# GS SCORE

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# Contents

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# 16

# Health & Family Welfare

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is instrumental and responsible for implementation of various programmes on the national scale in the areas of health and family welfare, prevention and control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as promoting research across the country.

- It is responsible for formulating health and allied policies, providing guidance to states towards implementing health programs, managing centrally sponsored health schemes and programs, medical education, regulation (drugs and devices) and health infrastructure.

- The Ministry of and Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has two departments - Department of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Health Research.

- Department of AIDS Control has been merged with Department of Health & Family Welfare and now is known as National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

- In December 2014, Department of AYUSH was made Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) with focused attention on development of education and research in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy systems.\

- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is an attached office which renders technical advice on all medical and public health matters and is involved in the implementation of various health services.

## National Health Policy

➤ The year 2017 saw the release of a new health policy (NHP) of the country after a gap of 15 years. NHP 2017 addresses the current and emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic, technological and epidemiological landscape.

➤ It envisages providing larger package of assured comprehensive primary healthcare through the health and wellness centres.

➤ The policy aims to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages through a preventive and promotive healthcare and universal access to quality health services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.

➤ This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery.

➤ NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion (two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care and aims to ensure availability of two beds per 1,000 population distributed in a manner to enable access within golden hour. Besides this, the highlights of the policy include:

- **Assurance based approach** - It advocates progressively incremental assurance based approach with focus on preventive and promotive healthcare.

- **Micro-nutrient deficiency** - There is a focus on reducing micro-nutrient malnourishment and systematic approach to address heterogeneity in micro-nutrient adequacy across regions.

- **Make-in-India initiative** - It advocates the need to incentivize local manufacturing to provide customized indigenous products for Indian population in the long run.

- **Application of digital health** - The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and aims at an integrated health information system which serves the needs of all stake-holders and improves efficiency, transparency, and citizen experience.

⊙ **The IT initiatives of the Ministry are:**

➤ **National Health Portal (NHP)**

- National Health Portal (NHP) is functioning as citizen portal for healthcare providing health related information to citizens and stakeholders in different languages (currently six languages).

- It serves as a single point access for information on health and diseases including health messages; on regulations, standards, policies, programmes, commissions etc.; directory services - hospitals, blood banks, ambulances.

➤ **Hospital Information System (HIS)**

- 'Hospital Information System (HIS) is being implemented in hospitals for automation of hospital processes to achieve better efficiency and service delivery in public health facilities upto CHC level.

➤ **Online Registration System (ORS)**

- Online Registration System (ORS) is a framework to link various hospitals for online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online, etc.

➤ **Mera Aspataal (My Hospital) application**

- Mera Aspataal (My Hospital) application is an IT based feedback system to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction using a multi-channel approach viz. short message service (SMS), outbound dialing (OBD), web portal, and mobile application.

- The application automatically contacts the patient (outpatient after the closure of the OPD and the inpatient at the time of discharge) using the above tools to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction.

➤ **Mother and Child YTracking System (MCTS) / Reproductive Child Health (RCH)**

- Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) / Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Application is an individual-based tracking system across all the states & UTs to facilitate timely delivery of antenatal and postnatal care services and immunization to children with an objective of improving IMR, MMR, & morbidity.

➤ **Kilkari Application**

- Kilkari application was launched to deliver free weekly audio messages about 'pregnancy, child birth and care.

➤ **Mobile Academy**

- Mobile Academy is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge base of ASHAs and improve their communication skills.

➤ **TB Patient Monitoring System "Nikshay"**

- TB Patient Monitoring System "Nikshay" for tracking of individuals for treatment- adherence has been implemented across all states for monitoring of TB patients.

➤ **Tobacco Cessation Programme**

- Tobacco Cessation Programme is a mobile-based interventional initiative for counseling and helping people to quit tobacco.

➤ **M Diabetes Programme**

- M Diabetes Programme is a mobile-based initiative for prevention and care of diabetes.

➤ **e-CGHS card**

- e-CGHS card enables self-printing of CGHS cards from any location.

➤ **SUGAM**

- SUGAM by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing & grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics. Provides a single window for multiple stakeholders (Pharma Industry, Regulators, Citizens) involved in the processes of CDSCO.

➤ **Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) (e Aushidhi)**

- 'Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) (eAushidhi) deals with purchase, inventory management and distribution of various drugs, sutures and surgical items to various district drug warehouse of state/UT, district hospitals, their sub-stores, etc., by automating the workflow of procurement, supply chain, quality control and finance department in state/UT level.
- Mobile Apps: various mobile apps have been launched namely
- Indradhanush Immunization for tracking immunication;
- India fights Dengue (enables a user to check dengue symptoms, get nearest hospital/blood bank information and share feed-back);
- NHP Swasth Bharat (information on disease, lifestyle, first-aid);
- NHP Directory Services (information of hospitals and blood banks across the country;
- No More Tension (information on stress management related aspects);
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (for reporting pregnancy cases across the states).

➤ **National Health Mission**

- The National Health Mission (NHM) has its two sub-missions:
  - National Rural Health Mission (NRHM); and
  - National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- The NHM envisages universal access to equitable, affordable & quality healthcare services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. The main programmatic components includes:
  - Health system strengthening in rural and urban areas.
  - Reproductive-Maternal-New-born Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A).
  - Control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

➤ **Mission Indradhanush**

- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunization rounds.
- The objective of the scheme is to increase full immunization coverage to at least 90 per cent children by 2020.

➤ **Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (NMTE)**

- Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) is defined as less than one neonatal tetanus case per 1000 live birth in every district per annum. India has been validated for Maternal and Neonatal tetanus elimination in May 2015, well before the target date of December 2015.

- Country achieved MNT Elimination through the strengthening of health systems by innovative programmes like JananiSuraksha Yojana (JSY) and JananiShishuSurakshaKarayakaram (JSSK) to improve institutional delivery and by strengthening Routine Immunization.

## ➤ New Vaccines

- Inactivated Polio Vaccine.
- Rotavirus Vaccine.
- Rubella Vaccine as Measles Rubella (MR) Vaccine.
- Adult JE Vaccine.
- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Pneumonia.

## ➤ India New Born Action Plan

- This was launched in 2014 with the goal of attaining "Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030" and "Single Digit Still Birth rate (SBR) by 2030".
- Under this, 661 special newborn care units (SNCU) at district level, 2321 newborn stabilization units (NBSU) at first referral units (FRU) level and 18,323 newborn care corners (NBCC) at delivery points are operational.

## ➤ Ayushman Bharat

- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2018.
- This comes under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW.
- The Scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries are to be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database.
- With this, AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
- Its salient features are numerous and keeping in mind the poor and the destitute. It has a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.
- To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and the elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age. The benefit cover will also include pre and post hospitalisation expenses.
- All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary; portable benefits including cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
- Being an entitlement based scheme the entitlement is to be decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database, female headed households with no adult male member between ages 16 to 59, disabled member and no able bodied adult member in the family, SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour will be automatically covered.
- The payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the government in advance) basis. The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment.
- For beneficiaries, it will be a cashless, paper less transaction. Keeping in view the state specific requirements, states/ UTs will have the flexibility to modify these rates within a limited bandwidth.
- One of the core principles of AB-NHPM is co-operative federalism and flexibility to states. There is provision to partner the states through co-alliance.
- This will ensure appropriate integration with the existing health insurance / I protection schemes of various central ministries / departments and state governments (at their own cost).
- State governments will be allowed to expand the Scheme both horizontally and vertically. They can implement through insurance company or directly through trust / society or a mixed model. States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement it.

- In order to ensure that the Scheme reaches the intended beneficiaries and other stakeholders, a comprehensive media and outreach strategy will be developed, which will, inter alia, include print media, electronic media, social media platforms, traditional media, IEC materials and outdoor activities.

- This will lead to increased access to quality health and medication. In addition, the unmet needs of the population which remained hidden due to lack of financial resources will be catered to.

## ➤ Mother's Absolute Affection Programme

- "MAA - Mother's Absolute Affection" which is an intensified programme was launched in 2016 in an attempt to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding.

- The goal of the MAA programme is to revitalize efforts towards promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding practices through health systems to enhance breastfeeding rates.

- The key components of the programme are - awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding and inter personal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points, monitoring and award/recognition.

## ➤ Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight

- It is a programme to combat diarrhoeal mortality in children with the ultimate aim of zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.

- Main activities include intensification of advocacy activities, awareness generation activities, diarrhoea management service provision, establishing ORS-zinc demonstration sites, ORS distribution by ASHA through home visitation, detection of under-nourished children and their treatment, promotion of infant and young child feeding activities by home visits by ASHA and establishing IYCF corners.

## ➤ National Deworming Day

- To combat Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections, the Ministry has adopted a single day strategy called National Deworming Day (NDD) wherein single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of age group at schools and anganwadi centres.

- RashtriyaBalSwasthyaKaryakram

- This initiative launched in 2013 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management of 4 Ds, i.e., defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and free management of 30 identified health conditions including surgery at tertiary health facilities.

- Children between 0-18 years of age are expected to be covered in a phased manner across the country.

## ➤ RashtriyaKishorSwasthyaKaryakram

- The RashtriyaKishorSwasthyaKaryakram (RKSK) was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents.

- The intervention under RKSK are:

  ◆ **Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation:** WIFS is evidence based programmatic response to the prevailing anaemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys through supervised weekly ingestion of IFA supplementation.

  ◆ **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme:** The scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins and high quality, safe products are made available to them with knowledge of environmentally safe disposal mechanisms.

  ◆ **Peer Educator Programme:** The Programme aims to ensure that adolescents are benefited from regular and sustained peer education covering nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, and conditions for NCDs, substance misuse, injuries and violence (including GBV) and mental health.To further equip the peer educators, the Ministry launched "Saathiya Resource Kit" in 2017.

### ➤ Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram

- JananiShishuSurakshaKaryakram (JSSK) scheme entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section.

### ➤ Janani Suraksha Yojana

- JananiSuraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission. The objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.

### ➤ Family Planning

- Mission Parivar Vikas was launched for substantially increasing the access to contraceptives and family planning services in 146 high fertility districts of seven high focus states (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam) with TFR of 3 and above.

### ➤ Free Drugs

- The initiative has been launched with an objective to put in place systems such as facility wise Essential Drug List (EDL), robust procurement system, IT backed logistics and supply chain management, proper warehousing and necessary drug regulatory and quality assurance mechanisms, standard treatment guidelines, prescription audit and grievance redressal systems etc, to ensure provision of quality free essential drugs.

### ➤ National Ambulance Services

- One of the achievements of NRFIM is the patient transport ambulances operating under Dial 108/102 ambulance service.

### ➤ National Urban Health Mission

- It is the initiative to strengthen health systems and service delivery in the urban areas. Under this, 1057 cities/ towns are covered and 4544 existing facilities approved for strengthening as U-PHCs

### ➤ Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

- The programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.
- The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign; developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.

### ➤ Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

- Support is being provided to all states for provision of free dialysis services for poor. Guidelines for dialysis services in district hospitals in PPP mode have been shared with States/UTs and the programme has been implemented with states support in 384 districts.
- Under this, every facility will have 6 dialysis machines and will be extended up to 10 machines per facility.

### ➤ Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)

- Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets have been put in place to provide drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with cardiac implants. These are provided at 60 to 90 per cent discount on prevailing market rates.

## ➤ Kayakalp

- Kayakalp awards were launched to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health facilities.
- Under this initiative awards and commendation certificates are given to public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance, i.e., meeting standards of protocols of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control.

## ➤ Organ Transplant

- National Organ Transplant Programme was launched for carrying out the activities as per Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, training of manpower and promotion of organ donation from deceased persons.
- Under this, an apex level organization, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) was set-up at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi including a National Registry (NOTTR) to provide an online system for procurement and distribution of organs and tissues and to promote deceased organ and tissue donation.

## ➤ Swachh Swasth Sarvatra

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched in 2016.

## ➤ Mental Health Care

- The Mental Health Care Act, 2017 adopts a rights-based statutory framework for mental health and strengthens equality and equity in provision of mental healthcare services in order to protect the rights of people with mental health problem to ensure that they are able to receive optimum care and are able to live a life of dignity and respect.
- It strengthens the institutional mechanisms for improving access to quality and appropriate mental healthcare services.
- The Act increases accountability of both government and private sectors in delivery of mental healthcare with representation of persons with mental health problem and their care-givers in statutory authorities such as central and state mental health authority.

## ➤ HIV & AIDS

- HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, aims to end the epidemic by 2030 in accordance with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations.
- A person living with AIDS cannot be treated unfairly at employment, educational establishments, renting a property, standing for public or private office or providing healthcare and insurance services. The Act also aims to enhance access to healthcare services by ensuring informed consent and confidentiality for HIV-related testing, treatment and clinical research.
- Every person in the care and custody of the state shall have right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.

## ➤ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- The PradhanMantriSwasthyaSuraksha Yojana (PMSSY) envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education, research and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country. It aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- It has two components - Setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country; and Upgradation of existing Govt Medical Colleges (GMCs).

## ➤ Medical Education

- The major step was the passage of Indian Medical Council (Amendment Act, 2016, a uniform entrance examination for admission to Under Graduate and Post Graduate medical courses in the country viz. National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) has been introduced from the Academic Year 2016-17.

- It would help curb malpractices in medical admissions especially in private medical colleges, will lead to greater transparency and ensure better standards of Medical Education.

### "Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research

- It is a pioneering initiative by AIIMS, New Delhi in quest for convergence of contemporary medicine with India's ancient and traditional medical practices and has been envisioned as a "state-of-the-art'' research centre.

- It has been designed as a perfect platform for rigorous research to establish the efficacy of our traditional methods of healing.

### Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke

- Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke to prevent and control common Non-communicable diseases through behaviour and life style changes. The programmes provisions for screening as well as preventive NCD services to the population.

### Revised Tuberculosis Control Programme

- The goal of Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) is to decrease mortality and morbidity due to TB and cut transmission of infection until TB ceases to be a major public health problem in India.

- Under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), the government provides support to the State/UT governments for human resource, drugs, diagnostics and consumables.

### National AIDS Control Programme

- It is a 100 per cent central sector scheme.

- More than 10 lakh people living with HIV are on ART; one lakh additional patients brought under the ambit of Anti Retro Viral (ARV) treatment in line with Test and Treat' Policy launched for covering all patients with ART cover irrespective of CD count or clinical stage.

### National Tobacco Control Programme (NTPC)

- In 2007-08, the National Tobacco Control programme (NTCP) was launched in 9 states covering 18 districts. Further, in 2008-09, the programme was up-scaled to cover 12 new states covering 24 districts. Currently the programme is under implementation in 29 states covering 53 districts.

### National Mental Health Programme

- National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) is being implemented to improve coverage and accessibility of mental health care in the country.

- For improving reach of mental healthcare, district level activities under it are being supported across all 36 states and UTs.

- Under it there is provision of regular psychiatric OPD and IPD services at district hospital, free supply of psychotropic drugs, ambulatory support for psychiatric patients, awareness generation activities on mental health in community and camps and outreach clinics in taluka hospitals/ community health centres.

### National Programme for Healthcare of Elderly

- The basic aim of the National Programme for Healthcare of Elderly (NPHCE) programme is to provide separate, specialized and comprehensive health care to the elderly people in the country.

### National Programme on Prevention and Management of Burn Injuries

- The objective of the programme is to reduce incidence, mortality, morbidity and disability due to burn Injuries, to improve awareness among the general masses and vulnerable groups especially the women, children, industrial and hazardous occupational workers and rehabilitation interventions.

### ➤ National Oral Health Programme

- The programme was initiated in 2014-15 with the objective to reduce the morbidity from oral diseases by strengthening the oral health care delivery in the existing public health facilities of the country.

### ➤ National Leprosy Eradication Programme

- Its objective is to reduce leprosy burden m the country by providing quality leprosy services through general health care - to achieve elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in all states and districts i.e., reduce annual new case detection Ratio to < 1 per 100,000 populations at national level.

- The programme components include case detection and management, disability prevention and medical rehabilitation, IEC including Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) human resource and capacity building and programme management.

### ➤ RashtriyaSwasthyaBima Yojana

- The objectives of (RSBY) is to provide cashless treatment in any public or private empanelled hospitals for most of the diseases that requires hospitalization, which will give improved access to quality health care to the beneficiaries. It has defined BPL and 11 categories of unorganized workers (MGNREGS beneficiaries, building and construction workers, railway porters, domestic workers, street vendors, beedi workers, taxi drivers, rickshaw pullers, rag pickers, mine workers and sanitation workers).

### ➤ Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme

- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a centrally sponsored scheme under NHM implemented in all States and UTs.

- The main objectives and strategies include strengthening/maintaining a decentralized laboratory based IT-enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained rapid response teams.

### ➤ Food Regulation

- The number of food testing labs authorised to undertake tests were increased to 125 and those of referral labs to 16.

- 19 standards/regulations are operationalized including: Food Safety and Standards (Food for Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Foods for Special Dietary Uses, Foods for Special Medical purpose, Functional Foods, and Novel Food) Regulations, 2015; revision of standards of silver leaf (Varakh).

- Allowing use of Ethylene gas for ripening of fruits; harmonization of food additives with codex; standards for raw pulse; microbiological standards for meat and meat products and milk and milk products; standards for proprietary foods; Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Food) Regulations, 2016; Food Safety and Standards (Import Regulations), 2017; Food Safety and standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2017.

- Besides these, manual on quick test for detection of food adulterants at households and labs have been developed.

➤ National Milk Quality Survey was initiated. Safe water portal was launched where packaged drinking water under \ FSSAI or BIS licence number can be tested and validated.

➤ Capacity building/ programmes were launched for street food vendors in partnership with Skill India.

### ➤ Drug Regulation

- Medical Device Rules 2017 are notified. These provide for risk-based classification, licensing and regulation of medical devices.

- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) declared functional with the highest maturity level of 4 in respect of 5 functions and 3 in respect of 4 functions.
- 344 irrational fixed dose combinations (FDCs) are prohibited. New National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM, 2015) finalized.
- It now includes 376 medicines. Coronary stents added in NLEM, 2015 and their ceiling; prices fixed to provide relief to patients.

### ➤ Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

- Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at Government hospitals.
- The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of "one time grant" to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being received.
- Under the scheme central government also provides grant-in-aid to states/union territories (with legislature) to set up State Illness Assistance Fund (SIAF) to the extent of 50 per cent of contribution made by state government/union territories.

### ➤ Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund

- The scheme Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) within RAN was also set up in 2009.
- In order to utilize the HMCPF, the revolving fund as under RAN, has been established in 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs).
- Such step ensures and speeds up financial assistance to needy cancer patients and help fulfill the objective of HMCPF under RAN.

### ➤ Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

- Under the scheme of Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG), financial assistance up to Rs 1,25,000/- is available to the poor and needy patients to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical intervention and treatment of major diseases.
- The patients who are not covered under RAN, due to criterion of below poverty line and whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,25,000/- can avail the financial assistance under the scheme.

### ➤ Global Presence

- India is a regular participant and leading speaker at global events viz., World Health Assembly 2017, UN Health Assembly, etc.
- While India hosted the 2017 BRICS event, MoHFW coordinated the health ministers meet to advocate for continued support of member nations on health issues viz. TB, medical devices and AMR etc.
- India is the founding member of the Partners in Population & Development (PPD) - an Inter-Governmental Organization, formed during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 for promoting South-South Cooperation in the field of Reproductive Health, Population and Development.

➤ MoHFW held and inaugurated the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

## ◉ Health Research

### ➤ Indian Council of Medical Research

- As one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was established in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA). For over a century, ICMR has spearheaded planning, formulation, coordination, implementation, and promotion of biomedical research both in India and internationally.

➤ It has remained the apex and premier medical research organization in the country through its commitments to research, professional development, collaboration, and knowledge dissemination.

➤ ICMR has made significant scientific contributions in understanding various diseases of national importance such as malaria, Japanese encephalitis, tuberculosis, AIDS, Kala-azar, Filariasis, Leprosy and Poliomyelitis.

➤ ICMR has also demonstrated its commitment to current public health concerns including nutrition, reproduction and maternal and child health, occupational and environmental health and health systems research. Its research output and impact has demonstrated considerable and constant growth.

## ⊙ Flagship Programmes

➤ **The India TB Research Consortium:** ICMR took a lead and initiated a new flagship programme to establish India TB research and development consortium that aims to bring together all major national players (with international collaborators) to address overarching scientific questions to tackle TB in a mission mode.

➤ **TB Diagnostic Initiative:** Truenat Rif, an indigenous, cost effective, rapid molecular diagnostic kit for TB/MDR-TB has been developed in collaboration with ICMR, DBT and the industry. Feasibility study is currently underway across 100 districts. Active case finding pilot project initiated in five states for bridging gap in last mile delivery of services amongst tribal populations.

## ⊙ e-Health/M-Health and use of Space Technology Tools

➤ With the changing time, ICMR is focusing its efforts on using e-Health/M-Health and promote the use of space technology tools. ICMR has developed a mobile based disease surveillance system for malaria (MosQuit) using mobile platform.

➤ To address the impact of climate change on human health and promote use of space technology tools, ICMR has developed an early warning system of JE for Upper Assam, initiated studies on mapping of malaria and mosquito-genic conditions, developed models for predicting filariasis.

## ⊙ Disease Burden Estimation

➤ State-level disease burden estimation launched at the Univ of Washington, USA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to generate state-level disease burden and risk factors estimates to improve health programmes and planning in India.

➤ Preparedness to handle Zika virus outbreak: ICMR-NIV established surveillance at 25 sites in the country for Zika testing. Repeated training and capacity building done for 25 labs + 11IDSP labs. Four cases of Zika virus were detected through ICMR's surveillance network (3 in Gujarat and 1 in Tamil Nadu). Entomological surveillance for ZV also established.

➤ National Rotavirus surveillance network (NRSN) (2012-2016): The study carried out at 4 Major referral labs, 7 ICMR's Regional labs and 23 hospital sites to see the trend in burden of rotavirus diarrhoea as well as impact of rotavirus vaccine under Universal Immunization Programme.

## ⊙ AYUSH

➤ The Ministry of AYUSH was formed in 2014 to ensure the optimal development and propagation of AYUSH systems of health care.

## ⊙ Ayush Systems of Healthcare

### ➤ Ayurveda

• 'Ayurveda' literally means "Science of Life".

• It has evolved from the various Vedic hymns rooted in the fundamental philosophies about life, disease and health.

- The Charak Samhita and Sushruta Samhita developed around 2500 BC are the main treaties of Ayurveda fully available today.
- According to Ayurveda, health is considered as a pre-requisite for achieving the goals of life, i.e., Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha.
- Ayurveda takes an integrated view of the physical, mental, spiritual and social aspects of human beings and about the interrelationships between these aspects.

## ➤ Yoga

- Yoga is essentially spiritual and it is an art and science of healthy living which focuses on bringing harmony between body and mind.
- The word 'Yoga' has two meanings; the first comes from the root 'Yujir' or 'Union' and the second is derived from a different root 'Yuja' which means 'Samadhi' - the highest state of mind and the absolute knowledge.
- These two are the most important meanings of the word Yoga according to Panini, the most well-known Sanskrit grammarian.
- Yoga is being practiced as part of healthy lifestyle and has become part of our spiritual heritage.
- In the present era, Yoga is popular world-wide because of its spiritual values, therapeutic credentials, its role in the prevention of diseases, promotion of health and management of lifestyle related disorders.
- Several clinical studies have lucidly demonstrated the therapeutic potentials of Yoga in the treatment of many lifestyle related or psychosomatic disorders. The speciality of this system is that it can get along with any other systems of health care.

## ➤ Naturopathy

- Naturopathy is a science of health and healing and a drug less therapy based on well founded philosophy.
- It has its own concept of health and disease and principles of treatment. Naturopathy is a system of medicine that advocates harmonious living with constructive principles of nature on physical, mental, moral and spiritual planes.
- It has great health promotive and restorative, and disease preventive as well as curative potential.

## ➤ Unani

- The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece and passed through many countries before establishing itself in India during the medieval period.
- It is based on well-established knowledge and practices relating to the promotion of positive health and prevention of disease. The fusion of traditional knowledge of ancient civilizations like Egypt, Arab, Iran, China, Syria and India.
- It emphasizes on the use of naturally occurring mostly herbal medicines and some medicines of animals, marine and mineral origin.
- This system of medicine was documented in Al-Qanoon, a medical classics, by Sheikh Bu-Ali Sina (Avicena) (980-1037 AD), in Al-Havi by Razi (850-923 AD) and in many others books written by the Unani physicians.

## ➤ Siddha

- The Siddha System of medicine is one of the ancient systems of medicine in India having its close links with Dravidian culture.
- The term Siddha means achievements and Siddhars are those who have achieved perfection in medicine.
- Eighteen Siddhars are said to have contributed towards the systematic development of this system and recorded their experiences in Tamil language.

➤ **Homoeopathy**

- The physicians from the time of Hypocrites (around 400 B.C.) have observed that certain substances could produce symptoms of a disease in healthy people similar to those of people suffering from the disease.

- Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician scientifically examined this phenomenon and codified the fundamental principles of Homoeopathy.

- Homoeopathy was brought into India around 1810 A.D. by European missionaries and received official recognition by a Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1948 and then by the Parliament.

➤ **Sowa-Rigpa**

- Sowa-Rigpa is among the oldest surviving health traditions of the world with a living history of more than 2500 years.

- It has been in vogue and practised in Himalayan regions throughout, particularly in Leh and Laddakh (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, etc. Sowa-Rigpa is effective in managing chronic diseases like asthma, bronchitis, arthritis, etc.
  - ◆ The basic theory of Sowa-Rigpa is explained in terms of:
  - ◆ the body and the mind as the locus of treatment;
  - ◆ antidote, i.e. the treatment;
  - ◆ the method of treatment through antidote;
  - ◆ medicines that cure the disease; and
  - ◆ pharmacology.

- Sowa-Rigpa emphasizes on the importance of the five cosmological physical elements in the formation of the human body, the nature of disorders and the remedial measures.

➤ **Ayush Healthcare Infrastructure**

- National AYUSH Mission (NAM) was notified in 2014 which envisages better access to AYUSH services including co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals(DHs), upgradation of existing Government AYUSH Hospitals, upgradation of existing government/ panchayat/ government aided AYUSH dispensaries and setting up of upto 50 bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals.

- It also envisages strengthening of AYUSH educational institutions, facilitate the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU &H) drugs and sustainable availability of ASU & H raw-materials in the, States/UTs during 12th Plan.

➤ **Ayush Drug Quality Control**

- Ministry of AYUSH has a Drug Control Cell to look after and co-ordinate in matters related to Ayurvedic, Siddha , Unani and homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs.

➤ **Medical Education in Ayush**

- The Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) is the statutory body constituted under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 which lays down the standardsof medical education in Ayurved.

- Siddha and Unani through its various regulations. Similarly, homoeopathy medical education is being regulated by Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) through its various regulations under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

➤ **Autonomous Institutes imparting ASUSH Education**

- National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur.

- Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar.

- National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata.

- National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru.

- National Institute of Siddha, Chennai.

- All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi.

- North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy, Shillong.

## ➤ Research in AYUSH

- The government has set-up five autonomous research councils, namely, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM), Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) with the mandate" to under-take research in their respective system.

- Recently, for the management of diabetes mellitus the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences(CCRAS) has developed a formulation namely, AYUSH-82 from 05 Ayurvedic medicinal plants.

- The trials of the drug has shown significant reduction in blood sugar level along with clinical improvement. No toxic effects were noted during the trial. CCRAS has initiated action to commercialize AYUSH-82.

- In addition to its research work, the 81 institutes under the Council also provide healthcare facilities. The CCRH through its programme namely, Homoeopathy for Healthy Child enrolled 40,000 children with an aim to help them during dentition period and treatment of disease.

## ➤ National Medicinal Plants Board

- National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is an apex national body which co-ordinates all matters relating to medicinal plants sector in the country.

- The Board was established in 2000 and acts as advisory body to the concerned ministries, departments and Agencies in strategic planning of medicinal plants related initiatives and to plan and provide financial support to programmes relating to conservation, cultivation and also all round development of medicinal plants sector.

## ➤ AYUSH Services

- The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is a turning point as it inter-alia envisages better access to AYUSH services through increase in number of AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries, ensure availability of AYUSH drugs and trained manpower.

- It also aims at Improvement in quality of AYUSH Education through enhancement in the number of upgraded educational Institutions, sustained availability of quality raw materials and improved availability of quality Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU &H) drugs through increase in number of pharmacies, setting up of drug laboratories in the states which are responsible for enforcement mechanism of ASU &H drugs.

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# 17

# Housing & Urban Affair

- Urbanization is an important determinant of economic development.

- As per Census of India 2011, the number of towns is 7,935 comprising 4,041 Statutory Towns and 3,894 Census Towns.

- Also, proportion of population in urban areas has increased from 27.8% (2001) to 31.2% (2011) and slum population comprises 18% of urban population of 377 million.

- In recent decades, the pattern of India's urbanization has undergone an important shift which is characterised by:

  ➤ increasing numbers and rising population share of metropolitan cities, and

  ➤ an unprecedented increase in the numbers and population of census towns whose share in urban population has risen to 14.5 per cent from 7.6 per cent in 2001.

- Urbanization has brought in an important shift in the structure of the Indian economy whereby 60 per cent of the country's gross domestic product is estimated to accrue in cities.

- At the same time, urbanization presents significant challenges, largely in the form of demand-supply gaps in housing, infrastructure and services.

- Urban governance and fiscal systems have also tended to lag behind in adjusting to the complexities that the present day urbanization is associated with.

- In the backdrop of these challenges, a range of initiatives has been designed to simultaneously tap the vast opportunities and potential of urbanization. Smart Cities Mission, Housing for All, Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, HRIDAY are few initiatives.

## Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Housing for All (Urban)

  ➤ To facilitate housing for all by 2022.

  ➤ The Mission targets urban poor, living in slums and others.

  ➤ It envisages Government interventions for different segments of urban poor as follows:

   • **In-situ Slum redevelopment:** Redevelopment of slums with participation of private developers using land as a resource – slum rehabilitation grant of 1 lakh per house on an average for all eligible slum dwellers in all such projects.

   • **Affordable housing through credit linked subsidy:** The interest rate subvention at 6.5% for both EWS/LIG categories so that interest payable at present is less than 4%. If interest rate varies, even then interest subvention would remain at 6.5% and interest payable after subvention would vary, the subsidy payout on NPV basis would be about 2.3 lakh per house for both EWS and LIG.

   • **Affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors:** Central assistance at 1.5 lakh per EWS house in projects where 35% of the houses are mandatorily for EWS category.

   • **Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement:** 1.5 lakh per house for EWS category in slums or otherwise if states/cities make a project. Houses of up to 30 sq.m. carpet area are to be provided with basic civic infrastructure, i.e., water, sanitation, sewerage, road, power, telephone line, etc., and social infrastructure such as community centre, parks and playgrounds, livelihood centre, etc.

## Smart Cities Mission

- It was launched in 2015.
- The objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions.
- Some of the core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly and health and education.

### Strategy

- The strategic components of the Smart Cities Mission are city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment) and city extension (greenfield development) plus a pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.
- Area-based development would transform existing areas (retrofit and redevelop), including slums, into better planned human settlements, thereby, improving livability of the whole cities.
- Development of well-planned and fully serviced new areas (greenfield) is to be encouraged around cities in order to accommodate the rapidly expanding population in urban areas.

### Finances

- The Mission will be operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

## Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

- The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015.
- In all, 500 cities have been included in the Mission.
- All Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with a population of one lakh or more, all other capital cities of states/UTs, all Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) cities, identified cities on the stem of the main rivers, from hill states, islands and tourist destinations.
- Approximately 60 per cent of urban population in the country is covered under AMRUT.
- The thrust areas of the Mission are water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage; green spaces and park, non-motorized urban transport and capacity building.
- The Mission focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure in the specified cities with the following expected outcomes:
  - universal coverage for access to potable water for every household;
  - substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage;
  - developing city parks;
  - reform implementation and capacity building.

## Heritage City Development

- The National Hpritage City Development and Augmentation Yoiana (HRIDAY), a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner with the objective of preserving the heritage character of each Heritage City.

## Urban Transport

- A city can be productive if it has a very sound infrastructure and good services. Urban transport is a crucial component of urban infrastructure.

➤ It provides access to opportunities, supports urban economic activities, and facilitates social interactions.

➤ A good network of roads and an efficient Mass Urban Transport System make significant contributions to improve the working efficiency of a city and its environs.

➤ The extent to which the Indian cities can maximize economic performance and reduce poverty will be closely linked to how efficiently their transport system moves people and goods upon which their socio-economic activities depend.

➤ The rapidly growing urban population exerts an increasing pressure on the urban transport system resulting in deterioration of the system thus lowering economic productivity.

➤ Hence, development of cities through prioritizing urban transport is a step forward in this direction. Global experience has also shown that an efficient shift to public transport can occur only if urban transport is assimilated at the conception stage of land-use and urban planning.

➤ This Ministry is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level.

➤ However, technical planning of rail transport continues to be with Ministry of Railways. Similarly, road transport is the responsibility of the Ministry of Road Transport 'mid Highways.

➤ However, the major responsibility for urban transport infrastructure and service delivery rests with state overnments and local bodies.

## ◉ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission

➤ The National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) have been converged and named as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY). The scope of NULM has been enhanced to cover all statutory towns and it has been renamed as DAY-NULM.

➤ The primary target of DAY-NULM is urban poor, including urban homeless and particular emphasis is laid on mobilisation of vulnerable sections of urban population such as SCs, STs, minorities, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, destitute, migrant labourers, and especially vulnerable occupational groups such as street vendors, rag pickers, domestic workers, beggars, construction workers, etc.

➤ Activities under DAY-NULM are directed also at providing shelters equipped with essential services to urban homeless in a phased manner.

➤ Moreover, the Mission addresses livelihood concerns of urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills for accessing emerging market opportunities.

➤ **DAY-NULM has following components:**

• **Social Mobilization and Institution Development (SM&ID):** NULM envisages mobilisation of urban poor households into thrift and credit-based Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations/collectives.

• **Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P):** NULM will focus on providing assistance for skill development/upgrading of the urban poor to enhance their capacity for self-employment or better salaried employment.

• **Self-employment Programme (SEP):** This component will focus on financial assistance to individuals/groups of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/micro-enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions.

• **Support to Urban Street Vendors:** This component will cover development of vendors market, credit enablement of vendors, socio-economic survey of street vendors, skill development and micro enterprises development and convergence with social assistance under various schemes of the Government.

• **Innovative & Special Projects (I&SP):** It will focus on the promotion of novel initiatives in the form of innovative projects. These initiatives may be in the nature of pioneering efforts, aimed at catalysing sustainable approaches to urban livelihoods through Public- Private-Community-Partnership (PPCP).

## ◉ Welfare of Street Vendors

➤ The objective of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 is to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities.

➤ States/UTs (with legislature) are the appropriate government for framing of rules and schemes under Street Vendors' Act for their respective states/UTs.

## ◉ Real Estate Act

➤ The Union Cabinet approved the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill in 2015.

➤ It became an Act in 2016.

➤ It is aimed at establishing the Real Estate Regulatory Authority for regulations and promotion of the real. estate and protecting the interest of the consumers.

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# 18

# India & The World

- THE primary objective of India's engagement with the world is to ensure a peaceful, stable global environment and create the most propitious climate for India's economic growth and development. The rising profile of the country in global affairs and its emergence as a fast growing economy in another wise difficult global environment presents a moment of opportunity that can be utilized to diversify India's strategic and economic options.

- Government accorded high priority to relations with countries in our immediate neighbourhood in South Asia in accordance with its "Neighbourhood First" policy. The high level visits helped maintain the momentum of deepening our neighbourhood ties. With the historic launch of the South Asia Satellite, India demonstrated its commitment to sharing the benefits of its technological capabilities with regional partners.

- Afghanistan continued the momentum in our high-level engagement with the neighbourhood. With Afghanistan, the inauguration of a dedicated Air Cargo Corridor in June 2017 between Kabul-Delhi and Kandahar-Delhi provided a fresh impetus to bilateral trade by overcoming regional connectivity constraints. Over 1000 tonnes of cargo has already been transported through the Air Corridor.

- Relations with Bangladesh were marked by progress in the areas of civil nucfer energy, space and defence cooperation.

- Like the previous years 2017-18 saw the continuation of a pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy, aimed at achieving the key goals of ensuring national security and upholding territorial integrity, attaining national economic transformation, and addressing regional and global issues. This approach was reflected in the revitalisation of our traditional ties, in our re-energised strategic ancTcommercial relations, and the continued engagement of our diaspora.

- The year witnessed intensive diplomatic engagements. India participated in regional and global discourses, with a constructive approach to all issues. During the year, India became a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Australia Group. The coming into force of the International Solar Alliance, a treaty-based international organisation, marks India's role in addressing the vital issue of climate change.

- India also participated in World Economic Forum, Davos . India hosted the Global Conference on Cybe spaceand the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in November 2017and the 3rd Edition of Raisina Dialogue and ASEAN- India Commemorative Summit in January 2018.

- Cultural, digital and physical connectivity have emerged as significant themes in India deplomacy.

- Lack of connectivity, both within India and in the larger South Asian neighbourhood and beyond, is a constraint on both our capabilities and our competitiveness. Steady progress is being made in our efforts to develop multimodal linkages with Myanmar and Bangladesh. The operationlisation of the Chabahar Port in Iran is expected to deepen connectivity linkages with our partners in Central Asia and on the International North South Transport Corridor. Initiatives to develop connectivity were also taken through groupings such as BIMSTEC and BBIN, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiencies in South Asia and Southeast Asia and to boost economic development. India also ratified the United Nations TIR (Transports International Routiers) Convention in June 2017.

- The Government continued to focus on engagement and deepening of India's ties with all major powers of the world, creating new pathways and mutually beneficial opportunities. In our bilateral engagements with countries such as the USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, Australia and France, the Government focused on the areas of greatest potential in each relationship. India has leveraged the convergence of interests

in these partnerships to increase the flow of trade, investment and technologies into the Indian economy. Engagements with global leaders were also held on the sidelines of multilateral engagements such as the UNGA, the G-20 Summit, BRICS Summit, East Asia Summit and the SCO meeting.

- The interaction with the new leadership also reiterated bipartisan support forfurther strengthening of India-USA relations and a commitment to cooperate in the fight against the global scourge of international terrorism.

- Celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, die Prime Minister visited Russia in June 2017 and further strengthened the decades old relationship by sigpmg an agreement for Units V & VI of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.

- The 12th India-Japan annual summit in September 2017 witnessed the laying of foundation stone for India's first high-speed rail project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- Prime Minister paid the first ever visit to Israel in July 2017, upgrading the relatkrrtship to a strategic level. The two countries signed key agreements to step up cooperation in space, agriculture and water conservation. An MoU was also signed for setting up of India-Israel Industrial Research and D ilopment and Technical Innovation Fund worth US$ 40 million.

- In West Asia and the Gulf, the past year saw a visit by Crown Prince of A Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in 2017. During the visit, the two countries decided to elevate the ties to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, marking the Gulf's second largest eco " as India's pre-eminent partner in both strategic and economic arenas.

- The period period under review also saw the inauguration of the first phase of the Chabahar port project in Iran. The maiden consignment of 15,000 tonnes of wheat was shipped to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port in November 2017. Along with the establishment of the India-Afghanistan air-freight corridor, innovative initiatives with regional partners in Central Asia on the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC),. will pave the way for operationalisation of the Chabahar port as an alternate, reliable and robust connectivity hub, and promote trade and transit with the countries in the wider region.

- The Indian Ocean region remains a priority and an important cornerstone of India's diplomatic engagements. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held its 1st IORA Summit in Indonesia in March 2017, where three documents were adopted viz. the IORA Concord laying out the vision of IORA, Declaration on Preventing Violent Extremismand Countering Terrorism, and the Action Pk ' IORA for the next 5 years.

- India established itself as the first responder in rendering humanitarian an aster relief. India has shown a willingness and determination to shoulder greater global responsibilities by extending its capacity as a "first responder" to crises beyond its borders. It provided critical relief supplies and medical assistance to the flood ravaged population of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the aftermath of Cyclone Mora Furthermore, the government pledged medical assistance worth US$ 1 Milion to Yemen and launched 'Operation Insaniyat' for relief of displaced persons in Bangladesh.

- A major emphasis of the Government over the years has been on cultural diplomacy by utilising India's cultural heritage and civilisational values and ethos to enhance its standing in the world. The diaspora plays a significant role in this diploma tic outreach, as it is both a component and the target audience

- The successful, widespread celebration and participation in the third International Day of Yoga highlights the continued efficacy of India's universal culture. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organised a number of events across the world to showcase India's rich heritage, including a seminar on Sanskrit in France and a Virat Hindi Kavi Sammelan in the UK.

## Neighbourhood

- **Afghanistan**: An active momentum of high level exchanges was maintained between India and Afghanistan through highly successful visits by the Prime Minister to Heart in June 2016 and by Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to New Delhi and Amritsar in September and December 2016, and to Delhi in October 2017. At all meetings....Beyond

- **Bangladesh:** Bangladesh: Continued high-level visits and exchanges, including at the highest politicalHeVels between India and Bangladesh helued maintain the momentum of bilateral relations between the two countrie.

- Prime Minister of Bangladesh paid a state visit to India in April 2017 following-which tangible progress was made on mutually identified initiatives in multifaceted areas.

- **Bhutan:** India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and

understanding. Prime Minister of Bhutan visited Guwahati in March 2017 to attend the opening of the 'Namami Brahamputra' river festival as the Guest of Honour.

► **China:** The bilateral relations between India and China have progressed under the overall context of Closer Developmental Partnership between the two countries even as both sides managed their differences through dialogue?

► (BRICS) Summit in China provided opportunities for interactions at ministerial as well as working level between the two countries across political, economic, security and cultural sphere.

► **Maldives:** The India-Maldives relationship continued to illustrate the 'neighbours first'

► and 'India first' policies of the two governments.

► **Mauritius:** India and Mauritius relations experienced an intensive engagement

► Keeping with the traditional close political, economic, cultural and Diaspora linkages. With 70 per cent of its population of Indian origin, Mauritius has been a huBTor financial services and one of the largest routes for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. Mauritius is also an important gateway for Indian investments into Africa. There is cl^se bilateral defence partnership, focusing in particular on maritime security.

► **Myanmar:** India's relations with Myanmar in 2017 continued to be special, with culture and" people-to-people links being of particular strength and Buddhism providing a special link. Myanmar being the only Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country adjoining India, therefore, remained as our gateway to South East Asia and India's first partner in its 'Act East' Policy.

► The highlight of our bilateral relations with Myanmar in 2017 was the first state visit of Prime Minister to Myanmar in 2017.

► **Pakistan:** During the period under review, the frequency and intensity of bilateral exchanges between India and Pakistan remained limited. Our efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan continued to be thwarted by Pakistan's support for cross-border infiltration and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and International Boundary. The government continued its efforts to secure the release of Kulbhushan Jadhav through both diplomatic and legal mechanisms. Repatriation of Uzma and Bijoyeta Bannerjee, Indian women in distress in Pakistan, was facilitated through legal and diplomatic means

► **Seychelles:** India-Seychelles relationship has embarked on new avenues of cooperation in recent months with robust development partnership, capacity building programmes, maritime security cooperation and cultural exchanges. Blue economy, climate change, renewable energy, tourism and health are the-5 emerging areas of focus and added further substance to the bilateral engagement during the period. In recognition of the strategic convergence of the two countries in the Indian Ocean region, a bilateral agreement on the development, management, operation and maintenance of facilities on Assumption Island in Seychelles was signed in 2018 in Victoria, Mahe.

► **Sri Lanka:** India-Sri Lanka relations continued on the high growth trajectory, both mterms of high-level political engagements and economic and people-to-people exchanges during the period. The hallmark of this active phase in the relationship was a more proactive and pragmatic approach to cooperation in the spheres of economic and development partnership, with a strong emphasis on timelines for implementation with regard to bilateral projects. The landmark visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka in May 2017 marked a qualitative transformation in the bilateral engagement. Closer cooperation in bilateral economic projects received a further boost during Sri Lankan Prime Minister's visit in April 2017 with the signing of a MoU for Cooperation in Economic Projects.

► **Indian Ocean Region:** The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanism has a vital role to playTft realizing this common aspiration for the region. India considers IORA as an important instrument for promoting cooperation and ensuring stability in the region. The focus during the period was on implementing wide ranging initiatives announced by India during the IORA Leaders' Summit in 2017 in Jakarta.

## ◉ South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific

► **Australia:** India's relations with Australia entered a more intensive phase due to regulaf-exchange of high-level visits during the year. Australia is increasingly emerging as an important partner in different sectors including development of mineral resources, science and technology, education and skills and water resources management. Recognising importance of relationship between India and Australia, Australia Foreign Policy White Paper, released by Australian Prime Minister in November

2017 sees India in the front rank of Australia's international partnerships.

➤ **Indonesia:** The year 2017 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations.

➤ **Brunei Darussalam:** Bilateral relations between India and Brunei Darussalam continued to be close and friendly. The year marks the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. 2017 was also the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.

➤ **Cambodia:** Bilateral relations with Cambodia progressed in various fields including economic, cultural, people-to-people contact, capacity building and developmental projects. A delegation from Rajya Sabha Secretariat visited Cambodia in June 2017 within the framework of MoU signed between Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Cambodian Senate in September 2016 to encourage parliamentary exchanges.

➤ **Timor Leste:** India participated in the swearing in ceremony of President and 15th anniversary of the restoration of Independence of Timor-Leste held in Dili in 2017.

## ⦿  East Asia

➤ **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**: In 2017, DPRK conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests. India deplored the nuclear and ballistic missile programme of the DPRK and remained concerned about the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies which has adversely impacted India's national security.

➤ **Japan:** Highlight of India-Japan relations in 2017 was Japanese Prime Minister's visit Mo India in 2017 for the 12th Annual Summit. During the Summit both sides reviewed the recent progress in the multi-faceted cooperation under the framework of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.

➤ **Republic of Korea:** Republic of Korea (RoK): India-RoK bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister to RoK in 2015.   Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) funding for infrastructure development projects in India were signed in June 2017.

➤ **Mongolia:** India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with IvTongolia have steadily improved over the years, following the Prime Minister's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015. India continued to provide technical and economic cooperation to Mongolia in higher education, information and communication technology and human resource development.

## ⦿  The Gulf, West Asia

➤ **West Asia and North Africa:** The region continues to remain important from energy security, food security and for global peace and security.  Relations with all the countries of WANA region were taken forward in a calibrated manner, through regular holding of institutional dialogue mechanisms and high level exchange of visits.

➤ Prime Minister of Israel visited India in 2018 as the culmination of the celebrations to mark 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. Maghreb region continues to be important for our food security as the region Cremains primary source of rock phosphate and its derivatives. Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea are located in the strategically important Horn of Africa region that will be crucial for the security of our maritime trade passing through Red Sea-Gulf of Aden region

➤ **Iran:** President of Islamic republic of Iran visited India in February 2018.

## ⦿  United Nations and International Organizations

➤ India continued with its multilateral engagements at the United Nations and international organisation on all issues of interest including climate change, sustainable development, human rights, and culture.

➤ The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism under the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Oceans Conference, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of ECOSOC, and the 23rd Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are among the major meetings participated by India during the period of the Report.

➤ At the United Nations Economic and Security Council (ECOSOC) HLPFHndia presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India also accepted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol uijdep United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

➤ Finally, India was elected to major UN bodies and international organisation including, inter alia, the International Court of justice (ICJ), International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Executive Board of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and UN Habitat Governing Council.

## ⦿ Disarmament and International Security Affairs

➤ India actively participated in various disarmament, arms control and international security related forums held during the year. As part of an active engagement with various export control regimes, India became the 42nd member of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

## ⦿ International Solar Alliance

➤ The Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in New Delhi in 2018. It may be recalled that the ISA became an international entity in 2017.

## ⦿ SAARC & BIMSTEC

➤ (BIMSTEC) is a natural choice to fulfill India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'. India is working with other member states to make BIMSTEC effective and result oriented organization to bring prosperity and development for the region.

➤ (SAARC), an informal meeting of Council of Ministers was held on the sidelines of 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session in New York in 2017

## ⦿ Global Cyber Issues

➤ Increasing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the social and economic development of nations has made cyber issues one of the significant subjects of diplomatic discussions around the world. In keeping with its profile the MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues cell to create the new Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of Indian interests on the subject in international fora.

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# 19

# Industry

- Industrial Policy of the Government seeks to maintain a sustained growth in productivity; to enhance gainful employment; to achieve optimal utilization of human resources; to attain international competitiveness; and to transform India into a major partner and player in the global arena. Specific steps were taken to boost it further. Industrial licensing has been abolished for most of the industries except for those related to security, strategic and environmental concerns. These are: (i) electronic aerospace and defence equipment; (ii) industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gunpowder, cellulose and matches; (iii) specified hazardous chemicals, i.e., hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives; phosgene and its derivatives and isocyanates and disocyanates of hydrocarbon, not elsewhere specified (example methyl isocyanate); and (iv) cigars and cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.

- The number of industries reserved for public sector has also been reduced. At present, only Atomic Energy and Railway Operations other than construction, operation and maintenance sectors are reserved for public sector. Industries not covered under compulsory licensing and not reserved for public sector are required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) with the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), one of the departments under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was established in 1995 and was reconstituted 2000 with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development in it.

- The role and functions of DIPP, primarily include: (a) formulation and implementation of industrial policy and strategies for industrial development in conformity with the development needs and national objectives; (b) monitoring the industrial growth, in general, and performance of industries specifically assigned to it, in particular, including advice on all industrial and technical matters; (c) formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and promotion, approval and facilitation of FDI; (d) formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property Rights in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods and administration of regulations, rules made there under.

## Index of Industrial Production

- ➤ Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a measure of industrial performance which is compiled and released every month by Central Statistics Office (CSO).

- ➤ CSO revised the base year of IIP in May, 2017 from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

- ➤ The latest series with base year 2011-12 is more representative of the current structure of the industrial sector.

- ➤ It comprises 3 sectors - mining, manufacturing and electricity.

## Trends in Growth of Eight Core Industries

- ➤ The Index of eight core industries (ICI) measures the performance of eight core industries, i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity.

- ➤ It is a monthly production Index calculated using fixed base year.

- ➤ During 2016-17, the ICI recovered steam and registered a growth of 4.8 per cent. The production of coal, refinery products, fertilizers, steel and electricity registered positive growth, with steel registering the most positive growth of 10.7 per cent. On the other hand, crude oil, natural gas and cement production registered negative growth.

## ◉ Industrial/Economic Corridors

- ➤ **Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor:**
  - The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project is being developed on both sides of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) as a global manufacturing and investment destination and has made significant progress since 2011. **It is considered as one of the largest infrastructure projects in the world.**

- ➤ **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust**
  - In view of the success and importance of DMIC project, four more industrial corridors are in assurance namely **Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC), Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and East Coast Economic corridor with Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)** at the initial phase of development. It has been expanded and re-designated as National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

## ◉ National Manufacturing Policy

- ➤ In order to bring about a quantitative and qualitative change and to provide necessary impetus to the manufacturing sector, the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) was notified with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so.

- ➤ National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) are an important instrumentality of the Policy. These zones have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure; land use on the basis of zoning; clean and energy efficient technology; necessary social infrastructure; skill development facilities, etc.

- ➤ National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) was notified in 2011 with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs within a decade or so.

- ➤ The policy is based on the principle of industrial growth in partnership with the states.

- ➤ The central government will create the enabling policy framework, and provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

- ➤ Important instruments/features of the policy are:
  - National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs).
  - Rationalization and simplification of business regulations.
  - Simple and expeditious exit mechanism for manufacturing units.
  - Incentives for SMEs.
  - Industrial training and skill up gradation measures.
  - Financial and institutional mechanisms for technology development, including green technologies.
  - Government procurement; and special focus sectors.

## ◉ Make in India

- ➤ Under the Make in India initiative a 'Seven Year Strategy' was adopted which involves redefining the sectors, adding new sectors like medical devices while removing sectors that lose relevance in an evolving economy, to maximize job creation potential with evolution of the economy.

- ➤ It should also expand its reach to include service sectors, which have the greatest employment potential.

- ➤ Make in India would thus get enlarged to embrace Serve from India. Sectors such as tourism and hospitality are important for their job creation potential.

- ➤ The focus will be on creating more high-end jobs, as also on reducing unemployment and disguised unemployment.

## ◉ Startup India

- ➤ The Startup India initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive to growth of Startups.

- ➤ The initiative strives for providing a long due impetus to the entrepreneurial set up in economic landscape of the country.

- ➤ It is established globally that Startups are driving the economic growth of nations, creating employment and fostering a culture of innovation.

- ➤ It is, therefore, incumbent on the Government of India to nurture emerging talent and entrepreneurship as part of the larger goal of nation building.

- ➤ The objective is to make India a nation of job creators instead of job seekers.

- ➤ 19 Action items under the Action Plan spanning across areas such as "Simplification and handholding", "Funding support and incentives" and "Industry-academia partnership and incubation" were announced under which active support is provided to Startups.

## ◉ Startup India Hub

- ➤ To create a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem and enable knowledge exchange and access to funding. Startup India Hub was operationalized in 2016 to resolve queries and handhold Startups. The digital version, Startup India Online Hub was launched in 2017 to serve as a platform where all the stakeholders of the Startup ecosystem can collaborate and synergize their efforts. Startup India web portal and mobile app was developed and operationalized in 2016.

## ◉ Foreign Direct Investment Policy

- ➤ DIPP is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India based on the remittances reported by the Reserve Bank of India. With a view to attract higher levels of FDI, a liberal policy has been put in place on FDI under which FDI up to 100 per cent is permitted under the automatic route in most sectors/ activities.

- ➤ After abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), process for granting FDI approvals has been simplified wherein the work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the government thereon under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA is now handled by the concerned ministries/departments.

- ➤ Capital inflows from other countries, particularly in the nature of investment are very important contributors to augmenting availability of capital for funding of infrastructure, industries and other economic ventures. Equity inflows are more stable and bring in new management practices and technology together with investment. For encouraging FDI inflows, the FDI policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis, with a view to make it more investor-friendly. In recent past, the government has brought FDI policy reforms in a number of sectors.

  - • FDI in animal husbandry (including breeding of dogs), pisciculture, aquaculture and apiculture was allowed 100% under automatic route under controlled conditions.

  - • The government has issued guidelines for FDI on E-commerce sector. 100% FDI under automatic route is now permitted in marketplace model of e-commerce.

  - • Investments by Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) on non-repatriation basis is now deemed to be domestic investment at par with investment made by residents.

  - • FDI inflows to India have been quite significant since 2000-01. Its equity inflows have risen from US$ 2.46 billion in 2000-01 to US$ 43.48 billion in 2016-17.

## ◉ Investment Promotion

- ➤ The Department plays an active role in investment promotion and facilitation through dissemination of information on investment climate and opportunities within the country and by advising prospective investors about investment policies and procedures and opportunities.

## ⊙ Ease of Doing Business

➤  In order to improve the business environment in the country, DIPP has taken up a series of measures to simplify and rationalize the regulatory processes (registration and inspection processes) and introduction of information technology as enabler to make governance more efficient and effective.

➤ DIPP has been closely working with the state governments and union territory administrations to help them identify constraints in doing business and improving the overall business environment launched an online portal to track implementation of reforms on a real-ti1ri?e basis.

### Invest India:

➤ The government has established "Invest India" as the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, as a joint venture between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), state governments and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). A full-fledged "Investment Facilitation Cell" has been set-up in 'Invest India', which supports all investment queries apart from handholding and liaisoning with various agencies on behalf of potential investors.

➤ To further Government of India's 'Make in India' vision of increasing investments, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has provided project-based funding support to Invest India to enable the company operate as a full-fledged investment promotion agency. Invest India acts as a facilitation arm for the Government of India for two of its key initiatives - "Make in India" and "Start-up". Investment India provides complete end-to-end facilitation support to companies looking at investing in India by working very closely with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of India, Industry Associations, Private companies and Indian Embassies abroad.

## ⊙ Intellectual Property Rights

➤ DIPP is entrusted with the responsibility of formulation of policy in respect of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) i.e., patents, designs, trade marks and geographical indication of goods.

➤ The Department administers Intellectual Properly Rights (IPRs) Legislation namely, the Patents Act, 1970, Designs Act, 2000, Trade Marks Act, 1999, Geographical Indications fo Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, Copyright Act, 1957. It is the nodal department for all matters relating to the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO).

➤ The term Intellectual Property (IP) reflects the idea that its subject matter is product of mind or intellect.

➤ These could be in the form of patents; trademarks; geographical indications; industrial designs; semiconductor integrated circuits layout-design; plant variety protection and copyright.

➤ IP, protected through law, like any other form of property, can be a matter of trade, i.e., it can be owned, bequeathed, sold or bought.

➤ All aspects of IPRs concerning patents, trademarks, designs and geographical indications, copyrights and semiconductor integrated circuit layout design are administered by DIPP.

➤ The Indian IP system maintains a fine balance between private rights through IPRs on one hand, and rights of the society as public interest on the other hand.

### ➤ National IPR Policy

• A comprehensive National IPR policy has been approved that will not only stimulate innovation and creativity across sectors, but also provide a clear vision regarding IPR issues.

• The objectives include IPR awareness: Outreach and promotion - to create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society; generation of IPRs; to stimulate the generation of IPRs; Legal and legislative framework - to have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest; Human capital development - to strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

### Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM):

➤ CIPAM is created to address the 7 identified objectives of the policy. It is a professional body under the aegis of DIPP to ensure focused action on issues related to IPRs.

➤ Assist in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement

## ⊙ Productivity and Quality

➤ DIPP is the nodal department for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector. The National Productivity Council (NPC) represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), of which India is a founder member.

➤ NPC undertakes productivity augmentation through domain specific consultancy, training, workshops, seminars and conferences to government, public and private sectors, productivity related research, monitoring and evaluation of various government schemes mid projects and information dissemination through collaboration with APO.

➤ The Quality Council of India, another autonomous body under this Department, promotes adoption of quality standards relating to Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001 Series), Environment Management Systems (ISO 14001 Series).

## ⊙ National Design Policy

➤ Announced in 2007, this Policy envisages a key role for design in enhancing competitiveness of Indian industry.

➤ Focus is on spread of design education, branding of Indian designs and establishment of a Design Council.

## ⊙ North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy

➤ The North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 is a revised version of the erstwhile North East Industrial Policy (NEIP), 1997, and was notified for a period of 10 years up to 2017.

➤ The Scheme covers eight north east states recognized under North Eastern Council (NEC) including Sikkim.

➤ The scheme provides incentives to all new as well as existing units which go for industrial expansion located anywhere in this region and which commence commercial production within 10 years from the date of notification of NEIIPP, 2007 for a period of 10 years from the date of commercial production.

## ⊙ Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme

➤ Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) was launched in 2003 with the objective of enhancing industrial competitiveness of domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure through public private partnership in selected functional clusters/locations which have potential to become globally competitive.

➤ Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIIUS) was notified in July 2013.

## ⊙ Indian Leather Development Programme

➤ Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) aims at augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology upgradation of leather units, addressing environmental concerns, human resource development, supporting traditional leather artisans, addressing infrastructure constraints and establishing institutional facilities.

## ⊙ Performance of Selected Industries

➤ The figures of production are based on estimates made from production returns furnished by industrial units and therefore may not always be true reflection of the entire production of the industry concerned. Trade figures are based on estimates of Department of Commerce.

- **Cement Industry:** Cement is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the country.

The industry plays a crucial role in the development of housing and infrastructure sector of the economy. India is the second largest manufacturer of cement after China in the world. Cement industry comprises of about 210 large cement plants operating under 64 Companies with an installed capacity of 410 million tonnes.

- **Ceramic Industry:** The Ceramic industry in India is about 50 years old. It comprises ceramic tiles, sanitary-ware and crockery.

- **Tyre & Tubes Industry:** Tyres play an integral role to ensure mobility including movement of passengers and essential goods across the urban and rural landscape of the country using all types of vehicles ranging from carts, tractors, trucks and buses to the latest generation passenger cars that ply on the modern expressways.

- **Rubber Goods Industry:** The rubber goods industry excluding tyre and tubes consists of 4,550 small and tiny units generating about 5.50 lakhs direct jobs.

- **Paper Industry:** India continued to rule as one of the fastest growing paper market in the world. The Indian paper industry is in a fragmented structure, consisting of small, medium and large paper mills having capacity ranging from 5 to 1,500 tonnes per day. These units use wood and agro residues as well as recovered paper as raw material.

## ⊙ Wholesale Price Index

- ➤ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions.

- ➤ The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major group's namely primary articles, fuel and Power and Manufactured products.

- ➤ WPI basket does not cover services.

- ➤ In the new WPI series significant improvement in concept, coverage and methodology has been made. In the revised WPI basket, the number of items has been increased from 676 to 697.

- ➤ The item level indices are being compiled based on statistically robust geometric mean as compared to arithmetic mean used in the WPI 2004-05 series.

## ⊙ Textiles

- ➤ Indian textiles are known for its rich and diverse range of manufacturing with the hand-woven sector on one end and capital intensive mill sector on the other.

- ➤ India is the largest producer of cotton and jute and second largest producer of silk and man-made fibre.

- ➤ India has a distinctive advantage of strength across the entire textiles value chain from fibre to spinning, weaving, knitting and apparel manufacturing.

- ➤ It is also blessed with the young, talented and highly skilled work force. All this has given textiles industry a unique positioning in the Indian economy.

## ⊙ India Handloom Brand

- ➤ Indian handlooms have worldwide recognition through India Handloom Brand (IHB) which guarantees high quality, authentic handloom items made with organic substance. It has partnered with 100 retail stores to sell the exclusive IHB items from their stores.

## ⊙ New Initiatives

- ➤ **Weavers Mudra Scheme:** Weavers Mudra Scheme was launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers. Margin Money Assistance to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also provided.

- ➤ **e-Dhaga App:** Govt of India launched Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) and e-Dhaga mobile App in 2016 to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers and help them to access information on 24x7 basis. The App is available in 10 languages - Hindi, English, Assamese, Odiya, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Urdu and Bangla.

- **Bunkar Mitra Help Line:** To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries "Bunkar Mitra".
- **Educational facilities to the children of handloom weavers:** Memorandums of Understanding was signed with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to provide customized educational service to the weavers for which Ministry provides 75% of the fee in case of SC, ST, BPL and Women weaver families.
- **Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs:** 394 Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs for handloom weavers and handicraft artisans were organized in 2017 in 248 districts across the country. About 94,000 weavers and artisans participated in those Shivirs.

## ⊙ Cotton

- Cotton is one of the most important cash crops in India and the country accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production. In the raw material consumption basket of the Indian textile industry, the proportion of cotton is around 59 per cent.
- India has the largest area under cotton in the world with around 105 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 35 per cent of the world area. During 2016-17, India's productivity was 540.80 kg/ha. India has emerged as the largest producer of cotton in the world with production of 345 lakh bales in 2016-17 and 2nd largest exporter of cotton.
- To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staples groups viz., medium staple and long staple cotton.

## ⊙ Jute

- India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually.
- The Government of India provides support to the jute growers not only through MSP operation by the Jute Corporation of India but also through direct purchase of jute sacking valued at around Rs. 6,000 crore annually for packing foodgrains by invoking provisions under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

## ⊙ Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are the future of the textiles Industry. High tenacity fibers are the lightest and toughest fabrics yet.
- They have a variety of applications in automobile, aerospace, architecture and building, occupational therapy, sport and apparel industries etc.
- Textiles Research Associations (TRA) has developed carbon fibre based space communication system. Low cost modular toilets using jute fibres have been developed.

## ⊙ Khadi and Village Industries Commission

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956), and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organization under the Ministry of MSME and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

## ⊙ Coir Board

- The Coir Board is a statutory body established under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 for promoting overall development of the coir industry and improvement of the living conditions of the workers engaged in this traditional industry.
- The functions of the Board for the development of coir industry inter alia, include undertaking scientific, technological and economic research and development activities; collection of statistics relating to exports and internal consumption of coir and coir products; development of new products

and designs; publicity for promotion of exports and internal sales; marketing of coir and coir products in India and abroad; preventing unfair competition among producers and exporters; assisting in the establishment of units for the manufacture of products; promoting cooperative organisations among producers of husk, coir fibre, coir yarn and manufacturers of coir products; ensuring remunerative returns to producers and manufacturers, etc.

# Minerals

- Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gas, petroleum and atomic minerals; for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold, nickel, etc. and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder in respect of all mines and minerals other than coal, natural gas and petroleum as well as Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder.

- Ministry of Mines is responsible for legislation for regulation of mines and development of minerals within the territory of India, including mines and minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India as may be specified, from time to time by or under any law made by Parliament.

## National Mineral Exploration Policy

- Government unveiled National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 (NMEP) which spells out the strategy and outlines the action plan that the Government will adopt to ensure comprehensive exploration of country's mineral resources (non-fuel and non-coal).

- The NMEP primarily aims at accelerating the exploration activity in the country through enhanced participation of the private sector.

## Star Rating of Mines:

- The Ministry of Mines launched in 2016 Scheme of Star Rating of Mines/Mining leases for implementation of Sustainable Development Framework (SDF).

- The Star Ratings are to be awarded, based on evaluation of performance of mines on techno, socio-economic and environmental parameters and give objective reporting of their activities.

- It has been instituted as a two tier system providing self-evaluation templates to be filled in by the mine operator followed by validation through Indian Bureau of Mines.

## Mining Surveillance System:

- To curb on menace of illegal mining, a satellite-based monitoring system namely Mining Surveillance System (MSS), was developed and launched which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration through automatic remote sensing detection technology.

- The latest satellite image is juxtaposed on geo-referenced mining lease maps to check any illegal mining in the vicinity.

# Organisations/Undertakings

- **Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited**
  - Incorporated in 1961, FCI was re-organized along with National Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (NFCL) from 1978 into five companies.

- **Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited**
  - The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) was incorporated in 1978 as a result of the reorganization of the erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), and NFL Group of Companies.

- **National Fertilizers Limited**
  - National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) was incorporated in 1974 for setting up two nitrogenous plants, at Bathinda (Punjab) and Panipat (Haryana).

- **Geological Survey of India**
  - Geological Survey of India (GSI) the premier earth science organization of the country, is the principal provider of basic earth science information to the Government, Industry and the geo-scientific sector.
  - Beginning in 1851 as a department engaged primarily in research for coal, GSI in its last 163 years of existence has expanded its activities manifold and has been involved either directly or indirectly in almost all areas of nation building.
  - The vibrant steel, coal, metal, cement and power industries which expanded phenomenally in the post-independence era, bear eloquent testimony to GSI's contribution to national development. GSI is now the custodian of one of the largest and most comprehensive earth science databases developed over the last one and half century.
  - **Online Core Business Integrated System and National Aero-geophysical Mapping Programme**
  - GSI launched, in 2017, an Online Core Business Integrated System (OCBIS) which is a state-of-the art IT enabled system encapsulating all the main activities of GSI using an online digital platform. The workflow of GSI from data acquisition to data storage, analysis and dissemination is digitally captured in this system, besides all the administrative and financial activities of GSI. All available baseline geo-science data of GSI is uploaded on geospatial platform for viewing and extracting free of cost.

- **Indian Bureau of Mines**
  - Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) established in March, 1948, is a multi-disciplinary scientific and technical organisation under Ministry of Mines with statutory and developmental responsibilities for conservation and systematic exploitation of mineral resources other than coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.

- **National Aluminium Company Limited**
  - NALCO is a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Steel and Mines.
  - It was established in 1981 in the public sector, with its registered office at Bhubaneswar.
  - The company is one of the low cost producers of metallurgical grade alumina.

- **Hindustan Copper Limited**
  - HCL, a Mini Ratna Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, was incorporated in 1967 under the Companies Act, 1956.
  - It has the distinction of being the nation's only vertically integrated copper producing company as it manufactures copper right from the stage of mining to beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal into downstream saleable products.

- **Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited**
  - MECL is a premier mineral exploration public sector unit of the country with ISO 9001-2008 certification.

- **Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited**
  - IDPL was incorporated in 1961 with the primary objective of creating self-sufficiency in essential life saving drugs and medicines.
  - The company has presently three manufacturing plants, one each at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Gurgaon (Haryana).
  - IDPL has two wholly owned subsidiaries, namely, IDPL Ltd., Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Bihar Drugs and Organic Chemicals Ltd., Muzaffarpur (Bihar).
  - IDPL has two joint sector undertakings, promoted in collaboration with the respective state governments. These are Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL), Jaipur, and Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Ltd. (ODCL), Bhubaneshwar.
  - However, the Government has decided to de-link RDPL from IDPL and the process of delinking is underway.

- **National Institute of Rock Mechanics**
  - The Institute is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) and as a Certified Testing Centre for mining machineries and wire ropes by Directorate General of Mines Safety.

- The Institute carries out research projects funded by various Government ministries/departments, public sector and private organizations related to excavation of rock.

- NIRM is expanding its activities into newer areas, such as oil and gas, metro rails, major river-linking projects and other infrastructure projects.

➤ **National Institute of Miners' Health**

- NIMH, Nagpur is an autonomous institute established under Ministry of Mines, with the objective of promotion of occupational health and prevention of occupational diseases among the persons employed in mining and mineral based industries.

- The institute is engaged in research and developmental activities relating to occupational health, work place monitoring, etc.

➤ **Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium ResearchDevelopment and Design Centre**

- JNARDDC, Nagpur is a "Centre of Excellence" set up in 1989 as a joint venture of Ministry of Mines, and UNDP with a view to provide major R&D support system for the emerging modern aluminium industry in India.

- The Centre has been functional since 1996.

- The Centre is recognized as scientific and industrial research organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of S&T.

- It is the only institute of its kind in India pursuing the cause of R&D from bauxite to finished product under one roof.

➤ **National Mineral Exploration Trust**

- The Government notified National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2015 and has also established National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) in pursuance of subsection (1) of Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 1957, with primary objective to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana**

- The government launched Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yoiana (PMKKKY) which is to be implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts. PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected person and create a win-win situations for the stakeholders. A national portal for DMF is being developed which will help monitor the implementation of projects under the PMKKKY scheme. The monitoring of PMKKKY would be done under "DISHA" the Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Rural Development to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact

## ⊙ Mineral Resources

➤ **Bauxite:** Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of bauxite followed by Andhra Pradesh (16 per cent), Gujarat (9 per cent), Jharkhand (6 per cent), Maharashtra (5 per cent) and Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (4 per cent each). Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the east coast bauxite deposits in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

➤ **Copper :** Rajasthan is credited with 813.33 million tonnes ore (54 per cent) containing 4.48 million tonnes of copper metal, Madhya Pradesh 283.43 million tonnes ore (19 per cent), containing 3.42 million tonnes copper, Jharkhand, 295.39 million tonnes ore (20 per cent), containing 3.28 million tonnes of copper metal and the rest 7 per cent are accounted for by other states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

➤ **Gold:** The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent) and Karnataka (21 per cent), West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh (3 per cent each), Telangana & Madhya Pradesh (2 per cent each).

➤ **Iron Ore:** Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India. About 59 per cent hematite ore deposits are found in the eastern sector. About 92 per cent magnetite ore deposits occur in southern sector, especially in Karnataka. Of these, hematite is considered to be superior

because of its higher grade. Major resources of hematite are located in Odisha - 7,559 million tonnes (34 per cent), Jharkhand - 5,286 million tonnes (24 per cent), Chhattisgarh - 4,858 million tonnes (22 per cent), Karnataka - 2,467 million tonnes (11 per cent) and Goa.

➤ **Lead and Zinc:** Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 670.34 million tonnes (89.44 per cent), followed by Andhra Pradesh 22.69 million tonnes (3.02 per cent), Madhya Pradesh 14.84 million tonnes (1.98 per cent), Bihar 11.43 million tonnes (1.52 per cent) and Maharashtra 9.27 million tonnes (1.24 per cent).

➤ **Manganese Ore :** State wise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share followed by Karnataka 22 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 12 per cent, Maharashtra and Goa 7 per cent each, Andhra Pradesh 4 per cent and Jharkhand 2 per cent.

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# 20

# Law & Justice

- Ministry of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act, 1833 was enacted by the British Parliament. The said Act vested for the first time legislative power in a single authority, namely the Governor General of Council.

- By virtue of this authority and the authority vested under him under Section 22 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 the Governor General in Council enacted laws for the country from 1834 to 1920.

- After the commencement of the Government of India Act, 1919 the legislative power was exercised by the Indian Legislature constituted there under. The Government of India Act, 1919 was followed by the Government of India Act, 1935.

- With the passing of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 India became a Dominion and the Dominion Legislature made laws from 1947 to 1949 under the provisions of Section 100 of the Government of India Act, 1935 as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947.

- Under the Constitution of India which came into force on the January 26, 1950 the legislative power is vested in Parliament.

- Ministry of Law and Justice comprises the three Departments namely the Department of Legal Affairs, the Legislative Department and the Department of Justice.

- The Department of Legal affairs is assigned legal functions including the interpretation of the Constitution and Laws, litigation, legal profession, law reforms, treaties and agreements with foreign countries in the matters of the civil law, legal services including Indian Legal Service, etc.

- The legislative Department is concerned with the drafting of the principal legislation for the central government.

- The Department of Justice is concerned with the appointment, resignation and the removal of the Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts etc.

## Indian Legal System

- The Indian Legal System comprises four components namely the basic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution; rights and obligations conferred by ordinary statues; Organizational set up to enforce these rights and obligations within the Constitutional norms and lastly legal and the judicial personnel.

- India being a democratic country and there being a representative democracy, there is a chain of accountability towards sovereign which lies amongst the people.

### Sources of Law

- The main sources of law in India are the **Constitution, statutes** (legislation), customary law and case law.

- Statutes are enacted by Parliament, State legislatures and Union Territory legislatures.

- **Subordinate legislation** in the form of rules, regulations as well as bye-laws made by central/state governments and local authorities.

- This subordinate legislation is made under the authority conferred or delegated either by Parliament or State or Union Territory legislatures concerned.
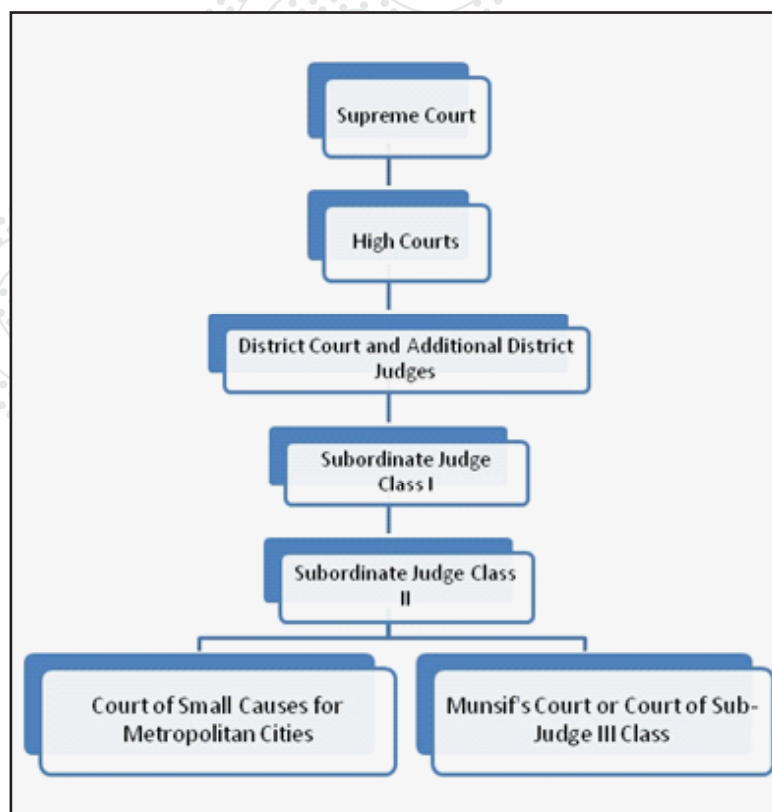
- **Judicial decisions** of superior courts like Supreme Court and High Courts are important sources of law.

- **Local customs and conventions** which are not against statute, morality, etc., are also recognized and taken into account by courts while administering justice in certain spheres.

➤ **Enactment of Law**

- **Schedule 7 of the Indian** Constitution demarcates the areas of the **Parliament** and State legislature to enact laws.

- Parliament alone has power to make laws on matters not included in the State List or Concurrent List.

- On matters enumerated in the **Concurrent List**, laws can be made by both Parliament and the state legislature. But in the event of **repugnancy,** law made by Parliament shall prevail over law made by state legislature, to the extent of repugnancy, be void unless the latter law having been reserved for **consideration of President**, has received his assent and in that event shall prevail in that state.

## ◎ Judiciary

➤ At the apex of the entire judicial system there is the Supreme Court of India with a High Court for each state or group of states and under the High Courts there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts. (**Integrated Judicial** system is a symbol of Unity and common law for all citizens).

➤ The highest court in each district is that of District and Sessions Judge. This district court is the principal court of civil jurisdiction and can try all offences including those punishable with death. He is the highest judicial authority in a district. Below him, there are courts of civil jurisdiction, known in different states as Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Civil Judges and the like. Similarly, criminal courts comprise Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrate of First and Second class.

➤ **Panchayat Courts** also function in some states under various names like Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Kachehri, etc., to decide civil and criminal disputes of petty and local nature. Different state laws provide for jurisdiction of these courts.

- ➤ **Evolution**

  - During British regime, the King in Council, or Privy Council as it was generally called, was the highest forum to entertain appeals from the judgments and orders passed by the courts in India.

  - The Federal Court of India began functioning from October 1, 1937.

  - On January 26, 1950 Federal Court gave way to the Supreme Court of India under the new Constitution.

- ➤ **Composition**

  - The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years.

- ➤ **Eligibility**

  - A person must be a **citizen of India.**

  - S/he must have been, for at least **five years, a Judge** of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession.

  - S/he must be an **Advocate of a High Court** or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years.

  - S/he must be, in the opinion of the President, a **distinguished jurist**.

  - Provisions exist for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court as an ad hoc Judge of the Supreme Court and for retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts to sit and act as Judges of Supreme Court.

- ➤ **Provisions for Independence of Supreme Court Judges**

  - **Mode of Appointment:** Judges are appointed by the President in consultation with members of Judiciary itself (Curtails absolute discretion of the Executive).

  - **Security of Tenure**: A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from office except by an **order of the President** passed after an address in each House of Parliament supported by **Special majority**, and presented to the President in the same Session for such removal (Not at the pleasure of the President).

## ◉ Jurisdiction & Power of Supreme Court

- ➤ **Original Jurisdiction:** Cases involving Centre-State, State-State.
- ➤ **Writ Jurisdiction:** As guarantor and defender of Fundamental right.
- ➤ **Appellate Jurisdiction:** Constitutional matters, Civil, Criminal, and Special Leave Petition.
- ➤ **Advisory Jurisdiction: Art 143** authorizes President to seek opinion of SC.
- ➤ **A Court of Record:** Judgments and proceedings are recorded for perpetual memory and testimony.
- ➤ **Power of Judicial Review:** To examines the Constitutional validity of Legislative enactments and Executive Order.
- ➤ **Other Powers:** Disputes regarding election of President etc.
- ➤ **Fixed Service Condition**: Salaries, allowances and privileges of the Judges are determined from time to time by the Parliament.
- ➤ **Conduct of Judges** cannot be discussed in the Parliament or State Legislature.
- ➤ **Jurisdiction:** The Parliament is not authorized to curtail the jurisdiction and power of Supreme Court.
- ➤ **Ground of Removal :** Proved misbehavior or incapacity.

## ◉ Other features

➤ A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is **debarred from practising in any court of law** or before any other authority in India.

➤ The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in **English** only.

## ◉ High Courts

➤ High Court stands at the head of the state's judicial administration. There are 24 High Courts in the country, **three having jurisdiction over more than one state**. Among the union territories, Delhi alone has a High Court of its own and other 6 UTs come under jurisdiction of different state High Courts.

➤ Each High Court comprises a Chief Justice and such other Judges as **the President may, from time to time, appoint**. The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state.

➤ **Tenure:** They hold office up to **62 years** of age.

➤ **Eligibility:**

• Citizen of India.

• Should have held a judicial office in India for 10 years or must have practiced as an advocate of a High Court or two or more such courts in succession for a similar period.

➤ **Power**

• Each High Court has power to issue any person or authority and Government within its jurisdiction, direction, orders or writs, including writs which are in the nature of *habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto* and *certiorari,* for enforcement of Fundamental Rights and **for any other purpose**.

➤ **Jurisdiction and Seat of High Courts**

• Each High Court has powers of superintendence over all courts and Tribunals within its jurisdiction.

• It can call for returns from such courts, makes and issues general rules and prescribed forms to regulate their practices and proceedings and determine the manner and form in which book entries and accounts shall be kept.

➤ **Power of Supreme Court and High Courts**

• Supreme Court has power to issue any person or authority and government within its jurisdiction, direction, order or writs, including writs which are in the nature of for enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose. This power may also be exercised by any high court exercising jurisdiction in relation to territories within which the cause of action, wholly or in part arises for exercise of such power, even if the seat of such government or authority or residence of such person is not within those territories.

• The structure and functions of subordinate courts are more or less uniform throughout the country. Designations of courts connote their functions. These courts deal with all disputes of civil or criminal nature as per the powers conferred on them.

## ◉ Subordinate Courts

➤ These courts follow two important codes prescribing procedures, i.e., the **Code of Civil Procedure**, (CPC), 1908 and the **Code of Criminal Procedure,** (Cr.P.C.), 1973 and further strengthened by state level amendments.

## ⊙ National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

► The Mission has taken several steps in each of the strategic areas towards fulfilment of its objectives. All States have formulated their Litigation Policies with a view to reduce the Governmental litigation.

► An important aspect of the judicial reforms relates to re-engineering court procedures and court processes for early disposal of cases. Process service has been identified as a major bottleneck for timely delivery of justice.

► A research note was prepared and circulated to High Courts for improving the process service in civil and criminal matters.

► A positive response has been received from several High Courts on the suggestions made in the research note. The subject matter of re-engineering of court process and case management is also under active consideration of the National Court Management System (NCMS) of the Supreme Court.

► Process re-engineering exercise is being carried out under e-Courts Mission Mode Project. For promotion of alternative methods of dispute resolutions, mediation centres are being set up in court complexes at District and Taluka levels.

► Government agencies are being encouraged to include arbitration/mediation clauses in government contracts. Shortage of judicial officers/judges in district and subordinate courts is one of the main causes for backlog and pendency of cases in courts. The National Mission has regularly pursued this matter with the State Governments and the High Courts. As a result of the concerted efforts of all the stockholders, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers/judges in district and subordinate courts has increased from 17,715 at the end of 2012 to 20,358 as in June, 2015. The mission is now pursuing the matter with the High Courts for filling up the existing vacancies. Emphasis is also being laid on proper training of all court functionaries.

► The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 to achieve twin goals of:

- Increasing access by reducing delays and arrears; and

- Enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.

### ► Five strategic initiatives:

- Outlining policy and legislative changes.

- Reengineering of procedures and court processes.

- Focusing on human resource development.

-  Leveraging information and communication technology and tools for better justice delivery.

- Improving infrastructure.

  ◆ The Mission has adopted a coordinated approach for phased **liquidation of arrears and pendency** in judicial administration which, *inter-alia,* involve **better infrastructure** for courts including **computerization**, increase in **strength of subordinate judiciary,** policy **and legislative** measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, **re-engineering of court procedure** for quick disposal of cases.

### ► Reform Initiatives

- **Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill** is being considered by the Parliament.

- Constitution Amendment Bill for **raising the retirement age** of High Court Judges.

- Constitution of A**ll India Judicial Service (AIJS).**

- All states have formulated their **litigation policies** with a view to reduce the governmental litigation.

- Amendments to the **Negotiable Instruments (NI)** Act along with other policy and administrative measures to check increasing litigation

> ## Judicial Infrastructure:

  - The primary responsibility of infrastructure development for the subordinate judiciary rests with the state governments. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been in place since 1993-94 to assist the States for the development of judicial infrastructure. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers.

> ## Gram Nyayalaya/ Panchayat Courts/ Nyaya Panchayat/ Panchayat Adalat/ Gram Kacheri

  - A **Central Sector scheme** for providing financial assistance to the state governments/UT administrations for establishment and operationalization of Gram Nyayalayas .

  - The **state governments and High Courts** should decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account their local problems.

> ## e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project Computerization

  - The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the **national e-Governance projects** being implemented in High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts of the Country.

> ## Objective

  - To provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary by universal computerization of district and subordinate courts in the country.

## ◉ Alternative Dispute Resolution:

> ADR or "Alternative Dispute Resolution" is an attempt to devise machinery which should be capable of providing an alternative to the conventional methods of resolving disputes.

> **Constitutional Basis:** Articles 14 and 21 which deal with Equality before Law and Right to life and personal liberty respectively. Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid as laid down under Article 39-A.

> **Legislative Basis:** Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

> ## ADR Mechanism

  - **Arbitration**: Arbitration is the process of hearing and determining of a dispute between parties by persons chosen or agreed to by them. The object of arbitration is to obtain the fair resolution of disputes by an impartial tribunal without unnecessary delay and expense.

  - **Conciliation:** Conciliation is the process of facilitating an amicable settlement between the parties. Unlike the Arbitration there is no determination of a dispute. There need not be a prior agreement and it cannot be forced on a party not intending for conciliation.

  - **Mediation:** Mediation aims to assist two (or more) disputants in reaching an agreement. The parties themselves determine the conditions of any settlements reached— rather than accepting something imposed by a third party.

## ◉ Access to Justice for the Marginalised

> The project extends to the eight UNDAF states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. This project focuses on strengthening access to justice for marginalised people by developing strategies that address barriers to accessing justice in legal, social and economic domains.

> The second phase of the project extends over five years from 2013 to 2017. In this phase, the project aims to build upon the achievements of previous phase and continues to work on creation of demand for justice and ensuring its supply. Under the project, a technical support team has also been placed with the Department of Justice with the specific purpose of supporting the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.

# ⦿ Legal Affairs

- ➤ Department of Legal Affairs is the nodal department for reciprocal arrangement with foreign countries for enforcement of arbitral awards pursuant to the New York Convention under section 44(b) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

- ➤ The department of Legal Affairs is the Central Authority under the Hague Convention of 1965 for service aboard of judicial and extra-judicial documents in civil and commercial matters.

## ➤ Legal Information Management and Briefing System

- • In line with Digital India mission, this system digitalizes the court case details and brings various stakeholders on a single platform. LIMBS helps to introduce transparency as well as a sense of ownership among various stakeholders during the entire life cycle of a court case.

## ➤ Litigation Assessment

- • The Department has taken preliminary steps to formulate litigation assessment/ legal audit/ guidelines to examine a case during its journey arising from a dispute to a full blown litigation and its outcome and subsequent implementation aspect or otherwise.

## ➤ National Litigation policy

- • There are approximately 3.2 crores cases pending in various courts in India. Government is said to be the major litigant and there have been several Law Commission reports suggesting for a Litigation Policy to avoid unwarranted litigation by government and thus bring down load on the court system as well as burden on the public exchequer. Therefore, the draft National Litigation Policy 2017 proposes to put in place a system which prevents, controls and reduces litigation.

# ⦿ Enforcement Agencies

- ➤ The police force in the country is entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance of public order and prevention and detection of crimes. Public order and police being state subjects under the Constitution, police is maintained and controlled by states.

- ➤ The police force in a state is headed by the Director General of Police/ Inspector General of Police. State is divided into convenient territorial divisions called ranges and each police range is under the administrative control of a Deputy Inspector General of Police.

- ➤ The central government maintains Central Police forces, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), institutions for training of police officers and forensic science institutions to assist the states in gathering intelligence, in maintaining law and order, in investigating special crime cases

## ➤ Indo-Tibetan Border Police

- • **Functions & Tasks**
  - ◆ Vigil on the northern borders, detection and prevention of border violations, and promotion of the sense of security among the local populace.
  - ◆ Check illegal immigration, trans-border smuggling and crimes.
  - ◆ Security to sensitive installations, banks and protected persons.
  - ◆ Restore and preserve order in any area in the event of disturbance.
  - ◆ Disaster management. Being the first responder for natural Disaster in Himalayas.
  - ◆ ITBP has also excelled in UN peace keeping exercise.
  - ◆ Security to Pilgrims in annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

## ➤ Border Security Force

- • The Border Security Force (BSF) is a Border Guarding Force of India. Established on December 1,

1965. It is world's largest Border guarding force.

- It is a paramilitary force charged with:
  - ◆ Guarding India's land border during peace time; and
  - ◆ Preventing trans-national crime.
- **Tasks of the BSF:**
  - ◆ The tasks of the BSF are divided as follows:
- **Peace time:**
  - ◆ Promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas.
  - ◆ Prevent Trans-border crimes, unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
  - ◆ Prevent smuggling and any other illegal activity.
  - ◆ In the last few years the BSF has, in addition to their duties, been deployed for counter insurgency and internal security duties.
- **War Time:**
  - ◆ Holding ground in less threatened sectors.
  - ◆ Protection of vital installations.
  - ◆ Assistance in control of refugees. Anti-infiltration duties in specified areas.

## ➤ Central Reserve Police Force

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was formed in July, 1939. After independence it was renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force.
- The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and contain insurgency.
- Paramilitary law enforcement, counter insurgency, armed response to civil unrest, counter terrorism, special weapons operations.
- CRPF contingents are also being deployed in UN missions.

## ➤ Central Industrial Security Force

- Raised in 1969, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is providing security cover to domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to industrial undertakings.
- CISF is currently providing security cover to:
- Nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments.
- Among the important responsibilities recently entrusted to the CISF are the:
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, VIP Security, Disaster Management and establishment of a Formed Police Unit (FPU) of the UN at Haiti.
- After the Mumbai terrorist attack on November 2008, the mandate of the force has been broadened to provide direct security cover to private sector also.

## ➤ Assam Rifles

- The Assam Rifles raised as Catchar Levy in 1835 is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India.
- The Force was raised primarily to guard the alluvial plains of Assam. Security in the north-eastern region and guarding the Indo-Myanmar border.
- The Assam Rifles' contribution towards assimilation of the people of the north-east into the national mainstream is truly monumental.
- Their long association with the region reflects in the force being fondly called "The Sentinel of the North-East" and "Friends of the Hill People".

> ### National Security Guard

- The **National Security Guard** (**NSG**) is an Indian Special Forces unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances.

> ### Sashastra Seema Bal

- The 'Sashastra Seema Bal" (SSB) is the newest border guarding force of Union of India entrusted with the guarding of Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.

- Its earlier aim was to **build people's morale** and inculcate a **spirit of resistance i**n border population in the then NEFA, North Assam, North Bengal, Hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh).

- The area of operation was extended to other border areas in Manipur, Tripura, Jammu, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mizoram, South Bengal and Nagaland between 1965-1991.

- The Role of SSBin earlier setup includes:
    - To inculcate a sense of security and spirit of resistance in border population;
    - Promoting national awareness and security consciousness; and
    - Organizing and preparing border population to resist enemy.

> ### Rapid Action Force

- RAF was raised to deal with communal problems and continues to deal with militancy in J&K and Punjab, insurgency in north-east, overseas deployment for UN Peace Keeping in Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo, rescue and relief (Odisha super cyclone, Gujarat and J&K earthquake).

- RAF dealt with mammoth human congregations (Amarnath Yatra, Jagannath Yatra, etc.) combating naxalism in LWE affected states guarding of vital shrines in Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura, Vaishno Devi and Raghunath Temple, Jammu law and order situation on the issue of revocation of transfer of land to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, dealt with serious law and order problem due to Gujjar agitation in Rajasthan, dealt effectively with serious stone pelting menace in J&K, and monitored successful completion of elections in various states.

## ⊙ Civil Defence

> Civil Defence includes any measures not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack whether from air, land, sea or other places or for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effect, whether such measures are taken before, during or after the time of such attack, or any measures taken for the purpose of disaster management, before during, or after any disaster.

> The centrally sponsored scheme envisages creation of new Civil Defence Training Institutes (CDTIs) in 10 states and renovation of Infrastructures of CDTIs in 17 states; in addition 100 multi-hazard districts have been selected for creation of civil defence infrastructure. A pilot project has also been launched in 40 selected towns to train and utilize Civil Defence volunteers in internal security tasks.

> Its volunteers are in various constructive and nation building activities - including providing assistance to the administration in undertaking social and welfare services and in the prevention, mitigation of natural, man-made disasters as well as in post-disaster response and relief operations and law and order situations.

> ### Home Guards

- Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December, 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. Subsequently, the concept of the voluntary citizens force was adopted by several States.

- Members of Home Guards in the organisation are trained to assist police in maintenance of law and order, prevention of crime, anti-dacoity measures, border patrolling, prohibition, flood relief, fire-fighting, election duties and social welfare activities.

- The role of Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary to the police in maintenance of internal security, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic, etc., help in maintenance of essential services, promote communal harmony and assist the administration in protecting weaker sections, participate in socio-economic and welfare activities and perform civil defence duties. Home Guards are of two types—Rural and Urban.

- The oranisation is spread over in all the states and union territories except in Kerala. In seven border states, a total of eighteen (18) Border Wing Home Guards (BWHG) Battalions have also been raised viz., Punjab (6 Bns), Rajasthan (4 Bns), Gujarat (4 Bns) and one each of Bns for Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal to serve as an auxiliary to Border Security Force for preventing infiltration on the international border/ coastal areas, guarding of VVIPs and lines of communication in vulnerable areas at the time of external aggression.

## ➤ Fire Services

- Being included in the state subject, it is the primary responsibility of the state governments/ municipal bodies to enforce the National Building Code and allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping Fire Services to ensure that safety of life and property of citizens within their jurisdiction.

- The Scheme attempts to fill the existing gaps in fire fighting and rescue capabilities through introduction of modern technology such as advanced fire tender, high pressure pump with mist technology, quick response team vehicle, combi tools for search and rescue and capacity building of various stakeholders.

# ◉ Personal Law

- ➤ The people of India are of different religions and faiths. They are governed by different sets of personal laws in respect of matters relating to family affairs, i.e., marriage, divorce, succession, adoption, wills, etc.

- ➤ The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III-Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature, namely Parliament and subject to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution. The state legislatures are also competent to make laws in the field.

## ➤ Marriage

- Law relating to marriage and divorce has been codified in different enactments applicable to people of different religions.

  - ◆ **The Special Marriage Act, 1954:** Provides for a special form of marriage and the registration of such marriages extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, but also applies to the citizens of India domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir. Persons governed by this Act can specifically register marriage under the said Act even though they are of different religious faiths.

  - ◆ **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955:** This Act, extends to the whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, applies also to Hindus domiciled in territories to which the Act extends and those who are out side the said territories. It applies to Hindus (in any of its forms or development) and also to Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and also those who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews by religion. However, the Act does not apply to members of any scheduled tribes unless the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette otherwise directs.

  - ◆ **The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872:** The husband can seek divorce on grounds of adultery on the part of his wife and the wife can seek divorce on the ground that the husband has become convert to another religion and has gone through marriage with another woman or has been guilty of:

    - ▪ Incestuous adultery;
    - ▪ Bigamy with adultery;
    - ▪ Marriage with another woman with adultery;
    - ▪ Rape, sodomy or bestiality;

- Adultery coupled with such cruelty as without adultery would have entitled her to a divorce, a mensa etoro (a system of divorce created by the Roman Catholic Church equivalent to judicial separation on grounds of adultery, perverse practices, cruelty); and

- Adultery coupled with desertion without reasonable excuse for two years or more.

♦ **Muslims Marriage Act, 1939:** Marriages are governed by the Mohammedan Law prevalent in the country. As regards divorce, i.e., Talaq, a Muslim wife has a much restricted right to dissolve her marriage. Unwritten and traditional law tried to ameliorate her position by permitting her to see dissolution.

♦ **The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936:** Governs the matrimonial relations of Parsis, Every marriage as well as divorce under this Act is required to be registered in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Act. The provisions of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 have been enlarged so as to bring them in line with the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

♦ As for the matrimonial **laws of Jews, there is no codified law in India**. Even today, they are governed by their religious laws. Jews do not regard marriage as a civil contract, but as a relation between two persons involving very sacred duties. Marriage can be dissolved through courts on grounds of adultery or cruelty. Marriages are monogamous.

♦ **The Anand Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2012:** A Sikh marriage performed according to the Sikh marriage ceremony called "Anand" or other customary ceremonies could be registered here under the provisions of Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

- However, vide The Anand Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2012, The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 was amended to provide for registration of Anand marriages commonly known as Anand Karaj.

## ➤ Adoption

- Since adoption is legal affiliation of a child, it forms the subject matter of personal law. Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. Muslims, Christians and Parsis can take a child under the said Act only under foster care. Once a child under foster care attaining the age of majority, that is eighteen years old, he is free to break away all these connections. Besides, such a child does not have the legal right of inheritance. Foreigners, who want to adopt Indian children have to approach the court under the aforesaid Act.

- The general law relating to guardians and wards is contained in the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. It clearly lays down that father's right is primary and no other person can be appointed unless the father is found unfit. This Act also provides that the court must take into consideration the welfare of the child while appointing a guardian under the Act.

## ➤ Maintenance

- Obligation of a husband to maintain his wife arises out of the status of the marriage. Right to maintenance forms a part of the personal law. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, right of maintenance extends not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives. Claims of the wife, etc., however, depend on the husband having sufficient means.

- However, divorced wives who have received money payable under the customary personal law are not entitled to claim maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

## ➤ Succession

- The Indian Succession Act was enacted in 1925 to consolidate the law applicable to intestate and testamentary succession which was in existence at that time. The Act does not apply to the renoncants of the union territory of Puducherry.

- While consolidating the law in respect of succession, two schemes, one relating to succession to property of persons like Indian Christians, Jews and persons married under The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the other relating to succession rights of Parsis, were adopted.

## ⊙ Election Laws and Electoral Reforms

➤ The Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to Parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice-President are: (i) The Representation of the People Act, 1950; (ii) The Representation of the People Act, 1951; (iii) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952; (iv) The Delimitation Act, 2002; (v) The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005; and (vi) The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Act, 2010. These are administrated by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

➤ The electoral system of the country, which is also called the first-past-the-post system of elections, has completed sixty six years.

➤ The continuously changing electoral scenario has necessitated reforms of electoral laws on several occasions. In the light of the experience gained during elections, recommendations of the Election Commission, the proposals from different sources including political parties, eminent men in public life and the deliberations in the Legislatures and various public bodies, the successive Governments have taken a number of measures, from time to time, to bring about electoral reforms.

## ⊙ Delimitation of Constituencies

➤ Delimitation and Elections are the two basic pillars of a parliamentary democracy.

➤ The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973. The third delimitation exercise— based on 1971 census—was completed in the year 1975. The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years. The population has increased by almost 87 per cent and the nature of constituencies in the country, by and large, had become malapportioned.

➤ The Government, as part of the **National Population Policy** strategy, decided to extend the current constitutional freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to 2026 as a motivational measure to enable state governments to fearlessly pursue the agenda for population stabilization.

➤ The periodic readjustment of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies is mandatory in a representative system where single-member constituencies are used for electing political representatives.

➤ Although the rules for delimitation vary across countries, tasks involved in drawing boundaries are generally similar. In India, the drawing of boundaries, generally, entails: (a) allocating seats to the states and districts within a state; (b) creating a database composed of maps, population figures and the details showing geographic/natural/administrative conditions of the area concerned; (c) associating the statutory representatives from the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies; (d) distributing the states and districts into geographic units called the constituencies; (e) having an extensive exercise for public input into delimitation process; (f) summarizing and evaluating the constituencies; and g) passing and publishing the final order.

➤ The procedure for delimiting the constituencies in India stands clearly spelt out in The Delimitation Act, 2002.

➤ The Delimitation Commission functioned in a transparent manner. The methodology and guidelines were clearly established and published in advance. While framing the constituencies, the Commission —as far as practicable—kept in view the interest of communities such as those sharing a common tribe, race or ethnic background and also those defined geographically or by physical features like mountains, forests, rivers, etc.

➤ The Commission drew the boundaries of the constituencies reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes strictly in accordance with the constitutional and statutory provisions.

➤ After getting finality of the delimitation exercise, in pursuance of the second proviso to Article 82 and second proviso to clause (3) of Article 170 of the Constitution, a Presidential Order dated February 19, 2008 was issued making new delimitation effective throughout the country.

## ⊙ Voting Rights to the Citizens of India Living Abroad

➤ Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides that every person who is not less than eighteen years of age on the qualifying date and is ordinarily resident in constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral rolls for that constituency.

➤ The meaning of "ordinarily resident" is laid down in Section 20 of the said Act. It has been specified under Chapter-III in the Hand Book for Electoral Registration Officers that a person who has gone out of the country for business or employment should be treated as having moved out of that place.

➤ Mere ownership or possession of a building or other immovable property will not bestow on the owner, the residential qualification. There are a large number of Indian citizens residing outside the country due to various reasons. They have been persistently demanding for conferring them the voting rights.

➤ The Government considered all aspects of the demand and accordingly introduced the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha in 2006 to enable the Indian citizens absenting from their place of ordinarily residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the concerned constituency of their place of ordinarily residence in India as mentioned in their passport so that they would be in a position to cast their votes in elections to the Lok Sabha and to the state legislatures in case they happen to be in their constituency at the time of polls.

➤ The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2010 in August, 2010, to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to:

• Provide that every citizen of India, whose name is not included in the electoral roll and who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education, or otherwise outside India, (whether temporarily or not), shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located;

• Provide that the Electoral Registration Officer shall make corrections of entries in electoral rolls and inclusion of names in electoral rolls after proper verification; and

• Confer power upon the Central Government to specify, after consulting the Election Commission of India, by rules, the time within which the name of persons referred to in sub-paragraph above shall be registered in the electoral roll and the manner and procedure for registering of such persons in the electoral roll.

➤ The said Bill has been enacted as the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010. In pursuance of the provisions of the said Act the Central Government, in consultation with the Election Commission prepared and published the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2011 on February 3, 2011 and Registration of Electors (Second Amendment) Rules 2011 on February 23, 2011. The Central Government has issued necessary notification bringing the Act into force from February, 2011. The overseas Indians can now furnish the documents self-attested by them and get their name enrolled in the electoral roll of their respective constituency.

## ⊙ Reservation of seats of SC and ST

➤ Our Constitution makers were fully conscious of the fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had been an oppressed and under-privileged class in our society over the centuries and they deserved a special dispensation so that their condition may be vastly improved.

➤ Several special provisions were incorporated in our Constitution.

➤ One such provision related to the reservation of seats for these communities in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

➤ This provision found place in Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution. Similarly, they were also sensitive of the difficulties and problems which were likely to be faced by the persons belonging to Anglo Indian community in the country. Consequently, adequate safeguards were provided for them in our Constitution by giving representation to this small section of the society, under Article 331 of the Constitution by way of nomination of two persons of that community in the House of the People by the President.

➤ Likewise, provision for nomination of one member each by the Governor, wherever necessary, belonging to this community in the state legislative assemblies was also incorporated.

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# 21

# Labour, Skill Development & Employment

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment is one of the important and oldest ministries of the Government of India. The main responsibilities entrusted to the Ministry are:
  - ➤ Protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and the poor deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society, in particular.
  - ➤ Create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity.
  - ➤ Develop and coordinate vocational skill training and employment services.
  - ➤ Focus on promotion of welfare of labour and providing social security to the labour force both in organised and unorganised sectors.
- Labour being the subject in the concurrent list under the Constitution of India, the state governments are also empowered to enact legislations.

## ◉ New Initiatives

### ➤ National Career Service Project

- The Ministry is implementing the NCS Project as a mission mode project for transformation of the national employment service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on apprenticeship, internships etc.

### ➤ Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

- It was launched in 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation and an allocation of Rs. 1,000 crores.
- Under the scheme, Government of India will pay the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in EPFO for the first three years of their employment.
- This will incentivise the employers to recruit unemployed persons and also to formalize informal employees.
- The scheme will be applicable to those having earnings Rs. 15,000 per month.

### ➤ Shram Suvidha Portal

- Unified web portal, to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease complexity of compliance.
- It caters to four major organisations under the Ministry:
  - ◆ Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).
  - ◆ Directorate General of Mines Safety.
  - ◆ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.
  - ◆ Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

> ## Common Registration

- Facility for Common Registration under five Central Labour Acts has been developed on e-Biz portal of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

> ## Labours Codes

- For bringing transparency and accountability in enforcement of Labour Laws, with the objective of strengthening the safety, health, social security measures for every worker and bringing ease of compliance for running an establishment to catalyse creation of employment opportunities.

- These initiatives include governance reforms through use of technology and also legislative reforms by simplifying, rationalising and amalgamating the existing labour laws into four labour codes.

# ◉ Legislative Initiatives

> ## Small Factory Bill

- The Bill provides for regulation of working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers.

- The Bill amalgamates, simplifies and rationalizes the provisions of six Labour Laws at one place for these small factories.

- The Bill will ease the operation of small factories and thus catalyze the generation of employment through small factories while ensuring, inter alia social security, safety and health of the workers.

> ## Labour Code on Wages

- It rationalizes, amalgamates and simplifies the relevant provisions of the following four labour laws: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

# ◉ Social Security

> ## Employees' State Insurance Corporation

- To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948.

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is implementing the ESI Scheme introduced since 1952.

- Some of the other salient features of ESIC 2.0 were up-grading dispensaries to six bedded hospitals in phases, providing of appropriate cancer detection, cardiology/ treatment, yoga facilities at different levels of hospitals, dialysis facilities in all ESIC model hospitals on PPP mode,AYUSH facilities to be extended up to the dispensary level in phases, tele-medicine facilities for the beneficiaries in phases.

> ## Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule-I of the Act.

- The following three schemes framed are: Employees' Provident funds Scheme,1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

# ◉ Digital India initiative of ESIC

> - **e-biz platform**: ESIC was the first organisation of Central government to integrate its services (Registration of employees through e-biz portal of the department of industrial policy and promotion DIPP )to promote ease of business and curve transaction cost.

➤ **e-Pehchan**: A process of establishing the Identity of the insured person through Adhaar number has been set up by seeding Aadhaar number to the insurance number.

## ◉ Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana (RGSKY)

➤ Unemployment allowances under Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan(RGSKY) Yojana from 20 to 24 months.

➤ In order to get benefits under our RGSKY , the eligibility of the contribution condition has also been reduced from 3 to 2 years for getting the benefits in order to encourage the employment of disabled person, the employees share of contribution in respect of such disabled employees is paid by the central government for initial 10 years.

➤ The employees are exempted from the paying their contribution up to 10 years in respect of all permanently disabled persons irrespective of their wages working in the factories and establishment covered under ESI act

➤ ESIC has launched new scheme " one IP-Two dispensaries" for the benefit of migrant workers now to employer the insured woman or a person can choose two dispensaries one for self and other family residing at a different location of the country.

## ◉ Pension Reforms

### ➤ Implementation of Minimum Pension

- The Government notified in 2014:
  - ◆ Providing a minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month for member/widow(er)/disabled/ nominee/dependent parent pensioners;
  - ◆ Rs. 750 per month for orphan pensioners; and
  - ◆ Rs. 250 per month for children pensioners.
- It was initially for the year 2014-15, which has been continued in perpetuity.
- The disbursement of pension is being carried out at present using the core banking system platform of the pension disbursement banks.
- Instructions were issued to the field offices to ensure that pension was credited to the pensioners' accounts on the first working day of the month.

### ➤ Universal Account Number

- The facility of Universal Account Number (UAN) for EPF subscribers was formally launched in 2014.
- UAN provides automatic portability of Provident Fund account on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

## ◉ Industrial Relations

➤ Maintenance of harmonious industrial relations remains an avowed objective of Ministry of Labour & Employment. Due to constant endeavour of the industrial relations machineries of both the centre and the states, the overall industrial relations climate has generally remained peaceful and cordial.

➤ Twenty two Industrial tribunal-cum-Labour Courts have been set up under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for adjudication of industrial disputes in organisations for which the Central Government is the appropriate Government.

➤ Two Industrial Tribunals at Mumbai and Kolkata also function as National Tribunals.

➤ In order to reduce pendency of cases Lok Adalats are being organised by the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts as an alternate grievance redressal system. It provides a platform for settlement of disputes through mutual consent and agreement between the litigant parties and depends on their willingness.

## ⊙ Vulnerable Sections

### ➤ Child Labour

- Elimination of child labour is an area of great concern and Government of India is committed to address the issue.

- The objective is to pronged strategy to tackle the problem of child labour.

- It comprises statutory and legislative measures, rescue and rehabilitation, universal elementary education along with social protection and poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes.

- The objective is to create an environment where families are not compelled to send their children to work. Government has adopted an approach to withdraw and rehabilitate working children from all occupations and processes.

### ➤ Policy on Child Labour

- The National Policy on Child Labour in a comprehensive, holistic and integrated manner.

- The Action Plan under this policy is multipronged and mainly consists of: a legislative action plan; project based action in areas of high concentration of child labour; and focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of child labour.

### ➤ Legislative Action Plan:

- The Government enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.

- The Amendment inter alia covers the complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes; linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009; prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act.

- In pursuance of National Child Labour Policy, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme was started in 1988 to rehabilitate children rescued from child labour.

- It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme and at present sanctioned in 270 districts in the country.

- Under the Scheme, working children are identified through child labour survey, withdrawn from work and put into the special training centres so as to provide them with an environment to subsequently join mainstream education system.

- In these special training centres, besides formal education, the children are provided stipend, supplementary nutrition, vocational training and regular health check-ups.

### ➤ Re-alignment of NCLP Scheme

- With the enactment of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, there was a need for realignment of the NCLP Scheme with the provisions of RTE Act, 2009.

- Ministry of Human Resource Development allowed the NCLP Schools to serve as special training centre for un-enrolled and out of school children in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the RTE Act and Rule 5 of the Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Rules, 2010.

- A complaint committee, on sexual harassment at workplace to deal with the complaints of sexual harassment of women employees of Ministry of Labour & Employment and its attached offices, has been reconstituted.

### ➤ Bonded Labour

- **Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour**
  - ◆ Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched in May, 1978.

- Under the Scheme, state governments are provided Central assistance on matching grants (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labour.

- The Scheme has been drastically modified in May 2000 to provide for 100 per cent assistance for conducting district wise surveys for identification of bonded labour, awareness generation activities, and evaluatory studies.

- The Rehabilitation grant has also been raised from Rs. 10,000 per identified bonded labour, to Rs. 20,000 per identified bonded labour.

- In the case of North-Eastern states, cent per cent rehabilitation grant is provided in case they fail to provide their matching contribution.

## ⊙ Wages and Bonus

### ➤ The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

- The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector.

- Both the Central and state governments are the appropriate governments to fix, revise, review and enforce the payment of minimum wages to workers in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions.

- The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is ensured at two levels:

    - Central sphere- The enforcement is done through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated a Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM).

    - The compliance in the state is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery.

- To protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government has introduced **Variable Dearness Allowance** (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index.

- To have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, a concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) was mooted on the basis of the recommendations of the **National Commission on Rural Labour** (NCRL) in 1991, it is a non-statutory measure.

### ➤ Payment of Wages

- The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers.

- The Central Government, on the basis of figures of the Consumer Expenditure Survey published by **National Sample Survey Office,** has enhanced the wage ceiling from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 18,000 per month from 2012.

### ➤ Occupational Safety and Health

- The provisions on OSH of workers as provided for in the Constitution of India are being implemented through the offices of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI).

- The DGMS enforces the safety and health provisions for the workers in the mining industry through its Inspectors appointed under the Mines Act, 1952.

- The DGFASLI, through its Inspectorate of Dock Safety enforces safety provisions in the docks and also acts as the coordinating agency at the national level for the Inspectorate of Factories functioning under different state governments.

- Some of the important events/initiatives in OSH are:-

    - Every year, Ministry of Labour and Employment distributes awards, viz:

        - The **Prime Minister's Shram Awards** are given to the workers employed in Department/Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and state governments and the manufacturing units employing 500 or more workers in the private sector in recognition of their performance, devotion to duty etc.

◆ The **Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskars** (VRP) are given to individual workers or group of workers for their outstanding suggestions leading to improvement in productivity, safety and health as well as the import substitution resulting in the savings of foreign currency.

◆ The **National Safety Awards** (NSA) are given in recognition of good safety performance on the part of the industrial establishments covered under the factories Act, 1948, the employers covered under the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986, and Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

# ◉ Research and training

## ➤ National board for workers education and development

- The Dattopant Thengadi national board for workers education and development was established in 1958 to implement the workers education program at National regional and unit or village level.

- The board undertakes training program which cover workers from organised, unorganised, rural and informal sectors.

- The main objective of the board training program is to create awareness among all sections of the working population supervisory and managerial cadres are also cover to joint education programmes.

## ➤ V.V Giri National labour Institute

- It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Labour and Employment set up in 1974 and grown into premier Institute of labour Research and training.

- Since its inception the institute has entered through its research training education in publication to reach out to diverse group concerned with the various aspect of neighbour in the organised and unorganised sectors

# ◉ Skill Development

➤ Skill development and entrepreneurship efforts across the country have been highly fragmented so far. As opposed to developed countries, where the percentage of skilled workforce is between 60 to 90 per cent of the total workforce, and an abysmal 4.69 per cent of workforce with formal vocational skills.

➤ There is a need for speedy reorganization of the ecosystem of skill development and entrepreneurship promotion to suit the needs of the industry and enable decent quality of life to its population.

➤ However, there are gaps in the capacity and quality of training infrastructure as well as outputs, insufficient focus on workforce aspirations, lack of certification and common standards and a pointed lack of focus on the unorganized sector.

➤ The department was subsequently upgraded to a full-fledged Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2014.

## ➤ National Skill Development Mission

- This Mission has been developed to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities.

- To achieve the vision of 'Skilled India', the NSDM would not only consolidate and coordinate skilling efforts, but also expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards.

- It will be implemented through a streamlined institutional mechanism driven by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- Key institutional mechanisms for achieving the objectives of the Mission have been divided into three tiers:

- Governing Council for policy guidance at apex level;
- A Steering Committee; and
- A Mission Directorate (along with an Executive Committee) as the executive arm of the Mission.

➤ Mission Directorate will be supported by three other institutions:

- National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Directorate General of Training (DGT).

➤ Seven submissions have been proposed initially to act as building blocks for achieving overall objectives of the Mission. They are:

- Institutional training.
- Infrastructure.
- Convergence.
- Trainers.
- Overseas employment.
- Sustainable livelihoods.
- Leveraging public infrastructure.

➤ **National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

- The objective will be to meet the challenge of skilling at scale with speed and standard (quality).
- It will aim to provide an umbrella framework to all skilling activities being carried out within the country, to align them to common standards and link the skilling with demand centres.
- The effort will also be to identify the various institutional frameworks which can act as the vehicle to reach the expected outcomes.
- It will also provide clarity and coherence on how skill development efforts across the country can be aligned within the existing institutional arrangements.
- This policy will link skill development to improved employability and productivity.

## ⊙ Schemes and Initiatives

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):**

- PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of youth to take up outcome based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood.
- The Skill Certification Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), was launched in 2015.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK):**

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), implements Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK).
- Scheme for setting up of model skill centre in every district of the country while ensuring coverage of all the parliamentary constituencies.
- The PMKK envisages to: create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency based skill development training at district level to ensure wider reach of program.
- Focus on elements of quality, sustainability and connect with stakeholders in skills delivery process.

- ► **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana:**

  - The Scheme aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurship promotion among youth through entrepreneurship education and training, advocacy, easy access to entrepreneurship support network and promotion of social entrepreneurship.

  - The Pradhan Mantri Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) Yojana scheme was launched in 2016.

- ► **Udaan:**

  - The special industry initiative for Jammu and Kashmir is funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

  - The program in a part of all initiative for addressing economic issue in the state and its focus on providing skill and job opportunities to the youth simultaneously the aim is also to provide exposure to corporate India to earth reach talent pool available there.

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# 22

# Mass Communication

## ◎ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media consisting of radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communication such as dance and drama, plays an effective role in helping people to have access to free flow of information.

- The Ministry is divided into four wings i.e., the Information Wing, the Broadcasting Wing, the Films Wing and the Integrated Finance Wing. The Ministry functions through its 21 media units/ attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and PSUs.

- The Information Wing handles policy matters of the print and press media and publicity requirements of the Government. This Wing also looks after the general administration of the Ministry.

- The Broadcasting Wing handles matters relating to the electronic media and the regulation of the content of private TV channels as well as the programme matters of All India Radio and Doordarshan and operation of cable television and community radio, etc. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC), which is a subordinate office, functions under the administrative control of this Division.

- The Film Wing handles matters relating to the film sector. It is involved in the production and distribution of documentary films, development and promotional activities relating to the film industry including training, organization of film festivals, import and export regulations, etc. The Integrated Finance Wing looks after the financial aspects of the Ministry.

### Prasar Bharati

- Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is the public service broadcaster in the country, with Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan as its two constituents.

- It came into existence on November 23, 1997, with a mandate to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television

### All India Radio

- After the invention of Radio and the starting of broadcasting in the western countries, broadcasting by private Radio Clubs started in a few cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

- The first radio programme was broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in June, 1923.

- It was followed by the setting up of a Broadcasting Service that began broadcasting on July 23, 1927 on an experimental basis at Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously under an agreement between the Government of India and a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd.

### Doordarshan

- From an experimental service begun at Delhi in September 1959, Doordarshan (DD) over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organizations of the world.

- Over the years, it has not only expanded its network throughout length and breadth of the country but also kept pace with new technological developments in the field of TV broadcasting.

➤ Doordarshan is presently operating 34 satellite channels and has a vast network of 67 studios and 1,416 transmitters of varying power providing TV coverage to about 92 per cent population of the country. In addition, it is providing free-to-air DTH service.

## ➤ DD National

- DD National Channel, a public service broadcaster is the largest terrestrial network in the world. It covers about 92.0 per cent population and 81.0 per cent land area of the country.

- Being a Public Service Broadcaster, the channel continues to make significant contribution to accelerate socio- economic changes, promote national integration, inculcate a sense of unity and fraternity and stimulate scientific temperament among the people.

## ➤ DD News

- DD News is the only terrestrial-cum-satellite, multi-lingual news channel of the country.

- The news channel has been successfully discharging its responsibility to give balanced, fair and accurate news without sensationalizing as well as by carrying different shades of opinion.

- DD-News channel was launched in November 2003 by converting DD-Metro into a 24-hours news channel. Its satellite footprint is available across the country. DD India.

## ➤ Press Information Bureau

- The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements.

- It functions as an interface between the Government and the media and also provides feedback to the Government on people's reaction as reflected in the media.

## ➤ Prime Minister's Unit

- PIB has a dedicated unit for the publicity and media support to the Prime Minister's office.

- This unit functions all 365 days of the year on 24X7 basis. The PM Unit compiles a number of reports on all days including holidays for PMO, Cabinet Secretariat and other senior officials of PMO.

- The Unit reaches out extensively to regional/branch offices for ensuring nation-wide publicity efforts, and gathering feedback for perusal of PMO.

## ➤ Social Media

- With the opening up of the air waves, 24x7 news channels in English, Hindi and other languages have come up in the country. PIB is doing video releases which facilitate more effective projection of the Government's point of view through the electronic media.

- PIB has also expanded its presence on social media, both in terms of engagement, followers and the number of platforms in a big way, despite extremely limited resources.

- *Twitter:* On Twitter, PIB's handle, @PIB_India has nearly doubled its number of followers in the last one year, from 3.7 lakhs to nearly 1.3 million.

- *New Platforms:* PIB has also expanded its presence to three more platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Vine. On Facebook, within a year, PIB has attracted a reach of more than 1.7 lakh followers on an average. Online Accreditation System

## ➤ International Film Festival of India

- The Press Information Bureau was part of the IFFI 2016 to facilitate dissemination of Festival related information to media at the venue in Goa.

- It provided favourable and encouraging work environment and facilitated participation of the media persons in the festival.

- A total of 419 media persons were accredited through online registration process for the coverage of the Festival.

➤ **News Agencies Press Trust of India**

- India's largest news agency, Press Trust of India (PTI) is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers.

- Founded in August, 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949. It offers its news services in English and Hindi languages. Bhasha is the Hindi language news service of the agency.

➤ **United News of India**

- United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in December, 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961.

- In the past five decades, UNI has grown into a major news organisation in India and, with its vibrant presence, provided the much-needed spirit of competition in the vital areas of news gathering and dissemination.

➤ **Press Council of India**

- The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority mandated by the Parliament for the twin objective of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India exercising equal quasi-judicial functions over the authorities as well the press person.

- It comprises of a Chairman and 28 members. While the Chairman has, by convention, been a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, of the 28 members, 20 represent various segments of the Press and eight overseeing the readers' interest, are representatives of the two Houses of Parliament (3 Lok Sabha and 2 Rajya Sabha) and premier literary and legal bodies of the country i.e. University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi.

- The Council has its own funds for performance of its functions under the Act that comprises the fee collected by it from newspapers, other receipts and also Grants in-Aid by from the Central Government.

- The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it, either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for interference with its freedom.

- Where the Council is satisfied, after inquiry, that a newspaper or a news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council may warn, admonish or censure them or disapprove of their conduct.

➤ **Publications Division**

- Publications Division is among the premier publishing organisations of the Government of India involved in production, sale and distribution of popular books and journals on matters of national importance.

- Established in 1941, it is mandated to bring out books and journals highlighting subjects of national importance and India's rich cultural heritage including children's literature.

- Publications Division enjoys credibility among the publishers and is well recognised for the authenticity of content and affordable price of publications.

# ◉ International Film Festival of India

➤ The 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), organized jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Government of Goa, successfully concluded on November 28, 2016, after nine days of film screenings, master classes, discussions and other events. 193 films in all from 88 countries were screened at 47th IFFI.

## ◉ National Film Awards

► The National Film Awards, the highest awards in the field of cinema continue to underline cinematic excellence. The National Awards along with cinema's highest honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, are presented by the President of India.

► To commemorate the release of the first Indian Feature Film, Raja Harishchandra on 3rd May 1913, It has been decided to confer the National Film Awards on 3rd May of every year. Accordingly, 64th National Film Awards were given away for 2016.

### ► 64th National Film Awards

• The award for Best Feature Film was bagged by 'Kasaav' (Marathi) directed by Sumitra Bhave and Sunil Sukthankar. The award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment was given to 'Sathamanam Bhavathi' (Telugu) directed by V.V.Reddy.

• The Best Actor award was presented to Akshay Kumar for the film 'Rustom' (Hindi) and Best Actress to Surbhi C M for the film 'Minnaminungu - the Firefly' (Malayalam).

• The film 'Fireflies In The Abyss' directed by Chandrashekhar Reddy was adjudged the Best Non-Feature Film. The Best Book on Cinema Award was given to 'Lata : Sur Gatha' written by Yatindra Mishra, whereas G. Dhananjayan was awarded Best Film Critic.

• The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2016 was presented to renowned film-maker Shri K. Vishwanath for his commendable contribution to Indian Cinema.

### ► Film and Television Institute of India

• The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in 1960. Following the addition of Television wing in 1974, the Institute was re-designated as Film and Television Institute of India. The Institute became a Society in October, 1974 under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860.

• The Society consists of eminent personalities connected with film, television, communication, culture, alumni of institute and ex-officio government members.

• The Institute is governed by a Governing Council, headed by a Chairman. The academic policies and plans of the Institute are formulated by the Academic Council.

• The matters involving finance are controlled by the Standing Finance Committee. The Institute consists of two Wings, The Film wing and the TV Wing, and offers courses in both Film and Television.

• The Three-year Diploma Courses lead to a Post Graduate Diploma in Film Direction, cinematography, Audiography and Film Editing. The Institute also offers a two-year post graduate diploma course in acting, a two-year post graduate course in art direction and production design, and one-year post graduate certificate course.

### ► Indian Institute of Mass Communication

• The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 came into existence in 1965.

• The Institute was established with the basic objective of undertaking teaching, training and research in the area of mass communication.

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# 23

# Planning

- Planning in India derives its objectives and social premises from the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. Public and Private sectors are viewed as complementary. Individual efforts and private initiatives are considered necessary and desirable endeavour for development with optimum voluntary cooperation.

## Niti Aayog

### Introduction

- The NITI Aayog is the successor to the Planning Commission.

- The new institution is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process; nurturing an overall enabling environment, through a holistic approach to development going beyond the limited sphere of the public sector and Government of India.

- This is to be built on the foundation of an empowered role of states as equal partners in national development underlying the principle of cooperative federalism.

- A knowledge hub of internal as well as external resources; serving as repository of good governance best practices and a think tank offering domain knowledge as well as strategic expertise to all levels of government.

- A collaborative platform facilitating implementation by monitoring progress, plugging gaps and bringing together the various ministries at the Centre and in states, in the joint pursuit of developmental goals.

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) came into existence in 2015.

### Objectives

- The new institution is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process; nurturing an overall enabling environment through a holistic approach to development going beyond the limited sphere of the Public Sector and Government of India.

- The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly.

- It uses the lessons learnt from monitoring and feedback to make innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.

- The Aayog publishes policy research papers on contemporary issues, brings out books on best practices, prepares model laws to help states reform their policies and organizes workshops and conferences.

### Composition

- The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows: Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson.

- The Governing Council comprises the Chief Ministers of all the states, Chief Ministers of union

territories with legislatures, viz., Delhi and Puducherry and Lt. Governors of other union territories.

- Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister. The full time organizational framework will consist of, in addition to the Prime Minister as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson which is to be appointed by the Prime Minister.

- Full time and part-time members will be maximum of 2, from leading universities, research organizations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity.

- Part time members will be on a rotational basis. Ex officio Members will be maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister. Chief Executive Officer is to be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Secretariat is deemed necessary.

## ◉ Policy Making and Programme of NITI AAYOG

- ➤ **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):**It is a flagship initiative of the Prime Minister, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country. AIM is also envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing establishment of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels higher secondary schools, science engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME industry / corporate levels.

- ➤ AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts-across the country.

- ➤ At the university, NGO, SME and Corporate industry levels, AIM is setting up world-class Atal Incubators (AICs) that would trigger and enable successful growth of sustainable startups in every sector /state of the country

- ➤ The idea is that every one of the 110 named smart cities and the top 5-10 educational / industrial institutions of every state should aspire to have a world class incubator that will provide the youth / startup communities in the universities / industries opportunity to create new startups.

- ➤ **Promoting digital payment** options is an integral part of the Government of India's strategy to weed out black money and corruption from public life by facilitating the maximum of government-citizen transactions on the digital platform. To enable this, a Committee was constituted to identify and operationalize in the earliest possible time frame user-friendly digital payment options in all sectors of the economy.

- ➤ **Development of Islands:** NITI Aayog has initiated the process to develop identified islands for maritime trade, shipping, fisheries, eco-tourism, under-sea mining, oil and gas and other socio-economic activities. It also aims to replace the use of diesel by promoting non-conventional energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy, ocean thermal energy etc., in the islands. NITI Aayog, in consultation with concerned central ministries/departments, UT administrations and other stakeholders, has short-listed 10 islands for holistic development in the first phase viz., Smith, Ross, Long, Avis, and Little Andaman in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Minicoy, Bangaram, Tinnakara, Cheriyam and Suheli in Lakshadweep.

- ➤ **Cooperative Federalism**: NITI Aayog has been constituted to actualize the important goal of cooperative federalism and to enable good governance in India, to build strong states that will make a strong nation. In a truly federal state, several objectives that ought to be achieved may carry political ramifications throughout the country. It is impossible for any federal government to achieve the national objectives without active cooperation from state governments. It is, therefore, crucial that the centre and state governments work together as equals. Two key aspects of cooperative federalism are: (i) Joint development of the national development agenda by the Centre and the States; and (ii) Advocacy of State perspectives with Central Ministries.

- ➤ **Farmer Friendly Reforms Index:** NITI Aayog has developed the first ever agriculture marketing and farmer friendly reforms index to sensitise states about the need to undertake reforms in the three key areas of agriculture market reforms, land lease reforms and forestry on private land (felling and transit of trees). The index carries a score with a minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas. States and UTs have been ranked in terms of the score of the index. The indicators aim to reveal the position of each state with respect to ease of doing agri-business, opportunities for farmers to benefit from modern trade and commerce, and options for sale of her/his produce. They also represent competitiveness, efficiency and transparency in agriculture markets.

- ➤ **Indices Measuring States' Performance**: In 2016-17, NITI Aayog has undertaken the crucial task developing three major indices that will drive competitive, cooperative federalism in the country. The institution is establishing an outcome based monitoring framework in the critical economic and social development sectors of healthcare, education and water. The primary objective of this framework is to determine the implementation of crucial policy by states through a review of their performance with respect to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in each of these sectors. Each state will be requested to submit their respective KPI datasets for review and validation of the given inputs by NITI.

- ➤ **Performance on Health Outcomes Index:** A 'Performance on Health Outcomes' index to assess the quality of healthcare services provided by the states has been spearheaded by NITI Aayog, along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The index aims to nudge states towards transformative action in the health sector. NITI has also developed guidelines for the exercise indicating features of the index, measures and methods of data.

- ➤ **School Education Quality Index:** NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has conceptualized and designed the School Education Quality Index (SEQI). SEQI is a composite index that will report annual improvements of states on key domains of education quality. The larger vision of the index is to shift the focus of states towards outcomes, provide objective benchmarks for continuous annual improvements and encourage state-led innovations to improve quality. Currently 60 per cent of the SEQI score is based on learning outcomes. Therefore, the availability of high quality learning data is critical.

- ➤ **Water Management Index:** In view of the criticality of sustainable management of water resources for India, NITI Aayog is developing a composite water management index, with pro-active engagement of states and union territories. The Index is being developed in consultation with the concerned central ministries/departments, the states and other stakeholders.

- ➤ **Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies**: The Government of India has initiated urban rejuvenation missions - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart City with the objective of improhving availability of basic urban infrastructure in order to improve quality of life of citizens. However, as widely recognized, one of the key limitations in realizing the vision of urban transformation is the capacity constraints of urban local bodies to implement the program. NITI Aayog under its Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise launched a capacity building programme called the 'Urban Management Programme' in 2016 with the objective of building capacities of Urban Local Bodies, parastatal bodies and state government officials.

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# Rural Development

- INDIA has been a welfare state since independence and the primary objective of all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its people.

- The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India.

- It was realized that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself.

- Elimination of poverty, ignorance, diseases and inequality of opportunities and providing a better and higher quality of life were the basic premise upon which all the plans and blue-prints of development were built.

- Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation.

- In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increased participation of people in the rural development programmers, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged.

- Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors but later on it was realized that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts were adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grassroots level.

## ๏ Major Programmes for Rural Development

➤ The following major programmes are being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development:

## ๏ Rural Employment

➤ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a rights based wage employment programme implemented in rural areas of the country.

➤ This programme aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing up to one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

➤ Objectives of the Scheme are:

➤ Providing up to one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.

- Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor.

- Pro-actively ensuring social inclusion.

- Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

➤ To streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in

21 states and 1 union territory. This process reduces the delay in allocation of funds for payment of wages to the states and removes parking of funds at various level.

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

- It aims at mobilizing all rural poor household into Self Help Groups (SHGs) in a phased manner and also aims at supporting all women SHGs of the poor, including those promoted by other state agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

- The Mission provides them long term support to attain appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time to improve their quality of life and come out of abject poverty.

- Key components of the NRLM:
  - Promoting Institutions of Poor
  - Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building
  - Community Investment Support Fund
  - National Special Fund Support for Convergence under DAY-NRLP
  - Infrastructure creation and Marketing Support
  - Sensitive Support Structures
  - Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
  - Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

> ### Rural Self Employment Training Institute

- The government has decided to set up one Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in each district of the country.

- RSETIs are bank lead initiative with the active support of state government.

- The Government of India provides one time infrastructure support of Rs.1 crore besides reimbursing the cost of training rural poor candidates, the state government provides land free of cost or at nominal charges and the banks are responsible for day to day functioning of the RSETI.

- The core strength of the RSETI lies in its short term training and long term hand-holding to the rural entrepreneurs for setting up micro enterprises. Currently, 583 RSETIs are functioning in the country.

## ◉ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana:

> To give better rural connectivity, GOI as a part of poverty reduction strategy launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in December, 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the state list as per the Constitution.

> Objective of the scheme:
- To connect eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 250 persons and above.
- The programme envisages single all weather connectivity.
- To ensure full farm-to-market connectivity, the programme also provides for the upgradation of the existing "Through Routes" and major rural links to prescribed standards, though it is not central to the programme.

## ◉ Rural Housing

> In the context of Government's priority for "Housing for All" by 2022, the rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), which came into effect from 2016-17.

> The main features of the scheme of PMAY-G include:

- Providing assistance for construction of 1 crore houses in rural areas over the period of 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

- Identification of beneficiaries based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC 2011) data covering households that are houseless or living in houses with kutcha walls and kutcha roof with two rooms or less after excluding households falling under the automatic exclusion category.

- Setting up of national technical support agency at national level to provide technical support to the implementing agencies and to the beneficiaries in taking up construction of houses and help in achieving the target set under the project.

# National Social Assistance Programme

➤ NSAP is a social assistance programme for poor BPL households for the aged, widows, disable and also include provision for one time assistance in the case of death of the primary bread winner in a BPL family.

➤ Allocation of funds for implementation of the scheme of NSAP was under the budget heads of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs till 2013-14.

➤ Funds were released in a combined manner for all the schemes under NSAP to the states and UTs by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively from their budget heads.

➤ There is no provision of a state share.

➤ This is done to ensure that all the beneficiaries are provided with a uniform minimum assistance.

➤ States may contribute from their own resources to enhance the assistance.

➤ At present, NSAP comprises:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme

- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme

- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and

- Annapurna.

# Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

➤ DDU-GKY is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy, and has an ambitious agenda, to benchmark wage placement-linked skill programmes to global standards and requirements.

➤ Aim:

- To convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour.

- As a result, the scheme will also benefit more than 55 million poor rural youth who are ready-to-be-skilled, by providing sustainable employment.

- In this way, the scheme is expected to play a crucial role in generational poverty alleviation.

➤ DDU-GKY is a pioneer in standards-led delivery of skilling in India, the first to notify standard operating procedures for training, and the first to introduce IT solutions for skilling, including mandatory tablets for trainees, Aadhar-linked biometric information on attendance, and geo-tagged time-stamped record of training centres and classes. Aajeevika Skills was announced as DDU-GKY with a focus on providing opportunities through skilling for rural poor youth in domestic and global jobs.

➤ To ensure rural poor youth are skilled in market relevant trades and job-relevant competencies;

➤ To ensure regular and sustainable employment to its beneficiaries, and consistent career progression through upskilling; and

➤ To ensure independent assessment and globally acceptable certification of its beneficiaries.

➤ Key features of the scheme:

- DDU-GKY follows a 3 tier implementation architecture in PPP mode, with the national unit responsible for policy, central investments and technical support; SRLMs/State Skills Missions

are responsible for state investments, implementation and monitoring controls; and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), both public and private training partners with a legacy in skill training, responsible for mobilization, training and placements.

- The focus of this programme is on the rural youth from poor families, in the age group of15 to 35 years, belonging to:

  ◆ MGNREGA worker household in which household members have together completed 15 days of work;

  ◆ RSBY household;

  ◆ Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household;

  ◆ BPL PDS card households;

  ◆ NRLM-SHG household; and

  ◆ Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011.

- Placement in wage employment is mandated for a minimum of 70 per cent of all successful candidates, with a minimum salary of Rs. 6,000 per month or the minimum wages, whichever is higher.

- The programme promotes Make in India, through pro-active partnership with industry through multi-pronged engagement - champion employer policy, captive employer policy and industrial internship policy.

## ◉ Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- ➤ The goal of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is to translate this comprehensive and organic vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality, keeping in view the present context.

- ➤ Far beyond mere infrastructure development, SAGY aims at instilling certain values in the villages and their people so that they get transformed into models for other.

- ➤ These values include: adopting people's participating as an end in itself - ensuring the involvement of all sections of society in all aspects related to the life of village, especially in decision-making related to governance.

- ➤ Salient Features of the Scheme:

  - Village Development Plan:

    ◆ The Gram Panchayats adopted under SAGY prepared Village Development Plans (VDP) containing prioritized time-bound activities to achieve holistic progress of the village, through convergence of resources.

    ◆ Gram Panchayats have very systematically taken development approach by involving Gram Sabha and they have prepared comprehensive VDP for their development.

    ◆ In order to keep track of the progress of projects listed in the VDP, a Tracking Template has been developed and the progress is monitored online.

  - Panchayat Darpan:

    ◆ The Ministry has developed a 35 point impact monitoring tool to gauge the impact of SAGY in the GPs.

    ◆ Progress is measured through outcome indicators broadly covering basic amenities, education, health, sanitation, livelihood, women empowerment, financial inclusion, food security, social security and e-governance.

    ◆ Many Gram Panchayats have ensured 100 per cent immunization, strengthening of PDS system, providing benefits of social security schemes and many others.

## ◉ Watershed Management Programme

- ➤ Population pressures and demands on land and water and the increasing degradation of these resources are affecting the stability and resilience of our ecosystem and environment.

➤ The expansion of human settlements and infrastructure and intensification of agriculture and allied activities and their expansion into marginal areas and fragile ecosystems, emphasize the need for integrated planning and management of land and water resources.

➤ A watershed is a topographically delineated area that is drained by a stream system. It includes physical and hydrological natural resources.

➤ Management of a watershed entails the rational utilization of land and water resources for optimum productivity, with minimum hazards to human settlements.

➤ Watershed management is the process of guiding and organizing land use and use of other natural resources in a watershed.

➤ Embedded in this approach is the recognition of the inter-relationships between land use, soil and water conservation and the linkages between uplands and downstream areas.

➤ Watershed development is a multi-disciplinary field, for sustainable natural resource management. Watershed development activities also contribute towards mitigation and adaptation to global warming.

## ⦿ Watershed Development

➤ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yoiana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015- 16 by amalgamating ongoing schemes of three ministries viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmed (AIBP) and PMKSY (WR) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the Micro Irrigation component of On Farm Water Management (OFWM) oil National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW).

➤ The activities undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset-less persons, etc.

➤ In 2015-16, the IWMP was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

➤ No further watershed development projects have been sanctioned from 2015-16 onwards.

➤ At present, the principal emphasis is on qualitative and timely implementation and completion of the ongoing watershed development projects.

## ⦿ Natural Land Reforms Modernization

➤ The scheme of National Land Reforms Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is being implemented since 2008.

➤ Under it, 27 states/ UTs have computerized the registration of records (RoR) of land in their respective areas, 19 states/UTs have stopped manual issue of RoRs and 22 states/UTs have uploaded in their websites.

➤ Besides, 25 states/UTs have done computerization of Registration and 11 states/UTs have done integration of land records with registration.

## ⦿ Panchayati Raj

### ➤ Constitutional Mandate

● Part IX of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states of union territories having r population less than 2 million):

◆ gram panchayats at village level;

◆ district panchayats at district level; and

- ◆ intermediate panchayats at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats.

- It also provides for gram sabha (general assembly of registered voters who reside in the area of gram panchayat) as a forum for direct participation of villagers in local governance.

- The Constitution India has fixed five year term for these panchayats and has made provision for the reservation of seats for women and marginalized sections (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) of Indian society.

- While reservation of schedule castes (SCs) & scheduled tribes (STs) is in proportion to their share in population, that for women is at least 33.33 per cent.

- However, many states have increased the reservation of seats and chairperson posts for women in panchayats to 50 per cent.

- The Constitution of India also stipulates direct elections of all members of panchayats. For conducting these elections, all states are mandated to constitute a state election commission.

- Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a State election commission. Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a State Finance CommissionTSFC) every fifth year for recommending principles for division of financial resources between state and local governments (both urban and rural).

- SFCs are to make recommendations to the Governor regarding the distribution between the state and panchayats of the net proceeds to taxes, duties, toll and fees, etc. the determination of taxes, dudies, tolls and fees which may be assigned to or appropriated by the panchayats and grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State as well as measures needed to improve the financial position of panchayats.

- Within this broad framework, as local government is a state subject, State legislatures have a critical role in determining various aspects of panchayati raj in their states.

- States are keys as far as devolution of powers to panchayats is concerned. The Constitution envisaged that Panchayats will function as institutions of local government and prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, but leaves the precise devolution of powers and authority to panchayats to the states. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan

- To improve the functioning of PRIs the MoPR has been implementing the Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan to addresses the major constraints of inadequate devolution of powers, lack of manpower, inadequate infrastructure and limited capacity in the effective functioning of Panchayats by providing man-power, infrastructure, training and promotion of devolution of power to Panchayats and put in place structures of accountability.

### ➤ Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGGA) will focus on capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions for convergent action to deliver basic services and achieve development goals.

- Under RGSA comprehensive efforts will be made to support and enhance the capacity building and training facilities for all stakeholders with particular thrust on the aspects of GPDP.

### ➤ e-Panchayat

- e-Panchayat was identified as one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) formulated in 2006.

## ◉ Recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

- ➤ Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award for the period 2015-20 grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore are being devolved to Gram Panchayats in the country constituted under Part IX of the Constitution.

- ➤ The FFC has not recommended grants to Non-Part IX areas under Schedule VI in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, the areas in the hill districts of Manipur, rural areas of Nagaland and Mizoram.

## ⊙ Drinking Water and Sanitation

➤ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of the flagship programmes of the Government of India viz., the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for rural drinking water supply and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] for sanitation in the country.

## ⊙ Swachch Bharat Abhiyan

➤ The concept of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is to pave access for every person to sanitation facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness and safe and adequate drinking water supply. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

➤ The Abhiyan aims to 'triple the growth percentage of toilets from present 39 per cent to 100 per cent by 2019'.

➤ As part of Swachh Bharat, priority is being given to build toilets for boys and girls in all schools of the country.

➤ To strengthen delivery mechanism in sanitation in rural areas some of the important measures have been proposed:

- Signing MoU with states, on water and sanitation for implementation of both water and sanitation, with interchangeability of funds between water and sanitation so that idle funds do not lie in states and targets are not starved of funds in either of the two sectors;

- Release to states with 'Just in Time' concept, to be adopted by Centre to avoid extra cost of funds to Government of India;

- Enable a system of small loans through agencies like NABARD, SIDBI (or banks through priority sector lending without collateral) to those households for the construction of toilets which are eligible for incentives or need funds to construct better toilets maybe with bathing space;

- Developing a Block Level cadre of sanitation coordinators who shall be the main support to Gram Panchayats (GP) in disseminating information and strengthening capacity in sanitation activities;

- Identifying a Swachchata Doot (messenger) for each GP in the country, equipping him with skills on sanitation and giving him performance linked incentives; and

- Intensive monitoring at the household level shall be taken up through the MIS of the Ministry, as already name of each household has been collected by Ministry of Drinking Water Supply through baseline data recently. Besides senior officers of Centre and state should directly talk to the Sarpanches on telephone to get feedback.

## ⊙ Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

➤ The main objectives of the SBM(G) are:

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation;

- Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019; and

- Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

## ⊙ Swachhata Pakhwada

➤ Swachhata Pakhwada was started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging GoI ministries and departments in their jurisdiction. An annual calendar is pre-circulated among the ministries to help them plan for the Pakhwada activities.

## ๏ Namami Gange

➤ Namami Gange Programme is an initiative of Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), comprising making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management are being implemented by MDWS.

➤ All 4470 villages located across 52 districts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal has since been made ODF by MDWS with active help of state governments.

➤ Now the Ministry has taken up 24 villages on the bank of river Ganga to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with NMCG.

## ๏ Swachhta Action Plan

➤ SAP, a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta, is a concrete realization of the vision that swachhta is everyone's business. All Union ministries/departments have started to work for its realization in a significant manner with appropriate budget provisions.

## ๏ Swachh Iconic Places

➤ The Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across the country that are "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.

➤ The goal of the Initiative is to improve the cleanliness conditions at these places to a distinctly higher level.

➤ This initiative is in partnership with ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with MDWS being the nodal ministry.

➤ So far in first two phases, 20 iconic places has been taken up. All these 20 iconic sites have designated PSUs for financial and technical support.

## ๏ National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

➤ It is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing adequate and safe drinking water to the rural population of the country.

➤ The NRDWP is a component of Bharat Nirman which focuses on the creation of the infrastructure.

➤ This has resulted in the provision of significant additional resources to the sector and for creating an environment for the development of infrastructure and capacities for the successful operation of drinking water supply schemes in rural areas.

➤ Rural drinking water supply is a state subject and is also included in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution amongst the subjects that may be entrusted to panchayats by the states. Thus the participation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the rural drinking water supply sector is an important area of focus.

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# 25

# Scientific & Technological Developments

## ◉ Department of Science and Technology

➤ Department of Science and Technology, in its endeavour to strengthen national science and technology capacity and capability, kept its pace to implement several planned initiatives to enable Indian S&T community to increase scientific and technological outputs.

➤ Some of the important domains in which the Department devotes its attention are:

• Strengthening the pool of scientists and technologists for carrying out globally competitive R&D in cutting edge areas of science;

• Nurturing R&D institutions and building infrastructural facilities for enhancing global ranking of India in scientific research;

• Support for the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for partnerships for promoting science;

• Deploying technology through national missions; developing capacity of institutions and industry for technology commercialization for solving national challenges; and

• Providing S&T inputs to society for its socio-economic benefits; and policy formulation for S&T sector.

## ◉ Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

➤ The new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy unveiled in 2013 includes a thrust for innovations in science and technology sector.

➤ STI policy reveals an aspiration to gain global competitiveness and link science sector to the developmental agenda of the country.

➤ Science, research and innovation system for high technology led path for India (SRISHTI) is the main policy goal.

➤ Integration of science, research and innovation systems and emergence of India as one of the top five of six knowledge powers in science are expressed aspirations of the new STI policy.

➤ To translate this vision into action, the Department has already established a dedicated Policy Research Cell.

➤ Five policy research centers in academic institutions have been established to develop and design new programmes and action plans for implementation in science, technology and innovation sector in the country.

## ◉ Science And Engineering Research

➤ The Research and development in front areas of Science and Engineering has received an overwhelming support and establishment of the Science and Engineering Research Board(SERB).

➤ The multifaceted programmes the board have ensured its reach among the various stakeholders.

➤ **Attracting Young Talent**

- **Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE)** is an ongoing initiative for attraction of talent for science and research.

➤ **Opportunities for Women Scientists**

- Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing).**

## ◉ Nano Science and Technology

➤ National Mission of Nano Science and Technology - an umbrella programme - was launched in 2007 to promote R&D in this emerging area of research in a comprehensive fashion.

➤ The main objectives of the nano mission are –

- Basic research promotion.
- Research infrastructure development.
- Nano-application and technology development.
- Human resource development.
- International collaboration.
- Orchestrating national dialogues.

## ◉ Climate Change

➤ National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC) launched under National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) are under implementation by the Department.

## ◉ NIDHI

➤ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) has been evolved as an umbrella scheme for a seamless innovation ecosystem booster.

- The specific components of NIDHI are:
  - Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups (PRAYAS) - Support from Idea to Prototype;
  - Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) - Support system to reduce risk;
  - Startup-NIDHI through Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) in academic institutions for encouraging students to promote start-ups; and
  - Start-up Centre in collaboration with MHRD— inculcating a spirit of entrepreneurship in National Institutions of Higher Learning.

## ◉ MANAK

➤ MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge): To widen the base of the innovation pyramid by cultural intervention, ideas relevant to the national needs are to be invited from 10 lakh school students in any language.

## ◉ Survey of India

➤ Survey of India (SOI), the national survey and mapping organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was set up in 1767.

- In its assigned role as the National Principal Mapping Agency, Survey of India bears a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development and ensure that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress, prosperity and security of India.

- It has also been called upon extensively to deploy its expertise in the field of geodetic and geophysical surveys, study of seismicity and seismotectonics, glaciology, participation in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica and projects related to digital cartography and digital photogrammetry, etc., to provide basic data to keep pace with Science and Technology Department.

- SOI has undertaken creation of digital cartographic data base of topographical maps on various scales. The digital data is being used by various agencies for planning and GIS applications.

- The Department is responsible to fix the external boundary of India, their depiction on maps published in the country and also advise on the demarcation of inter-state boundaries.

- **The Survey of India also provides support to other countries** e.g., Nigeria, Afghanistan, Kenya, Iraq, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Bhutan, Mauritius, etc., in the field of mapping, survey education, transfer of technology, and various other surveying technologies under bilateral arrangements. Under UN mandate, Survey of India also provides support to countries in Asia-Pacific region for capacity building in spatial data infrastructures.

## NATMO - National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)

- While Survey of India meets the national needs in cartography, some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users are taken care of by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) operating under the Department.

- It also concentrates its attention in a number of areas to integrate resource maps with other relevant socio-economic data and represent them in spatial forms, useful for developmental planning. NATMO is trying to develop the technology of reverse printing for NATMO maps on experimental basis. It is also trying to introduce the technique of using metallic colours in map printing.

## CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, (CSIR) constituted in 1942 is an autonomous body which is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse S&T areas.

- It covers a wide spectrum of science and technology—from radio and space physics, oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.

- CSIR is the nation's custodian for measurement standards of mass, distance, time, temperature, current, etc.

- CSIR has created and is the custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

- It maintains Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank.

## Atomic Energy

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), established in 1954 is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, and basic research.

- Some of its objectives are:

  - Increasing the share of nuclear power through deployment of indigenous and other proven technologies.

  - Developing fast breeder reactors and thorium reactors with associated fuel cycle facilities;

  - Building and operation of research reactors for production of radioisotopes and carrying out radiation technology applications in the field of medicine, agriculture and industry;

  - Developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers and encourage transfer of technology to industry; and

- Support to basic research in nuclear energy and related frontier areas of science, interaction with universities and academic institutions, support to R&D projects having a bearing on DAE's programmes and international cooperation in related areas of research; and contribution to national security.

## ➤ Heavy Water Board

- The Heavy Water Board has contributed successfully to the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme by producing heavy water for all Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in a cost effective manner enabling the department to provide nuclear power at an affordable cost to common man.

- Presently, the Board is not only self-sufficient in meeting the domestic demand of heavy water, but is also geared upto supply heavy water for the future PHWRs and AHWRs as per the envisioned nuclear power programme of DAE.

- Over a period of time, HWB has emerged as the largest global producer and a trusted supplier of this strategic material.

## ➤ Boron Enrichment

- In consonance with the material input required for second stage of NPP based on FBRs, HWB, with its decades of experience of handling isotope separation process, took up development, demonstration and deployment of indigenous technologies for production of enriched boron for the 1st core of PFBR.

## ➤ Sodium

- Sodium is another important input for FBRs, used as coolant in the reactor. Networking with the Indian R&D organizations, HWB has developed indigenous and safer closed electrolytic cell technology for production of nuclear grade sodium. Successively larger size cells are tested with the ultimate intent of an industrial scale set up.

## ➤ Fast Breeder Reactors

- For the second stage of the Nuclear Power Generation Programme, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is pursuing development of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors and associated fuel cycle technologies.

- Breeder reactors produce more fuel than they consume.

- The Fast Reactor Programme of IGCAR is supported by its research and development endeavour in a range of disciplines such as reactor engineering, metallurgy, materials science, instrumentation, safety, etc.

- The Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operating at Kalpakkam for over 25 years, also caters to technology development related to fast reactors.

## ➤ Thorium Based Reactors

- Nuclear power employing closed fuel cycle is the only sustainable option for meeting a major part of the world energy demand.

- World resources of thorium are larger than those of uranium.

- The Indian Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3 aims at using thorium as fuel for power generation on a commercial scale.

- In the thorium fuel cycle, Thorium 232 is transmuted into the fissile isotope Uranium 233 which is a nuclear fuel.

- As a part of this programme, BARC has been developing a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR).

- Fuelled by thorium and using light water as coolant and heavy water as moderator, this reactor will have several advanced passive safety features.

> ### Kalpakkam Mini (Kamini) Reactor

- Kamini reactor was operated successfully for neutron radiography of various pyro devices for Department of Space. High temperature fission chambers required for neutron flux measurement of PFBR were successfully tested.

> ### Research Reactors

- **Dhruva** operated at rated power of 100 MWt at a high safety level and availability factor. A number of researchers from across the country utilized the neutron beam facility of the UGC-DAE Consortium for scientific research.

> ### Advanced Technologies

- The research centres of DAE are engaged in developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers, advanced materials, robotics, supercomputers, instrumentation and others.

- BARC, RRCAT, VECC and BRIT are also engaged in the development of radiation technologies and their applications for better crop varieties, techniques for crops protection, radiation based post-harvest technologies, techniques for radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy of diseases particularly cancer, technologies for safe drinking water, better environment and industrial growth.

> ### Robotics

- A robot base frameless stereotactic system developed at BARC for performing neurosurgery which is accuracy and patient comfort level and comfortable to frame the system.

- It automates the frameless sterotaxy using a high precision robot (Parallel mechanism base robot)

> ### Cryogenics

- Cryogenic system consisting of cryogen distribution line for liquid Helium and liquid nitrogen and sub-atmospheric vacuum jacketed lines for helium,warm helium lines between the helium buffer tanks and compressor and a 500 watt helium liquefier is being set up water superconducting electron and heavy ions linacs at VECC.

> ### Radioisotopes & Radiation Technology

- DAE has been playing a significant role in the development and applications of various radioisotopes in healthcare, industry, agriculture and research. India is one of the leading countries in the isotope technology today as a result of the consistent efforts of DAE.

> ### Nuclear Agriculture

- The Nuclear Agriculture Programme of DAE focuses on the use of radiation technology for the development of high yielding crop seeds, radiation processing of food items, fertilizer and pesticide-related studies, and other areas.

- These technologies are benefiting Indian farmers and traders.

## ⊙ Organizations Related to Atomic Energy

> ### Homi Bhabha National Institute

- The Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) accredited as a deemed university by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) completed ten years of its existence.

- HBNI continued its academic programmes by offering various courses with its eight Boards of Studies namely as Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Strategic Studies and Undergraduate Studies.

- Degrees and diplomas including Ph.D were awarded to students.

- HBNI continued to strengthen its linkages with premier research and academic institutes in the country and abroad.

### Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

- The **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited** (**NPCIL**) is a government-owned corporation based in Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra. It is wholly owned by the Central Government and is responsible for the generation of nuclear power for electricity. NPCIL is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India (DAE).

### Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.

- **Uranium Corporation of India** (**UCIL**) is a centrally owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under the Department of Atomic Energy for uranium mining and uranium processing. The corporation was founded in 1967 and is responsible for the mining and milling of uranium ore in India. The firm operates mines at Jadugora, Bhatin, Narwapahar, Turamdih and Banduhurang.

# Indian Space Programme

- Space activities in the country were initiated with the setting up of Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) in 1962.
- In the same year, work on Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) near Thiruvananthapuram was also started.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August, 1969.
- Government of India constituted the space commission and established the Department of Space (DOS) in 1972 and brought ISRO under DOS in 1972.
- Commission formulates the policies and oversees the implementation of the Indian space programme to promote the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the country.
- Implements these programmes through, mainly, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) and Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL). Antrix Corporation, established in 1992 as a government owned company, markets the space products and services.

### Achievements in the Field of Space

- The period March 2016 - June 2017 witnessed numerous achievements of the Indian Space programme.
  - Twelve launch vehicle missions were successfully accomplished that included seven PSLVs, two GSLV-Mk II and one GSLV-MKIII from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota while the ten ISRO satellites, four student satellites and 152 foreign satellites were launched by these missions.
  - communication satellites GSAT-17 and GSAT-18 were also successfully launched from French Guiana.
  - Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had the unique distinction of launching 104 satellites in a single mission while also demonstrating its capability to place satellites in two different orbits in a single mission. ISRO also demonstrated new technologies in the launch vehicle programme.
  - Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) and SCRAMJET Engine Technology Demonstrator had their successful maiden test flights.
  - This apart, the launch of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle- Mark II (GSLV- Mk II) became the third consecutively successful launch of GSLV carrying the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).

### Space Applications and Disaster Management Support

- The societal services offered by INSAT/GSAT satellites in the area of tele-education and telemedicine were continued during the year.

- Remote sensing applications projects at national, state and local levels are being carried out through well-established multi-pronged implementation architecture of National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) in the country.

- Indian remote satellite constellation helped in agricultural crops inventory, agricultural drought, forest fire, landslides and earthquake monitoring, gas pipeline monitoring, groundwater prospects mapping, inventory, monitoring of glacial lakes, water bodies and satellite aided search and rescue.

- The Disaster Management Support (DMS) programme of ISRO continues to provide space based data and information as well as communication means for the efficient management of disasters.

- The Decision Support Centre (DMS-DSC) established at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is engaged in monitoring natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, earthquakes and forest fires.

### ➤ Space science and planetary research

- Mars Orbiter mission mum which is India's first interplanetary space craft mission and successfully completed 3 years in its Orbit around the mass and still continues to provide vital information on regular basis.

- Astrosat India's first multi wavelength observatory, completed 2 years in Orbit. The satellite is not being operated as a 'Observatory', in which observational time is allocated based on the proposals received from interested researchers and scientist in the country through ISRO's Announcement of Opportunity.(AO)

### ➤ Space Commerce

- **Antrix Corporation**, the commercial arm of the Department of Space, is marketing the Indian space products and services in the global market. Under commercial contracts with Antrix, 209 international customer satellites have been successfully launched by PSLV so far.

### ➤ Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

- Towards capacity building in human resources and to meet the growing demands of the Indian Space Programme, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), a deemed university, was established at Thiruvananthapuram in 2007.

## ◉ Earth Sciences

- ➤ Earth system sciences deals with all the five components of the earth system, viz:
  - Atmosphere,
  - Hydrosphere,
  - Cryosphere,
  - Lithosphere, and
  - Biosphere and their complex interaction.

- ➤ The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) holistically addresses all the aspects relating the earth system science for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services.

- ➤ The services include forecasts and warnings for various natural disasters.

- ➤ The services provided are being effectively used by different agencies and state governments for saving human lives and minimizing damages due to natural disasters.

### ➤ Atmospheric and Climate Research

- A high resolution global deterministic weather prediction model was commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 12 km.

- With this, MoES has attained the same capability as USA in using high resolution weather prediction models.

- Many major improvements have been made in data assimilation for the ingestion of data from the Indian and International satellites in numerical models.
- Under the Monsoon Mission, operational dynamical model systems have been implemented for extended range and seasonal forecasts.
- For the first time, forecasts on different time scales during the hot weather season (April to May) including heat waves were issued by the India Meteorological Department.

### ➤ Improved Weather and Cyclone Predictions

- The quality of weather services has shown appreciable improvements during the past three years.
- Specifically, noticeable improvements were achieved in prediction skills of heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones such as Phailin, Hudhud and Vardah and the heavy rainfall events in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and recently in Chennai.
- For the cyclone Vardah, which had caused severe damages in the city of Chennai and neighbourhood, accurate predictions were provided almost three days in advance, helping to save thousands of lives.
- The loss of lives during the last three years due to tropical cyclones has reduced to less than hundred as compared to the thousands during the previous decade.

### ➤ Agro-Meterological Advisory Services

- The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides the Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) for the benefit of farmers.
- Farmers make use of these services for planning the operations like sowing, irrigation, application of fertilizer and pesticide, harvest and protection of crops from weather disasters.

### ➤ Forecasts for Heat and Cold Waves

- To provide adequate warnings about heat waves and associated health hazards, MoES for the first time started issuing forecasts for heat waves over the country.
- A few state governments like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha have initiated state action plans based on these forecasts during the hot weather season, which could help them to warn people in advance about the occurrence of heat waves and thus saving their lives.

## ◎ Ocean Services: Technology and Observations

### ➤ Ocean State Forecasts

- Ocean state forecasts (forecasts of waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) to fisher folk, shipping industry, oil and natural gas industry, navy, coast guard and other stakeholders have improved considerably during the last three years.
- The ocean forecast services were extended to two other Indian Ocean Rim Countries, namely Sri Lanka and Seychelles on various parameters, viz., winds, waves, currents and temperature in map form served under the umbrella of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Afro-Asian Region.

### ➤ Tsunami warning system

- The Indian tsunami warning system established by the Ministry and the India centre for Ocean information Services,Hyderabad has been recognised as regional Tsunami service provider for Indian ocean region by UNESCO provide warning to countries of Indian Ocean.
- Indian tsunami warning system is equipped to issue warning on a within 10 minutes for occurrence of earthquakes.

> ## Open cage culture

- Large scale fish production through mariculture is a viable alternative to cope up with the ever increasing demand for fish proteins.

- An open Sea cage culture mooring system was designed and developed for commercially important marine fishes suitable for Indian sea condition to meet this demand with the available Marine Engineering and biological expertise.

- The open sea cage culture seems to be ideal for alternative livelihood option for the coastal fishers, helps generate considerable employment opportunities in the country and to meet the fish food production target of the nation.

> ## Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER)

- National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa established a high altitude research station in Himalaya called **HIMANSH** (literally meaning, a slice of ice), situated above 13,500 ft (>4000 m) at a remote region in Spiti Himachal Pradesh.

> ## Seismology and Geo-science Research (SAGE)

- The national seismological network consisting of 82 observatories has been functioning smoothly. Information pertaining to significant earthquake events were transmitted to all concerned state and central government agencies, dealing with relief and rescue operations in the region and also posted on the website.

## ⊙ Biotechnology

> ## Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

- The Department of Biotechnology promotes biotech research and helps to translate research into products and services.

- of the means by which development of new commercial products is to be achieved through the setting up the biotechnology parks, where facilities for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies are provided for accelerated commercial development of biotechnology.

- The Department in partnership with state governments/ state government organisations/ central government organisations has established biotechnology parks and incubators in different parts of the country to facilitate biotech product development, entrepreneurship, research and innovation.

> ## Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC**) is a not-for-profit, Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT**), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

- BIRAC is a new industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of **impact initiatives,** be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring **innovation excellence** to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

> ## Vision

- "To Stimulate, foster and enhance the strategic research and innovation capabilities of the Indian biotech industry, particularly start-ups and SME's, for creation of affordable products addressing the needs of the largest section of society".

> ## Industrial and entrepreneurship development

- The department of biotechnology promotes Biotech Research and help to translate research into product and services.
- One of the means by which development of a new commercial product is to be achieved through the setting of the biotechnology parks, where is to facilities for the technology incubation information technology demonstration and pilot plant studies are provided for accelerated commercial development of biotechnology

> ## Public sector undertakings

- The department has promoted in new industry academia interface and stimulating strategic Research and innovation capabilities of Indian Biotech industry, particularly start-ups and SME's for creation of a portable product addressing the needs of largest section of society.
- As an interface agency Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has been set up to foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship promote a portable innovation in key social sectors empowerment of start-ups and small and medium enterprises, contribute to partners for capability enhancement diffusion of innovation, enable commercialization of discovery and ensure Global competitiveness of Indian Enterprises.
- The department is also having two PSUs namely Bharat immunological and biological Corporation Limited (BIBCOL) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.
- BIBCOL is a leading biotechnology company based in Uttar Pradesh currently manufactures and produces the range of Pharmaceutical products such as oral polio vaccine(OPV Vaccine),zinc tablet and diarrheal management kit etc.

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# Transport

- Transport plays vital role in sustainable economic growth of country. Our transport system consists of rail, road, coastal shipping, air transport etc.
- Transport sector showed growth over the years both in spread of network and in output of the system.
- The Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are responsible for the formation and implementation of policies and programmes for the development of various modes of transport.

## Railways

➤ The Railways in India provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers.

➤ It provides transport of public and makes possible the conduct of business, pilgrimage and education.

➤ It has bound the economic life of the country and helped in accelerating the development of industry and agriculture.

➤ First steam engine train in 1853, ran between Mumbai to Thane, a distance of 34 kms. From then Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,216 stations spread over a route length of 66,687 km. It has played a vital role in the economic, industrial and social development of the country.

- **Research and Development:** The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) at Lucknow is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. RDSO has developed a new design of wider and heavier pre-stressed concrete sleeper RT-8527 to achieve higher frame resistance against bucking, higher rubber pad life.

- **Railway Finance:** Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924. The Railways had its own 16 demands for grants, which also used to be considered and passed by the Parliament separately. The Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from 2017-18. The unified budget will bring the affairs of the Railways to centre stage and present a holistic picture of the financial position of the Government. This merger would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways. Instead of the erstwhile scheme of sixteen demands for grants, the Ministry of Finance introduced one demand for grant for the Ministry of Railways.

### Major Indian Railway Zones, Headquarters and their Divisions

| Zonal Railways | Headquarters |
| --- | --- |
| Central | Mumbai |
| Eastern | Kolkata |
| East Coast | Bhubaneshwar |
| East Central | Hajipur |

| | |
|---|---|
| Northern | New Delhi |
| North Central | Allahabad |
| North Eastern | Gorakhpur |
| Northeast Frontier | Maligaon (Guwahati) |
| North Western | Jaipur |
| Southern | Chennai |
| South Central | Secunderabad |
| South Eastern | Kolkata |
| South East Central Railway | Bilaspur |
| South Western Railway | Hubli |
| Western | Mumbai |
| West Central Railway | Jabalpur |
| Metro Railway | Kolkata |

## ⊙ Roads

➤ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways encompasses construction and maintenance of national highways (NHs), administration of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, National Highways Act,1956 and National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, formulation of broad policies relating to road transport, environmental issues, automotive norms etc. *India is having one of the largest road networks of over 54.72 lakh km*. It comprises national highways, expressways, state highways, major district roads, other district roads and village roads with following length distribution:

| | |
|---|---|
| National Highways/Expressway | 1,03,933 km |
| State Highways | 1,61,487 km |
| Other Roads | 52,07,044km |
| Total | 54,72,464 km |

➤ **Development and Maintenance of National Highways:**

- The Government is implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the largest Highways Project ever undertaken in the country since 2000. The NHDP is mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).

- Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East Region (SARDP-NE) that aims at improving connectivity of district headquarters and remote places in the NE region to state capitals, an Improvement of Road Connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE), and National Highways Interconnectivity Improvement Projects (NHIIP) for rehabilitating and upgrading various stretches of National Highways to 2 lane.

- *Setu Bharatam* is another programme that aims to ensure road safety by making all national highways free of railway level crossings by 2019, by building railway over bridges/ under passes.

- *Bharatmala Prari Yojana* envisages development of 26,000 km length of economic corridors. 28 cities have been identified for Ring Roads, 125 choke points and 66 congestion points.

- *National Highways Authority of India:* The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up in 1995. It is responsible for development, maintenance and management of National Highways.

- *National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation:* The NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry that exclusively carries out the task of construction/up-grading/ widening of national highways in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries.

- *Indian Academy of Highway Engineers:* Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) is a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry. It is a collaborative body of both central and state governments and was set-up in the year 1983 with the objective of fulfilling the long felt need for training of highway Engineers in the country, both at the entry level and during the service period.

## ➤ Major Initiatives:

- *National highways constitute just two per cent of the country's road network but carry 40 per cent of the traffic load*. Several bridges like the Dhola-Sadia in Assam and state-of-the-art tunnels like Chenani-Nashri in Jammu and Kashmir are coming up to shorten distances in difficult terrains and make remote areas more easily accessible. World class expressways are coming up in high density traffic corridors.

- *Road Safety:* The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy so as to minimize road accidents. The important schemes on road safety operated by the Ministry include publicity measures and awareness campaign on road safety, Scheme for Setting up Institutes for Driving Training, Refresher Training of Drivers in Unorganized Sector and Human Resource Development, National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS), setting up of inspection and certification centres and road safety and pollution testing equipment and programme implementation.

- *e-tolling:* In order to remove traffic bottle neck at toll plazas and ensure seamless movement of vehicles and hassle-free collection of toll, the Government has implemented a nationwide Electronic Toll Collection based on passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

- *National Green Highways Project:* The Policy aims to develop eco-friendly National Highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector. The initial plantation drive on 1,500 km of national highways at a cost of about Rs. 300 crore was launched as part of the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy 2016.

## ➤ National Registry of Vehicle and License Records:

- Almost 20 crore vehicle records and 10 crore license records across the country are available in the National Registry created under *Vahan (for vehicle registration) and Sarathi (for driving license) application*. 100 per cent automation of Regional Transport Offices all across the country has been achieved under Transport Mission Mode Project. The consolidated data in state and National Registry act as the base for a large number of online citizen-centric applications and information services.

# ⊙ Shipping

- ➤ The Ministry of Shipping was formed in 2009. The Ministry of Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport.

  - *Maritime Development:* India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km, spread on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the Islands. There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports. *Approximately 95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value is moved through maritime transport.*

  - *Sagarmala Programme:* To harness the coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes, the Government of India has embarked on the ambitious *Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country*.

- *Ship Building:* Global recession in the shipbuilding industry has affected the financial position of a number of yards, especially in the private sector. The Indian shipbuilding industry has continued to concentrate on defence, coastal and inland vessels. The fleet expansion plans of Indian Navy and the vessels for the Indian Coast Guard are the two prime segments which were targeted by the Indian shipyards. A shipbuilding subsidy scheme was in existence to promote Indian Shipbuilding industry for Central PSU Shipyards since 1971. The scheme was extended to all Indian shipyards in October 2002. This policy which provided shipbuilding subsidy gave a boost to the Indian shipbuilding Industry.

- *Ship Recycling:* India has 25-30 per cent share in the global ship recycling industry. Ship recycling is carried out mainly at **Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat.** *Started in February, 1983, Alang-Sosiya is the largest ship recycling yard in the world.*

## ➤ Major Ports

- There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports along India's Coastline which is about 7517 km. The 6 major ports Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidamananar are on the east coast and the other major ports viz., Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Sheva, Navi Mumbai) and Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla) are on the west coast.

- The major ports are under the direct administrative control of the Central Government and fall in Union List 7th Schedule of Constitution. Ports other than the major ones are under jurisdiction of the respective maritime state government and fall in Concurrent List.

- **Kolkata Port:** Kolkata Port is the *only riverine major port* in the country having been in existence for about 138 years.

- **Paradip Port:** Paradip Port is one of the major ports in India. Government of India took over the management of the port from the state government in 1965. The Government of India declared Paradip Port Trust (PPT) as the eighth major port the country 1966 making it the first major port in the east coast commissioned in independent India.

- **New Mangalore Port:** New Mangalore Port was declared as the ninth major port in 1974 inaugurated in 1975. The port has 16 berths and one single point mooring with a total capacity of 87.63 MTPA.

- **Cochin Port**: The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 1920-1940 with efforts of Sir Robert Bristow. Cochin Port is strategically located on the South-West Coast of India and at a commanding position at the cross-roads of the East-West Ocean trade. It is a natural gateway to the vast industrial and agricultural produce markets of the South-West India.

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port:** Constructed in the mid 1980's and commissioned in 1989, Jawaharlal Nehru Port has come a long way by becoming a world-class international container handling port.

- **Mumbai Port:** Mumbai Port is a fully integrated multi-purpose port handling container, dry bulk, liquid bulk and break bulk cargo.

- **Chennai Port:** Chennai Port is an all weather artificial harbour with one outer harbour and one inner harbour with a wet dock and a boat basin with round the clock navigation facilities.

- **Mormugao Port:** Mormugao Port, situated on the west coast of India, is more than a century old port. It has modern infrastructure capable of handling a wide variety of cargo. It is a natural harbour protected by a breakwater and also by a mole.

- **V.O. Chidambarnar Port (Tuticorin):** V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located strategically close to the east-west international sea routes on the south eastern coast of India at latitude 80°45'N and longitude 78°13'E. located in the Gulf of Mannar, with Sri Lanka on the south east and the large land mass of India on the west.

- **Deendayal Port (Kandla):** Deendayal Port (erstwhile Kandla Port) was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port.

- **Visakhapatnam Port:** Port of Visakhapatnam, a natural harbour, was opened to commercial shipping in 1933.

- **Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore):** Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), the 12th major port under the Ministry of Shipping was commissioned in 2001, primarily as a coal port dedicated to handling thermal coal requirements of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB).

## Inland Water Transport

- India has one of the longest navigable and inland water networks. However, cargo transport through these inland waterways is, presently *less than 1 per* cent of the total cargo movement in the country.

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in 1986, for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. *111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the National Waterways Act, 2016.*

- **Director General of Shipping, Mumbai:** The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 on all matters relating to shipping policy and legislation, implementation of various international conventions relating to safety, prevention of pollution and other mandatory regulations of the international maritime organizations, promotion of maritime education and training, examination and certification, supervision of other subordinate offices for their effective functioning etc.

- **Shipping Corporation of India Limited:** The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) was formed in 1961 by amalgamation of Eastern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation through Shipping Corporation Amalgamation Order 1961. The amalgamation envisaged better co-ordination of policies, greater economy and efficiencies of operations between the two companies. Sailing through for five decades, SCI continues to be the country's premier Shipping Line, owning a fleet of 70 vessels.

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited:** Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), located in Kochi in Kerala is one of the largest shipyards in the country which can build ships upto 1,10,000 DWT and repair ships upto 1,25,000 DWT. It is the only yard which has regularly undertaken dry dock repairs of the aircraft carriers of Indian Navy.

- **Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.:** Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata became a Central Public Sector undertaking in 1984.

- **Jal Marg Vikas Project**: It is being implemented by IWAI for the capacity augmentation of National Waterway I on the Haldia – Varanasi stretch of Ganga – Bhagirathi – Hoogly river system with the assistance from World Bank.

- **Indian Maritime University**: It was setup in 2008 in Chennai as a central university.

## Civil Aviation

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the civil aviation sector in the country. It is responsible for the administration of the Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various other legislations pertaining to the aviation sector in the country.

- Ministry provides guidance to the organisation in the implementation of policy guidelines, monitors and evaluates their activities and also provides their interface with the Parliament.

- *National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016:* It aims at creating an ecosystem that will push the growth of the civil aviation sector, which in turn, would promote tourism, increase employment and lead to a balanced regional growth. The Policy aims to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance and promote the entire aviation sector chain in a harmonized manner covering cargo, MRO, general aviation, aerospace manufacturing and skill development.

- *Regional Connectivity Scheme:* The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 with the twin objective of promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses. The Scheme, which will be in operation for a period of 10 years, envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports.

- *Air Sewa:* Air Sewa is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched in 2016 to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience. It includes a mechanism for grievance redressal,

back-office operations for grievance handling flight status/schedule information, airport Information and FAQS. Air Sewa initiative has integrated various stakeholders in aviation sector with whom an air traveler has to interact during the air travel.

➤ **FDI Liberalization:** Government of India has raised the FDI limit for 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non scheduled air transport services, FDI in scheduled airlines upto 49 per cent permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49 per cent through Government approval. For NRIs, 100 per cent FDI will continue to he allowed under automatic route.

➤ **Directorate General of Civil Aviation:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation). DGCA is primarily responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.

➤ **Bureau of Civil Aviation:** The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a cell in the DGCA in 1978, to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters. It was reorganized into an independent Department in 1987. BCAS is the regulator for civil aviation security in the country and is responsible for laying down the standards for pre-embarkation security and anti-sabotage measures in respect of civil flights and ensuring their compliance through regular inspections and security audits.

➤ **GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):** is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO.

➤ **Air India:** Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines, a new company viz., National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was incorporated. Consequently post merger, the new entity is known as "Air India" and the appointed date of the merger is 1 April 2007. The "Maharaja" is retained as its mascot.

➤ **Pawan Hans Limited:** Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) was incorporated in October, 1985 (under the name of 'Helicopter Corporation of India Limited') as a government company under the Companies Act. Primary objective is providing helicopter support services to the oil sector in offshore exploration, operate in hilly and inaccessible areas and make available charter flights for promotion of travel and tourism. Pawan Hans has emerged as one of Asia's largest helicopter operators. Pawan Hans has been providing helicopter support for offshore operation of ONGC for carrying its men and vital supplies round the clock to drilling rigs situated in Bombay off-shore platforms.

➤ **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi:** The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was set up at Fursatganj, Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to bring about a quantum improvement in the standards of flying and ground training of commercial pilots in the country.

➤ **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University:** Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) is a Central University under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation. The university has been established by the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013. It is situated at Fursatganj, Raebareli, Dist. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The University has been envisaged as the premier institution for higher learning within the aviation milieu aimed at providing cutting edge and critical training and research to enhance the aviation industry within India. The University awards diploma, degree and post graduate degrees in the field of civil aviation.

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# Water Resources

- The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation lays down policies and programmes for development and regulation of the water resources of the country.

- It covers sectoral planning, coordination, policy guidelines, technical examination and techno-economic appraisal of projects, providing central assistance to specific projects, facilitation of external assistance and assistance in the resolution of inter-state water disputes, policy formulation, planning and guidance in respect of major, medium and minor irrigation, ground water management, command area development, flood management, dam safety and river development and Ganga rejuvenation (including its tributaries rejuvenation), regulation and development of inter-state rivers, implementation of awards of Tribunals, water quality assessment, bilateral/external assistance and matters relating to rivers common to India and neighbouring countries.

## National Water Mission

- National Water Mission is one of the missions under NAPCC.

- The main objective of the National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management".

- The five identified goals of the mission are:

  - Comprehensive water database in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource;

  - Promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation;

  - Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas;

  - Increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent, and

  - Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

### Activities:

- an independent web portal of NWM was launched to provide all the information related to water resources, organizations and their activities at a single point.

- A comprehensive water data base in public domain : India – WRIS(Water resources information system) has been developed by Central Water Commission.

## National Water Policy

- The National Water Policy, 2012 was adopted to conserve, develop and better manage water resources in the country.

- Some of the important recommendations of National Water Policy 2012 are:

  - Emphasis on the need for a national water framework law.

  - Comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-state rivers and river valleys.

- Evolving a system of benchmarks for water uses for different purposes to ensure efficient use of water.
- Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in each state; and
- Incentivizing recycle and reuse of water.
- ➤ The Policy also lays emphasis on:
  - Community participation in management of water resources projects and services;
  - Incentivizing water saving in irrigation through methods like aligning cropping pattern with natural resource endowments, micro irrigation, automated irrigation operation, evaporation-transpiration reduction, etc;
  - Undertaking conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure in a scientifically planned manner through community participation; and
  - Arresting declining ground water levels in over-exploited areas.

## ◉ National Water Resources Council

- ➤ The Government of India set it up in March 1983.
- ➤ Chairman - The Prime Minister.
- ➤ Members - Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is the Vice-Chairman of the Council. The Union Minister of State for Water Resources, concerned Union Ministers/Ministers of State, and Chief Ministers of all States & Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of the Union Territories are its Members.
- ➤ Secretary of the Council - Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

## ◉ National Water Board

- ➤ A National Water Board was constituted in 1990 to review the progress achieved in implementation of the National Water Policy and to report the progress to the National Water Resources Council from time to time.

## ◉ National Forum of Water Resources

- ➤ A National Forum of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States was constituted by Ministry of Water Resources in 2012 with the following terms of reference:
  - To deliberate on various reforms needed in the water resources sector from time to time and attempt towards evolving consensus at the national level; and
  - To provide appropriate platform for sharing of ideas and facilitating support to new and innovative ideas and initiatives for better water governance proposed by the central and/or state governments.
- ➤ It is a permanent forum of twelve members with the provision that half of its members would retire after every two years and would be replaced by the ministers from states/union territories from similar regions in the country.
- ➤ Thus, a member shall have tenure of four years except for six members from the initial constitution who would have tenure of only two years.

## ◉ National Mission for Clean Ganga

- ➤ "Namami Gange" programme integrates the efforts to clean and protect the river Ganga in a comprehensive manner.
- ➤ In order to speed up progress, the Centre has decided to take over 100 per cent funding of various activities/projects and plans to provide for operation and maintenance of the assets for a minimum 10-year period.

- ➤ APPP/SPV approach is being proposed to be adopted for controlling pollution hotspots.
- ➤ In an attempt to bolster enforcement of pollution, the Centre also plans to establish a Ganga Task Force, a Territorial Army Unit.

## ◉ Jal Kranti Abhiyan

- ➤ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation celebrated Jal Kranti Abhiyan during the year 2015-16 to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.
- ➤ The objectives of Jal Kranti Abhiyan include:
  - Strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes (e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).
  - Encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management.
  - Enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas.

## ◉ Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

- ➤ The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 1996-97 to provide central assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate implementation of such projects which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stage of completion.
- ➤ Since its inception, 297 irrigation/multi-purpose projects have been included for funding under AIBP.
- ➤ Out of this 143 projects have been completed and 5 projects were enclosed.

## ◉ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- ➤ During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. The objectives of the scheme include:
  - Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).
  - Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet Ko Pani).
  - Enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (more crop per drop).
  - Enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices.
  - Promote extension activities relating to water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grass root level field functionaries.
  - Attract greater private investments in precision irrigation.

## ◉ Command Area Development & Water Management

- ➤ The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) programme was launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers' field with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water for improving socio-economic condition of farmers.
- ➤ The programme envisages integration of all activities relating to irrigated agriculture in a coordinated manner with multi-disciplinary team under a Command Area Development Authority.

- The programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme in 2004. The programme is being implemented under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani - from 2015-16.
- The Command Area Development and Water Management wing of the Ministry coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme at the national level.

# ◉ Central Ground Water Board

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry is a multi-disciplinary scientific organization with a mandate to: "develop and disseminate technologies, monitor and implement national policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of India's groundwater resources including their exploration, assessment, conservation, augmentation, protection from pollution and distribution based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity".
- Major activities of the Board include management of ground water, exploratory drilling, monitoring of ground water levels and water quality through a network of ground water observation wells, implementation of demonstrative schemes for artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting for recharge augmentation, periodic assessment of ground water resources of the country, etc.
- The Board also takes up special studies on various aspects of ground water such as ground water depletion, sea-water ingress, ground water contamination, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, water balance, etc.

## ➤ Aquifer Mapping and Management Plan

- CGWB took up the National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) to facilitate identification, delineation, characterization and effective management of aquifers to ensure sustainability of ground water resources.
- Major objectives of the project are : (i) delineation of aquifers in 3D on 1:50,000 scale in priority areas (over-exploited, critical and semi-critical categories of assessment units as well as water quality and other problem/vulnerable areas); (ii) detailed characterization of aquifers including quality of ground water; and (iii) formulation of aquifer management plans. The project also envisages a participatory approach involving stakeholders at grassroots level for ground water management at local levels.
- The major activities envisaged under the project include compilation of existing data, data gap analysis, generation of additional data for preparation of aquifer map and formulation of aquifer management plans. Each activity has a number of sub-activities and tasks which are being carried out as per detail protocols for implementation.

# ◉ Central Ground Water Authority

- Central Ground Water Board was constituted as Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of **the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** in 1997 for regulation and control of ground water management and development in the country.
- As part of streamlining the regulatory function of CGWA, district magistrates/deputy commissioners of revenue districts were appointed as authorized officers for grant of permission for extraction of ground water for drinking/domestic uses in notified areas.
- They have been advised to process requests for grant of permission for extraction of ground water for drinking/domestic purposes in notified areas as per guidelines issued by CGWA.
- Central Ground Water Authority has also framed revised guidelines for grant of NoC for groundwater abstraction by industries/projects in the country.
- Central Ground Water Authority has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling ground water development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose.
- CGWB carries out periodic assessment of ground water resources jointly with the state ground water departments.

# ◉ Central Water Commission

- ➤ Central Water Commission (CWC) is divided among 3 wings namely, Designs and Research wing (D&R), Water Planning and Projects wing (WP&P) and River Management wing (RM).

- ➤ Central Water Commission is monitoring water quality at 396 key locations covering all the major river basins of India.

- ➤ One of the important activities assigned to Central Water Commission is techno-economic appraisal of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects proposed by State Governments.

- ➤ CWC is monitoring glacial lakes/water bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River basins on monthly basis from the monsoon season of 2011 onwards.

- ➤ **Central Water Commission is actively associated with design of majority of the mega water resources projects in India and neighbouring countries viz., Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and African countries by way of design consultancy or in the technical appraisal of the projects.**

- ➤ CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010.

## ➤ Functions of CWC

- • Central Water Commission is operating a network of 954 hydro-meteorological observation stations throughout the country on all major river basins to observe: (i) water level (gauge), (ii) discharge, (iii) water quality, (iv) silt as well as (v) selected meteorological parameters including snow observations at key stations.

- • One of the important activities assigned to Central Water Commission is techno-economic appraisal of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects proposed by State Governments. Besides these, the hydro-power projects proposed by state power corporations/ electricity boards/ private sector organisations for techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are also scrutinised in CWC from the view point of hydrology, civil design, inter-state issues and cost aspects of civil components.

- • A three tier system of monitoring at centre, state and project level was introduced in 1975. At central level, this work was entrusted to CWC. The main objective of monitoring is to ensure the achievement of physical and financial targets and achieve the targets of creation of irrigation potential.

- • CWC is monitoring glacial lakes/water bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River basins on monthly basis from the monsoon season of 2011 onwards.

- • Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is the World Bank assisted project with the provision of rehabilitation of about 225 large dams in the seven participating states (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission. It has become effective from 2012 for implementation over a period of six-years. The Dam Safety Organisation, CWC has received ISO 9001:2008 certification for its quality management systems from the Bureau of Indian Standards in 2015. Central Water Commission also received "CBIP Award 2016" for promoting health and safety of large dams under DRIP.

## ➤ Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC)

- • It is a subordinate office of the Ministry with its headquarter at Patna, was created in 1972 to deal with floods and its management in Ganga Basin states as secretariat and executive wing of Ganga Flood Control Board.

- • It carries out several activities as outlined include: preparation and updating of comprehensive plan of flood management; techno-economic appraisal of flood management schemes; assessment of adequacy of waterways under road and rail bridges; framing of guidelines for quality control and maintenance; monitoring of all flood management schemes funded by Central Govt. and important flood management schemes funded by state government.

## National Water Development Agency

- The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to study the feasibility of the links under peninsular component of National Perspective Plan.

- The NWDA is fully funded by the Government of India through grant-in-aid. Subsequently in 1990-91, NWDA Society resolved to take up the studies of the Himalayan component also.

- The Agency functions with the following main objectives:

  - To carry out detailed surveys and investigations of possible reservoir sites and interconnecting links in order to establish feasibility of the proposal of peninsular rivers development and Himalayan rivers development components forming part of the National Perspective for Water Resources Development.

  - To prepare feasibility report of the various components of the scheme relating to peninsular rivers development and Himalayan rivers development.

  - To prepare pre-feasibility/feasibility/detailed project reports of the intra-state links as may be proposed by the states.

## National Institute of Hydrology

- The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), established in 1978 as an autonomous organization under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Government of India), is a premier R&D institute in the country to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate basic, applied and strategic research on all aspects of hydrology and water resources development.

- The Institute has its headquarters at Roorkee (Uttarakhand).

## Wapcos (Water & Power Consultancy Services) Limited

- WAPCOS Limited is a "MINI RATNA-I" Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of this Ministry.

- Incorporated in 1969 under the Companies Act, 1956, WAPCOS has been providing consultancy services in all facets of water resources, power and infrastructure sectors in India and abroad.

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# 28 Welfare

## ⊙ Welfare

➤ In 1985-86, the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare was bifurcated into the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Welfare.

➤ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) was bifurcated into two Departments which are, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

## ⊙ Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

➤ The Constitution contains several provisions in the nature of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes.

➤ The following two Acts specifically aim at curbing (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against SCs and STs, and are therefore very important for the Scheduled Castes:

- The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and

- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

### ➤ Protection of Civil Rights

- In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted.

- Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in the year 1976 as the "Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955".

- Rules under this Act, viz "The Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977" were notified in 1977.

- The Act extends to the whole of India and provides punishment for the practice of untouchability.

- It is implemented by the respective state governments and union territory administrations.

### ➤ Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act:

- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (The PoA Act) came into force in 1990.

- This legislation aims at preventing commission of offences by persons other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

- Comprehensive Rules under this Act, titled "Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 were notified in the year 1995, which, inter-alia, provide norms for relief and rehabilitation. These Rules had not been amended thereafter.

➤ **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act:**

- Despite the deterrent provisions made in the PoA (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 Act, continuing atrocities against the members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) had been a cause of concern.

- High incidence of occurrences of offences against members of SCs and STs also indicated that the deterrent effect of the PoA Act was not adequately felt by the accused.

- It was, therefore, considered appropriate to strengthen the Act and make the relevant provisions of the Act more effective. Based on the consultation process with all the stakeholders, amendments in the PoA Act were proposed to broadly cover five areas.

- A new chapter relating to "Rights of Victims and Witnesses" is inserted. Certain duties and responsibilities are imposed upon the State for making necessary arrangement for protection of victims, their defendants and witnesses.

➤ **National Commission for Scheduled Castes**

- The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003.

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also to review issues concerning their welfare.

- Functions of the NCSC as enumerated in the Article 338(5) are:

  ◆ To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards of SCs and STs.

  ◆ To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled castes.

  ◆ To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State.

  ◆ To present to the President, reports upon the working of those safeguards.

  ◆ To make in such reports, recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development.

  ◆ To discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement.

## ◎ Educational Empowerment

➤ **Pre-Matric Scholarship:**

- This is a centrally sponsored scheme.

- The scheme was started in 1977-78.

- Initially, it covered only hostellers. Subsequently, in 1991 day-scholars were also brought within the purview of the scheme.

- Under the scheme financial assistance is provided for pre-matric education to children of the following target groups, viz: (i) scavengers of dry latrines, (ii) tanners, (iii) flayers, and (iv) waste pickers.

➤ **Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students:\**

- The scheme has been introduced in 2012.

- The Scheme is centrally sponsored scheme and implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations, which provides 100 per cent assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme.

➤ **National Overseas Scholarship for SCs:**

- The Scheme provides for fees charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium etc. annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance.

- Only two children of the same parents/guardians are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme.

- The prospective awardees should not be more than 35 years of age.

- The total number of awards (maximum) to be given each year is 100 and 30 per cent of the awards have been earmarked for women candidates.

- Financial assistance under the Scheme is provided for a maximum period of 4 years for Ph.D and 3 years for Masters programme.

➤ **BabuJagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana:**

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.

- The state governments/union territory administrations and the central and state universities/institutions are eligible for central assistance, both for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities while NGOs and Deemed Universities in the private sector can avail the benefit only for expansion of their existing hostel facilities.

➤ **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Students:**

- The scheme provides financial assistance to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing research studies leading to M. Phil, Ph.D, and equivalent research degree in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions.

## ◉ Special Central Assistance

➤ **Scheduled Castes Sub Plan:**

- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central sector scheme, started in 1980, under which 100 per cent grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

- The main objective is to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line.

➤ **Scheduled Castes Development Corporations:**

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for participating in the equity share of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in the ratio of 49:51 (central/state) was introduced in 1979.

➤ **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation:**

- The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up in February, 1989 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).

- The broad objective of NSFDC is to provide financial assistance in the form of concessional loans to scheduled castes families, and skill-cum-entrepreneurial training to the youth of the target group, living below double the poverty line for their economic development.

➤ **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes:**

- Government announced the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes in 2014. This was to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes and to provide concessional finance to them.

➤ **Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes:**

- In 2014, the government announced that a sum of Rs. 200 crore will be allocated towards credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to scheduled castes.

## ⊙ Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

➤ The Constitution of India through its Preamble, inter-alia seeks to secure to all its citizens; justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity.

➤ Part-III of the Constitution provides for a set of six Fundamental Rights to all the citizens (and in a few cases to non-citizens also).

➤ These include - Right to Equality; Right to Freedom; Right against Exploitation; Right to Freedom of Religion; Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies.

➤ All these rights are also available to the Persons with Disabilities even though no specific mention of such persons appear in this Part of the Constitution.

➤ **Article 41:** Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases, provides: "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want.

➤ Besides, Eleventh Schedule to Article 243-G and Twelfth Schedule to Article 243-W, which pertain to the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats and Municipalities respectively with respect to implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice, include welfare and safeguarding the interests of Persons with Disabilities among other weaker sections of the society.

### ➤ Persons with Disability

- Section 2 (t) of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, defines as a person suffering from not less than 40 percent of any disability as ce**rtified by a medical authority.**

- The disability being**:(a)** blindness (b) low vision (c) leprosy cured (d) hearing impairment (e) loco-motor disability (f ) mental illness (g) mental retardation (h) autism (i) cerebral palsy or (j) a combination of any two or more of (g), (h) and (i) (Section 2 (i) of the PwD Act, 1995 read alongwith Section 2(j) of The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999).

### ➤ Mental Health Act

- Mental illness has been recognized as one of the disabilities under The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

- The treatment and care of the mentally ill persons are governed by The Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### ➤ Persons with Disabilities Act

- A comprehensive law, namely, The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was enacted and enforced in February, 1996.

- The law deals with both prevention and promotion aspects of the rehabilitation such as education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures like unemployment allowance and grievance redressal machinery both at the Central and state Level.

- National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities: The National Trust is a statutory body under "The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999".

- The main objectives of the Trust are to enable and empower persons with these disabilities to live independently as fully as possible, to extend support to registered organisations providing need based services and to evolve procedure for appointment of legal guardians for persons with disabilities requiring such protection.

## ➤ Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

- The Chief Commissioner is an important statutory functionary, appointed under Section 57 of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

- The functions and duties of the Chief Commissioner include coordinating the work of State Commissioners for persons with disabilities, monitoring of utilisation of funds disbursed by the central government, taking steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities.

- The Chief Commissioner can also take suomoto notice of non-implementation of any rule, law, etc. meant for persons with disabilities and is vested with the powers of a civil court relating to summoning of witness, discovery, requistioning and production of any document, etc.

## ➤ Rehabilitation Council:

- The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.

- The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education.

- Its functions include:

  - standardisation and regulation of training courses at different levels in all the training institutions throughout the country,

  - recognition of institutions/universities running training courses in the area of rehabilitation of the disabled within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis,

  - promotion of research in rehabilitation and special education

  - maintenance of a central rehabilitation register for professionals possessing the recognised rehabilitation qualifications in the area of rehabilitation, and

  - encouragement of continuing rehabilitation education programmes in collaboration with organisations working in the area of disability.

## ➤ National Institutes

- In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problem of the disabled population, the following National Institutes/apex level Institutes have been set-up in each major area of disability;

  - National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun,

  - National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata,

  - Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai,

  - National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad,

  - National Institute of Rehabilitaion Training and Research, Cuttack etc.

## ➤ Economic Development

- The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is an apex-level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development.

> ### Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Appliances

- Under the scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDs and Appliances assistance is given for procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the impact of disability and enhance their economic potential.

- The scheme is implemented through agencies like voluntary organisations, National Institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO, Zilla Panchayats, DRDAs, etc.

- The implementing agencies are provided grant-in-aid for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances.

- The scheme also includes under its ambit medical/surgical correction and intervention that may be essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances.

## ◉ Tribal Affairs

> ### Development of Scheduled Tribes:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the society, in a coordinated and planned manner.

> ### Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas:

- The Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of Constitution defines "Scheduled Areas" as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state.

- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as "Tribal Areas" and provides for District Councils and/or Regional Councils for such Areas.

- These Councils have been conferred with wide ranging legislative, judicial and executive powers.

- The Fifth Schedule Areas: The criteria for declaring any area as a "Scheduled Area" under the Fifth Schedule are:

  - Preponderance of tribal population;

  - Compactness and reasonable size of the area;

  - A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk; and

  - Economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas.

  - The advantages of Scheduled Areas are that:

  - The Governor of a state, which has Scheduled Areas, is empowered to make regulations in respect of the following: (i) prohibit or restrict transfer of land from tribal people; and (ii) regulate the business of money lending to the members of Scheduled Tribes. In making any such regulation, the Governor may repeal or amend any Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the state which is applicable to the area in question.

  - The Governor may be through public notification direct that any particular Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the state, shall not apply to a Scheduled Area.

  - The Governor of a state having Scheduled Areas therein, shall annually, or whenever so required by the President of India, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas.

  - Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) shall be established in states having Scheduled Areas. The role of TAC is to advise the state government on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes in the state as may be referred to it by the Governor.

## ➤ Procedure for Declaration as ST:

- The term scheduled tribes is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 366(25) as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be scheduled tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.

➤ Only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification will be considered as scheduled tribes.

## ➤ Scheduling and De-Scheduling of Tribes:

- The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are:
  - ◆ indications of primitive traits;
  - ◆ distinctive culture;
  - ◆ shyness of contact with the community at large; and (d) geographical isolation, i.e., backwardness.

## ➤ Ascertaining ST Status:

- Where a person claims to belong to a scheduled tribe by birth, it should be verified:
  - ◆ that the person and his parents actually belong to the community claimed;
  - ◆ that the community is included in the Presidential Order specifying the scheduled tribes in relation to the concerned state;
  - ◆ that the person belongs to that state and the area within that state in respect of which the community has been scheduled;
  - ◆ he may profess any religion;
  - ◆ that he or his parents/grandparents, etc., should be permanent resident of the state/UT on the date of notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case;
  - ◆ a person who is temporarily away from his permanent place of residence at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case, say for example to earn a living or seek education, etc. can also be regarded as a Scheduled Tribe, if his tribe has been specified in that order in relation to his home state/union territory;
  - ◆ but he cannot be treated as such in relation to the place of his temporary residence notwithstanding the fact that the name of his tribe has been scheduled in respect of that State where he is temporarily settled, in any Presidential Order;
  - ◆ in the case of persons born after the date of notification of the relevant Presidential Order, the place of residence for the purpose of acquiring Scheduled Tribe status, is the place of permanent abode of their parents at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order under which they claim to belong to such a tribe. This does not apply to the STs of the Lakshadweep Islands for whom there is a requirement of being born in the Union Territories in order to be eligible for ST status.

## ➤ Scheduled Tribe claims on Migration:

- Migrants from other states/union territories persons belonging to a scheduled tribe who have migrated from one state to another for the purpose of employment, education etc., experience great difficulty in obtaining ST certificates from the state from which they have migrated.

- In order to remove this difficulty, it has been decided that the prescribed authority of a state government/union territory administration may issue a scheduled tribe certificate to a person who migrated from another state, on the production of the genuine certificate issued to his father/mother by the prescribed authority of the state of the father/mother's origin except where the prescribed authority feels that a detailed enquiry is necessary through the state of origin before issue of the certificate.

- The certificate will be issued irrespective of whether the tribe in question is scheduled or not in relation to the state/union territory to which the person has migrated to.

## ➤ National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003.

- The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Commission have been conferred the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and Minister of State respectively, while the members of the Commission have been given the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.

- The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled tribes and to evaluate the working of such safeguards; and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled tribes.

- The Commission is vested with all the powers of a civil court trying a suit while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled tribes.

## ➤ Tribal Sub Plan

- The present Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy was initially developed by an Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in 1972 for rapid socio-economic development of tribal people and was adopted for the first time in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

- The Sub-Plan should:
  - ◆ identify the problems and need of tribal people and critical gaps in their development;
  - ◆ identify all available resources for TSP;
  - ◆ prepare a broad policy framework for development;
  - ◆ define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation; and
  - ◆ specify the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.

## ➤ National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation

- With a view to pay a focused attention and accelerate the pace of economic development of scheduled tribes, the erstwhile National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Financial Development Corporation was bifurcated and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was set up in April, 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

## ➤ Special Schemes

- **AdivasiMahilaSashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)** is an exclusive scheme for the economic development of ST women, at a highly concessional rate of interest.
  - ◆ Under the scheme NSTFDC provides term loan for scheme(s)/ project(s) costing upto Rs. 50,000/- per individual unit/profit centre.
  - ◆ Financial assistance up to 99 per cent of the cost of the scheme(s)/project(s) is provided by the NSTFDC.

## ➤ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation:

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (MSCS Act, 1984) After the enactment of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (MSCS Act, 2002) TRIFED is deemed to be registered under the latter Act and is also listed in the Second Schedule to the Act as a National Cooperative Society.

- The bye-laws of TRIFED were revised in April, 2003 in tune with the new Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 read with the Multi State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2002. Under its revised mandate TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from Tribals. TRIFED now functions as a 'market developer' for tribal products and as 'service provider' to its member federations.

➤ **Recognition of Forest Rights of STs:**

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but chose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them.

- The Act has been notified for operation with effect from December 31, 2007.

➤ **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana:**

- The central government launched an approach, namely, "VanbandhuKalyan Yojana" (VKY) with a view to translate the available resource into overall development of tribal population with an outcome-based orientation.

- The VKY has been adopted as a strategic process. It aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of tribal people.

- This process envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes/schemes of central as well as state governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

➤ **Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children:**

- The Ministry is re-engineering its educational schemes with the objective of providing adequate educational infrastructure for STs and incentive for education for ST children through scholarships.

- This is intended to be achieved through convergence of schemes of line ministries along with simplification of process for availing scholarships and also through technological aids in improving learning activities.

➤ **Overseas Scholarships:**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved the revised Scheme of National Overseas Scholarships (NOS) for ST students.

- The scheme is providing scholarship to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad for Post Graduation, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes.

- The Ministry has revised some of its provisions to make it more beneficial for ST students.

# ⦿ Welfare of Other Backward Classes

➤ **The Second Backward Classes** Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340, submitted its Report in 1980.

➤ In the light of this report, the Government of India provided 27 per cent reservation in central government posts for persons belonging to the socially and economically backward classes, (also referred to as "Other Backward Classes" or OBCs).

➤ The Government of India in 1993 reserved 27 per cent of vacancies in civil posts and services under the Central Government, to be filled through direct recruitment in favour of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

➤ **Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs:**

- In this scheme, the expenditure is shared between centre and state in 50:50 ratio.

- The aim of this Scheme is to motivate children of OBCs studying at pre-matric stage.

➤ **Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs:**

- The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

> ### Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls:

- This Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

> ### National Fellowship for OBC Students:

- Assistance for Skill Development of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)/ De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)/ Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

- The aim of the scheme is to involve the voluntary sector to improve educational and socio-economic conditions of the target group i.e., OBCs/DNTs/EBCs, with a view to upgrade skill to enable them to start income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other.

> ### Dr.Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans:

- The objective of the scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

- Out of the total outlay for a year, a minimum of 50 per cent amount is earmarked for interest subsidy to the girl students.

> ### Post-Matric Scholarship to the EBC Students

- This is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented through the state government and UT administrations.

- The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the EBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage.

- The income ceiling of parents/guardians for eligibility is ₹ 1.00 lakh per annum (including self income, if employed).

> ### Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship for DNTs

- This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched from 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.

- The income ceiling for eligibility is ₹ 2.00 lakh per annum.

- This scheme is implemented through state governments/UT administrations.

- The expenditure is shared between centre and state in 75:25 ratio.

> ### Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels

- This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched from 2014-15 being implemented through state governments/UT administrations/central universities.

- The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

> ### National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation

- National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) was incorporated in 1992 as a Company not for profit with an objective to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and self employment ventures.

- It is a Government of India Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- The Corporation extends various types of loans to the target group i.e., members of backward classes.

- NBCFDC helps traditional artisans by way of providing them platform to exhibit their products in these exhibitions to establish marketing linkages.
- The stalls are allotted free of cost to all the beneficiary artisans.

## Social Defence

### National Policy for Older Persons:

- The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons.
- The primary objectives were: to encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age; to encourage families to take care of their older family members; to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly; to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; etc.

### National Council for Older Persons:

- The government has reconstituted National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to advise and aid the government on developing policies and programmes for older persons.
- It provides feedback to the government on the implementation of the national policy on older persons and the specific initiatives for older persons.
- The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged.

## Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, was enacted, inter alia, to curb drug abuse.
- Section 71 of the Act (Power of Government to establish centres for identification, treatment, etc of addicts and for supply of narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances) provides that "The Government may, in its discretion, establish as many centers as it thinks fit for identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation, social reintegration of addicts and for supply, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, by the concerned Government of any narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the addicts registered with the Government and to others where such supply is a medical necessity."

### Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy:

- Ministry of Finance in consultation with all stakeholders including the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has brought out the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy (NDPS Policy) which aims to:
  - spell out the policy of India towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
  - serve as a guide to various Ministries and organisations in the Government of India and to the state governments as well as international organisations, NGOs, etc., and
- re-assert India's commitment to combat the drug menace in a holistic manner.

## Minorities

- Six religious communities viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minorities as per provisions under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

### 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities:

- The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme are:
  - ◆ enhancing opportunities for education,
  - ◆ ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to state and central government jobs.
  - ◆ improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes, and
  - ◆ prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

### ➤ Scholarship Schemes for Minority Students:

- This Ministry is implementing following three scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of students belonging to the notified minority communities:
  - ◆ **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme:**
    - ■ The Pre-matric scholarship scheme to students belonging to the Minority Communities was approved in 2008. It is a central sector scheme with 100 per cent central funding.
  - ◆ **Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme:**
    - ■ The scheme of Post-matric scholarship for students belonging to the minority communities was launched in 2007.
    - ■ It is a central sector scheme awarded for studies in India in a government higher secondary school/college including residential government higher secondary school/college and eligible private institutes selected and notified in a transparent manner by the state government/union territory Administration concerned.
  - ◆ **Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship:**
    - ■ The merit-cum means based scholarship scheme is a central sector scheme launched in 2007.
    - ■ 100 per cent scholarship expenditure is being borne by the central government. Scholarships are awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in institutions recognized by appropriate authority.

### ➤ Maulana Azad National Fellowship:

- The Maulana AzadNational Fellowship (MANF) scheme for minority students was launched in 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).
- It is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and cent per cent central assistance is provided under the Scheme.
- The objective of the Scheme is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from minority communities, notified by the central government to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D courses.
- The fellowship and covers all universities/institutions recognized by the UGC. The Fellowship is awarded to research scholars pursuing regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D courses.
- In order to qualify for the award of JRF/SRF, the UGC norms would be applicable at pre-M.Phil and pre-Ph.D stage, respectively, including the minimum score of 55 per cent at post graduate level 30 per cent of the fellowships have been earmarked for female candidates.
- In case there is shortage of female candidates, the fellowship can be passed on to male candidates of the same minority community.

## ◉ Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme

- ➤ The "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to miniority communities was launched in 2007 by this Ministry.

> ## Nai Udaan

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adquately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the state governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the civil services by giving direct financial support to candidates.

> ## Padho Pardes

- The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employbility. The interest subsidy under the Scheme shall be available to the eligible students only once, either for masters or Ph D

> ## Nai Roshni

- This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme 'Nai Roshni' for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented ^ through empanelled non-governmental organizations.

# ⊙ National Commission for Minorities

- > The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and renamed as the National Commission for Minorities.
- > The first statutory National Commission was set up in 1993.
- > The NCM Act, 1992 was amended in 1995 which provided for a Vice Chairperson in the Commission. With the 1995 amendment, the Commission's composition was expanded to 7 members (including a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson).
- > The provision under Section 3(2) of the Act stipulates that five members including the Chairpersons shall be from amongst the minority communities.

> ## State Commission for Minorities

- Thirteen state governments, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Government of NCT of Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have set up statutory commissions for minorities. Manipur and Uttarakhand have set up non-statutory commissions.

# ⊙ National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities

> ## Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities:

- The Office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) was established in 1957 in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution.
- Article 350-B envisages investigation by CLM of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in India under the Constitution and reporting to the President upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct and the President causes all such reports to be laid before each House of the Parliament and sent to the government administration of States/UTs concerned.
- The CLM Organization has its headquarters at Delhi with three zonal offices at Belgaum, Chennai and Kolkata.
- This CLM interacts with States/UTs on all the matters pertaining to the issues concerning implementation of the Constitutional and nationally agreed safeguards provided to linguistic minorities.

➤ **Constitutional Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities**

• Under the Constitution of India, certain safeguards have been granted to the religious and linguistic minorities.

• Article 29 and 30 of the Constitution seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognize their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

• Article 347 makes provision for Presidential direction for official recognition of any language spoken by a substantial proportion to the populations of a state or any part thereof for such purpose as the President may specify.

• Article 350 gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the Union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union/States.

• Article 350A provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.

• Article 350B provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

➤ **Central WAKF Council:**

• A Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for purposes recognised by the Muslim Law as religious, pious or charitable.

• Apart from these religious aspects, the Wakfs are also instruments of social and economic upliftment.

• Administration of Central Legislation for Wakfs is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

➤ **Durgah Khwaja Saheb Act**

• It is an Act to make provision for the proper administration of Dargah and Endowment of the Dargah Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishty (R.A.).

• Under this central Act, the administration, control and management of the Dargah Endowment has been vested in a representative committee known as the Dargah Committee appointed by the central government.

• The Dargah of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishti at Ajmer in Rajasthan is a Waqf of international fame. It is being administered under the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955.

• With the help of the Government of India, the Ministry of Urban Development and with the active involvement of the government of Rajasthan through local administration, the Dargah Committee is implementing a scheme of providing lodging facilities for lakhs of pilgrims who visit the holy Dargah during the annual Urs.

• The facility was earlier named "Vishram Sthali and has been renamed "Gharib Nawaz Mehmankhana".

• The infrastructure is meant to provide facilities/ amenities to the zaireen of Dargah Khwaja Sahab.

◉ **Women & Child Development**

➤ The development of women and children is of paramount importance and sets the pace for overall development.

➤ A separate Ministry of Women and Child Development came into existence from 2006 with the prime intention of addressing gaps in state action for women and children and for promoting inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child centred legislation, policies and programmes.

➤ The Ministry has the main responsibility to advance the rights and concerns of women and children and to promote their survival, protection, development and participation in a holistic manner.

➤ The Ministry has a vision of empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development in an environment free from violence and discrimination and well nurtured children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective environment.

➤ Its mission for children is to ensure development, care and protection through cross-cutting policies and programmes, spread awareness about their rights, facilitate access to learning, nutrition, institutional and legislative support for enabling them to grow and develop to their full potential.

## ➤ Acts relating to Women & Children

- The Ministry is in charge of the administration of the following Acts relating to women and children:

    ◆ The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (as amended in 1986).

    ◆ The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986 (60 of 1986).

    ◆ The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as amended in 1986.

    ◆ The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988).

    ◆ The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (notified in January, 2007).

    ◆ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

    ◆ National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

    ◆ Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992).

    ◆ Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

    ◆ Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000.

    ◆ The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and POCSO Rules, 2012.

    ◆ Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), 2012.

## ➤ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- BetiBachaoBetiPadhao is one the flagship programmes of the Government, launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and address other related issues of disempowerment of women.

- The specific objectives of the scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

## ➤ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Government announced Pan India implementation of maternity benefit programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- PMMVY is a centrally sponsored scheme under which the grant-in-aid is being released to States/ UTs in cost sharing ratio between the centre and the states and UTs with legislature as 60:40, for north-eastern states and Himalayan states it will be 90:10 and 100 per cent for union territories without legislature.

- The scheme envisages providing cash incentive amounting to Rs. 5,000/-directly to the bank/post office account of PW and LM in DBT mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.

## ➤ Poshan Abhiyaan

- Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

- Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS).

- It focuses to lay emphasis on the first 1000 days of the child which includes the nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 year to ensure focused interventions on addressing under nutrition.

- Besides increasing the birth weight, it will help reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortaility Rate (MMR).

- Additional one year of sustained intervention (till the age of 3 years) would ensure that the gains of the first 1000 days are consolidated.

- Attention is also given on children in the age group of 3-6 years for their overall development through the platform of the Anganwadi Services.

## ➤ One Stop Centres

- Women who suffer violence face huge problems in getting justice as they have to register FIRs and engage lawyers to fight court cases.

- In many cases the medical evidence gets destroyed due to lack of knowledge or pressure from perpetrators. As a result, very often women suffer violence but do not complain.

- In order to assist such women, a new initiative to establish One Stop Centres (OSC) was conceived and is being implemented across the country since April 2015.

- A woman who has suffered violence can get medical, police, legal and psychological counselling assistance at these centres.

- These also have a place for them to temporarily stay in case their condition so warrants. The OSC, popularly known by the name of Sakhi will be integrated with 181 and other existing helplines.

- The first centre was inaugurated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh in ^2015uSo far 138 such centres have been operational in 31 states/UTs., catering to the needs of the women affected by violence.

## ➤ Universalisation of Women Helpline

- The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is being implemented since April, 2015, intended to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital) and information about women related government schemes programmes across the country through a single uniform number (181).

## ➤ Panic Button on Mobile Phones

- To provide emergency response to women in distress, MWCD had taken up the installation of physical panic button on mobile phones.

## ➤ Mahila Police Volunteers

- The broad mandate of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) is to report to authorities/police the incidences of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.

- Haryana has become the first state to operationalise the Mahila Police Volunteers scheme.

- It was launched jointly by the WCD Ministry and Haryana government in 2016 for the districts of Karnal and Mahendragarh in Haryana. Other states are expected to follow the same soon.

# ⊙ Reservation for Women in Police Force

- ➤ The WCD Ministry has been working along with the Ministry of Home Affairs to improve overall police responsiveness to gender sensitive cases and to bring visibility to more women and strengthen gender sensitivity in police force.

- ➤ An advisory has been issued to all state governments to increase representation of women in police to 33 per cent of the total strength.

- ➤ As a result, reservation has been extended in 14 states/union territories.

➤ **Inclusion of Acid Attack as Disability**

- Taking note of the long lasting damage or disfigurement on the life of a person attacked with acid as well as constant medical attention, MWCD requested Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to include acid attack induced damage or disfigurement within the list of specified disabilities.

- The recently enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified in 2016, included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.

➤ **Guidelines for Matrimonial Websites**

- In view of the increasing number of crimes committed against women on the account of information shared in matrimonial websites, it was decided to look into the issue and put in place a regulatory framework in order to check this misuse.

➤ **NRI Matrimonial Disputes**

- Due to increase in Indian Diaspora and consequent overseas marriages, women whether residing in India or abroad, are facing issues related to desertion, domestic violence, exparte divorce and custody of children etc.

- As the issues involve inter-country jurisdiction, women engaged in such cases face legal hurdles due to lack of information regarding procedures when the other party is residing abroad.

➤ **Gender Budgeting Initiatives**

- Gender Budgeting (GB) is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men.

- It is not an accounting exercise alone but an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective at various steps of budget planning, allocation, implementation, impact/outcome assessment, review and audit.

- To institutionalize such budgeting in the country, the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in all ministries/departments was mandated by the Ministry of Finance in 2007.

- The MWCD as the nodal agency for gender budgeting is undertaking several initiatives for taking it forward at the national and state levels.

- 57 central ministries and departments have set up GBCs which are expected to serve as a focal point for coordinating gender budgeting initiatives, both intra- and inter-ministerial. 21 states and union territories have designated Gender Budgeting nodal centres.

➤ **Gender Champions**

- The initiative of Gender Champions is being implemented through educational institutions to sensitize young students and create awareness on laws, legislations, legal rights and life skills education.

- The Gender Champion guidelines developed by MWCD are being operationalized in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- A Training Module for Gender Champions has been developed for adoption by educational institutes.

➤ **Mandatory Mention of Widows Name on Death Certificates:**

- To ensure that a widow is facilitated to get all her entitlements after the death of her husband, WCD Ministry is working with the office of Registrar General of India as well as the state governments to ensure that the name of the widow is compulsorily mentioned in the death certificate of her husband.

➤ **Shelter Home for Widows**

- It is the largest ever such facility being established or funded by the Government, The Home, which will have a capacity to house 1000 women, is being constructed on 1.424 hectare of land at

an estimated cost of ₹ 57 crore (including cost of the land) at Vrindavan. The design of the Home has been prepared in consultation with HelpAge India and is old age friendly.

## ➤ Training for Women Heads of Panchayats

- Although 33 per cent posts of heads of Gram Panchayats have been reserved for women, they are unable to exercise real authority for betterment of villages due to lack of training and continued dominance/interference by their husbands etc.

- In order to empower these women at grass root level, WCD has initiated a massive programme to train over 2 lakh women heads of Panchayats.

- The training has started from May, 2016 onwards in partnership with Ministry of Rural Development.

- The training modules cover all aspects of village level management including basic knowledge of government schemes, social issues and their resolution, management of panchayat finances, village infrastructure etc.

- This scheme is being implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

## ➤ Extending Maternity Leave Duration

- The WCD Ministry has been working to extend the maternity leave period for working women to seven months to enable them to provide exclusive breastfeeding to children for six months after child birth and complementary foods thereafter to help reduce incidence of malnutrition.

- Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out suitable amendments in the Act, which are as follows: i. enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks; ii. extension of maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers; iii. establishment of crèche facility within the office/factory premises.

## ➤ Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace

- To ensure safety and security of women at workplaces, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is working towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

- In this regard, advisories and monitoring framework have been issued to state governments/central ministries/departments to ensure the effective implementation of the sexual harassment Act, expeditious inquiry into the complaint and to prevent further victimisation of the complainant.

- In addition, MWCD has also prepared and released a Handbook on the SH Act which provides information about the provisions of the Act in an easy-to-use practical manner.

## ➤ Village Convergence and Facilitation Service

- Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS) is an initiative launched in 2015 aimed at creating awareness through community engagement.

- Dedicated village coordinators are selected to facilitate convergence on women's issues and work in close coordination with the gram panchayat and its sub-committees.

- In this manner, issues pertaining to education, health, nutrition, legal rights, safety and security of women are addressed and access to schemes/programs being implemented by the government such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jan Dhan Yojana.

- One Stop Centre, Women Helpline etc. are provided. VCFS has been extended from 100 gender critical districts to cover 303 districts across the country.

## ➤ Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

- RashtriyaMahilaKosh (RMK) is a society, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and an apex micro-finance organization established in 1993.

- The main objective of RMK is to provide micro-credit to poor women through intermediary organizations (IMO), which includes Section 25 companies, NGOs among others for various

livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.

- The target beneficiaries are entrepreneurs from different economic activities ranging from traditional and modern handicraft to small business such as petty shop, etc.

- The loans are sanctioned through various schemes of RMK viz., main loan scheme, loan promotion scheme, etc.

## ➤ Women of India Exhibitions/Festivals

- The initiative was started in 2014 to link women organic farmers and entrepreneurs directly to the market.

- Three such exhibitions/festivals have already been held in Delhi, many more such exhibitions/festivals are being organised in locations outside Delhi.

- Such events are being held to provide a platform so that women entrepreneurs and farmers especially from rural India get an opportunity to exhibit and sell their products.

- Such exhibitions/festivals empower women through knowledge sharing and creating entrepreneurial opportunities to make societal balance through financial inclusion.

## ➤ Mahila e-Haat

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "Mahila e-Haat", a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHOs/NOOs in 2016.

- This can become a game changer initiative as it can become a catalyst in strengthening women entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

- The USP of Mahila e-haat is facilitating direct contact between the vendor and buyer. It is easy to access as the entire business of e-Haat can be handled through a mobile.

## ➤ National Policy for Women

- The Draft National Policy for Women, 2016, is in its last stages of finalization.

- The policy has been revised after 15 years and is expected to guide government action on women's issues over the next 15-20 years.

- The policy addresses women's issues on a life-cycle continuum and encompasses a wide spectrum of issues from education, health, economic participation, decision making, violence, creation of an enabling environment etc.

## ➤ New Passport Rules

- In a major move, on insistence of the Ministry of WCD, the Ministry of External Affairs issued new Passport Rules in 2016 for the benefit of single/divorced mothers and their children including adopted/adoptable children.

- Now, as per the revised Rules, submission of father's name is not mandatory and a person can obtain passport only by specifying his/her mother's name.

- Further, a person does not need to submit her/his marriage/ divorce certificates.

## ➤ Legislation on Trafficking:

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has drafted a comprehensive legislation on Trafficking - "Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2017" with a view to fill the existing gaps and cover all aspects of trafficking by including various offences pertaining to trafficking prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims.

- The draft Bill also proposes to tackle trafficking by creating a strong legal, economic and social environment for the victims by putting in place dedicated institutional mechanisms at district, state and national level.

## ⊙ Children's Issues

### ➤ Missing/Trafficked/Runaway Children

- **Khoya-Paya Portal**:
  - ◆ In order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, a new citizen based portal Khoya-Paya was launched in 2015 which enables posting of information of missing and sighted children.
  - ◆ It also provides facility for matching the two databases - missing and sighted children.
- **Expansion of Childline:**
  - ◆ This Childline is a nation-wide initiative for rescuing and assisting children in distress conditions. Over the years, CHILDLINE (1098 helpline number) has been extended to 412 locations from 316 cities and will be expanded to another 100 cities soon.

### ➤ POCSO e-Box:

- Children are often unable to complain about sexual abuse because it is usually done by someone known to them.
- In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet based facility, e-Box, has been provided.
- Here, a child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance.
- The counsellor also registers a formal complaint on behalf of the child wherever required. POCSO e-box launched in August, 2016, has received and handled 300 complaints.

### ➤ Juvenile Justice:

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (JJ Model Rules, 2016) was notified thereby repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007 (JJ Rules, 2007).
- The JJ Model Rules, 2016 are based on the philosophy that children need to be reformed and reintegrated into society.

### ➤ Comprehensive Adoption Reforms:

- Government has notified Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and Chapter VIII of the Act provisions for adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children and also adoption of children by relative.
- The Act has adequate safeguards for the children to ensure their best interest and it provides for reporting of all adoptions in the country including relative adoptions.
- Further, all adoptions under the Act have to proceed as per the Adoption Regulations framed by Central Adoption.
- Central Adoption Resource Agency has been reconstituted as Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under this Act as Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under this Act.
- The Adoption Regulations were notified in 2017 and in supersession of Guidelines Governing Adoption of Children, 2015.
- Registering online with Central Adoptions Resource Authority (CARA) is mandatory to adopt a child from anywhere in India.
- Central Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) is the only official portal of CARA for legal adoption process.
- Under Section 80 and 81 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 any person or agency who indulges in illegal adoption shall be punished.
- By adopting a child illegally, you may unintentionally become part of a child trafficking network.

Adoption is a socio-legal process and there is no role of touts/middlemen in adoption as they may mislead people to adopt a child illegally.

- The Adoption Regulations contain the provisions for in-country and inter-country adoptions of OAS (orphaned, abandoned and surrendered) children.

- Procedures related to adoption by relatives both within the country and abroad have been defined in the Regulations. Adoption of step-children has been brought in.

- There are 32 Schedules annexed to the Regulations including model adoption applications to be filed in the Court and this would considerably address delays prevalent in obtaining the Court order.

➤ **National Nutrition Mission**

- National Nutrition Mission (NNM) is proposed to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner over a period of three years with the objectives of preventing and reducing under-nutrition in children (0-3 years); reducing the prevalence of anemia among young children (6-59 months); reducing the prevalence of anemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years) and reducing low birth weight.

## ⊙ Anganwadi Services

➤ The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme now known as Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objective to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years; lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts; achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and enhance the capability of the mothers to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the children through proper nutrition and health education.

➤ **Improving Anganwadi Infrastructure:**

- The Government is committed to repositioning the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) as a vibrant early childhood development centre to become the first village outpost for health, nutrition and early learning.

- Towards this end, several steps have been taken for improvement and strengthening of ICDS scheme covering programmatic, management and institutional areas.

➤ **Supplementary Nutrition:**

- In pursuance of the provisions contained in the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the Ministry has notified the (under the Integrated Child Development Scheme Rules, 2017) in 2017 to regulate the entitlement specified under provisions of said Act for every pregnant woman and lactating mother till 6 months after child birth, and every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition) for 300 days in a year, as per the nutritional standards specified in Schedule II of the said Act.

- In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of foodgrains or meals to entitled persons, such persons shall be entitled to receive such food security allowance from the concerned state government, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the central government.

➤ **ICDS System**

- MWCD implementing International Development Association (IDA) assisted in 162 high burden districts of 8 states in the country covering 3.68 lakh Anganwadi Centres with the following project development objective:

  ◆ to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) policy framework, systems and capacities, and facilitate community engagement, to ensure greater focus on children under three years of age;

  ◆ to strengthen convergent actions for improved nutrition outcomes.

- One of the key activities in ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) is Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of ICDS.

## ⊙ Scheme for Adolescent Girls

➤ Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) was introduced in the year 2010-11 and is operational in 205 selected districts across the country. It aims at all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years on pilot basis.

- The scheme has two major components - nutrition and non-nutrition.

## ⊙ Junk Food Guidelines:

➤ Junk Food Guidelines have been developed and forwarded to MHRD and MoHFW for implementation.

➤ MHRD has requested all CBSE affiliated schools to follow them. MHRD has been requested to issue an advisory to all the states/ UTs accordingly.

➤ It has also been suggested in the guidelines that vendors/ street vendors should not be permitted to sell these foods during school timings in a vicinity of 200 meters from any school.

➤ The guidelines also provide a list of suitable food items to be offered in the school canteen.

## ⊙ Major Initiatives of Food and Nutrition Board

➤ Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in process of setting up of 4 food testing Laboratories viz., central laboratory at Faridabad and 3 regional food testing laboratories at Mumbai.

➤ Chennai and Kolkata for analyzing the food and nutritional supplements for Food Safety and Quality to ensure Nutritional and Feeding Norms for Supplementary Nutrition in ICDS Scheme.

➤ MWCD, taking note of the widely prevalent deficiencies of iron, vitamin-A, Iodine and other micronutrients in the population, particularly among women and children, has taken the initiative towards addressing this issue through Fortification of Foods.

➤ In this regard, a comprehensive regulation on Fortification of Foods namely 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 was operationalized which sets the standards for fortification of major staple foods namely, wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and salt. A logo for fortified foods has also been launched.

## ⊙ National Plan of Action for Children:

➤ The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2016 is based on the principles embedded in the National Policy for Children, 2013.

➤ The Action Plan has four key priority areas; survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection; and participation.

➤ The NPAC seeks to ensure convergence of ongoing programmes and initiation of new programmes so as to focus on objectives through well-defined strategies and activities to achieve desired level of outcome for children.

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# 29

# Youth Affairs & Sports

- The youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with about 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age.

- The youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5 per cent of the population. It is estimated that by the year 2020, the population of India would have a median age of 28 years only.

- This 'demographic dividend' offers a great opportunity. In order to capture this demographic dividend, it is essential that the economy has the ability to support the increase in the labour force and the youth have the appropriate education, skills, health awareness and other enablers to productively contribute to the economy.

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports functions under the overall guidance of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports.

- ## National Youth Policy, 2014

  - ➤ It replaced the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003 reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to all round development of the youth of India, so that they can realise their full potential and contribute productively to the nation-building process.

    - The Policy defines 'youth' as persons in the age group of 15-29 years.

    - The NYP 2014 vision is "to empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations".

    - The objectives and priority areas identified under the NYP-2014 have been given in Table below.

| Objectives | Priority Areas |
|---|---|
| 1. Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development. | 1. Education<br>2. Employment and skill development<br>3. Entrepreneurship |
| 2. Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges. | 4. Health and healthy lifestyle<br>5. Sports |
| 3. Instill social values and promote community service to build national ownership.<br>4. Facilitate participation and civic engagement at levels of governance. | 6. Promotion of social values<br>7. Community engagement<br>8. Participation in politics and governance<br>9. Youth engagement |
| 5. Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth. | 10. Inclusion<br>11. Social Justic |

## ◉ Schemes for Youth

## ◉ Schemes Under Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

### ➤ Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (**NYKS**), **launched in 1972**, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world.

- NYKS has presence in 623 districts through Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs).

- The objective of the Programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

- The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, awareness on social issues, women empowerment, rural development, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurship development, civic education, disaster relief and rehabilitation, etc.

- The youth associated with Nehru Yuva Kendras are not only socially aware and motivated but are also inclined towards social development work through voluntary efforts.

- All the programmes of NYKS are implemented in close coordination with/ active involvement of state governments, elected local bodies and various development departments/agencies.

### ➤ National Youth Corps

- The Scheme of National Youth Corps (NYC) was launched in the country during **2010-11.**

- The earlier schemes, namely, National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS) and Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana (RSY) were subsumed in the National Youth Corps (NYC) Scheme.

- The NYC Scheme is being implemented through NYKS.

- Under the Scheme, youth in the **age-group of 18-25 years** are engaged as volunteers to serve up to maximum two years in nation-building activities. The minimum qualification for NYC volunteers is Class-X passed.

- NYKS provides them skill development training so that they can get some employment after their term with NYKS ends.

- Normally, two NYC volunteers are deployed in every block. They act as an extended arm of NYKS in the block and play an active role in implementation of various programmes and initiatives of NYKS.

### ➤ National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) is an "Umbrella Scheme" of the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organisations for taking up activities for youth and adolescent development.

- The Scheme is operational since April 1, 2008.

- The assistance under NPYAD is provided under five major components which are:

  - ◆ Youth leadership and personality development training;

  - ◆ Promotion of national integration (National Integration Camps, Inter State youth exchange programmes, youth festivals, multi-cultural activities, etc.);

  - ◆ Promotion of adventure; Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards;

  - ◆ Development and empowerment of adolescents (life skills education, counseling, career guidance, etc.); and

  - ◆ Technical and resource development (research and studies on youth issues, documentation, seminars/workshops).

> ### Youth Hostels

- Youth Hostels are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country.

- Youth hostels are located in areas of historical and cultural value, in educational centres, in tourist destinations, etc. Youth hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates.

- The construction of the youth hostels is a joint venture of the central and state governments.

> ### National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)

- It is a Central Sector Scheme and was introduced in December, 2014.

  - It aims at developing leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realise their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation building process.

  - The Programme also aims at motivating the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to bring them to the forefront of the development process. It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for nation building.

## ⊙ National Service Scheme

> - National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in **1969** with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'.

> - The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the motto of NSS is *"Not Me, But You".*

> - 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS.

> ### Objectives of NSS

- NSS aims at developing the following qualities/competencies among the volunteers:

  - To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community;

  - To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving exercise;

  - To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;

  - To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;

  - To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;

  - To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;

  - To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and

  - To practice national integration and social harmony.

  - NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.

## ⊙ Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

> - Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

> - The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1975 and was conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under 'De-novo' category in 2008, by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

➤ The institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at post graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and conducting training/capacity building programmes in youth development, besides the extension and outreach initiatives across the country.

## Sports

## National Sports Policy 2001

➤ National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages mainly broad basing and promotion of excellence in sports. The salient features of the National Sports Policy 2001 are:

- Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence;
- Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;
- Support to National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;
- Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- Incentives to promote sports;
- Enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth;
- Involvement of corporate sector in sports promotion; and
- Promotion of sports mindedness among the public at large.

## Khelo India

➤ It has been formed after merger of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

### Objectives

- Mass participation of youth in annual sports competitions through a structured competition.
- Identification of talent.
- Guidance and nurturing of the talent through existing sports academies and new set up either by the Central Government or State Government or in PPP mode.
- Creation of Sports Infrastructure at mofussil, Tehsil, District, State levels, etc.

## Incentive Schemes for Sports persons

➤ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports also implements various schemes to give incentives to sports persons to take up sports as given below.

### Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- The scheme was launched in the year **1991-92** with the objective of honouring sportspersons to enhance their general status and to give them greater dignity and place of honour in society.
- Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 7.5 lakh is given as award for the **most spectacular and outstanding performance** by a sportsperson over a **period of four years immediately preceding the year** in which award is to be given.

### Arjuna Award

- The award was instituted **in 1961.** To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have not only **good performance consistently** for the **previous four years at the international level** with excellence for the year for which Award is recommended, but **should have also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.**

- The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh.

- Not more than 15 awards are given every year.

➤ **Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games**

- This award was instituted **in 2002**. This award is given to honour those sportspersons who have **contributed to sports by their performance** and continue to contribute to promotion of sports **even after their retirement** from active sporting career.

- The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh.

- Not more than three awards are given every year.

➤ **Dronacharaya Award**

- This award was instituted in **1985** to honour **eminent coaches** who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.

- The awardee is given a statuette of Guru Dronacharaya, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash prize of Rs. five lakh.

- Not more than five awards are given every year.

➤ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy**

- This trophy was instituted in 1956-57.

- The **top overall performing university** in the **Inter-University Tournaments** is given the **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy**, which is a rolling trophy. A small replica of the MAKA Trophy is also awarded for retention by the University. In addition, top three universities get cash awards.

➤ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**

- With a view to recognizing the **contribution made to sports development** by entities **other than sportspersons and coaches**, Government has instituted a new award titled **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar from the year 2009.**

- It has four categories, namely:
  - 'Identification and nurturing of budding/young talent',
  - 'Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility',
  - 'Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures' and
  - 'Sports for Development'.

- The award consists of a citation and a trophy in each of the above mentioned categories. **There is no cash award**.

➤ **Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches**

- This scheme was introduced in **1986** to encourage and motivate outstanding sportspersons for higher achievements and to attract the younger generation to take up sports as a career.

- Under the scheme, **special awards** are given to **sportspersons and their coaches** for **winning medals in recognized international sports events held in a year**.

- Cash award is also given to coaches who have trained the medal winners for at least 180 days immediately preceding the tournament. Award money to a coach is 50 per cent of the award money given to the sportsperson coached. In case, there is more than one coach, the award money is distributed among them equally.

> ### Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

- This scheme was launched in **1994**.

- Those sportspersons, who are **Indian citizens** and **have won gold, silver and bronze medals** in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Paralympics Games, **have attained the age of 30 years** and have **retired** from active sports career are eligible for life pension under this Scheme.

> ### Pandit Deendayal Upadhay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons

- The National Welfare Fund for sports-persons was set up in March, **1982** with a view to **assisting outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in indigent circumstances** who had won glory for the country in sports. It has been renamed as **Pandit Deendayal Upadhay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.**

- Assistance from the Fund is given in the form of **lump sum financial assistance, ex-gratia** to sportspersons or their families in case of sustaining a fatal injury during training for, or participation in, an international competition; sportsperson sustaining injury other than a fatal injury, families of sportspersons living in indigent circumstances, for medical treatment of sportspersons, and for sports promoters (referees, coaches and umpires) living in indigent circumstances.

- Assistance is provided to those whose monthly income from all sources is less than Rs. 2,00,000 per annum. The fund is managed and operated by a Committee with the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports as the Chairperson.

## ⦿ Promotion of Excellence in Sports through Institutions

> ### Sports Authority of India (SAI)

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established by the Government of India in year 1984 as a registered society primarily to ensure effective maintenance and optimum utilization of the sports infrastructure that was built in Delhi during ASIAD, 1982.

- It is now the nodal agency in the country for broad basing sports and for training of sportspersons to achieve excellence in national and international sports.

- SAI has also set up Centres of Excellence (CoE) for elite sportspersons at each of its Regional Centers and one at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

> ### Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE), Gwalior

- The Institute was established initially as a College (upgraded to a "Deemed University" in 1995) in Gwalior on August 17, 1957, the centenary year of the first war of India's Independence.

## ⦿ National Sports Development Fund

> The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted by the Central Government with a view to **mobilizing resources** from **the Government as well as non-governmental sources**, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for promotion of sports and games in the country.

> To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100 per cent exemption from income tax is available on all contributions.

> The funds available under NSDF are used for promotion of sports in general and specific sports disciplines and individual sportspersons for achieving excellence at the national and international level in particular.

## ⦿ Scheme of Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

> Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use by sportspersons of a substance or method banned by Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee/ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in pursuit of gold and glory.

➤ The Government of India became one of the members of the Foundation Board of WADA constituted for ensuring concerted effort to check doping.

# ⊚ National Institutions for Anti-Dopping

## ➤ National Anti-Doping Agency

- This agency is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country.
- The Anti-Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

## ➤ National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)

- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- This is responsible for testing dope samples and conducting advance research on the subject by maintaining close association with the WADA and WADA accredited laboratories.
- NDTL achieved WADA accreditation in September 2008.
- NDTL has state-of-the-art facilities for both routine and research activities. Apart from human dope testing, it has diversified in the area of horse dope testing and proficiency testing programme in the field of drugs.

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# GS SCORE

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## IAS 2019
# PRELIMS
# TEST SERIES

**BATCH 12** ▶ **TOPICAL + SECTIONAL + MOCK**

Total **33 Tests**          Starts: **8** APRIL

**BATCH 13** ▶ **SECTIONAL + MOCK**

Total **22 Tests**          Starts: **10** APRIL

**BATCH 14** ▶ **FULL MOCK**

Total **10 Tests**          Starts: **14** APRIL