

The background of the page is a blurred photograph of a student with glasses sitting at a desk, using a laptop. The student's hands are visible, one holding a blue pen and the other on the keyboard. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic overlay on the left side.

# **Weekly Economic & Social Issues (ESI)**

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**Study Material  
8-14 May 2022**

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**8-14th May 2022**

Dear readers,

**Weekly Economic & Social Issues (ESI) notes** are a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of May 2022. This file is important for all **regulatory body** exams.

**1. Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurates five NIELIT Centers in North East**

- Shri. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development has inaugurated **5 centers of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) in the north east for skill enhancement** of the educated youth in the region These five centers of NIELIT are in **Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Jorhat, Pasighat and Senapati**.
- When the PM launched Digital India in 2014, it had three objectives. First was **using technology to transform the lives of ordinary citizens**, thereby improving governance and democracy and the second, to create more opportunities for our youth, expand our digital economy and investments. The third objective was about creating global leadership capabilities in India.
- On the second objective of **creating more opportunities**, it is clear from the last two years that if it was not for technology, ours would have been a far different response and many more lives and livelihoods and much more economic destructions would have happened.
- Shri. Rajeev Chandrasekhar also launched the **NECB 2.0 project, for capacity building and training in digital skill sets and current industry demanding technologies for various sections of society** in the north eastern states. The project is funded by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt of India**.
- **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** is the Implementing agency, through its centers at Agartala, Aizwal, Gangtok Guwahati, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima & Shillong.

**2. India sees the emergence of the 100th unicorn**

- The wave of Unicorns in India has soared to new heights as the country witnessed the birth of its **100th Unicorn on 2nd May 2022. Today, 1 out of every 10 unicorns globally have been born in India.**
- The term 'Unicorn' refers to the rarest of the rare startups who become Unicorns attaining a valuation of more than **USD 1 billion**. The Indian Startup Ecosystem, the third-largest in the world in number of Unicorns, as of 5th May 2022, is home to 100 unicorns with a total valuation of USD 332.7 billion.
- 2021 experienced a **huge surge in the number of unicorns, registering a total of 44 startups entering the Unicorn club through the year with a total valuation of USD 93 billion.**
- In the first four months of 2022, India has given birth to 14 unicorns with a total valuation of USD 18.9 billion.

- The entrepreneurial spirit exists throughout the length and breadth of the country and is evident by the spread of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognized startups across 647 Indian districts encompassing all 36 States and Union Territories.**
- Since the launch of the **Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016**, more than 69,000 startups have been recognized in the country till 2nd May 2022.
- Innovation in India is not just limited to certain sectors; we have **recognized startups solving problems in 56 diverse sectors with 13% from IT services, 9% healthcare and life sciences, 7% education, 5% professional and commercial services, 5% agriculture, and 5% food & beverages.**
- While every startup has its unique journey to becoming a unicorn, the minimum and maximum time taken by a startup to become a unicorn **in India are 6 months and 26 years, respectively.**
- Till FY 2016-17, approximately one unicorn was being added every year. Over the past four years (since FY 2017-18), this number has been increasing exponentially, **with a whopping 66% Year-on-Year growth in the number of additional unicorns being added every year.**

### 3. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – Quarterly Bulletin [October-December 2021]

- Introduction: Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, **National Statistical Office (NSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.**
- **The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:**
- to estimate the key **employment and unemployment indicators** (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of **three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).**
- to estimate **employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.**
- On the basis of the data collected in PLFS, three Annual Reports of PLFS corresponding to the periods July 2017 - June 2018, July 2018 - June 2019 and July 2019 - June 2020 covering both rural and urban areas giving estimates of all important parameters of employment and unemployment in both usual status (ps+ss) and current weekly status (CWS) have been released.
- Besides these Annual Reports, **twelve Quarterly Bulletins of PLFS corresponding to the quarter ending December 2018 to quarter ending September 2021 have already been released.** In these quarterly bulletins estimates of labour force indicators, viz., **Worker population ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) for urban areas have been presented.**
- The present Quarterly Bulletin is the thirteenth in the series for the quarter October - December 2021.
- Due to the 2nd wave of Covid-19, the field work of PLFS was suspended from 19.04.2021 in most parts of the country. The field work was gradually resumed in the first week of June 2021 with due adherence to the Covid related

restrictions. Collection of information in respect of the allotted samples for the quarter October-December 2021 was completed by 31.01.2022 (for first visit) and by 31.12.2021 (for revisit). First visit samples were canvassed physically with retrospective referencing in case of delayed samples; whereas the revisit samples were canvassed telephonically hence were completed as per scheduled timelines.

- **Sample Design of PLFS:** A rotational panel sampling design has been used in urban areas. In this rotational panel scheme, each selected household in urban areas is visited four times, in the **beginning with 'First Visit Schedule' and thrice periodically later with a 'Revisit Schedule'**. The scheme of rotation ensures that 75% of the first-stage sampling units (FSUs) are matched between two consecutive visits.
- **Sample Size:** At the all-India level, in the urban areas, a total number of 5,691 FSUs (UFS blocks) have been surveyed during the quarter October – December 2021. The number of urban households surveyed was 44,553 and number of persons surveyed was 1,72,944 in urban areas.
- **Conceptual Framework of Key Employment and Unemployment Indicators for the Quarterly Bulletin:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators like the **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR)**, etc. These indicators, and 'Current Weekly Status' are defined as follows:
  - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the **percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.**
  - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the **percentage of employed persons in the population.**
  - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the **percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.**
  - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on **the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS)** of the person.

The key results are:

Key Findings of PLFS, Quarterly Bulletin (October – December 2021)

Statement 1: LFPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above				all-India
NSS survey period	Male	Female	Person	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
October – December 2020	73.6	20.6	47.3	
January – March 2021	73.5	21.2	47.5	
April – June 2021	73.1	20.1	46.8	
July – September 2021	73.5	19.9	46.9	
October – December 2021	73.9	20.2	47.3	

Statement 2: WPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above				all-India
NSS survey period	Male	Female	Person	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
October – December 2020	66.7	17.9	42.4	
January – March 2021	67.2	18.7	43.1	
April – June 2021	64.2	17.2	40.9	
July – September 2021	66.6	17.6	42.3	
October – December 2021	67.8	18.1	43.2	

Statement 3: UR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above				all-India
NSS survey period	Male	Female	Person	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
October – December 2020	9.5	13.1	10.3	
January – March 2021	8.6	11.8	9.3	
April – June 2021	12.2	14.3	12.6	
July – September 2021	9.3	11.6	9.8	
October – December 2021	8.3	10.5	8.7	

**4. Telangana govt extends insurance coverage to handloom & power loom weavers under 'Nethanna Bima' scheme**

- Telangana state Government has announced **extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under 'Nethanna Bima'** (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme. The State Government has issued orders to extend insurance coverage **of 5 lakh rupees for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with farmers insurance scheme.**
- Over 29 crore rupees have been sanctioned for implementing the scheme during the current year. The Cabinet Sub Committee had proposed to cover over 55 thousand handloom and power loom and ancillary weavers in the State.
- **The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.**
- The insurance benefits would be extended to the family of the death of the weaver or ancillary worker.
- The department has been directed to prepare draft guidelines and submit to the government for implementation of the scheme, said a senior official from the Handlooms department.

#### **5. Maharashtra Govt Launches Scheme For Prisoners**

- The Maharashtra Department of Prisoners has launched a **loan scheme for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state.** Meaning Maharashtra Govt Launches Scheme For Prisoners. The credit scheme titled Jivhala is being offered by the **Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.** The pilot was introduced for prisoners at Yerwada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended **to nearly 60 prisoners across the state.**
- The credit scheme, meaning Maharashtra Govt Launches Scheme For Prisoners/for Maharashtra's prisoners called **Jivhala meaning 'affection' in Marathi,** has been launched primarily for convicted inmates who are undergoing a **prison sentence of more than three years.**
- The majority of the inmates are sole breadwinners, and their incarceration has left their families without a source of income. Therefore, while the loan will be disbursed in the name of the inmate, it will be issued to designated family members.
- Inmates will be able to use the loans for **the education of their children, medical treatment of family members, legal fees, or any other expenses.** Bank officials said they found that over 75 percent of the applications were for agricultural purposes.
- In the initial phase, a loan of Rs 50,000 will be given at a 7 percent interest rate without any requirement of a mortgage or guarantor. Of the interest the bank earns, **one percent will be given back to the system as a contribution to the Prisoner's Welfare Fund.**
- Repayment of the Loan:– On entering the prison system, an inmate is categorized as skilled and assigned work in various industrial and manufacturing units inside the prison. For this work, they are **paid anywhere between Rs 50 to 70 as daily wages.** The money, deposited in their accounts, can be used to buy essentials from the jail canteen and /or can be sent home.
- Bank officials said once an inmate takes a loan, the Equated Monthly installment calculated will be directly deducted from their prison accounts. According to bank and prison officials, this scheme for prisoners in India. Existing loan initiatives for inmates are for rehabilitation after completion of their prison terms.

**6. Gujarat: First trainset of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System handed over to NCRTC**

- The first trainset of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) was handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at the manufacturing factory located in Gujarat's Savli.
- It is going to create a plethora of opportunities, enabling balanced and sustainable growth of the region. This is just the beginning of India's journey of Regional Rails with two more RRTS corridors planned in the first phase itself. Work on them will also be taken up shortly and once completed it will create a network of networks connecting all the major hubs of NCR.



- The trainsets, with their sleek and modern design, will be **lightweight equipped with a regenerative braking system and compatible with Automatic Train Protection (ATP), Automatic Train Control (ATC) and Automatic Train Operations (ATO)**. The regenerative braking system is an important feature of these trains, which generates electricity when the brakes are applied and the power goes back to the electric grid through the overhead traction of the train system.



- There is a national railway system and there is a city-based railway system, which is what we call Metro. Now, between these two there is a gap. So, this particular **RRTS is actually a regional railway system, which will fill the gap between these national railway systems and the intracity metro system.**
- It is notable that M/s Alstom has been awarded the contract as per which they would be delivering 40 trainsets, **including 10 three-car trainsets for Meerut Metro, bundled with rolling stock maintenance for 15 years.**
- The contract also includes designing, supplying, installing, testing, and commissioning, signalling and train control, supervision, platform screen doors and telecommunication systems for the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor. The delivery of these semi-high-speed aerodynamic trainsets has started with this rollout.

#### **7. India Adds 10 GW Solar Capacity in 2022: Report**

- According to **Mercom Communications India, the country's solar capacity increased by an unprecedented 210% to 10 gigawatts in 2021.**
- According to the report **'Indian Solar Sector Market Leaders', green capacity installations reached 3.2 gigawatts (GW), according to the research firm.**
- India had a **record 10 GW solar capacity added in CY 2021.** This is a huge jump of 210 percent compared to **3.2 GW last year.** It stated that the newly installed solar capacity in 2021 was a record and accounted for 62 percent of total power capacity increases in 2021.
- The report states that utility-scale projects made up 83% of all total installations, while the top ten developers were responsible for 68% of total projects installed in the calendar year 2021.
- **Renew Power was the most prominent utility-scale solar developer, and Adani Green was second.**
- **Rooftop solar capacity increased by 1.7 GW in 2021.** Tata Power Solar was the top rooftop solar installer, accounting for 20% of all the installations.

- Companies that offer solar engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) services saw an increase in projects moving forward to 2021 compared with the previous year. According to the report, Sterling & Wilson topped EPC providers in the year, closely followed closely by Siemens Gamesa and Tata Power Solar.
- **Sungrow was the largest supplier of solar inverters in 2021, while Arctech Solar remained the top supplier for solar trackers in the year.**
- **In 2021, solar imports saw an incredible 641 percent increase year-on-year.** LONGi Solar was India's top module supplier for the second year in a row.
- It said that the number of open access solar installations rose by 222 percent in 2021, compared to the previous years. This made it the second best year ever.

#### **8. Haryana government launches 'e-Adhigam' scheme; 3 lakh students given tablets for online education**

- Haryana government launched its **ambitious "e-Adhigam" scheme under which nearly three lakh tablets were distributed to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.**
- These devices come with **pre-loaded content along with personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB free data.** The government intends to provide the gadget to five lakh students from Classes 10-12. However, it said Class 11 students will get them after they clear the Class 10 board exams and qualify for the succeeding year.
- "From next year, all classes from 9-12 will be covered," chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said after launching the **Advance Digital Haryana Initiative of Government with Adaptive Modules (Adigham) scheme at Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak.**

#### **9. Kerala govt launched 'Shaili App' for diagnosing, controlling lifestyle diseases**

- The Kerala government is ready to **launch an Android app – 'Shaili App' – aimed at diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among people in the southern State.**
- The app would help to provide an accurate picture of such ailments both locally and at the State-level, and enable the government to control such diseases and formulate appropriate health plans.
- The app has been set up as part of the **population-based screening project launched by the Health Department under the Nava Kerala Karma plan.**
- As part of the health-screening project, **ASHA workers have been tasked with collecting information** from persons over the age of 30 in their respective areas about any lifestyle diseases or risk factors they may have.
- The app, set up under the **e-Health initiative, would help to collect and codify the information quickly. The app would primarily collect information about diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, lung diseases as well as other lifestyle-related ailments and cancers.**
- Besides that, it would collect **information about the lifestyles of an individual that lead to these diseases.** Based on the information collected, the health status of the individuals would be scored and those with a score of above four would be asked to visit the nearest health centre for a check-up for lifestyle diseases.

- The ASHA workers would be incentivised to visit the households in their respective areas and information collected by them would be immediately made available to health workers.

## 10. NEHHDC and Etsy sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support small and traditional artisans from the North East

- **Etsy, the global marketplace for unique and creative goods, has partnered with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support small sellers, weavers and artisans, by providing them with market access and enablement support.**
- As a part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Etsy will work with the NEHHDC to develop enablement programs, specifically designed for artisans from the **North East including modules on online selling and entrepreneurship and the opportunity to access a wider market for their products.**
- Etsy aims to **equip artisans, creators and small entrepreneurs in the Indian handicrafts sector with important tools and resources to start and manage online businesses.**
- Etsy will provide **digital enablement services to these sellers and conduct training workshops** to familiarise them with Etsy and how to sell on the marketplace.
- It's a key focus for us to promote the **indigenous crafts of the North East region and create economic opportunities for craftspeople.**
- This partnership will help indigenous products from the area (from categories like textiles, cane and bamboo products, accessories and more) become available online for millions of buyers on the Etsy platform. Artisans from all eight North Eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura will be onboarded onto Etsy. They will receive a fixed amount of free ad credits as a part of this programme.
- **Etsy, Inc.'s "House of Brands" portfolio** also includes fashion resale marketplace Depop, musical instrument marketplace Reverb, and Brazil-based handmade goods marketplace Elo7. Each Etsy, Inc. marketplace operates independently, while benefiting from shared expertise in product, marketing, technology, and customer support.
- **About NEHHDC:** Incorporated in 1977, the **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) is an organisation that attempts to develop and promote the indigenous crafts** of the North Eastern region by connecting craftsmen to prospective markets and consumers and generating economic, cultural and social opportunities for creators while adding cultural value for consumers. The corporation is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, Government of India. It offers a range of products from all the eight North Eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The organisation **procures handicrafts and handlooms from artisans and weavers across the region and retails the same through its chain of "Purbashree" Emporia** located at Shillong, Guwahati, Kolkata, New Delhi, Bangalore and a Sales Promotion Office at Chennai. Moreover it promotes the products at various national and international markets

through exhibitions and trade fairs. The Corporation also **conducts training programmes and seminars for skill and knowledge upgradation of the artisans and weavers.**

### **11. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurates Mobile Veterinary Units to provide veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep**

- Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) in Karnataka to provide veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep based on the phone calls received at the Call Centre from the farmers.
- The overall aim of the 'Livestock Health & Disease Control programme' of Government of India is to improve the animal health by way of implementation of prophylactic vaccination programmes against various diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building, disease surveillance and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure.
- In order to increase accessibility of veterinary services at farmer's doorsteps, **funds for Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) will be provided to the States/UTs under this scheme @ 1 MVU for every one lakh livestock population.** These MVUs will be customized fabricated vehicles for veterinary healthcare with equipment for diagnosis, treatment & minor surgery, audio visual aids and other basic requirements for treatment of animals.
- This is the **best programme to assist farmers and dairy owners to take care of the health of their dairy animals at the right time and to double the farmers income** thereby uplifting their economic status by utilizing these Mobile Veterinary Vehicles in the right manner.
- The farmer's community and dairy owners and each and every one who involved in dairy activities to utilize the 290 Mobile veterinary vehicles for all the veterinary services **by calling Toll free Animal Helpline Number 1962.**
- The Call Centre would function as the pivot whilst rendering the mobile veterinary services. It should receive calls from livestock rearers / animal owners and transmit them to the Veterinary doctor at the Call Centre. **The decision of directing the MVU would be on the emergent nature of the veterinary case as decided by the Veterinary doctor at the Call Centre.** The Call Centre should also confirm actual services through the **UID and mobile number of the animal owner and share the data with the State concerned.**
- Karnataka State has been sanctioned with 290 Mobile veterinary vehicles against 289 lakh number of animal population, which will operate throughout the State by Public Private Partnership. Rs 44.00 crores has been sanctioned to procure 275 new veterinary services fabricated vehicles @ Rs 16.00lakhs per vehicle. Remaining 15 already existing Pashu sanjivini vans will be utilized to match up 290 required vehicles.
- The operationalization cost per vehicle is 18.72 lakhs per year which is about **Rs 54.75 crore will be borne by the Central and state government in 60:40 ratio.** Each vehicle has a Veterinary Doctor, Livestock Inspector and Driver cum attendant and having the facility of medicines, audio visual screen for extension activities, siren and many more as for the need. Government of India will release Rs 32.57 crore for operationalization cost for 290 vehicles and remaining Rs 28.15 crore has to be borne by State Government.

- **Establishment & Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals & Dispensaries – Mobile Veterinary Units (ESVHD-MVUs):** The component “ESVHFD-MVU” under **Central Sector Scheme “Livestock Health & Disease Control” provides veterinary health services at farmers’ door-steps** through Mobile Veterinary Units. The services are to be operated through Call Centers in the State/UTs, the farmers in case of any emergency will make call to these call centers and after prioritizing the emergencies, the services for diagnosis and treatment will be provided by a team of Veterinarian & Para-veterinarian in these Mobile Veterinary Units.

## **12. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) complete 7 years of providing social security net**

- As we celebrate the 7th anniversaries of three social security (Jan Suraksha) schemes, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), let us focus on how these schemes have provided affordable insurance and security to people (Jan Suraksha), their achievements and salient features.
- PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on **9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.**
- These three social security schemes are **dedicated to the welfare of the citizens, recognising the need for securing human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.**
- In order to ensure that the people from the unorganised section of the country are financially secure, the Government launched two insurance schemes –**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY); and introduced Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to cover the exigencies in the old age.**
- While the **PMJJBY and PMSBY provide access to low cost life/accidental insurance cover to the people**, the APY provides an **opportunity for saving in the present for getting a regular pension in old age.**
- The three Jan Suraksha schemes have brought **the insurance and pension within the reach of the common man.** The number of people who have **enrolled and benefitted from the above schemes over the last seven years is a testimony to their success.** These low-cost insurance schemes and the guaranteed pension scheme are ensuring that financial security, which was available to a select few earlier, is now reaching the last person of the society.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** PMJJBY is a **one-year life insurance scheme** renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals in the age group of **18-50 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.** People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of premium.
- **Benefits:** **Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 330/- per annum.**
- **Enrolment:** Enrolments under the **scheme can be done by visiting the branch/ BC point or website of the bank of the account holder or at the post office in case of post office savings bank account.** The premium under the scheme

is auto debited every year from the subscriber's bank account based on a one-time mandate from the account holder.

- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** PMSBY is a **one-year accidental insurance scheme** renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- Eligibility: Individuals in the age group of **18-70 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.**
- Benefits: Accidental **death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident.**
- Enrolment: Enrolment under the scheme can be **done by visiting the branch/ BC point or website of the bank of the account holder or at the post office in case of post office savings bank account.** The premium under the scheme is auto debited every year from the subscriber's bank account based on a one-time mandate from the account holder.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to **create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector.**
- It is an initiative of the Government to **provide financial security and cover future exigencies for the people in the unorganized sector.**
- APY is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the National Pension System (NPS).**
- Eligibility: APY is open to **all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years** and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- Benefits: Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of **Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years,** based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.
- Disbursement of the Scheme Benefits: The monthly pension is available to the subscriber, and after **him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.**
- In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can **continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years.**
- Contribution by Central Government: The minimum pension would be guaranteed by the Government, i.e., if the accumulated corpus based on contributions earns a lower than estimated return on investment and is inadequate to provide the minimum guaranteed pension, the **Central Government would fund such inadequacy. Alternatively, if the returns on investment are higher, the subscribers would get enhanced pensionary benefits.**
- Payment frequency: Subscribers can make contributions to APY on **monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis.**

- Withdrawal from the Scheme: Subscribers can **voluntarily exit from APY subject to certain conditions, on deduction of Government co-contribution and return/interest thereon.**

### 13. SECI signs MoU with MHA to set up Solar Energy panels

- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has signed an **MoU with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in order to harness the potential of solar energy on the available rooftop areas in the campuses** of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and National Security Guard (NSG).
- The MoU was signed by Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MHA and Smt. Suman Sharma, MD, SECI.
- The MoU is a step ahead **towards supply of green power to the country's security forces and reinforces the government's commitment towards a sustainable future.** The MoU will support MHA in implementing rooftop solar plants under RESCO model.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a **PSU under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), that is engaged in promotion and development of various renewable energy** resources, especially solar energy, trading of power, R&D etc.
- SECI is also the designated implementing agency for many Govt. RE schemes like VGF schemes, ISTS schemes, CPSU schemes etc.

### 14. New policy to make Delhi India's startup capital: CM Kejriwal

- The state cabinet of Delhi approved the "**Delhi Startup Policy**", aimed at **creating an enabling ecosystem for people to launch startups and avail of a host of handholding measures** such as fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, collateral-free loans, and free consultancy from experts, lawyers, and chartered accountants, among others.
- The government aims to create business leaders and **entrepreneurs from among the youth and make Delhi the "startup destination of the world"**.
- The state aims to **encourage, facilitate, and support 15,000 startups by 2030 and generate new avenues of employment.**
- The government also decided to introduce **entrepreneurship classes and the "business blasters" programme in colleges** after the successful roll-out of these programmes in schools.
- According to the policy framework, the plan is to **create the ecosystem for an innovation-based economy, and to foster entrepreneurial spirit** through a robust support mechanism.
- The Delhi government will provide **both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to the youth.** For instance, the government will pay up to 50% of the rental cost of a startup office. It will also pitch in to pay a portion of employee salaries. It will further reimburse their patent, copyright and trademarking costs and help them with internet bills and other overheads. It will also offer collateral free loans, interest free loans and incentivise incubation centres and fabrication labs.
- According to a statement from the Delhi government, the fiscal incentives for startups include reimbursement on lease rentals -- **50% or up to ₹5 lakh per annum; reimbursement grants for filing patent up to ₹1 lakh per annum**

(Indian) and up to ₹3 lakh per annum (international); reimbursement for exhibition stall/rental cost -- 100% for women/ underprivileged/ differently abled persons and 50% for others up to ₹5 lakh per annum; monthly allowance towards operational/ employee cost of up to ₹30,000 per month for one year; financial grants towards capital and operational expenditures in the establishment; and financial support for procurement of key software up to 50% of the total cost.

# Building a startup ecosystem

Govt's target for number of startups by 2030

## 15,000

### The incentives

- Up to 50% rent of office lease
- A portion of employees salaries initially
- To reimburse patent, copyright and trademarking costs
- Collateral and interest free loans
- Facilitate easy access to funding
- Free consultation from panels of lawyers, experts
- Procure products and services from Delhi's startups
- Leaves for students from govt-run institutes if they want to focus on startups
- Foster innovative ideas among youth and facilitate proactive industry engagement

### Focus areas

Education, education technology; healthcare; tourism and hospitality; transportation & logistics; e-governance; artificial intelligence; internet of things; software-as-a-service; fintech; e-waste management; robotics & automation; green technology

### Other measures

- Introduce entrepreneurship classes and business blasters programme at college level to support entrepreneurship among students
- Startup policy monitoring committee, startup task force and nodal agency to ensure proper implementation

"This policy will lead to a wave of startups in Delhi and it will be home of businesses and unicorns"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Delhi CM



## 15. A historic initiative by Department of Telecommunications - India advances in 5G/ORAN testing eco system through public private partnership

- Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), a technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s VVDN Technologies Private Limited, an Indian product engineering and manufacturing company working in various technology domains including 5G, Networking, IoT, Cloud & Apps.
- The MoU was signed by Shri A.S.Verma, DDG (MT), TEC and Shri Puneet Agarwal, CEO, M/s VVDN in the presence of Shri Nizamul Haq, Member (Services), Digital Communication Commission (DCC), Department of Telecommunications.

- The signing of MoU will **facilitate registered startups, innovators and MSMEs working in the field of Open RAN to get their product tested at the existing lab of M/s VVDN at Gurugram for interoperability among Open RAN components (RU/DU/CU)** from different vendors along with radio conformance, protocol and interface testing as per defined Open RAN Standards at a subsidized tariff to be decided with mutual consent among MoU partners. The product offered for testing will be certified by TEC.
- Such testing certification shall accelerate the research innovation domestic design and manufacturing. It is aimed that **India shall be emerging as design leader in 5G/ORAN. This test certification eco system will make India as design testing and certification hub of Asia.**
- Both TEC & M/s VVDN have agreed to collaborate and **work jointly in the area of Open RAN testing during the tenure of MoU which is for 5 years from the date of signing.** This is the first of its kind MoU signed by TEC as a step towards leveraging the existing Open RAN testing ecosystem in partnership with a private firm. TEC is undertaking massive reform to create best market access system in the world.

#### **16. Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav addresses United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session in Cote d'Ivoire**

- Stating that taking care of the land that sustains us can help the fight against global warming, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, **pitched for promoting lifestyles for environment.** The Union Minister was addressing the opening plenary of **the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session in Cote d'Ivoire.**
- The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) **of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022,** will bring together leaders from governments, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders from around the world to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.
- These issues will be discussed during the high-level segment, including a Heads of States Summit, high-level roundtables and interactive dialogue sessions, as well as numerous other special and side events.
- **Drought, land restoration, and related enablers such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top items on the Conference agenda.** Through its decisions adopted by UNCCD's 197 Parties, COP15 is expected to galvanize sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience, with a strong focus on future-proofing land use.

#### **17. Shri Narayan Rane launches the second phase of MSME RuPAY Credit Card**

- Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane has called upon the field officers to achieve the targets of growth of MSME in their respective areas within the stipulated period. **Addressing the National conference of MSME-Development Institutes, Testing Centres and Technology Centres** he said that this conference will contribute in shaping the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

- In the conference, Shri Rane also launched the second phase of **MSME RuPAY Credit Card with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and four banks, viz. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, SBM Bank (India) and HDFC Bank**. This card will provide a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business related operational expenses.
- The aim of this conference was to **have interaction with officials of field offices of Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME to chalk out future plans for better implementation and monitoring of MSME schemes** and coordination with State Governments and other stake holders for the benefit of the MSMEs. This conference is a part of Enterprise India under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign.

#### **18. Shri Narayan Rane to inaugurate the first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in New Delhi on 11TH May 2022**

- Handspun and hand-woven, Khadi fabric became a tool to collectivize people and unify them at the behest of Mahatma Gandhi thousands of people formed collectives to create Khadi fabric and dress themselves in comfortable Khadi. Many such collectives formalized into institutions that went on to be certified **by Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC) from 1957 onwards**. These Khadi Institutions are the custodians of the legacy of Khadi.
- With the desire to travel with Khadi to newer place, a **Centre for experimentation, innovation and design has been conceived by the Ministry of MSME for Khadi Village and Industries Commission to empower Khadi Institutions**.
- The Centre aspires to design apparel, home and fashion accessories that appeal to people across generations. The **Centre of Excellence for Khadi has set out to make Khadi a universal, classic and value driven brand**.
- Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Narayan Rane will inaugurate the first **Centre of Excellence for Khadi on 11th May 2022 in New Delhi**.
- The Centre of Excellence for Khadi is **setup at National Institute of Fashion Technology as a hub in Delhi and spokes in Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong**. The objective is to design apparel, home furnishing and accessories for people of all generation and creating benchmarked design processes of global standards of quality, design, and merchandising.
- Centre of Excellence for Khadi is in the **process of developing Knowledge Portal for Khadi to disseminate design directions to reach out to all the Khadi Institutions**. Knowledge portal entails design directions on—colour, silhouettes, weave, surface, textures, prints, closures, size chart and trims and finishes.

#### **19. AIM, NITI Aayog launches the AIM-PRIME Playbook to help academicians launch deep-tech spin-offs**

- The AIM-PRIME Playbook was launched at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi**. This event marks the **culmination of the nationwide AIM-PRIME program, an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog**, that is being implemented by Venture Center, Pune and is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor. Post the launch event, the dignitaries interacted with selected cohort start-ups and incubators at a startup showcase.

- **The AIM PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship) program was aimed at promoting early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months using a blended learning curriculum.**
- Other program benefits include the PRIME Playbook, a guide for science-based entrepreneurs and ventures, the PRIME Library, a curated resource shared by the faculty and expert mentors associated with the program, and the PRIME Videos, an open-access video collection of the lectures delivered as part of the PRIME Classroom.
- The first cohort of the AIM PRIME program consisted of **science-based startups, faculty entrepreneurs and incubator managers, where they worked on progressing their idea by teaming up** with an incubator.
- The cohort represented a wide variety of science-based sectors, including industrial automation, IoT, electronics, robotics, energy and environment, health and rehabilitation, and food, nutrition and agriculture. Over 17 national and international faculty members were on-boarded as part of the program, who have collectively spent more than 640 hours on mentoring.

## 20. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches NITI Aayog's Experience Studio on Drones

- **To promote a collaborative ecosystem aimed at fostering innovation and adoption of drones for public services, an experience studio on drones** was launched today by Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia at NITI Aayog.
- Drones are expected to be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas. The NITI experience studio launched **shall help promote various applications of drone technology to public and private stakeholders as well as help them fast-track adoption of drone technology** within their organisations and aid in building a robust drone industry in India.
- Through the experience **studio, start-ups and enterprises will be able to showcase their innovations and next-gen technology-enabled solutions. It will allow various government departments to experience these technologies first-hand and think about how they can be contextually** used on the ground in public services. Additionally, the experience studio will also act as an anchor for initiating proof-of-concepts and pilots aimed at solving issues that persists in service deliveries. Smaller focused cohorts will be created through the experience studio, which will eventually help in mainstreaming these solutions once they are field-ready.
- The Union Minister also announced the launch of the following challenges, which will be held by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA):
  - **'Drones for Social Impact Competition'**: For the start-up community to showcase their capabilities to solve critical problem statements in various use cases.
  - **'Robotics Workshop and Competition'**: For students of Atal Tinkering Labs to foster the spirit of innovation and problem-solving.
- In September 2021, **NITI Aayog in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Intel, established a Cloud Innovation Centre** to help showcase the potential of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine

Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR), Blockchain, Robotics etc. Such a studio would help in accelerating application of frontier technologies in public sector use cases.

- To effectively leverage the initiative, **NITI Aayog has designed a ‘Monthly Innovation Chronicle’ programme that will focus on a particular thematic area for showcasing innovation**, with the potential of being technology-led and necessitating government-industry collaboration for larger social impact. Key tenets of this programme are communication, collaboration and competition to ecosystem partners such as industry and innovators (enterprises and startups), academia and research, government and allied institutions, **Atal Innovation Mission network (especially Atal Tinkering Labs), state and sub-state innovation councils/units**, NITI Aayog’s connected external partners, not-for-profit, donor and multi-lateral agencies, and industry agencies, bodies and funding organizations.

### **21. Delhi govt will provide the “Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana”**

- Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced **‘Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana’, under which the Delhi government will provide free sewer connections to households** in the 787 colonies where sewer lines have been laid.
- 25,000 households located in East Delhi will be provided with free sewer connections under the ‘Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana.’ The free sewer connections will be provided by the Delhi government in 12 colonies in Mustafabad and Karawal Nagar. The free sewer connections will be provided by the Delhi government in 12 colonies in Mustafabad and Karawal Nagar.
- Rs 19 crore has been allocated by the state government for the implementation of these connections. The board also decided to set up 30 RO plants at JJ colonies to increase the drinking water supply. Each plant will provide around 50,000 litres of water per day. The supply will be free.

### **22. Tamil Nadu announces free breakfast for students**

- On the occasion of the DMK government of Chief Minister M. K. Stalin stepping into its second year, the State was richer by five new development schemes.
- Mr. Stalin made the announcements in the Assembly. The schemes are **a free morning breakfast scheme for government school students, a scheme to eradicate nutrition deficiency, establishment of schools of excellence and primary health centres** in urban areas and the expansion of **‘CM in Your Constituency’, a public grievances redress system, to all 234 constituencies.**
- Speaking under Rule 110, **the free breakfast scheme was launched based on the available information that the government school children skip breakfast while going to school because of the distance and family situation.** He said free breakfast would be provided to students of **Classes 1-5 on all working days.** In the first phase, the scheme would be launched in some Corporations, municipalities and villages. The scheme would be implemented through the local bodies and expanded to all parts of the State in phases.

### **23. PM to address ‘Utkarsh Samaroh’ in Bharuch on 12th May**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address 'Utkarsh Samaroh' in Bharuch, Gujarat on 12th May, 2022 via video conferencing. The programme will mark the **celebration of 100% saturation of four key schemes of the state government in the district**, which will help provide timely financial assistance to those in need.
- The district administration of Bharuch carried out '**Utkarsh Initiative' drive from 1st January to 31st March this year, with the aim to ensure complete coverage of schemes** providing assistance to widows, elderly and destitute citizens. A total of 12,854 beneficiaries were identified across the four schemes viz. **Ganga Swaroopa Aarthik Sahay Yojana, Indira Gandhi Vrudh Sahay Yojana, Niradhar Vrudh Aarthik Sahay Yojana and Rashtriya Kutumb Sahay Yojana.**
- During the drive, taluka-wise Whatsapp helpline numbers were announced to collect information about those who were not receiving benefits of the scheme. Utkarsh camps were organized in all villages and wards of municipality areas of the district, wherein applicants who provided necessary documents were given on the spot approval. Incentives were also given to Utkarsh assistants to further facilitate the drive.

#### **24. India elected as Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-24**

- India has been unanimously elected as the **new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024** at the recently held meeting of the Executive board and General Assembly at Manila, Philippines on May 7, 2022. **Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA.** The new member in the **Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and Philippines.**
- The mission of the Association of Asian Election Authorities is to provide a non-partisan forum in the Asian region **for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities to discuss and act upon ways to promote open and transparent elections** with the objective of supporting good governance and democracy.
- Officials from many AAEA member countries have been **regularly attending International Training Programmes conducted by India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) from time to time.**
- **Establishment and Membership of AAEA:** In pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the **Twenty First Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines, the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA)** was established in 1998. **Currently 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.** ECI is a founder member EMB of the AAEA and also served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice Chair during 2011-13 and Chair during 2014-16.

#### **25. Mission Amrit Sarovar- A high level meeting held to review the progress of the Mission under the chairmanship of Secretary, Rural Development**

- With a view to conserve water for the future, **the Prime Minister launched a new Mission on Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022.** The Mission is aimed at developing and **rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.** In total, it would lead to creation of 50,000 water bodies of a size of about an Acre or more.

- This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach in which 6 Ministries/Department namely Dept of Rural Development , Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes.
- **Also Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics(BISAG-N)has been** engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.
- The Mission works through the States and Districts, through refocusing of various schemes such as **Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, XV Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides States’ own schemes.** It may also be mentioned that the Mission encourages mobilisation of citizen and non-govt resources for supplementing these efforts.
- The **Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023.** Around 50,000 such Amrit Sarovar may be constructed in the country. Each of these Amrit Sarovar will have approx. area of 1 acre with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meter.
- People’s participation in the Mission is the focal point. Local freedom fighter, their family members, Martyr’s family members, Padma Awardee and citizens of the local area wherein an Amrit Sarovar is to be constructed, will be engaged at all stages. **On every 15th August, National Flag hoisting will be organised on every Amrit Sarovar site .**

## **26. Madhya Pradesh govt to pay entire fee of Ladli Laxmis, says CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while launching the **Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0, has announced that the state government will pay the entire fee of Ladli Laxmis** if they take admission to medical, IIT, IIM, or any institute. Ladli Laxmi Utsav will also be celebrated in MP from **May 2 to May 12 every year.**
- In order to fulfill the responsibility of the **girl child from birth to her marriage, the government in MP has implemented Ladli Laxmi Yojana from 1st April 2007.**
- In Madhya Pradesh, more than 42 lakh girls have been registered till April this year under Ladli Laxmi scheme.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that **25 thousand rupees will be given separately by the state government in two installments to the Ladli Laxmis** who take admission in the college. The Chief Minister stressed upon the girls to worry about their studies instead of worrying about the fees. Shri Chouhan also announced to give **Ladli Laxmi Panchayat status to the panchayats, who works for the betterment of girls.**
- The Chief Minister also launched Ladli e-Sawad App.

## **27. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) & MoA formulates regulations for ‘Ayurveda Aahara’ products**

- Ministry of Ayush and Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under MoHFW, India’s apex body for food regulation has formulated regulations of safety & quality standards for food products under **‘Ayurveda Aahara’ category.**
- This comprehensive initiative will ensure **manufacturing of quality Ayurveda food products and help in expanding the international market for Make-In-India products.**

- The Ministry of Ayush is confident these regulations will further strengthen India's global positioning as a custodian of Ayush system.
- According to the regulation, manufacturing and marketing of **'Ayurveda Aahara' products will now adhere to strict Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022** rules and will be available in market only after license/approval from FSSAI. A special logo has been created for "Ayurveda Aahara" category, which will enable easier identification and reinforce quality in Ayurveda food products.
- The Ministry of Ayush with an understanding **that food safety and quality is a shared responsibility between manufacturers, consumers and everyone has a role to play to ensure food we consume is safe and healthy.** This has been further strengthened after resurgence of COVID-19 **pandemic brought the focus on food, nutrition, health, immunity and sustainability.**
- According to the regulations, all food prepared in accordance with the recipes/ingredients/processes described in the **authoritative books of Ayurveda will be considered as "Ayurveda Aahara".**
- Food recipes and ingredients for promoting health, specific physiological needs, and foods specified for consumption during or post specified diseases, disorders referred as Pathya in Ayurved are covered under these regulations.
- The labelling of **'Ayurveda Aahara' shall specify the intended purpose, the target consumer group, recommended duration of use and other specific requirements.**
- Health claims and disease risk reduction claims for the different categories of 'Ayurveda Aahara' and their approval process shall be in accordance with the requirements specified in regulations. However, **'Ayurveda Aahara' will not include Ayurvedic drugs or proprietary Ayurvedic medicines and medicinal products, cosmetics, narcotic or psychotropic substances and herbs.** Further, Ayurveda Aahara is also not recommended to young children below age 2 years.
- **'Ayurveda Aahara' needs prior approval,** the same shall be in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specific Food and Food Ingredients) Regulation, 2017. FSSAI shall constitute an **Expert Committee under the Ministry of Ayush consisting of relevant experts including representatives of FSSAI for providing recommendation** on approval of claims and products and the committee shall also empower to address concerns regarding registration or licensing or certification or laboratory accreditation or **testing or quality issues related to "Ayurveda Aahara".**
- Food business operator to adhere quality parameters for the ingredients as per the criteria defined under Food Safety and Standards Regulations, relevant BIS specifications.

## **28. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signs MoU with UNDP for strategic partnership on Agriculture, Crop Insurance and Credit**

- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), **Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wherein UNDP will**

**provide technical support** towards Centre’s aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme & Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar by CEO-PMFBY Ritesh Chauhan **and UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda.**
- Under the MoU, **UNDP will leverage its expertise in systems and global know-how for supporting the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of combined agriculture credit** and crop insurance.
- KCC-MISS and PMFBY were launched with the **aim to tackle the problematic areas of previous Schemes and to map out a structure that affords better implementation options** for all stakeholders while achieving the desired results. To that effect, several new provisions have been incorporated in the Schemes. **One of the biggest features of the current schemes is that they apply uniformly across the entire country and have a provision to cover all crops.**
- As per the MoU, UNDP will **provide responsive, demand-driven technical assistance for effective implementation of agriculture credit and crop insurance**, as well as providing capacity development and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) support to existing national and state institutions, keeping in mind the interest of small and marginal farmers, women farmers, sharecroppers, tenant and non-loanee farmers.

### **29. Telecommunication Engineering Centre organizes International Webinar on “CYBERSECURITY for M2M/IoT”**

- A webinar on CYBERSECURITY for M2M/IoT was organised by Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) along with Delegation of the European Union to India including Project InDiCo and SESEI, on 12th May 2022.**
- Presentations were made by experts from India and Europe. Eminent speakers from the European Commission (EC), the UK Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), ETSI, TSDSI, the India Future Foundation, Idemia, DEKRA and the Global Certification Forum (GCF) shared their knowledge on IoT Security - Policy Prospective, Legislation & Standards and M2M/IoT Testing & Certification - Global, Regional & Local Framework.
- The webinar was organized in two technical sessions chaired by DDG(IoT) and DDG (MTCTE), TEC. Some of the topics were related to the technical report Code of Practice for consumer IoT security released by TEC, which provides baseline requirements consistent with the recommendations from ETSI EN 303 645.
- **Standards-based approach will allow sustainable solutions to be developed, with the aim to prevent any form of unauthorised and malafide access** to smart devices and the network. This webinar is in line with the Government of India’s initiatives for the establishment of cyber security infrastructure and to safeguard and secure consumer devices, utilities, and industrial equipment. This webinar was attended by around 150 participants across the globe.

### **30. Shri Hardeep S Puri launches ‘BHARAT TAP’ initiative at Plumbex India Exhibition**

- The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep S Puri launched the **BHARAT TAP initiative at the ‘Plumbex India’ exhibition.** This exhibition is aimed for products and services related to the plumbing, water and sanitation industry.

- The exhibition caters to a fundamental service in the **development of the nation – water and sanitation and there is no progress or growth without adequate sanitation**, which is foundational in the hierarchy of basic services that citizens expect.
- AMRUT 2.0 will provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 ULBs through 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 cities through 2.64 crore sewer connections. This will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas.
- The Plumbing industry is **capitalising on the business opportunity while also playing a significant role in supporting the development of sanitation and other basic services in the country.**
- BHARAT TAP initiative will provide low-flow, sanitary-ware at scale, and thereby reduce water consumption at source considerably and said that he is confident that this initiative will be accepted quickly in the country and will lead to a renewed focus on water conservation efforts.

### 31. Country's first "Amrit Sarovar" to be inaugurated by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at Patwai, Rampur(UP)

- **The country's first "Amrit Sarovar" will be inaugurated** by the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Uttar Pradesh Jal Shakti Minister Shri Swatantra Dev Singh at Patwai, Rampur(UP) on May 13, 2022.
- **Participation and cooperation of the common people, villagers and promptness of Gram Panchayat and the District Administration has played an important role** in opening of this grand "Amrit Sarovar" in a very short time.

### 32. Consumer Price Index Numbers on Base 2012=100 for Rural, Urban and Combined for the Month of April 2022

- **The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is releasing **All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) on Base 2012=100** and corresponding Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for Rural (R), Urban (U) and Combined (C) for the month of April 2022 (Provisional) in this press note. CPIs for Sub-Groups and Groups for both All India and all States/UTs are also being released.
- The Price data are collected from selected 1114 urban Markets and 1181 villages covering all States/UTs through personal visits by field staff of Field Operations Division of NSO, MoSPI on a weekly roster.
- During the month of April 2022, NSO collected prices from 99.9 % villages and 98.3% urban Markets while the Market-wise prices reported therein were 90.3% for rural and 93.7% for urban.
- All India Inflation rates (on point to point basis i.e. current month over same month of last year, i.e. April 2022 over April 2021), based on General Indices and CFPIs are given as follows:

All India Inflation rates (%) based on CPI (General) and CFPI

Indices	Apr. 2022 (Prov.)			Mar. 2022 (Final)			Apr. 2021		
	Rural	Urban	Comb.	Rural	Urban	Comb.	Rural	Urban	Comb.
CPI (General)	8.38	7.09	7.79	7.66	6.12	6.95	3.75	4.71	4.23
CFPI	8.50	8.09	8.38	8.04	7.04	7.68	1.31	3.15	1.96

Notes: Prov. – Provisional, Comb. - Combined

### 33. Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production and Use-Based Index for the Month of March, 2022 (Base 2011-12=100)

- The **Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** are released on **12th of every month (or previous working day if 12th is a holiday)** with a six weeks lag and compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments.
- For the month of **March 2022, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 148.3.**
- The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of **March 2022 stand at 144.6, 144.6 and 191.0 respectively.** These Quick Estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP.
- As per Use-based classification, the **indices stand at 153.3 for Primary Goods, 110.0 for Capital Goods, 154.8 for Intermediate Goods and 170.5 for Infrastructure/ Construction Goods for the month of March 2022.** Further, the indices for Consumer durables and Consumer non-durables stand at 128.8 and 149.3 respectively for the month March 2022.

### 34. Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh Inaugurates 'Gartex Texprocess India' in Mumbai

- Union Minister of State for Textiles & Railways, Darshana Jardosh inaugurated '**Gartex Texprocess India**' and marked the **launch of India's leading textile and garment manufacturing trade fair in Mumbai.**
- More than 100 brands were on display at the launch edition with specially curated segments - Fabrics & Trims, Denim Show and Screen Print India showcasing trendy displays. More than 25 top Indian denim mills also showcasing their collections at the fair. The Minister also took a tour of the trade fair.
- The media interaction was followed by a CXO panel discussion with the various industry leaders.

### 35. Ministry of Tourism initiative of establishing 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' gets support from CBSE

- Ministry of Tourism has initiated establishing '**YUVA Tourism Clubs**' as **part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.**
- The vision of **YUVA Tourism Clubs is to nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism who would become aware of tourism possibilities in India,** appreciate our rich cultural heritage and develop an interest and passion for tourism.
- These **young ambassadors would be catalysts for promoting tourism in India.** Participation in Tourism Clubs is also expected to facilitate development of soft skills like teamwork, management, leadership besides encouraging adoption of responsible tourism practices and concern for sustainable tourism.
- **Central Board of Secondary Education has come forward to support the initiative of Ministry of Tourism and issued instructions to all CBSE affiliated schools** regarding formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs.
- The Yuva Tourism clubs that are being set up in **various schools will promote national integration and build on the Prime Minister's vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.**

- Students will now be aware of domestic destinations and equipped with the tools to promote the tourism sector.
- The tourism clubs help children to be more aware about their states and neighborhood along with the cultural aspects. This further builds on the clarion call of Dekho Apna Desh by the Prime Minister.
- The young members of **these clubs would gain exposure to the rich diversity of India, and its civilizational values, it would enhance their sense of belonging towards the nation.** On the other hand, as the youth become tourist ambassadors, India will become the favoured tourist destination of the world which will then have a cascading impact on our economy.
- YUVA Tourism Clubs would also enable learners to appreciate the importance of **travel and tourism, ignite a passion for tourism and its value in learners, sensitize learners to various elements of travel, encourage, teach and propagate responsible tourism practices, improve physical & mental health** through exploratory, adventure and sports tourism and spread awareness about tourism opportunities at an early stage and encourage learners to be skilled professionals and entrepreneurs in the hospitality and tourism sector.

### 36. Haryana launched Chara Bijai Yojana

- Chara Bijai Yojana has been launched by the Haryana Government for the farmers and livestock farmers of Haryana.
- Through this scheme, **farmers will be provided financial assistance at the rate of ₹ 10000 per acre for growing fodder up to 10 acres of land.**
- This financial assistance will **be provided only to those farmers who provide fodder to cowsheds with mutual consent.** The amount of profit will be distributed in the account of farmers through DBT. The operation of this scheme will help in animal husbandry.
- This scheme will prove to be effective in **empowering farmers and livestock farmers. Apart from this, the standard of living of farmers and livestock farmers will be improved by the operation** of this scheme. The farmers of the state will also be encouraged towards animal husbandry by the operation of this scheme. This scheme will ensure better availability of fodder.
- The main objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to the farmers and livestock farmers in the state. Through this scheme, **farmers growing fodder on land up to 10 acres will be provided financial assistance of ₹ 10000 per acre.**
- Through this Haryana fodder-sowing scheme, both farmers and livestock farmers will get help. The cattle farmers of the state will not need to go anywhere to get the fodder. Because the farmers of the state will be encouraged to grow fodder. **This scheme will prove to be effective in improving the standard of living of livestock farmers and farmers.** Apart from this, they will also become strong and self-reliant by the operation of this scheme.

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