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TULIP: Empowering Marginalized Artisans

Context:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) to support marginalized artisans.

About TULIP

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).
- **Objective:** Empower artisans by providing a platform for global exposure and direct sales through e-marketing.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Artisans from SC, OBC, sanitation workers, and persons with disabilities.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Online Marketplace:** Artisans can sell their products globally under the TULIP brand.
 - **Eliminates Intermediaries:** Ensures direct sales, boosting their income.
 - **Global Reach:** Promotes products internationally, enhancing visibility and demand.
 - **Significance:** Promotes self-reliance and economic upliftment of marginalized communities.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

- AIF is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- AIF aims to mobilize a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects related to post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.
- **Funds:** AIF aims to provide Rs 1,00,000 crore for funding agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate & aggregation points like PACS, FPOs, SHGs, their federations, JLGs, Cooperatives, and their federations, Agriculture entrepreneurs, start-ups etc.
- Impetus for the development of farm gate & aggregation point, affordable and financially viable post-harvest management infrastructure.
- Components of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme
 - Interest Subvention Cost
 - Credit Guarantee Cost
 - Administration Cost of PMU

Eligible Projects

- **Post Harvest Management Projects:**
 - Supply chain services including e-marketing platforms, warehouse & silos, cold storages & cold chain, packaging units, assaying units, logistic facilities, ripening chambers, farm residue/waste management infrastructures, and primary processing activities.
- **Community Farming Assets:**
 - Organic inputs production, compressed biogas, bio-stimulant production units, infrastructure for smart & precision agriculture, purchase of drones, sensors, blockchain & AI in agriculture, remote sensing & IoT, nursery, tissue culture, seed processing, custom hiring centre, farm/harvest automation, solar pumping system (PM-KUSUM- A, B & C), spirulina production, sericulture processing units, honey processing, supply chain infrastructure for clusters of crops etc.

Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav

- Launch: 2015
- Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Salient Features:

- Promotes direct interaction between scientists and farmers to accelerate lab-to-land process.
- 15 villages identified under ICAR initiatives like ATMA (Agriculture Technology Management Agency).
- Beneficiaries: Farmers, Scientists.
- Implementing Authority: ICAR, ATMA.
- Type: Centrally Sponsored

Advance Authorization Scheme

- Launch: 2004
- Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Salient Features:

- Duty-free import of raw materials for manufacturing export items as per Standard Input-Output Norms (SION).
- Beneficiaries: Manufacturers, exporters, and service providers.
- Implementing Authority: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- Type: Central Sector

- This scheme facilitates businesses in importing raw materials duty-free to manufacture products that are later exported, boosting India's global trade.

Vivad se Vishwas II

- Launch: 2024
- Ministry: Ministry of Finance

Salient Features:

- It is a voluntary settlement scheme to resolve long-standing contractual disputes involving government agencies.
- The scheme will cover all disputes with Central government agencies, including autonomous bodies, public sector banks, financial institutions, central public sector firms, union territories, and National Capital Territory of Delhi, along with their respective agencies.
- Implemented by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal
- Type: Inter-Ministerial

Operation Greens (2018)

- Launch: 2018
- Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- Type: Centrally Sector

Salient Features:

- Aims to stabilize supply chain infrastructure for perishable crops.
- Includes long-term interventions for value chain development and short-term interventions for fruits and vegetables under the "TOP to TOTAL" approach.

Beneficiaries:

- Farmers
- FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)
- Cooperatives
- Food processors

PM-JAY Scheme in Jharkhand

Context

- PM-JAY was launched in 2018 in Jharkhand to provide health insurance to the poorest 40% of Indian families.

Current Challenges

- Despite a large allocation, payment delays and administrative issues have hindered the scheme's implementation. Hospitals are refusing payments, further stalling progress.

Why It Matters

- PM-JAY provides ₹5 lakh per family for hospitalisation, helping address the health needs of vulnerable populations.
- Without clear procedural changes, the scheme faces stagnation.

Reforms Needed

- Address the administration inefficiencies and improve system functioning for smooth operations.

MATSYA 6000: India's Deep Ocean Mission

• About the Mission

- MATSYA 6000, part of the Samudrayan project, is designed to carry 3 humans to a depth of 6000 meters under the sea for scientific exploration and biodiversity research. India will become the 6th country capable of human submersible missions.

• Key Components

- Deep Sea Mining: Harvesting polymetallic nodules from the Central Indian Ocean Basin.
- Manned Submersible: Enabling human presence at extreme depths for observation.
- Ocean Climate Change Services: Understanding ocean dynamics and climate.
- Marine Biotechnology: Exploring deep-sea biodiversity for sustainable resources.

SWOT Analysis

- Strengths: Indigenous submersible, strategic ocean mapping, access to critical minerals.
- Weaknesses: High costs, technological complexity, environmental risks.
- Opportunities: Green energy, marine biotech, Indo-Pacific strategic leadership.
- Threats: Ecosystem disruption, geopolitical tensions, regulatory challenges.

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

- Objective: Promote Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) culture in the Indian defense sector.

Key Beneficiaries

- Defence PSUs (DPSUs)
- Ordnance Factories
- Armed Forces
- MSMEs & Startups

Implementation

- Directorate General of Quality Assurance

Focus

- Strengthen defence manufacturing ecosystem through IPR.

Gyan Bharatm Mission: Mission for Manuscript Conservation

Key Details

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Culture
- Objective: To focus on the survey, documentation, and conservation of India's manuscript heritage.
- Coverage: Over one crore manuscripts held by academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collectors.
- National Digital Repository: A platform for Indian knowledge systems for knowledge sharing will be set up.
- The mission will be executed under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- Budget allocation for NMM increased from ₹3.5 crore to ₹60 crore.

Mission SUJALAM

- Launch: 2021
- Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti

Salient Features

- Focuses on creating ODF Plus villages
- Promotes greywater management under SBM Grameen
- Beneficiaries: Villages under Swachh Bharat Mission
- Type: Inter-Ministerial Scheme

PM-WANI (Prime Minister WiFi Network Interface)

- Launched: 2020
- Objective: To enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure, especially in rural areas.
- **PM-WANI Ecosystem: Consists of four parts:**
 - Public Data Office (PDO)
 - Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)
 - App Provider
 - Central Registry

Roles:

- PDO establishes the Wi-Fi Hotspots and provides internet access to users.
- PDOA provides authorisation and accounting services to PDOs.
- The App Provider displays the available hotspots in the phone's proximity.
- The Central Registry, overseen by the Centre for Development of Telematics, maintains details of App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs.

How can individuals access the PM-WANI internet?

- To access public hotspots under the scheme, one needs to download a relevant App that shows available networks.
- The user can then choose from a list of available connections and make a payment to use the network.
- The user can access the network till his/her balance is exhausted.



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Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- Launched: 2013-14
- Nodal Agency: Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Funding: Central Sector Scheme (Fully funded by the government)
- Mode of Assistance: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

Objectives

- Arrest and reverse the declining population of the Parsi community in India.
- Provide financial and medical support for fertility treatments, childcare, and elder care.

Key Features

- Financial aid for infertility treatments.
- Support for childcare & elder care.
- Awareness programs to encourage participation.
- Over 400 births facilitated, aiding cultural and demographic preservation.
- Jiyo Parsi is a vital initiative to sustain the Parsi community, ensuring its cultural and population revival in India.

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme – 2024

- Objective: To address the rising demand for Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) across India.

Key Features

- Establishment of new campuses of National Forensic Science University (NFSU)
- Creation of Central Forensic Labs (CFLs)
- Upgradation of existing infrastructure at the Delhi Campus of NFSU
- Funding Type: Operates as a Central Sector Scheme (100% funded by the Union Government)

PM-DAKSH: Skill for Dignity & Empowerment

- Launched: 2020
- Type: Central Sector Scheme

Who Benefits?

- SCs, OBCs, EWS, De-Notified Tribes (DNTs)
- Safai Mitras, including waste pickers
- Age group: 18–45 years

What It Offers

- Skill development training
- Stipend: ₹1,000–₹1,500
- Wage compensation during training

Implemented By:

- NBCFDC, NSKFDC, NSFDC

Vocal for Local Initiative

- Under the initiative: Indigenous local products from 500 Aspirational Blocks have been mapped and consolidated under the brand of Aakansha.
- Brand: Aakansha will be an umbrella brand which could be supplemented into multiple sub-brands.
- Logo: The logo for 'Aakansha' was unveiled under the 'Vocal for Local' initiative.
- Dedicated Window: A dedicated window for the Aspirational Blocks Program under the brand name 'Aakansha' will be established on the GeM portal.
- GeM Portal Support: GeM portal will provide technical and operational support for the facilitation of e-commerce onboarding, establishing linkages, financial/digital literacy, documentation/certification, and skill enhancement etc.

Viksit Bharat by 2047

- Vision and Objective: Viksit Bharat 2047 is a vision introduced by the Government of India to transform the country into a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047, marking the centenary of India's independence.

Various Objectives of Viksit Bharat:

- Economic Growth and Self-Reliance: Pushing 'Make in India' and Atma Nirbhara Bharat schemes.
- Human Resource Development: Implementing National Education Policy 2020 with efficiency and promoting skill training through PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Infrastructure Development: Fostering growth of physical, social, and digital infrastructure under Smart City initiative.
- Sustainable Growth: Reducing carbon emissions by adopting alternative energy sources to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070.
- Promoting Good Governance: Administrative reforms using Mission Karmyogi and e-governance.
- Inclusive Growth: Raising women's participation in the economy and ensuring equitable growth across regions.
- Global Leadership: Strengthening India's position in organizations like the UN, G20, and BRICS.

SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) Initiative

- Launched in 2018.
- Objective: To promote Compressed Biogas (CBG) production and encourage its use as an alternative clean fuel for transportation, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Key Implementing Agencies

- Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs):
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Key Features

- Target: 5,000 CBG plants by 2025.
- Expected production capacity: 15 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA).
- Utilisation of Various Biomass Sources: Agricultural residue (stubble, sugarcane press mud), Municipal Solid Waste, Cattle dung, Sewage sludge, and industrial organic waste.
- Private sector participation for establishing CBG plants.
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for bioenergy projects.

Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

- Launched: 2014
- Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development
- Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme

Key Features:

- Focus on three pillars: finance, incubation, and skills
- Builds CRP-EPs (Community Resource Persons–Enterprise Promotion) to guide rural entrepreneurs
- Establishes Block Resource Centres (BRCs) for support and resource management

Beneficiaries:

- Rural poor, women, SC/ST communities, and artisans

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)

- Launched: 2017
- Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Objective: Provides physical aids and assisted-living devices to senior citizens from the BPL category.
- Special Focus: At least 30% beneficiaries per district must be women.
- Implementing Agency: Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)
- Target Group: BPL elderly population, enabling better mobility, independence, and dignity.



Computerized Registration of Pesticides (CROP)

- Launched: 2009
- Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Type: Central Sector

Objective:

- To digitize and automate pesticide registration under the Central Insecticides Board.

Key Features:

- Speeds up registration for manufacturers, importers & distributors
- Promotes transparency and efficiency in the regulatory process
- Improves monitoring of pesticide usage

Beneficiaries:

- Pesticide manufacturers and importers

Implementing Body:

- Central Insecticides Board

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

- Launch: 2014
- Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development
- Type: Central Sector
- Objective: Empowers MPs to develop 5 Adarsh Grams (ideal villages) by 2024 – one per year.
- Key Actions: MPs select Gram Panchayats, prepare village development plans, and monitor progress.
- Target: Villages with 3000–5000 population (1000–3000 in hilly/tribal areas).

PROMOTING RESEARCH IN EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PRITHVI VIGYAN)

- Type of Scheme: Central Sector Scheme
- Aim: To enhance the understanding of the Earth and its vital signs.

Schemes Subsumed

- Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS): Addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, including warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms, etc.
- Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART): Promotes ocean research and setting up early warning weather systems.
- Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER): To improve the understanding of Polar Science and cryosphere systems.
- Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE): Strengthen earthquake monitoring and research on the Earth's solid components.
- Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT): To foster talent development and ensure effective translation of research into services directly benefiting society.

Key Features

- Aimed at augmentation and sustenance of long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth to track the vital signs of the Earth System and climate.
- Development of modelling systems for understanding and predicting weather, ocean, and climate hazards.
- Focus on the exploration of polar and high seas regions for discovering new phenomena and resources.
- Development of technology for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for social, environmental, and economic benefits.

CITIIS 2.0 – Urban Innovation for Smart Cities

- Launched: 2023
- Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Core)
- Provides financial and technical support for circular economy projects in 100 smart cities
- Establishes climate data observatories at state and city levels
- Beneficiaries: Smart cities under the Smart Cities Mission
- Implementing Authority: NIUA (National Institute of Urban Affairs)

MSME Champions Scheme: Boosting Small Enterprises

- Launched: 2020
- Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Objective: To scale up smaller MSMEs by resolving grievances and providing handholding support.

Key Features:

- Support for growth, competitiveness, and innovation.
- Integration of Udyam Registration data for targeted outreach.
- Assistance in credit, technology, marketing, and regulatory compliance.
- Dedicated CHAMPIONS portal for MSME grievance redressal.

Beneficiaries:

- MSMEs with valid Udyam Registration Number (URN).

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

- Launched: 2015
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Objective: Provide all-weather pucca houses for EWS, LIG, and MIG in urban areas of India.
- Beneficiaries: Economically weaker sections (EWS), Low-income groups (LIG), Middle-income groups (MIG), including slum dwellers.
- Coverage: Applicable across all statutory towns (Census 2011) and subsequently notified towns.

Components:

- Beneficiary Led Construction/Enhancement (BLC)
- Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)
- In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR)
- Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)

Initiatives:

- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for migrant workers and urban poor.
- CLSS Awas Portal (CLAP): Real-time platform for application processing and subsidy tracking.

Significance:

- Women Empowerment: Ownership of houses in the name of female members.
- Special Preferences: Focus on differently-abled, senior citizens, SC/ST, OBCs, minorities, and vulnerable groups.
- Basic Amenities: Houses equipped with toilets, water, electricity, and kitchen.

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SWAYAM Portal

- Overview: Initiated by the Government of India to achieve the three cardinal principles of the Education Policy: Access, Equity, and Quality.
- Objective: To provide best teaching-learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- Goal: Bridging the digital divide for students who have remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not joined the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

Project Nidaan: Governance at the Grassroots

- Initiative by: Rohit Singh, Former District Collector, Narsinghpur
- Aim: To streamline beneficiary access to government schemes using a decentralized, citizen-centric approach.

Key Highlights:

- Improved Accessibility: Enabled easy access to essential schemes like PM Awas Yojana, ration cards, and water supply.
- Decentralized Delivery: Took governance to the doorstep through village-level camps and mobile service units.
- Time-Bound Redressal: Resolved most grievances within 15 days via structured field interventions.
- Reduced Bureaucratic Delay: Minimized administrative bottlenecks in welfare delivery.
- Recognized for Excellence: Honoured under the Excellence in Governance Awards for impactful public service innovation.

Indian Government Initiatives for Nanotechnology

Major Government Programs & Institutions

- Nano Science & Technology Initiative (NSTI) - Launched by DST in 2001 to fund nano-materials research, including DNA chips and gene targeting.
- Nano Technology Initiatives Programme (2004) - Set up by DIT to focus on nano-electronics development.
- Nano Mission (2007) - Flagship program under DST promoting basic research, infrastructure, and tech development.
- Nanotechnology Regulatory Board (2010) - Regulates consumer nano-products in daily use.
- Guidelines for Evaluation of Nano Agri-products (2020) - Ensures safety standards for nanotech in agriculture.
- Nano Urea Liquid (NUL) - India became the first country to commercially produce this innovation in agri-inputs.
- Graphene-Aurora Program - Links scientific research with industrial uses.
- India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) - A partnership between MeitY, Tata Steel, and C-MET for advanced graphene tech development.

Govt Schemes Promoting Women in STEM & Education

- These initiatives aim to promote gender equality and support women's participation in science, education, and research sectors.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Promotes gender equality and encourages education of the girl child.
- **Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:** Supports high school girls to pursue higher studies in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).
- **GATI Scheme:** A framework to measure and advance gender equality in STEM fields, launched under the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI).
- **SERB-POWER Programme:** Reduces gender disparities in funding for science and technology research in academic institutions and R&D labs.
- **WEST Initiative (2022):** Introduced under I-STEM to promote Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology.
- **BioCARE Initiative:** Department of Biotechnology's scheme to support women scientists through Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation.

Kilkari Programme (2024)

- Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- It is a Mobile Health (m-Health) initiative.
- Uses Interactive Voice Response (IVR) to deliver health messages.
- Women registered in the Reproductive Child Health (RCH) portal (based on LMP or child's Date of Birth) are covered.
- Sends weekly pre-recorded audio messages to mobile phones of pregnant women and mothers with children under 1 year.
- Aims to improve maternal and child health awareness through accessible mobile-based communication.

Tele MANAS: A Mental Health Lifeline Across India

- Full Form: Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States
- Launch Year: 2023
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Ministry (as per image): Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (Note: Actual correct ministry is the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

Salient Features

- Toll-free mental health helpline covering all States and Union Territories
- Part of National Tele Mental Health Programme of India
- Provides a comprehensive digital library on mental health
- Implemented by NIMHANS, Bengaluru (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences)

National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

- Launched: 2018
- Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme

Key Features

- Funds state govts/UTs for:
 - Preventive education
 - Awareness generation
 - Capacity building
 - Vocational training for ex-addicts
- Goal: Reduce overall drug demand
- Beneficiaries: Drug-affected individuals, families & institutions
- Flagship Initiative: Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

- Part of: Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Purpose: To enable cashless healthcare access and manage financial workflows under the Ayushman Bharat scheme through a digital health ID system.

Key Features

- 14-digit ABHA number: Links all personal health records in a unified digital format.

Creation methods:

- Aadhaar-based or Using mobile number or driver's license
- Universal access: Open to all individuals under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), free of cost
- Digital push: Promotes transparency, reduces corruption, and enables real-time fund tracking

Core Components

- Beneficiary Identification: Each individual receives a Unique Health ID (UHID)
- Funds Management: Tracks fund allocation and usage for health services
- Claim Settlement: Facilitates timely payment to healthcare providers
- Audit & Oversight: Monitors transactions, flags irregularities

Benefits

- Reduces out-of-pocket healthcare expenses
- Minimizes bureaucratic delays with electronic records
- Strengthens healthcare efficiency and accountability

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (2018)

- Ministry: Ministry of Defence
- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Promotes an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) culture in the Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- Beneficiaries: Defence PSUs (DPSUs), ordnance factories, armed forces, MSMEs, and startups.
- Implementing Authority: Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).
- Aims to boost indigenous innovation and secure strategic IPR assets within defence production.

Sanchar Mitra Scheme

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has expanded its 'Sanchar Mitra Scheme' across India.
- Objective: To promote digital safety, cyber fraud prevention, responsible mobile usage, and electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation awareness through student volunteerism.
- Volunteer Engagement: Volunteers named Sanchar Mitras.
- Targeted students from telecom, electronics, computer science, and cybersecurity streams.
- Nominated via local Department of Telecommunications (DoT) offices.
- Training & Exposure: Provided by National Communications Academy-Technology (NCA-T) and DoT's Media Wing.
- Focus areas: 5G, 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), cyber security.
- Incentives: Top performers may get internships, project work, and representation at events like India Mobile Congress and ITU conferences.

Public Distribution System (PDS)

Eligibility

- Must be an Indian citizen.
- Families below the poverty line are eligible for PDS.
- Families without a member between ages 15-59.
- Families with a disabled member can also avail benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Gramin Yojana.
- Casual laborers or those without permanent jobs are eligible.

Benefits

- Below Poverty Line (BPL) households receive highly subsidized food grains.
- Above Poverty Line (APL) households receive food grains at higher prices.
- 35 kg of rice or wheat every month for households below the poverty line.
- 15 kg of food grains monthly for eligible BPL households.
- Migrant workers can access food grains through ONORC (One Nation One Ration Card) wherever they are working.

History & Overview

- The system was established during WWII as a wartime rationing measure.
- Relaunched as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) on June 1, 1997, focusing on assisting the poor.

Ministry & Oversight

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution oversees PDS implementation.
- Central and State Governments share responsibility for the program.
- Food Corporation of India (FCI) is responsible for procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation.
- State Governments handle the distribution of food through Fair Price Shops (FPS).

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

- Overview:
 - AIF is a Central Sector Scheme by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 - It provides medium to long-term debt financing for projects in post-harvest infrastructure and community farming assets
- Total fund size: ₹1,00,000 crore, supporting projects at farm-gate and aggregation points
- Target beneficiaries: PACS, FPOs, SHGs, JLGs, cooperatives, agri-entrepreneurs, startups, etc.
- Goal: To build affordable, viable agri-infrastructure for better value realization and reduced post-harvest losses

Key Components of AIF

- Interest Subvention – Reduced interest rates on loans
- Credit Guarantee – Protection against loan default
- PMU Administration Cost – Support for managing the scheme effectively

Eligible Project Types

- Post-Harvest Management Infrastructure
- Warehouses, silos, cold storages & cold chains
- e-Marketplaces, packaging & assaying units
- Ripening chambers, logistics, farm residue management
- Primary processing & storage solutions

Community Farming Assets

- Smart & precision farming tools (e.g. drones, sensors, IoT, AI)
- Bio-stimulant & organic input production
- Solar pumps (PM-KUSUM A/B/C), compressed biogas units
- Seed processing, nurseries, tissue culture labs
- Custom hiring centres, automation tools
- Infrastructure for sericulture, honey, spirulina production
- Blockchain & remote sensing tech in agriculture

Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025

- Notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- Aims to provide cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims at designated hospitals for 7 days post-accident
- Applicable across all public roads in India

Key Features:

- Eligibility – All victims of motor vehicle-related road accidents
- Coverage – Trauma and poly-trauma care in hospitals (including those under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY)
- Nodal Agency – State Road Safety Council
- Payments – Handled by State Health Agency through Motor Vehicle Accident Fund within 10 days
- Monitoring – Done by a MoRTH-led committee

Why It Matters:

- India has the highest global road accident toll
- ~4.6 lakh road accidents and 1.68 lakh deaths reported in 2022
- Helps India meet UN Decade of Action target to halve traffic deaths by 2030

Complementary Initiatives:

- Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 – Ensures strict enforcement
- e-DAR Portal – Central database for road accident records
- Road Safety Audits – Mandatory for National Highways
- Good Samaritan Scheme – Rewards citizens who assist victims within the Golden Hour

LaQshya – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative

- Aim: To reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity, and stillbirths by improving care around delivery in Labour Rooms and Maternity OTs and ensuring respectful maternity care

Key Interventions:

- Sensitising care providers to monitor respectful behaviour and conduct in Labour Room & OT
- Creating enabling environment for natural birthing
- Ensuring 24x7 availability of blood transfusion, diagnostics, drugs, consumables
- Availability of optimal and skilled human resources

Quality Certification:

- Quality assessed via NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards)
- Facilities scoring $\geq 70\%$ on NQAS are certified as LaQshya certified facilities

Support Tools & Coverage:

- Safe Delivery App to improve labour room quality
- m-Health tools to assist health workers during deliveries
- Focus on training, mentoring, demonstration
- Applicable to district & sub-district hospitals, govt medical colleges, and community health centres
- Provides support for quality certification & incentivising performance

Government Initiatives for Elderly Care:

- Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY): Provides elderly homes, continuous care centers, and Mobile Medicare Units for senior citizens.
- National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE): Ensures dedicated healthcare from primary to tertiary levels for the elderly.
- SACRED Portal: Facilitates re-employment opportunities for senior citizens, helping them maintain dignity in work.
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY): Distributes assistive devices to BPL elderly, enhancing their mobility and independence.
- Social Pension Schemes (NSAP): Provides direct pension support through IGNOAPS to economically vulnerable seniors aged 60-79.

India's Largest Tribal Village Development Scheme: PM-JUGA

- Launched: October 2, 2024
- Beneficiaries: 5 crore+ tribal people | Coverage: 63,000 villages

Key Features

- 17 ministries collaborate to bridge gaps in housing, healthcare, education, livelihood, and connectivity
- Focus on tribal-majority villages ($\geq 50\%$ ST population or ≥ 500 tribal persons) and Aspirational Districts
- Total Budget: ₹79,156 crore
 - Centre: ₹56,333 Cr | States: ₹22,823 Cr
- Rooted in Gandhian ideals & aligned with UN SDGs

Major Targets (Examples)

- 20 lakh pucca houses (PM Awas Yojana – Gramin)
- 25,000 km rural roads (PM Gram Sadak Yojana)
- 1,000 mobile medical units (Ayushman Bharat Infra Mission)
- 2.35 lakh electricity connections (RDSS)
- 25 lakh LPG connections (Ujjwala Yojana)
- 5,000 villages to get high-speed internet (BharatNet)
- 700 Poshan Vatikas for food & herbal nutrition
- 1,000 tribal homestays under Swadesh Darshan for eco-tourism

Notable Achievements (as of June 2025)

- 3,001 km roads laid
- 2.92 lakh water connections
- 1,050 Anganwadi centres upgraded
- 1.88 lakh pucca houses sanctioned
- 4,465 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras sanctioned
- 346 EMRS schools functional with 1.38 lakh students

Model Case: Bailutygudem, Andhra Pradesh

- From water-scarce & wildlife-risky to tap water access via Jal Jeevan Mission
- Empowered women-led Water Committees ensure community ownership

Linkages to SDGs

- SDG 3: Health (mobile units, insurance, nutrition)

- SDG 4: Education (hostels, ashrams)
- SDG 8: Livelihoods (homestays, skill centres, forest produce)
- SDG 9: Infrastructure (roads, power, telecom, housing)

National Manuscript Mission (NMM)

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Culture
- Establishment: 2003
- Objective: The Mission aims to identify, document, conserve, and make accessible the manuscript heritage of India.

Key Objectives

- Locate manuscripts through national level Survey and Post-Survey.
- Document each manuscript and repository for a National Electronic Database.
- Conserve manuscripts using modern and indigenous methods, and train a new generation of manuscript conservators.
- Train scholars in various aspects of Manuscript Studies.
- Promote access to manuscripts by digitizing rare and endangered manuscripts.
- Promote access to manuscripts through publication of critical editions and catalogues.
- Facilitate public engagement with manuscripts through lectures, seminars, and outreach programmes.

Functioning

- NMM operates as a unit under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Technological Use

- The NMM uses technology for preservation and digitisation of manuscripts.
- Digital manuscripts are uploaded to an online portal: [Pandulipi Patal].

Methodologies for Preservation

- Lamination, restoration, and deacidification of manuscripts.

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

Objective:

- Promote chemical-free and sustainable agricultural practices across India.
- Reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Enhance soil health and provide safe and nutritious food.

Financial Outlay:

- Total budget: ₹2,481 crore
 - ₹1,584 crore from the Government of India
 - ₹897 crore from state governments
- Covers the period up to the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).

Implementation Strategy

- Cluster Development:
- Establish 15,000 clusters in willing Gram Panchayats
- Reach 1 crore farmers and initiate natural farming on 7.5 lakh hectares.

Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs):

- Set up 10,000 BRCs for easy access to natural farming inputs.

Capacity Building

- Model Demonstration Farms:
- Established 2,000 farms at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Agricultural Universities, and farmers' fields.

Farmer Training:

- Train 18.75 lakh farmers in natural farming practices, including making Jeevamrit and Beejamrit.
- Community Resource Persons:
- Deploy 30,000 Krishi Sakhis/Community Resource Persons for awareness and support.

Monitoring and Certification

- **Certification System:**
 - Simplified certification process with common branding for market access.
- **Digital Monitoring:**
 - Real-time geo-tagged monitoring via an online portal.
- **Convergence and Collaboration**
 - Collaborate with central and state schemes, national and international organizations to enhance livestock populations, develop demonstration farms, and provide market linkages.

CITIIS 2.0 – Driving Innovation in Urban India

- Launched: 2023
- Ministry: Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Core)
- Supports circular economy projects across 100 smart cities
- Sets up climate data observatories at both city and state levels
- Offers financial + technical assistance to boost urban innovation
- Targets smart cities under the Smart Cities Mission
- Implemented by NIUA (National Institute of Urban Affairs)

Free Bus Schemes Help, But Rural India Still Pays More to Travel

Key Insight

- Rural households spend 20.6% of their conveyance budget on bus services – vs 16.2% in urban India
- Despite free bus schemes for women, rural India continues to bear higher travel costs due to lower supply and dependence on public transport

State Variations

- Tamil Nadu & Kerala: Bus travel forms 25% of rural conveyance spending
- UP, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana: Below 20%
- States with free bus schemes (e.g. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, etc.) saw:
 - Increase in rural bus use
 - Decrease in urban bus share (urban women benefited most)

Transport Affordability Trends

- Rural households depend more on buses due to fewer alternatives
- Urban rich use buses less → spend lower share
- Workforce participation ≠ conveyance burden – higher bus spending not linked to employment rates

Gaps in Bus Infrastructure

- India has only 11 buses per lakh people
- MoRTH recommends 60 per lakh
- States like Punjab, Odisha, UP have fewer buses per lakh than recommended
- Telangana, Karnataka, TN perform better but still lag targets

Policy Suggestions

- Upgrade to electric buses
- Improve rural bus frequency & coverage
- Increase buses per capita based on population clusters
- Ensure last-mile access for rural poor
- Transport policies must be gender-sensitive & equity-based

Purvodaya Plan: Eastern India's Rise in Focus

- About: A vision plan for the holistic development of eastern states – Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh

Objectives

- Transform these states into engines of national growth
- Focus on human resource development
- Improve infrastructure & logistics
- Expand economic and industrial opportunities
- Promote sustainable tourism

Tourism Strategy

- Shift from circuit-based to destination-based tourism
- Emphasis on:
 - Better connectivity
 - Tourist facility upgrades
 - Boost to local economies via tourism-led livelihoods

NUDGE Initiative (CBDT)

- Full Form & Basics
- NUDGE = Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable
- Implemented by: CBDT
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Finance
- Aim: Promote voluntary tax compliance using data-driven, non-intrusive communication.

What It Focuses On

- Helping taxpayers correctly disclose:
 - Foreign assets
 - Foreign-source income
 - Ensures proper reporting in Schedule FA & FSI of ITR.

First NUDGE Campaign (Nov 2024)

- Target: Taxpayers flagged via AEOI for NOT reporting foreign assets (AY 2024-25)
- **Outcomes:**
 - 24,678 revised returns
 - ₹29,208 crore of foreign assets disclosed
 - ₹1,089.88 crore foreign income declared

Second NUDGE Campaign (Nov 2025)

- CBDT sending SMS + Emails to taxpayers whose foreign assets appear unreported (AY 2025-26)
- Advisory: Review & revise ITRs before 31 Dec 2025 to avoid penalties
- Goal: Improve accurate reporting of foreign assets & income

Legal Note

- Full disclosure is mandatory under:
 - Income-tax Act, 1961
 - Black Money Act, 2015