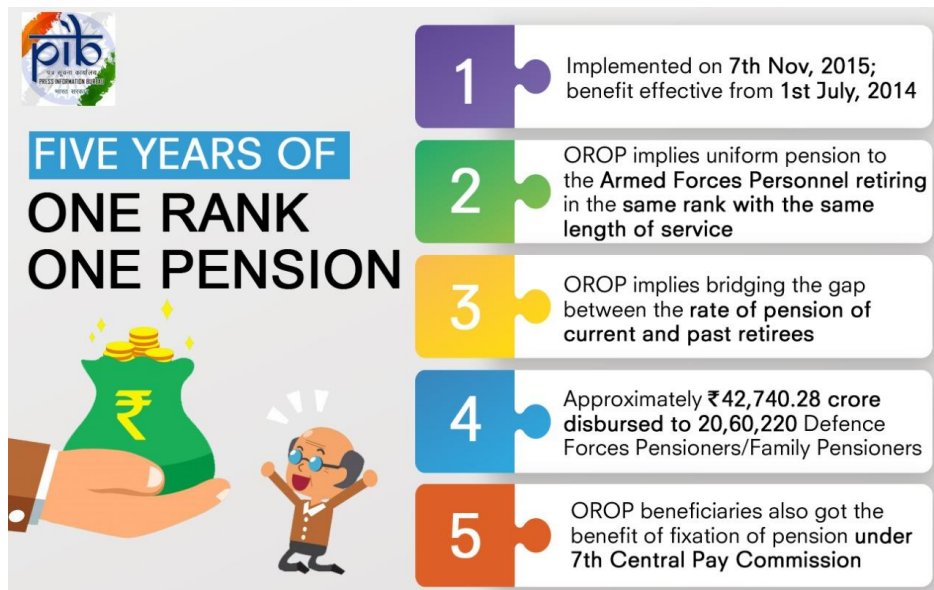
- **India ranked 94 among 107 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020**.

## **One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme**

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

- Recently, the **central government notified** that it has **disbursed more than Rs 42,700 crore to 20.6 lakh retired defence personnel** under the **One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme** in the last years.





**पिब**  
प्रतिबन्धित प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो

## FIVE YEARS OF ONE RANK ONE PENSION

- 1 Implemented on 7th Nov, 2015; benefit effective from 1st July, 2014
- 2 OROP implies uniform pension to the Armed Forces Personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service
- 3 OROP implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past retirees
- 4 Approximately ₹42,740.28 crore disbursed to 20,60,220 Defence Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners
- 5 OROP beneficiaries also got the benefit of fixation of pension under 7th Central Pay Commission

### About One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme

- The government issued an **order notifying the OROP scheme** in **November 2015** and had stated that it **would be effective from July 1, 2014**.
- Under the **OROP scheme, uniform pension** is paid to **defence personnel who retire in the same rank** with the same length of **service, irrespective of their date of retirement**.
- The **OROP was implemented to bridge** the gap between the **pensions of current and past ex-servicemen at periodic intervals**.
- The **Ministry of Defence** has said that the **armed forces personnel** who **retired by June 30, 2014**, are covered under the OROP scheme.
- The **armed force personnel** who **voluntarily retire** will not be covered under the OROP scheme.

### Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

#### Why in the news?

- **Ministry of Labour and Employment** has recently submitting claims that **Affidavit Form** is now **no longer required** under **Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)** of **Employees' State Insurance Corporation- ESIC**.



Enhancing quantum of relief being provided to eligible workers under

## Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana



**Enhanced benefit and relaxation in eligibility conditions under Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)**

- Rate of relief enhanced from 25% to 50% of the average daily wages
- Relief amount to be credited to the bank account of the Insured person directly
- Scheme extended upto 30th June, 2021 with enhancement in relief and relaxation in eligibility conditions upto 31.12.2020
- Insured Person can apply online and thereafter submit hard copy of their claim directly to their designated ESIC Branch Office

For more information and claiming relief under the scheme, please visit [www.esic.in](http://www.esic.in)

Ministry of Labour & Employment  
Government of India

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

For more information please visit nearest /designated ESIC Branch Office or call toll free number 1800 11 2526

### About Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- It is a **welfare measure** being **implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.**
- It **offers cash compensation** to insured persons when they are **rendered unemployed.**
- The **Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01-07-2018.** The scheme is implemented on **pilot basis** for a **period of two years initially.**
- The **scheme has been extended upto 20 June 2021.**

### Benefits under the scheme

- The **scheme provides relief** to the **extent of 50% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods (total earning during the four-contribution period/730)** to be paid up to **maximum 90 days of unemployment** once in **lifetime of the Insured Person.**

### Duration of allowance

- The maximum duration, for which an **IP shall be eligible** to draw the **Relief under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)** will be **90 days once in lifetime** after a **minimum of two years of Insurable Employment** and **subject to the contributory conditions specified above.**
- The **claim for relief** under the **Atal Beemit Kalyaan Yojana** will be payable after the **three months of his/her clear unemployment.**
- The **relief will be paid for clear month of unemployment.**
- **No prospective claim** will be allowed.

### Eligibility

- Employees covered under **Section 2(9) of the ESI Act 1948.**
- The **Insured Person (IP)** should have been **rendered unemployed** during the period the relief is claimed.
- The **Insured Person** should have been in **insurable employment for a minimum period of two years.**
- The Insured Person should have **contributed not less than 78 days** during each of the **preceding four contribution periods.**
- The **contribution in respect of him** should have been **paid or payable by the employer.**

- The **contingency of the unemployment** should not have been as a result of **any punishment for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.**

## **Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme**

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

- The **government has recently aims to expand** the ambit of the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** to include as many as **ten more sectors such as food processing and textiles** other than the already included **mobile phones, allied equipment, pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices.**
- Apart from **cutting down on imports**, the **PLI scheme also looks to capture the growing demand in the domestic market.**



### **About Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme**

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** notified PLI scheme in 2020.
- It offers a **production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing** and specified electronic components, including **Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.**
- It will extend an **incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales** (over a base year) of **goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments.**
- It will be **active for five years** with the **financial year (FY) 2019-20** considered as the **base year for calculation of incentives.**
- It will be implemented through a Nodal Agency which shall act as a Project Management Agency (PMA) and be **responsible for providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support** and carrying out other responsibilities as **assigned by MeitY from time to time.**

### **Objective**

- The **objective is really to make India more compliant with our WTO** (World Trade Organisation) commitments and also make it **non-discriminatory and neutral** with respect to domestic sales and exports.

### **Eligibility for the scheme**

- **All electronic manufacturing companies** which are either Indian or have a **registered unit in India** will be **eligible to apply for the scheme.**

- These companies **can either create a new unit or seek incentives** for their existing units from **one or more locations in India**.
- **Any additional expenditure** incurred by companies on the **plant, machinery, equipment, research and development and transfer of technology** for the **manufacture of mobile phones and related electronic items** will be **eligible for the incentive scheme**.
- The **investments done by companies on land and buildings** for the project will not be considered for any incentives.

#### **Benefits**

- It would **tremendously boost the electronics manufacturing landscape and establish India at the global level in the electronics sector**.
- It will **attract big foreign investment in the sector and open tremendous employment opportunities**.

### **National Mission on Saffron**

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

- Recently **North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)**, has supported a **pilot project to explore the feasibility of growing saffron in North East region of India**, with the **same quality and higher quantity**.
- The **Pampore region of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** is known as **“Saffron Bowl of Kashmir”** and is the main contributor to saffron production.



#### **About the Uniqueness of Kashmiri Saffron**

- It is cultivated and harvested in the **Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The features which differentiate it from other saffron varieties available the world over are:
  - a. It is the only saffron that is grown at an **altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level**.
  - b. It has longer and thicker stigmas, natural **deep red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing**.
  - c. It also has a **high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness)**.

#### **Types**

- There are **three types of saffron available in Kashmir** – **Lachha Saffron, Mongra Saffron and Guchhi Saffron**.

#### **About National Mission on Saffron**

- The Mission was **launched in 2016** as to All **Structured Courses & Test Series**

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- It aimed to **increase saffron production in Kashmir valley**. It was a four-year mission that was **implemented between 2010-14**. Later it was extended, as the **production of saffron declined greatly in 2014**.

#### **About North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach**

- It is an **autonomous body** under the **Department of Science & Technology, Government of India**.
- The **pilot project to explore feasibility of growing saffron** in the **North East region** was determined.

#### **Note:**

- **The Kashmir Saffron** received **Geographical indication (GI) Tag** in **May 2020**.

### **Odisha to introduce fish in nutrition scheme**

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

- The Odisha government is set to introduce fish and fish-based products in the supplementary nutrition programme for children, pregnant and nursing women, and adolescent girls.
- An MoU in this regard was signed between the state government and World Fish, a non-profit organisation.
- The pilot programme will start across **50 Anganwadi centres in Mayurbhanj district**.

#### **WorldFish organisation**

- It is an international, nonprofit research organization that harnesses the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to strengthen livelihoods and improve food and nutrition security.
- WorldFish is a member of Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (**CGIAR**) a global research partnership for a food-secure future
- Globally, more than 1 billion people obtain most of their animal protein from fish and 800 million depend on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

#### **Other Scheme Launched by Odisha Government**

- The Odisha government has launched several schemes, like the **Millet Mission** and **Iron Plus Initiative**, to boost nutrition among the people, especially children and the tribal population, and the state must work to ensure that none is left out from the Poshan Abhiyaan.

#### **Odisha Millets Mission (OMM)**

- It is also known as the Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas of Odisha was launched **by the Government of Odisha in 2017** to revive millets in farms and on plates.
- The aim was to tackle malnutrition by introducing millets in the public distribution system (PDS) and other state nutrition schemes.

#### **National Iron Plus Initiative**

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2013** launched “National Iron plus Initiative” as a comprehensive strategy to combat the public health challenge of Iron Deficiency Anaemia prevalent across the life cycle.
- There are age-specific interventions with Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation and Deworming for improving the haemoglobin levels and reducing the prevalence



## **Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding Scheme**

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

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme till 2024-25.

### **Viability Gap Funding Scheme**

- The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance introduced "the Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure" (Viability Gap Funding Scheme) in 2006.
- The revamped Scheme is mainly related to the introduction of the following two sub-schemes for mainstreaming private participation in social infrastructure:

#### **Sub scheme-1:**

- This would cater to Social Sectors such as Waste Water Treatment, Water Supply, Solid Waste Management, Health and Education sectors etc.
- The projects eligible under this category should have at least 100% Operational Cost recovery.
- The Central Government will provide a maximum of 30% of Total Project Cost (TPC) of the project as VGF and State Government/Sponsoring Central Ministry/Statutory Entity may provide additional support up to 30% of TPC.

#### **Sub scheme-2:**

- This Sub scheme will support demonstration/pilot social sectors projects.
- The projects may be from the Health and Education sectors where there is at least 50% Operational Cost recovery.
- In such projects, the Central Government and the State Governments together will provide up to 80% of capital expenditure and upto 50% of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs for the first five years.

#### **Benefits:**

- The aim of the scheme is to promote PPPs in social and Economic Infrastructure leading to efficient creation of assets and ensuring their proper Operation and Maintenance and make the economically/socially essential projects commercially viable.

#### **Impact:**

- Revamping of the proposed VGF Scheme will attract more PPP projects and facilitate the private investment in the social sectors (Health, Education, Waste Water, Solid Waste Management, Water Supply etc.).
- Creation of new hospitals, schools will create many opportunities to boost employment generation.

## **PM-KUSUM Scheme Expansion**

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

- Recently, the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has amended implementation Guidelines of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme**.





## Background

- The **PM-KUSUM Scheme** was approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in 2019**.
- It is a **scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country.
- The Scheme consists of three components.
  - **Component-A** includes installation of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants,
  - **Component-B** includes installation of standalone **Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps**
  - **Component-C** includes Solarization of Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps.
- The ministry has issued following amendments/clarifications in the Scheme Implementation Guidelines:
  - i. Amendments/clarifications for Component-A**
    - The scope has been **increased by including pasturelands and marshy lands owned farmers**.
    - **Size of solar plant** has been reduced so that **small farmers can participate**, and **completion period increased from nine to twelve months**.
    - To support small farmers, the solar power projects smaller than 500 kW may be allowed by States based on techno-commercial feasibility.
    - Further, **penalty for shortfall** in generation removed for **ease of implementation by farmers**.
    - There shall be **no penalty to RPG for shortfall in solar power generation** from minimum prescribed **Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF)**.
  - ii. Amendments/clarifications for Component-B**
    - The MNRE will retain **33% of eligible service charges** for **nation-wide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities**.
    - The order mentions that the ministry may **release 50% of eligible service charges** for the **sanctioned quantity** after **placement of LoA for preparatory activities**.
    - The order allows either one or both of the following two categories to **participate** in the centralized tendering:
      - Manufacturer of solar PV modules or manufacturer of solar pumps or manufacturer of solar pump controllers using indigenous technology.
      - Joint venture of any of manufacturers mentioned above with system integrators.
  - iii. Amendments/clarifications for Component-C**
    - The Ministry will also **use 33% of service charges** for **IEC activities**.

- The provision has been made for **advance release of Service charges to implementing agencies** for preparatory activities.
- The Ministry order says, “MNRE may release 50% of eligible service charges for the sanctioned quantity after placement of LoA for preparatory activities.”
- The **individual farmers** having **grid connected agriculture pumps** are being **supported to solarize their pumps**.
- Farmers will be **provided solar panels** and they will be able to use the **generated solar power** to meet the **irrigation needs** and sell the **surplus solar power**.
- **DISCOMs** will **buy surplus power** from them at the **per-determined rate** to be decided by the **respective State/SERC**.
- **Solar PV capacity** up to **two times of pump capacity in kW** is allowed under the scheme.

## **Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana**

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

- **Rajasthan government** launched **Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana**, a **maternity benefit scheme** for four districts under which mothers will get **₹6,000 for the second child**.
- This will **supplement the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** under which **mothers get ₹5,000 for their first child**.




### **Implemented in 4 districts on pilot basis for five years.**

- The **scheme is being implemented** in **Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Banswara and Dungarpur** on pilot basis **for five years**.
- These **districts were selected** because **nutrition indicators** among **children and anaemia levels** among mothers are **worse than the average for the State**.
- **Two mothers** from each of these **four districts** received the **first instalment of ₹6,000**.
- The government has a **target of reaching 70,000 pregnant women and lactating mothers** per year over the **next five years**.

### **Background**

- **Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana** has been announced by the **Rajasthan Chief Minister** during the **Budget Session** in the **State Assembly** in **March 2020**.

| MATTER OF HEALTH   | THE INITIATIVE  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Under-nutrition continues to adversely affect women in India</li> <li>&gt; Every third woman is under-nourished, while every second woman is anaemic</li> <li>&gt; Under-nourished women often give birth to babies with a low birth weight</li> <li>&gt; When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle</li> <li>&gt; Owing to economic and social distress, many women continue to work to earn a living for their family up to the last days of their pregnancy</li> <li>&gt; They resume work soon after childbirth, which prevents their bodies from fully recovering</li> <li>&gt; It also impedes their ability to exclusively breastfeed during the first six months</li> </ul> | <p>The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana provides maternity benefits of <b>₹5,000</b> for pregnant women and lactating mothers after their first delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The benefit is provided in three instalments</li> <li>■ It is a conditional cash transfer scheme and provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare</li> <li>■ The scheme ensures safe delivery and good nutrition for women</li> <li>■ The benefits are not available for employees of the Central or State governments and any public-sector undertaking</li> </ul> |



### Objective

- The objective is to **compensate mothers for the loss of wages** during pregnancy and after childbirth and to **curb wasting and stunting** among children as well as **anaemia among mothers**.
- **Beneficiaries** will receive **cash in five instalments** upon meeting certain conditions.
- However, unlike the **Central scheme** they will not have to **submit an Aadhaar card** for the **State scheme** and the money will be **transferred directly to their bank accounts**.

### Related Information

#### Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- It is a **maternity benefit programme** being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from **1st January 2017**.
- It is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being executed by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- It is aimed to provide **partial compensation** for the **wage loss in terms of cash incentives** so that the **woman can take adequate rest** before and after **delivery of the first living child**.
- The **cash incentive** provided would lead to **improved health seeking behaviour** amongst the **Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW& LM)**.

#### Benefits under the Scheme

- Beneficiaries receive a **cash benefit of Rs. 5,000** in **three installments on fulfilling** the following conditions:
  - Early registration of pregnancy
  - Ante-natal check-up
  - Registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The **eligible beneficiaries** would receive the incentive given under the **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** for **Institutional delivery** and the **incentive received under JSY** would be **accounted towards maternity benefits** so that on an **average a woman gets Rs 6000/-**.

#### Other related State Scheme

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### **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme of Tamil Nadu**

- Under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, **pregnant women in Tamil Nadu** receive **financial assistance of ₹18,000 per child** for the **first two births**, including a **nutrition kit**.

### **Odisha's Mamata scheme**

- It is also **covering two births**, albeit with **lower entitlements ₹5,000 per child**, as with the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**.

## **Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans (WSKA)**

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

- Recently, a Khadi artisan in Nalbari district in Assam was granted a house under the '**Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans**'.

### **Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans**

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched in 2008.
- This scheme will be implemented during the XI Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12).

### **Assistance under the scheme**

- Financial Assistance for construction of worksheds will be provided to those khadi artisans who belong to **BPL category** through the khadi institutions with which these khadi artisans are associated.
- The financial assistance to be provided by the Government will go to the institutions which will be responsible for the construction of worksheds **and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** will supervise the activities.
- The khadi institutions can also release the additional funds assessed for construction of workshed out of the accumulations in Artisans Welfare Fund lying to the credit of the beneficiary with State Level Artisan Welfare Fund Trust.

### **Related Information**

#### **KVIC**

- It is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It is a nodal implementation agency of **Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) at the national level**.

#### **Note:**

- PMEGP is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by MSME Ministry since 2008-09 and will Continue till 2019-20.

#### **The broad objectives that the KVIC are:**

- The social objective of providing employment.
- The economic objective of producing saleable articles.
- The wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit.

## **Poshan Abhiyaan**

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

- The **National Nutrition Mission** or the **Poshan Abhiyaan**, the **world's largest nutrition programme for children and mothers**, must be stepped up to meet the **targets set by the Centre to reduce stunting, wasting and anaemia by 2022**, warns a **report by NITI Aayog**.



### **The review report by NITI Aayog**

- There is a need to accelerate actions on multiple fronts now.
- There is a need to **quickly graduate to a POSHAN-plus strategy** which apart from continued strengthening the **four pillars of the Abhiyaan** also requires a renewed focus on other **social determinants** in addition to addressing the **governance challenges of NHM/ICDS delivery mechanisms**.

### **Related Information**

#### **About Poshan Abhiyan**

It is also known as the **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)**, which was **launched in 2018**. **Implementation agency**

- The implementing agency is the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The **NITI Aayog** also plays a **pivotal role in the mission**.
- The **National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges**, which has been set up under the Poshan Abhiyaan.
- The **Council** is also called the **National Council on Nutrition or NCN**.

#### **Aim**

- To **achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children (0-6 years) and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) in a time-bound manner** and ensure attainment of **malnutrition free India by 2022**.

#### **Specific Targets of NNM**

The National Nutrition Mission aims at achieving the following:

- Reduce stunting by 2% annually.
- Reduce under-nutrition by 2% annually.
- Reduce anaemia by 3% annually.
- Reduce low birth weight by 2% annually
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4 % (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022.

#### **About the National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges**

- It has been set up under the **Poshan Abhiyaan**; the **Council** is also known as **National Council on Nutrition (NCN)**.
- The Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog heads it.
- It provides **policy directions to address nutritional challenges** in the country and **review programmes**.
- It is **national-level coordination and convergence body on nutrition**.



## **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPs)**

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

- Recently **eight Track and Field Athletes** were included in the **core group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme** at the **50th MOC meeting held on November 26.**

### **About Target Olympic Podium Scheme**

- It is a **flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** which is an attempt to **aid India's top athletes.**



- The **Scheme looks to add a premium to the preparations** of these athletes so that they can **win Olympic medals in 2020 and 2024 Olympics.**
- Under the **Scheme, the Department of Sports shall identify athletes** who are **potential medal winners in 2020 / 2024 Olympics.**
- The **idea of the Scheme** is to also keep an **eye in the future and fund a Developmental Group of Athletes** who are **medal prospects for the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028.**

### **Related Information**

#### **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)**

- The Mission Olympic Cell is a **dedicated body created to assist the athletes** who are **selected under the TOP Scheme.**
- The **MOC is under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Sports Authority (DG, SAI).**

Some of the functions that the MOC are enumerated below:

- (a) To approve customized programs for athletes chosen under the TOP Scheme.
- (b) To recommend financial disbursement for the customized programs.
- (c) To support, monitor and review progress of athletes in accordance with the training programs.
- (d) To set a regular reporting structure on the athletes' training program.
- (e) To take decisions on sudden and unanticipated requirements/needs of athletes.
- (f) To communicate regularly with the athletes on their progress, requirements, and perspectives

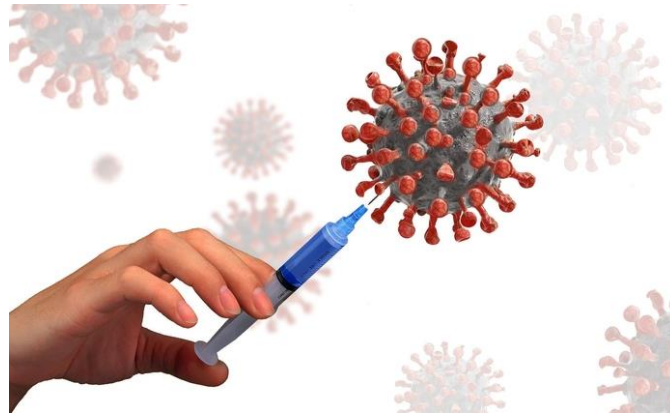
## **Mission COVID Suraksha**

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

- The **Government of India (GOI)** has announced the **third stimulus package for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.**

- This grant will be provided to the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines.**

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## About Mission COVID Suraksha

### Objective

- To **accelerate preclinical & clinical development** by **establishing clinical trial sites** and **strengthening existing immunoassay laboratories**, central laboratories and suitable facilities for animal studies, production facilities and other test facilities to support Covid-19 vaccine development.
- The other important objective will be **supporting the development of standard harmonized protocols**, training, data management systems, regulatory submissions, internal and external quality management systems, and accreditations.
- It aims to **enable the development of indigenous, affordable, and accessible vaccines** for our country and will **complement the National Mission of AtmanirbharBharat**.

### Implementation

- The mission is led by the **Department of Biotechnology** and implemented by a dedicated **Mission Implementation Unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.

### Related Information

#### About Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

- It is a **not-for-profit state-owned enterprise** under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** to **strategically empower emerging biotech companies**.

## Orunodoi Scheme

### Why in the news?

- The **Assam government** has launched the **Orunodoi scheme** a massive **beneficiary scheme** by **covering almost 22 lakh families** across the state from **December 1, 2020**.

Government of Assam  
Finance Department

Largest DBT scheme in the political history of Assam

**BUDGET**  
**₹2800 crore**

**ORUNODOI**  
Empowering Families, Empowering Women, Empowering Assam

**Assam Orunodoi Scheme**

### About Orunodoi Scheme

- It is the **biggest ever Scheme in post-Independence Assam** because the Scheme would **strengthen the role of the women** as the money will be **deposited in the bank accounts** of the women of the families.

- The Scheme **announced in the state budget of 2020-21.**

### Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme

- It is a **cash transfer scheme** of the state in which the **beneficiaries will receive 830 rupees per month** in their bank accounts.

- The **monthly assistance would support a family to buy medicines worth Rs 400 per month, 50 per cent subsidy of four kg pulses worth Rs 200, Rs 80 for sugar and essential vegetables and fruits worth Rs 150.**

- The Scheme will be **rolled out in 29 districts.**

### Significance of Orunodoi Scheme

- It is **first of its kind initiative** because the **state government has introduced a massive cash transfer programme** which is very close to the **initiative of Prime Minister universal basic income.**

- It is the **first of its kind in the country** as no other state has such a **high coverage of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme** nor matches the **amount of cash transfer** that is being made.

- It marks a **paradigm shift** in the approach to **poverty alleviation programme** but where a **substantial cash transfer to poor households** shall enable them to **make informed decision to spend money on health and nutrition.**

- This is the **most extensive programme by the state government for women empowerment** as they will be **direct beneficiaries.**

- **Widow, unmarried or divorced women** and the **physically challenged** are usually considered a **burden in many households**, but this will ensure that they are not a **liability. Still, an asset and their position in the family will improve.**

### Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER)

#### Why in the news?

- **Arunachal is first in the country to obtain Organic Certification for Kiwi** under **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER).**



### About the Kiwi of Arunachal Pradesh

- This fruit grows wild in **Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro Valley.**

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## About Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER)

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, a **sub-mission under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**, launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It has been **implemented in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura**, during the 12th plan period. The **Scheme aims to the development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers** and to support the **development of entire value chain** starting from **inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative**.

### Mission Objectives

- To **develop crop commodity-specific organic value chain** and **address gaps in organic crop production**, wild crop harvesting, organic livestock management and processing handling and marketing of organic agricultural products through:
  - Developing crop-specific organic production clusters with necessary infrastructural, technical, and financial support
  - By facilitating partnerships between farmers and organic businesses: Local enterprises and Farmer Producer Companies based on back-to-back long-term trade relations with clients in domestic and export markets.
  - By providing an enabling environment for project initiatives and development programs with the necessary support for organic value chain development and create market access.

### About Organic certification

- An **agricultural practise/product** is considered **organic** when there are **no chemical fertilisers or pesticides** involved in its **cultivation process**.
- Such **certificates in India** can be obtained after a **strict scientific assessment done** by the regulatory body, **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**.

## 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' Scheme

### Why in the news?

- Recently, **all the States** except **Tamil Nadu** have **availed benefits** of the newly announced Scheme for **“Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”**.

### Background

- The **Finance Minister** announced the Scheme on **12th October 2020** as a part of the **AatmaNirbhar Bharat package**.
- The **Central government** has decided to **extend special assistance** to the **State Governments** in **respect of capital expenditure**, in the **financial year 2020-21**.





## About the Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure Scheme

### The Scheme has three parts.

✓ Part –I of the Scheme covers the north-eastern region:

- Under this Part, Rs.200 crores is allocated to 7 north-eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura).

- Because of higher population and geographical area, Assam has been allocated Rs.450 crores under the Scheme.

✓ Part-II of the Scheme:

- It included all other States other than not included in Part-I.

- The amount has been allocated amongst these States in proportion to their share of central tax as per the interim award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2020-21.

✓ Part-III of the Scheme

- It is aimed at pushing various citizen-centric reforms in the States.

- Under this Part, an amount of Rs.2000 crores is earmarked.

- This amount will be available only to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the four reforms specified by the Ministry of Finance in its letter dated 17th May 2020 regarding reform linked additional borrowing permissions.

- The four reforms are –

- One Nation One Ration Card
- Ease of Doing Business Reform
- Urban Local Body/ Utility Reform and
- Power Sector Reform

### Benefits

- The Scheme is **aimed at boosting capital expenditure** by the **State Governments** who are **facing challenging economic environment** this year due to the **shortfall in tax revenue** arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.

- The **capital Expenditure** has a **higher multiplier effect**, **enhancing the future productive capacity of the economy**, and results in a **higher rate of economic growth**.

- The **capital expenditure projects** have been **approved in diverse sectors of the economy** like **Health, Rural Development, Water Supply, Irrigation, Power, Transport, Education, Urban Development**.

## Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies

### Why in the news?

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has recently come out with a **Scheme for approval of Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies** to scale up **Hygiene Rating** by

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increasing the number of recognised Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies in the country.



### About the Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies

- The scheme aims to allow consumers to make informed choices/decisions pertaining to the food outlets where they eat by encouraging food businesses to improve their hygiene and safety standards.

#### How does it work?

- The food establishments are rated based on food hygiene and safety conditions observed at the time of the audit.
- The hygiene rating will be in the form of smileys (1 up to 5), and the certificate should be displayed prominently in the consumer-facing area.
- The recognised Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies will be responsible for verifying the compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures laid by FSSAI and get Hygiene Rating.
- Currently, this scheme is applicable for Foodservice establishments (such as hotels, restaurants, cafeteria, Bhabha's, etc.), sweet shops, bakeries and retail meat stores.

#### Benefits

- Hygiene Rating Scheme can be instrumental in creating awareness amongst the consumers and developing a culture of self-compliance amongst food business operators.
- It will improve the quality of the food supply and increase demand as well.
- It will help in enhancing the confidence of the Indian consumer and food service operators in the basic hygiene and quality of the food.

### Kisan Kalyan Mission

#### Why in the news?

- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to launch 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double the income of farmers.

#### About the Kisan Kalyan Mission

- 'It is a special program to double the income of farmers which will cover all assembly constituencies of the state.
- Under the Kisan Kalyan mission, various programs will be organized across the state.



- **Exhibitions of agriculture and Associate sectors** will be organized, which will **include the products of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector** units and livelihood missions.
- Under the Kisan Kalyan mission, **many departments of state government** like **agriculture marketing Mandi Parishad, Horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sugarcane food and supply, and Panchayati Raj** will work together.

## **Post Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)**

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

- The **Union Cabinet** has recently **approved major changes** in the '**Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)**' to benefit more than 4 Crore SC students in the next five years.



### **About Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes**

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

### **Objective**

- The scheme aims to **provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage** to complete their education.
- The scheme will be **run on an online platform** with **robust cybersecurity measures** that **assure transparency and timely delivery of the assistance**.
- The States will **undertake fool-proof verification** of the **eligibility, caste status, Aadhar identification and bank account details** on the online portal.

- **Transfer of financial aid** to the **students under the scheme** shall be on **DBT mode**, preferably using the **Aadhar Enabled Payment System**.
- Starting from 2021-22, the **Central share (60%) in the scheme** would be **released on DBT mode** directly into the **students' bank accounts**.

#### **Monitoring Mechanism**

- The **monitoring mechanism** will be **further strengthened by conducting social audits, annual third-party evaluation, and half-yearly self-audited reports** from each institution.
- The **Central Assistance around Rs 1100 crore** annually during **2017-18 to 2019-20** would be **increased more than five times** to be around **Rs 6000 core annually from 2020-21 to 2025-26**.

#### **Increase in Gross Enrolment Ratio**

- The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (higher education)** among the **SCs** has **increased from six per cent in 2002-03 to 23 per cent in 2018-19**.