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53/5, First Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar

Contact: 011-49789720, 9990356664

(E-mail-info@chromeias.com, Website- <http://chromeias.com>)

PIB – DECEMBER 2, 2019

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic– *Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.*

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANT ORGANIZATION (NOTTO)

Context

10th Indian Organ Donation Day organised by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)

About NOTTO

- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is a National level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services.
- Government of India has set up the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) as a mandate of the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011.
- NOTTO carry out the activities for promotion of organ donation from deceased persons, putting systems in place for organ donation and transplantation and training the needed manpower etc.

It has following two divisions–

1. *“National Human Organ and Tissue Removal and Storage Network”*
2. *“National Biomaterial Centre”.*

National Human Organ and Tissue Removal and Storage Network

- This has been mandated as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011**.
- The network will be established initially for Delhi and gradually expanded to include other States and Regions of the country.
- Thus, this division of the NOTTO is the nodal networking agency for Delhi and shall network for Procurement Allocation

and Distribution of Organs and Tissues in Delhi.

Function/Activities

- National Network division of NOTTO would function as apex centre for All India activities of coordination and networking for procurement and distribution of Organs and Tissues.
- Registry of Organs and Tissues Donation and Transplantation in the country.

National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank)

- The **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011** has included the component of tissue donation and registration of tissue Banks.
- It becomes imperative to establish National level Tissue Bank to fulfil the demands of tissue transplantation including activities for procurement, storage and fulfil distribution of biomaterials.
- **The main thrust & objective** of establishing the centre is to fill up the gap between ‘Demand’ and ‘Supply’ as well as ‘Quality Assurance’ in the availability of various tissues.

Activities

- Coordination for tissue procurement and distribution
- Donor Tissue Screening
- Removal of Tissues and Storage
- Preservations of Tissue
- Laboratory screening of Tissues
- Tissue Tracking
- Sterilization
- Records maintenance, Data Protection and Confidentiality
- Quality Management in tissues
- Patient Information on tissues
- Development of Guidelines, Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures
- Trainings
- Assisting as per requirement in registration of other Tissue Banks

GS-2ND PAPER

Topic- *Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.*

CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS (CGA)

Context

Smt. Soma Roy Burman is the 24th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and is the seventh woman to hold this coveted position.

About CGA

The CGA is the **Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.**

Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is–

- *The Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government*
- *Responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System.*
- *Responsible for preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government.*
- *Responsible for exchequer control and internal audits.*
- *CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.*
- **Though it itself is not a constitutional body,**
- *It derives its mandate from **Article 150** of the constitution which says-
“The accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, prescribe.”*

Mandate

Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution. This statutory mandate as incorporated in the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 brings out the duties and responsibilities of CGA as below-

- *General principles of Government accounting relating to Union or State Governments and form of accounts, and*

framing or revision of rules and manuals relating thereto;

- *Reconciliation of cash balance of Union Government with Reserve Bank in general and, in particular, of Reserve Deposits pertaining to Civil Ministries or Departments;*
- *Overseeing the maintenance of adequate standards of accounting by Central Civil Accounts Offices;*
- *Consolidation of monthly accounts and preparation of annual accounts showing under the respective heads, the annual receipts and disbursements for the purpose of the Union Government;*
- *Administration of Central Treasury Rules and Central Government Account (Receipt and Payment Rules 1983);*
- *Coordination and assistance in the introduction of management accounting system in Civil Ministries or Departments;*

Important note

- *While CAG is a constitutional body, CGA is not.*
- *While CAG is independent constitutional body, CGA works under Ministry of Finance and not a constitutional or statutory body.*

FOR PRELIMS

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

Highlights

Shri Hari Mohan takes over as Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board.

Ministry of Defence (MoD) clarified that there is no proposal to privatise Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

About OFB

- *Indian Ordnance Factories is a giant industrial setup which functions under the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.*
- *Indian Ordnance Factories is **headquartered at Kolkata.***
- ***It is a conglomerate of 41 Factories, 9 Training Institutes, 3 Regional Marketing***

Centres and 4 Regional Controller of Safety.

- The ordnance factories form an integrated base for the indigenous production of defence hardware and equipment.
- The primary objective of the ordnance factories is achieving self-reliance in equipping the armed forces with state of the art battlefield equipment.

Nagaland Statehood Day

Highlights

- Nagaland is a state in north-eastern India.
- It borders the state of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to the north, Myanmar to the east, and Manipur to the south.
- The state is inhabited by 16 major tribes — **Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Kachari, Khamniungan, Konyak, Kuki, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimchunger and Zeme-Liangmai (Zeliang)**.
- Each tribe is unique in character with its own distinct customs, language and dress.
- English is the official language and the language of education.
- Nagaland is one of three states in India where the population is mostly Christian.
- Nagaland attained statehood with the enactment of the state of Nagaland Act in 1962.
- Nagaland became the **16th state of India on 1 December 1963**.

PIB – DECEMBER 3, 2019

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Context

In pursuance of judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government has decided to set up a

bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) at Chennai.

About

- Benches of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) are set up in various States depending on the case load and other relevant factors.
- Apart from decision to set up NCLAT bench at Chennai, five new benches of NCLT have been set up during 2018-2019 at **Jaipur, Cuttack, Kochi, Indore and Amaravati**.
- The Government has recently appointed 28 more members in NCLT and 4 more members in NCLAT.

About NCLAT

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013.
- It came in effect from 1st June, 2016.
- NCLAT constituted to hear appeals against the orders of the Tribunal (NCLT).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)..
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Composition of NCLAT

- **The chairperson-** shall be a person **who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court**.
- **A Judicial Member-** shall be a person **who is or has been a Judge of a High Court or is a Judicial Member of the Tribunal for five years**.
- **A Technical Member-** shall be a person of proven ability, integrity and standing having special knowledge and experience, of not less than twenty-five years, in law,

industrial management or administration, or such other disciplines related to management, conduct of affairs, revival, rehabilitation and winding up of companies.

- *The **President of the NCLT and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the NCLAT will be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.***
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**
- The National Company Law Tribunal (**NCLT**) *is a quasi-judicial body* in India adjudicating issues concerning companies in the country.
 - It was formed on June 1, 2016 as per the provisions of the Companies Act 2013.
 - It was formed based *on the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee* that was related to insolvency and winding up of companies in India.
 - As of now, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has established 11 Benches of the tribunal with the Principal Bench at New Delhi.

Functions of NCLT

- All proceedings under the Companies Act such as arbitration, arrangements, compromise, reconstruction and winding up of the company will be disposed off by the NCLT.
- It is the Adjudicating Authority for insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- In the above mentioned subjects, ***no civil court will have jurisdiction.***
- The NCLT has the authority to dispose of cases pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).
- It also addresses the cases relating to the oppression and mismanagement of a company.
- Decisions taken by the NCLT can be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

- The decisions of the NCLAT can be appealed to the Supreme Court on a point of law.

TIGER CORRIDORS IN COUNTRY

Context

The National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India has published a document titled "Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation".

About

- 32 major corridors have been mapped out across the country in the "Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation".
- Management interventions for tiger corridors are operationalised through a Tiger Conservation Plan, mandated under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Strategy for Tiger Corridors

A 3 pronged strategy to manage human-tiger negative interactions has been advocated as follows-

Material and logistical support

- Funding support through the ongoing **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger** is provided to tiger reserves.
- It is for acquiring capacity in terms of infrastructure and material, to deal with tigers dispersing out of source areas.

Restricting habitat interventions

- Based on the carrying capacity of tigers in a tiger reserve, habitat interventions are restricted through an overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP).
- In case tiger numbers are at carrying capacity levels, it is advised that habitat interventions should be limited.
- So that there is no excessive spillover of wildlife including tigers thereby minimizing man-animal conflict.
- In buffer areas around tiger reserves, habitat interventions are restricted such

that they are sub-optimal vis-à-vis the core/critical tiger habitat areas, judicious enough to facilitate dispersal to other rich habitat areas only.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with man-animal conflict which are available in public domain-

- *To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes*
- *To deal with tiger depredation on livestock*
- *For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.*

Significance

- The three SOPs inter alia include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Project Tiger

- Project Tiger **was launched in April 1973** during PM Indira Gandhi's tenure.
- Project Tiger was launched in **Jim Corbett National Park**.
- The project is administrated by **the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- **It aims**– at ensuring a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats, protecting them from extinction etc.
- Under this project the govt. has set up a Tiger Protection Force to combat poachers and funded relocation of villagers to minimize human-tiger conflicts.
- **Currently, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50 Tiger Reserves**, spread out in 18 tiger range states.
- The tiger reserves are constituted on a **core/buffer strategy**.

- **The core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary.**
- Whereas the **buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land**, managed as a multiple use area.
- It is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (**NTCA**) is a **statutory body** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- It has an overarching supervisory/coordination role, performing functions as provided in the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The NTCA was launched in 2005, following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was given statutory status by 2006 amendment of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic– Schemes for the vulnerable sections of the society.

PENSION SCHEME FOR SHOPKEEPERS, TRADERS

Context

The progress of the 'Pension scheme for shopkeepers, traders' is being reviewed for taking initiatives under Mission Mode.

About

- The Government has approved a new scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community.
- This is a part of the Prime Minister's vision to provide a robust architecture of universal social security.
- Its originally proposed name was, *Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Scheme*.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.

- Enrolment to the Scheme is done through the Common Service Centres, with its network of 3.50 lakh Centres across the country.

Features of this Scheme

- Under this scheme all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with GST turnover below Rs. 1.5 crore and age between 18-40 years, can enrol for this scheme.
- The scheme would benefit more than 3 crore small shopkeepers and traders.
- The scheme is based on self-declaration as no documents are required except Aadhaar and bank account.
- Interested persons can enrol themselves through more than 3,25,000 Common Service Centres spread across the country.
- The Government of India will make matching contribution in the subscribers' account.

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic– *Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.*

FAME INDIA SCHEME

Context

Performance of Fame India Scheme has been reviewed.

About FAME India scheme

- FAME India is a part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan**.
- Main thrust of FAME is **to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies**.
- FAME-India Scheme is implementing by Department of Heavy Industry in order **to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology** and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.

- It is being implemented in two phases.

1. *Phase-I [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India] from 1st April 2015.*
2. *The Phase-II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles.*

- (FAME-India) Scheme proposes **to give a push to electric vehicles (EVs) in public transport** and seeks to encourage adoption of EVs by way of market creation and demand aggregation.

Key features of FAME 2 scheme

- FAME 2 scheme aims **to boost electric mobility and increase the number of electric vehicles** in commercial fleets.
- The government will provide the **incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers** to be used for commercial purposes.
- The centre will invest in setting up charging stations, with the active participation of public sector units and private players.
- Projects for charging infrastructure will include those needed to extend electrification for running vehicles such as pantograph charging and flash charging.
- FAME 2 will also encourage interlinking of renewable energy sources with charging infrastructure.

Significance

- India needs auto industry's active participation to ease electric mobility transition.
- The auto and battery industries could collaborate to enhance customer awareness and promote domestic manufacturing.
- Government needs to focus on a phased manufacturing plan to promote EVs, provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for phased manufacturing of EVs and batteries.

FOR PRELIMS

Blue Flag Certification for Beaches

Highlights

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has embarked upon a programme for 'Blue Flag' Certification for select beaches in the country.
- This Certification is accorded by an international agency "Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark".
- It is based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads i.e.
 1. *Environmental Education and Information,*
 2. *Bathing Water Quality,*
 3. *Environment Management and Conservation and*
 4. *Safety and Services in the beaches.*

What is Blue Flag Beach?

The 'Blue Flag' beach is an Eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide to the tourists/beach goers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.

PIB – DECEMBER 4, 2019

GS- 2nd Paper

Topic- *Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation*

POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION TRACKING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PPRTMS)

Context

The Election Commission of India has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties and issued new Guidelines.

About

The Election Commission of India has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties.

The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January, 2020.

Accordingly the "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS) will be implemented through an online portal, to facilitate tracking of status of application by applicants.

Key highlights

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS).
- In the PPRTMS the applicant will be able to track the progress of his / her application.
- The candidates will get status update through SMS and email.
- The applicant is required to provide contact mobile number and email address of the party / applicant in his application if he/she wishes to track the progress of the application.

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic- *Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security;*

e-NAM - NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MARKET

Context

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform is working properly and sufficient speed of internet connectivity has been provided to e-NAM mandis.

About

- State Governments have been advised to explore the possibilities of upgrading the internet connectivity with internet service providers.
- Close monitoring of the progress through meetings at various levels and visits of the officers to e-NAM mandis is carried out.

What is e-NAM?

- e-NAM is one of major and important flagship schemes implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing e-NAM.
- It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.

Vision

- To promote uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets.
- To remove information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promoting real time price discovery based on actual demand and supply.

Key features of e-NAM

- e-NAM is pan-India e-trading platform.
- It is designed **to create unified national market** for agricultural commodities.
- Its objective is **to provide competitive and remunerative price to farmers** for their produce through online competitive and transparent bidding process.
- It **integrates Central Farmer Database** to increase the efficiency and reduce queue time.
- It has now expanded to 479 Mandis across 14 states and 1 Union Territory.
- It is now **available in 8 different languages** and its live trading facility is available in six different languages.
- Using it, farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere.

Advantages of e-NAM

- The NAM portal is a single window service for any information and services related to APMC.
It includes-
 1. *Commodity arrivals and prices*
 2. *Buy and sell trade offers*
 3. *Provision to respond to trade offers, among other services*
- The e-NAM **reduces the transaction costs and information irregularity** even when the agriculture produce continues to flow through the mandis.
- For the farmers, e-NAM promises more options for sale.
- For the local trader in the mandi, e-NAM offers the **opportunity to access a larger national market for secondary trading.**
- The gradual **integration of all the major mandis in the States** into e-NAM will ensure common procedures for issue of licences, levy of fee and movement of produce.
- The NAM will also **facilitate the emergence of value chains in major agricultural commodities** across the country and help to promote scientific storage and movement of Agri goods.

GS- 1ST PAPER

Topic- *Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.*

MAHILA KISAN SASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA (MKSP)

Context

Assistance to Female Farmers

About

- Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aimed to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to

enhance their participation and productivity, as also to create and sustain their agriculture-based livelihoods.

- Under MKSP, a total number of 36.06 lakh Mahila Kisans have been benefitted through 84 projects in 24 States/UTs in the country.
- Out of which 1.81 lakhs women have been benefitted in the State of Maharashtra.

About MKSP

- The “Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana” (MKSP) is a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM).
- It seeks to improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her.

Key features

- MKSP *recognizes the identity of “Mahila” as “Kisan”*.
- It strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices.
- It reach out to the poorest of poor households and expand the portfolio of activities currently handled by the Mahila Kisan.
- MKSP is focusing on capacitating smallholders to adopt sustainable climate resilient agro-ecology and eventually create a pool of skilled community professionals.

Objective

- To enhance the participation of women in agriculture in a productive manner.
- To improve the skills and capabilities of women in agriculture to support farm and non-farm based activities.
- To improve the capacities of women in agriculture to access the resources of other institutions and schemes within a convergence framework.
- Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices, such as-

1. *Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA),*
2. *Non Pesticide Management (NPM),*
3. *Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF),*
4. *Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services,*
5. *Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce.*

Funding

Funding support to the tune of up to 60% (90% for North Eastern States) for such projects is provided by the Government of India.

Women Farmers in India

- Rural women form the most productive work force in the economy of majority of the developing nations including India.
- More than 80% of rural women are engaged in agriculture activities for their livelihoods.
- About 20 per cent of farm livelihoods are female headed due to widowhood, desertion, or male emigration.
- Agriculture support system in India strengthens the exclusion of women from their entitlements as agriculture workers and cultivators.
- Most of the women-headed households are not able to access extension services, farmers support institutions and production assets like seed, water, credit, subsidy etc.
- As agricultural workers, women are paid lower wage than men.
- MKSP seeks to improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic – Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME (RCS-UDAN)

Context

Ministry of Civil Aviation Launches Round 4 of RCS- UDAN.

About the Scheme

- Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-Udan) stands for Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.
- UDAN is a flagship scheme of the Union Government to enable air operations on unserved routes, connecting regional areas, to promote balanced regional growth and to make flying affordable for masses.
- The UDAN Scheme is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was launched in June 2016.

Objectives

- The primary objective of RCS- Udan is to facilitate regional air connectivity by making it cheap and affordable.
- To boost regional air connectivity and provide various incentives to airlines.
- It promotes affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting airline operators through: Concessions and Financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support.

Significance

- The UDAN scheme seeks to provide connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
- The scheme gives India's aviation sector a boost by giving a chance to small and first-time operators to be a part of the rapid growth in passenger traffic.
- This first-of-its-kind scheme will ensure affordability, connectivity, growth and development.
- Under it regional connectivity will be developed on market-based mechanism under which Airlines will bid for seat subsidies.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic covered– Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PROHIBITION OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ORDINANCE

Context

Union Cabinet has approved the Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019.

What are Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes)?

- Electronic-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes.
- These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices.
- It is a battery-powered vaporizer that mimics tobacco smoking. It works by heating up nicotine liquid, called "juice."
- Nicotine juice (or e-juice) comes in various flavors and nicotine levels.
- Its use has increased exponentially and has acquired epidemic proportions in developed countries, especially among youth and children.

ICMR's recommendations

- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has recommended 'complete' ban on **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**, including e-cigarettes.
- e-cigarettes and other such devices contained not only nicotine solution, that was highly addictive, but also harmful ingredients like flavoring agents and vaporisers.
- Availability of flavour variants and attractive designs are adding to allure of devices, and globally there was an increasing trend of e-cigarettes

consumption among youth and adolescents.

- Use of ENDS or e-cigarettes can open a gateway for new tobacco addiction among the masses as on the balance, these have a negative impact on public health.
- Prolonged use of ENDS or e-cigarettes has documented adverse impact on humans which includes DNA damage, respiratory/cardiovascular/ neurological Disorders and have adverse effects on fetal development and pregnancy.
- Research has found that youths using e-cigarettes are more likely to use regular cigarettes in later period.

Major Impact of the Ordinance

- **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance** will ensure effective and timely action against the trend of use of e-cigarettes, especially among the young generation.
- It will advance tobacco control efforts, leading to better public health outcomes.
- It will contribute to reduction in tobacco usage, and decline in associated economic and disease burden.
- The decision to prohibit e-cigarettes will help protect population, especially the youth and children, from the risk of addiction through E-cigarettes.

WHO on e- cigarettes

- As per the WHO report, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), also known as e-cigarettes, emits nicotine, the addictive component of tobacco products.
- The WHO report says that although nicotine itself is not a carcinogen, it may function as a “tumour promoter”.
- Nicotine seems to be involved in the biology of malignant disease, as well as of neurodegeneration.
- Nicotine can have adverse effects on the development of the foetus during pregnancy and may contribute to cardiovascular disease, as well as it make addictive.

- Foetal and adolescent nicotine exposure may have long-term consequences for brain development, potentially leading to learning and anxiety disorders.

For Prelims

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Highlight

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated on **December 3**.
- It is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992.
- The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.
- It was originally called “**International Day of Disabled Persons**” until 2007.
- **2019 Theme:** ‘Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership’.

GS- 3rd Paper

Topic- *Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.*

BHARAT BOND EXCHANGE TRADED FUND

Context

Cabinet approves launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund.

About

- The Government has launched Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
- Bharat Bond ETF would be **the first corporate Bond ETF in the country**.
- Bharat Bond ETF, comprising debt of state-run companies, a move which will allow retail investors to buy government debt.
- It will **provide retail investors easy and low-cost access to bond markets**, with smaller amount as low as ₹1,000.

- ETFs invest in a basket of securities representing an index, security or commodity and are traded on the stock exchange like any security listed on the exchange.

Features of Bharat Bond ETF

ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by CPSE/CPSU/CPFI/any other Government organization Bonds (Initially, all AAA rated bonds).

- Tradable on exchange
- Small unit size Rs 1,000
- Transparent NAV (Periodic live NAV during the day)
- Transparent Portfolio (Daily disclosure on website)
- Low cost (0.0005%)

Bharat Bond ETF Structure

- Each ETF will have a fixed maturity date.
- The ETF will track the underlying Index on risk replication basis, i.e. matching Credit Quality and Average Maturity of the Index.
- Will invest in a portfolio of bonds of CPSE, CPSU, CPFI or any other Government organizations that matures on or before the maturity date of the ETF.
- As of now, it will have 2 maturity series – 3 and 10 years. Each series will have a separate index of the same maturity series.

Index Methodology

- Index will be constructed by an independent index provider – National Sock Exchange
- Different indices tracking specific maturity years – 3 and 10 years.

Benefits of Bharat Bond ETF to investors

- Bond ETF will provide safety (underlying bonds are issued by CPSEs and other Government owned entities), liquidity (tradability on exchange) and predictable tax efficient returns (target maturity structure).
- It will also provide access to retail investors to invest in bonds with smaller amount (as

low as Rs. 1,000) thereby providing easy and low-cost access to bond markets.

- This will increase participation of retail investors who are currently not participating in bond markets due to liquidity and accessibility constraints.
- Tax efficiency compared to Bonds as coupons from the Bonds are taxed at marginal rates. Bond ETFs are taxed with the benefit of indexation which significantly reduces the tax on capital gains for investor.

Developmental impact on Bond Markets

- Target Maturity Bond ETF is expected to create a yield curve and a ladder of Bond ETFs with different maturities across calendar years.
- ETF is expected to create new eco-system – Market Makers, index providers and awareness amongst investors – for launching new Bond ETFs in India.
- This is expected to eventually increase the size of bond ETFs in India leading to achieving key objectives at a larger scale – deepening bond markets, enhancing retail participation and reducing borrowing costs.

GS-3 PAPER

Topic- *Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.*

FIRST MANNED MISSION

Context

Outline of First Manned Mission was told in Lok Sabha

The Human Space Mission

- ***Gaganyaan is targeted for December 2021.***
- The design and configuration of major subsystem for Gaganyaan are finalized. The procurement and system/ subsystem realisation for tests and flight has commenced.
 - The crew selection and training process for Gaganyaan mission is progressing well

including the **training in Russia under Gaganyaan Mission**.

Mission Gaganyaan

- The Gaganyaan programme is an **indigenous mission that would take Indian astronauts to space**.
- Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft that is intended **to send 3 astronauts to space for a minimum of seven days by 2022**, as part of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
- The spacecraft, which is being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), consists of a service module and a crew module, collectively known as the Orbital Module.
- Isro's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle **GSLV Mk III, the three-stage heavy-lift launch vehicle**, will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has the necessary payload capability.
- GSLV Mk III is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- The powerful cryogenic stage of GSLV Mk III enables it to place heavy payloads into LEO's of 600 km altitude.
- The launcher uses two S200 solid rocket boosters to provide the huge amount of thrust required for lift off.

GS-3 PAPER

Topic- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TOWARDS AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION (SATAT)

Context

Under SATAT initiative, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) for

setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants in the country.

About the SATAT initiative

- Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is an effort that would benefit vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- The programme will be funded under Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) component of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) to benefit households in identified villages through Gram Panchayats.
- The initiative will help in efficient municipal solid waste management and in tackling the problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.

Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) in SATAT Initiative

- Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports and in enhancing farmers' income, rural employment and entrepreneurship.
- Compressed Bio-Gas plants are proposed to be set up mainly through independent entrepreneurs.
- CBG produced at these plants will be transported through cascades of cylinders to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a green transport fuel alternative.
- The entrepreneurs would be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment.

Benefits

- It is planned to roll out 5,000 Compressed Bio-Gas plants across India in a phased manner.
- This initiative is expected to generate direct employment for 75,000 people and produce 50 million tonnes of bio-manure for crops.

- It will help people for responsible waste management, reduction in carbon emissions and pollution.
- It will provide additional revenue source for farmers.
- It will boost to entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment.
- It will support to national commitments in achieving climate change goals.

FOR PRELIMS

Pact with Germany on Railways

Highlights

- Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) is declared between **India and Germany regarding cooperation on strategic projects in the field of Railways.**

Benefits-

- Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) will provide a platform to Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the field of Railways.
- The Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) will facilitate exchange of information expert meetings, seminars, technical visits and implementation of jointly agreed cooperation projects.

PIB – DECEMBER 5, 2019

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic- *Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.*

BHARAT BOND EXCHANGE TRADED FUND

Context

Cabinet approves launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund.

About

- The Government has launched Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).

- Bharat Bond ETF would be **the first corporate Bond ETF in the country.**
- Bharat Bond ETF, comprising debt of state-run companies, a move which will allow retail investors to buy government debt.
- It will **provide retail investors easy and low-cost access to bond markets**, with smaller amount as low as ₹1,000.
- ETFs invest in a basket of securities representing an index, security or commodity and are traded on the stock exchange like any security listed on the exchange.

Features of Bharat Bond ETF

ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by CPSE/CPSU/CPFI/any other Government organization Bonds (Initially, all AAA rated bonds).

- Tradable on exchange
- Small unit size Rs 1,000
- Transparent NAV (Periodic live NAV during the day)
- Transparent Portfolio (Daily disclosure on website)
- Low cost (0.0005%)

Bharat Bond ETF Structure

- Each ETF will have a fixed maturity date.
- The ETF will track the underlying Index on risk replication basis, i.e. matching Credit Quality and Average Maturity of the Index.
- Will invest in a portfolio of bonds of CPSE, CPSU, CPFI or any other Government organizations that matures on or before the maturity date of the ETF.
- As of now, it will have 2 maturity series – 3 and 10 years. Each series will have a separate index of the same maturity series.

Index Methodology

- Index will be constructed by an independent index provider – National Sock Exchange
- Different indices tracking specific maturity years – 3 and 10 years.

Benefits of Bharat Bond ETF to investors

- Bond ETF will provide safety (underlying bonds are issued by CPSEs and other Government owned entities), liquidity (tradability on exchange) and predictable tax efficient returns (target maturity structure).
- It will also provide access to retail investors to invest in bonds with smaller amount (as low as Rs. 1,000) thereby providing easy and low-cost access to bond markets.
- This will increase participation of retail investors who are currently not participating in bond markets due to liquidity and accessibility constraints.
- Tax efficiency compared to Bonds as coupons from the Bonds are taxed at marginal rates. Bond ETFs are taxed with the benefit of indexation which significantly reduces the tax on capital gains for investor.
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GS-3 PAPER

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GS-3 PAPER

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PIB – DECEMBER 6, 2019

GS-3 PAPER

Topic- *Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.*

**INDIA BASED NEUTRINO
OBSERVATORY**

Context

The India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is being planned in the Theni district in Tamil Nadu.

What is the INO Project?

- India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) Project is aimed at building a **world-class underground laboratory with a rock-cover** to conduct basic research on neutrino.
- The **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is the nodal institution.**
- The observatory is to be built jointly with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology.
- The **observatory will be located underground so as to provide adequate shielding to the neutrino detector from cosmic background radiation.**
- The operation of INO will have no release of radioactive or toxic substances.
- It is not a weapons laboratory and will have no strategic or defence applications.

Key components of INO Project

- Under the Project an underground laboratory and associated surface facilities will be constructed **at Pottipuram in Bodi West hills of Theni District of Tamil Nadu.**
- An **Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector** for studying neutrinos will be constructed.
- Setting up of **National Centre for High Energy Physics at Madurai,**
- It will be used for the operation and maintenance of the underground laboratory, human resource development and detector R&D along with its applications.

What is the 'Neutrino'?

- A neutrino is a **subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron, but has no electrical charge and a very small mass**, which might even be zero.
- Neutrinos are **one of the most abundant particles in the universe.**

- Because they have very little interaction with matter, however, they are incredibly difficult to detect.
- Nuclear forces treat electrons and neutrinos identically; neither participate in the strong nuclear force, but both participate equally in the weak nuclear force.
- **Particles with this property are termed leptons.**
- It interacts very weakly with other matter particles. So weakly that every second trillions of neutrinos fall on us and pass through our bodies unnoticed.
- **Neutrinos come from the sun (solar neutrinos) and other stars,** cosmic rays that come from beyond the solar system, and from the Big Bang from which our Universe originated.
- They can also be produced in the lab.
- The INO will study atmospheric neutrinos only. Solar neutrinos have much lower energy than the detector can detect.

Concerns

- There has been opposition from some sections of the local populace.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has upheld the environmental clearance granted to the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO).
- According to Environmentalists such massive scale of construction underground, and controlled blasts, the vibrations from the explosions will badly affect the ecologically fragile Western Ghats.
- The site is near the Kerala-Tamilnadu border is close to the Mathikettan Shola National Park.
- It is also near the number of hydroelectric projects, which accounts for the majority of the electricity generation in Kerala.

GS-3 PAPER

Topic- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

BRICS REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE CONSTELLATION

Context

The space agencies of BRICS nations have been negotiating a Framework Agreement to formalize the cooperation on building a BRICS space agencies.

About

- The five Brics countries – **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** – agreed to create a Brics Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation.
- This will be the first substantive Brics cooperation in space research.

How it will be done?

- It is currently proposed that the Brics Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation be implemented in two phases.
- **Phase 1**– would create a remote sensing data sharing system, making the data from each of the member countries' existing Earth observation (EO) satellites available to all the other members as well.
- **Phase 1** is described as creating a virtual constellation.
- **Phase 2**-, which will be further discussed and defined in the near future, will involve the creation of a new EO satellite constellation.
- The space agencies of the five countries agreed that its implementation would be a concrete move in developing high-technology cooperation within the group.
- It will also assist all of them to reach their sustainable development goals as well as other social and economic objectives.
- It is further expected that this project will re-stimulate the strategic partnership between the five countries.

The space agencies involved

The five space agencies involved are-

- *Agência Espacial Brasileira (Brazil),*
- *The China National Space Administration,*
- *the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO),*

- *Roscosmos (Russia)*
- *The South African National Space Agency (Sansa).*

Ongoing Programs

- Brazil and China have a joint (now 50:50) EO satellite programme known as CBERS (China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite), with CBERS-4 being the current operational spacecraft in the series.
- China also operates its own EO satellites (the Gaofen series) as does Russia (the latest series are designated Resurs).
- Brazil has developed its first entirely indigenous EO satellite, Amazonia-1, which should be launched late next year.
- South Africa currently does not have an operational EO satellite larger than a nanosat; its next full-size such spacecraft will be EOSat-1, currently being developed.
- It is expected that the flight model EOSat-1 will be completed by 2019/2020.

GS-3 Paper

Topic– Disaster and disaster management.

HEAT WAVE 2020

Context

Two-Day Workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave begins in Bengaluru

About

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka, is conducting a two-day national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave in Bengaluru.
- With this workshop, the National Disaster Management Authority has initiated efforts well in advance of the Heat wave season.

What is a Heat wave?

- A heat wave is usually measured relative to the usual weather in the area and relative to normal temperatures for the season.

- Heat waves can cause adverse effects on human health, including other sectors.
- Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.

Reasons of Heat wave in India

- Deforestation, the heat-island effect, and industrial pollution are also being blamed for exacerbating heat waves.
- Studies have linked an increase in heat waves to more increase in El Nino events, or years marked by an anomalous heating in the Central Pacific Ocean that's linked to a weakening of the Indian monsoon.
- The Indian Ocean temperatures are also rising faster than the other oceans, and this, too, may be reducing moisture over the Indian mainland, thus playing some part in longer stretches of hot days.
- According to the MET Department, the presence of an anti-cyclonic circulation over south Pakistan and neighbouring regions is the reason behind the hot winds prevailing over the entire northwest India.

Declaration of heat wave according to IMD

Based on Departure from Normal (for Hilly regions)

- Heat Wave: Maximum temperature departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C.
- Severe Heat Wave: Maximum temperature departure from normal is >6.4°C.

Based on Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only):

- Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature $\geq 45^\circ\text{C}$.
- Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature $\geq 47^\circ\text{C}$.

Criteria for heat wave for Coastal Regions

- Maximum temperature departure is $>4.5^\circ\text{C}$ from normal
- Heat wave : maximum temperature is $\geq 37^\circ\text{C}$

Health Impacts of Heat Waves

- The health impacts of Heat Waves typically involve dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke.
- Children, the elderly and those with pre-existing morbidities are particularly vulnerable.
- Heat Stroke: body temperatures of 40°C i.e. 104°F or more along with delirium, seizures or coma. This is a potentially fatal condition.

FOR PRELIMS

National Florence Nightingale Awards

Highlights

- The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel.
- **International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.**

About National Florence Nightingale Award

- The Florence Nightingale Award was established by the Union Health Ministry.
- It honours the selfless services rendered by Nurses with devotion, sincerity, dedication and compassion.
- The award is named after **Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing.**
- The Award is given to the outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs.
- Nurses working in Government, Voluntary Organizations, Mission institutions and private institutions can also apply with due recommendation of concerned State Government.
- The Award carries 50,000 rupees cash award, a certificate, a citation certificate and a medal.

PIB – DECEMBER 7, 2019

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States.

'PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN) YOJANA

Context

Around 7.6 crore farmers in the country have been granted benefit under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana'.

About the PM KISAN Yojana

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)** is a cash transfer programme for farmers.
- PM KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- It has become operational from 1December, 2018.
- Under the scheme an **income support of Rs.6000/- per year in three equal instalments** will be provided to small and marginal farmer families **having combined land holding/ownership of upto 2 hectares**.
- Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- State Government and UT Administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
- The fund will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
- There are various Exclusion Categories for the scheme.

Extended PM-Kisan scheme

- PM-KISAN Scheme extension to **include all eligible farmer families irrespective of the size of land holdings**.
- It extends the **benefit of Rs 6,000 per year** under the PM-KISAN scheme **to all farmers** in the country.
- The revised Scheme is expected to cover around 2 crore more farmers.

- It increases the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries, with an estimated expenditure by Central Government of Rs. 87,217.50 crores for year 2019-20.

Significance

- Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this.
- It would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season.
- It would pave the way for the farmers to earn and live a respectable living.

Concerns about the Scheme

- PM-Kisan yojana **completely disregards landless tenants and poor rural households** that do not own land.
- The amount transferred under the scheme accounts only a tenth of the production cost per hectare or consumption expenditure for a poor household.
- The support is largely symbolic and not sustentative.
- The **cash transfer is not linked to the size of the farmer's landholding**.
- There has been a huge delay in disbursements.
- PM-Kisan provides for a timely intervention to support the farmer's needs.
- But this must not become the excuse for withholding the large structural reforms in agriculture the country is in dire need of, both in interests of farmers and consumers.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States.

WEATHER BASED CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

Context

Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) is a unique Weather based Insurance Product designed to provide insurance protection against losses in crop yield resulting from adverse weather incidences.

About

- WBCIS provides payout against adverse rainfall incidence (both deficit & excess) during Kharif and adverse incidence in weather parameters like frost, heat, relative humidity, un-seasonal rainfall etc. during Rabi.
- It is not Yield guarantee insurance.

Crops covered

- Major Food crops (Cereals, Millets & Pulses) & Oilseeds
- Commercial / Horticultural crops

Farmers covered

- All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.
- However, farmers should have insurable interest on the insured crop.
- The non-loanee farmers are required to submit necessary documentary evidence of land records and / or applicable contract / agreements details (in case of sharecroppers / tenant farmers).
- All farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from Financial Institutions (i.e. loanee farmers) for the crop(s) notified are covered on compulsory basis.
- The Scheme is optional for the non-loanee farmers. They can choose between WBCIS and PMFBY, and also the insurance company.

Perils Covered

- **Rainfall**– Deficit Rainfall, Excess rainfall, Unseasonal Rainfall, Rainy days, Dry-spell, Dry days
- **Relative Humidity**

- **Temperature**– High temperature (heat), Low temperature

Wind Speed

- **A combination of the above**
- Hailstorms, cloud-burst may also be covered as Add-on/Index-Plus products for those farmers who have already taken normal coverage under WBCIS.
- The perils listed above are only indicative and not exhaustive, any addition deletion may be considered by insurance companies based on availability of relevant data.
- **Both public sector and private sector** General Insurance Companies can implement WBCIS. Under Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS),
- There is one **premium rate on pan-India** basis for farmers which are maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% of sum insured for Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/ commercial crops, respectively.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States.

COMPREHENSIVE HANDLOOM CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (CHCDS)

Context

The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is targeted at development of Mega Handloom Clusters in clearly identifiable geographical locations.

About

The CHCDS has been formulated by merging all the major components of other schemes, i.e.

1. *Integrated Handlooms Development scheme (IHDS)*
2. *Market and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)*
3. *Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)*

- The CHCDS will follow a need based approach for the integrated and holistic development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers.

Objectives

- To enhance the competitiveness of selected two clusters in terms of increased market share and ensuring increased productivity by higher unit value realization of the products.
- To ensure effective integration of scattered artisans, building their grass roots enterprises and linking them to SMEs in the sector to build critical mass for customized interventions and ensure economies of scale in operations.
- To generate additional livelihood opportunities to the people through specific intervention in segmental sub sector industry and increase the incomes to the artisans/craftsmen already engaged in this sector.
- To provide requisite support/ linkages in terms of adequate infrastructure, technology, product diversification, design development, raw material banks, marketing & promotion, social security and other components that are vital for sustainability of artisans/craftsmen engaged in the Handicrafts sector.

The core elements of the strategy

- The core elements of the strategy for the proposed program are given below
- Convergence of the resources available under various ongoing schemes of the Central Government.
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in the form of collaboration between the Central/State Governments, beneficiary artisans & their groups, financially creditworthy & commercially linked marketing enterprises and the financial Institutions.
- Proactive and strong technical and program management assistance for capacity building, designing of the

interventions and their implementation, through a competent professional agency.

FOR PRELIMS

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

Context

*New National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campuses at **Panchkula (Haryana) and Ranchi (Jharkhand)** have been approved by the Board of Governors of NIFT.*

About NIFT

- NIFT is the pioneering institute of fashion education in the country and has been in the vanguard of providing professional human resource to the textile and apparel industry.
- It was setup 1986.
- It was made a **statutory institute in 2006 by an Act of the Indian Parliament.**
- Over the years NIFT has been working as a knowledge service provider to the Union and State governments in the area of design development and positioning of handlooms and handicrafts.

4th India Water Impact Summit

Highlights

- 4th India Water Impact Summit is organized by Ministry of Jal Shakti, and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT Kanpur.
- The Summit this year will focus on integrated water resources management in urban and rural settings in order to achieve the Government's goal of providing water to every household in the next 5 years.
- The Summit will also host the 2nd "Water Finance Forum".
- It will bring together global financial institutions and investors keen on investing in the rejuvenation of the largest environmental programme.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic- *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.*

PRIME MINISTER VAN DHAN YOJANA

Context

*Trifed Celebrates 100 days of Prime Minister Van Dhan Yojana and Forges Association with **Global***

Fashion Designer Ritu Beri.

About

- Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (**PMVDY**), is a national programme driven by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It aimed at empowering tribal all over the country to make them entrepreneurs.
- TRIFED has partnered with UNICEF for promoting Van Dhan program through the tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce.
- **Tribes India has partnered with Ritu Beri.**

Benefits of partnership

- A partnership of one of India's finest designers with the nation's biggest promoter of tribal crafts and culture has immense potential.
- By partnering with TRIFED as the Chief Design Consultant of Tribes India, Ms. Beri will help make Tribes India a household name with her demonstrated and well-established expertise in the fashion world.
- **TRIFED's initiative #GoTribal with Tribes India** will now find echo and resonance all over the country and the world under the aegis of Ms Beri.

What is Van Dhan Scheme?

- The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

Objectives

The scheme aims at- the economic development of tribal involved in the collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and providing them with a sustainable livelihood.

Implementation

- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and **TRIFED as Nodal Agency** at the National Level.
- **At State level**, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.
- Under this scheme, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras constituted, provide skill up-gradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.
- Locally the **Kendras** are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

Significance of PMVDY

- Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribal living in forest areas.
- Around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income.
- PMVDY provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless.
- This activity has strong linkage to women's financial empowerment as most of the MFPs are collected and used/sold by women.
- MFP sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic- *Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.*

PROJECT SURE

Highlights

- The SURE project to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian fashion industry.
- **SURE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution'** – a firm commitment from the industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- The project has been launched by the **union Textiles Ministry**, along with **Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI)**; **United Nations in India**; and **IMG Reliance**.
- This framework would help the industry-
 1. *Reduce its carbon emissions,*
 2. *Increase resource efficiency,*
 3. *Tackle waste and water management,*
 4. *Create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.*

The five-point Sustainable Resolution of Project Sure

1. Develop a complete *understanding of the environmental impact of the garments being currently produced by our brand.*
2. Develop a *sustainable sourcing policy for consistently prioritizing and utilizing certified raw materials that have a positive impact on the environment.*
3. *Make the right decisions* about how, where, and what we source across the value chain by selecting sustainable and renewable materials and processes and ensuring their traceability.
4. *Communicate our sustainability initiatives effectively* to consumers and media through our online and physical stores, product tags/labelling, social media, advertising campaigns and events.
5. Through these actions, shift a significant percentage of our supply chain to a

sustainable chain by the year 2025, *addressing critical global issues such as climate change, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and building a world that is safe for the future generations, as an acceptance of a responsibility we all share.*

Significance

- It will address the needs of an increasingly conscious consumer who would prefer to buy from a brand that is environmentally conscious and engages in environmental protection.
- It will also underline the need for collaboration across the sector in order to bring about innovation and transformative change.
- Project SU.RE aims to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, especially SDG-12 for responsible consumption and production.
- This framework would help the industry reduce its carbon emissions, increase resource efficiency, tackle waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic- *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.*

PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI PARIYOJANA' (PMBJP)

Context

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers launched a mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam".

About

- Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India launched a campaign '**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP).**

- Pradhan Mantri **Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK)** has been set up to provide generic drugs.
- These are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency of PMBJP.

Objective

- It aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Janaushadhi Sugam

- Government has launched **Janaushadhi Sugam, a mobile application**.
- It will be used **to locate nearby Janaushadhikendra**, direction guidance for location of the Janaushadhikendra through Google Map.
- It will search **Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine in form of MRP & overall Savings, etc.**

Significance of the Scheme

- It will ensure access to quality medicines.
- It would extend the coverage of quality generic medicines and reduce the out of pocket expenditure on medicines.
- The campaign will create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price.
- It will create demand for generic medicines by improving access to better healthcare through low treatment cost and easy availability wherever needed in all therapeutic categories.

What are the Generic Medicines?

- A generic drug is a medication created to be the same as an already marketed brand-name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality,

performance characteristics, and intended use.

- Generic medicines are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value.
- These similarities help to demonstrate bioequivalence, which means that a generic medicine works in the same way and provides the same clinical benefit as its brand-name version.
- The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent.

FOR PRELIMS

8th National Photography Awards

Highlights

- Photo Division, Press Information Bureau, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, has invited entries for the 8th National Photography Awards.
- The National Photography Awards are conferred under **three categories** –
 1. *Lifetime Achievement Award*,
 2. *Award for Professional Photographers*,
 3. *Award for Amateur Photographers*.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award carries a Cash Prize of Rs. 3,00,000/-.
- **Themes** – This year's theme for the Professional Photographers is **'Life and Water.'**
- This year's **theme for the Amateur Photographers** is **'Cultural Heritage of India.'**

EXERCISE HAND-IN-HAND-2019

Highlights

- Exercise Hand-In-Hand-2019, is a joint training exercise between **India and China**.
- The Eighth Edition of joint training exercise is being conducted at **Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- The People's Liberation Army (PLA) contingent from the Tibet Military Command & Indian Army contingent comprising of one Infantry company are

participating in the 14 days long joint training exercise.

- The exercise aims to enrich both the contingents from each other's experience in counter – terrorism operations.
- Besides counter-terrorism operations, discussions on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) operations will also be conducted as part of the exercise.

PIB – DECEMBER 10, 2019

GS- 1ST PAPER

Topic- *Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.*

ZONAL CULTURAL CENTERS

Context

*The Government of India has set up **seven Zonal Cultural Centers** to promote inter-State cultural development programme.*

About

- The Government is taking steps for promoting inter-State cultural development programme with a view to increase harmony among people of various States and communities.
- Zonal Cultural Centers have been conceptualized with the aim of projecting cultural kinships, which transcend territorial boundaries.
- **The mandate** of the Ministry of Culture is to protect, preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country.
To meet this objective, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs).

Zonal Cultural Centers Headquarter

North Central Zone Cultural Centre Allahabad
North Zone Cultural Centre Patiala
West Zone Cultural Centre Udaipur
North East Zone Cultural Centre Dimapur
Eastern Zone Cultural Centre Kolkata
South Zone Cultural Centre Thanjavur

South Central Zone Cultural Centre Nagpur

Functions

- These ZCCs engage cultural troupes from different States to participate in the major festivals under National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP).
- They organize various cultural festivals and programmes on regular basis in all the States/UTs of India including Rajasthan.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic- *Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.*

GST SEVA KENDRAS

Context

GST Seva Kendras resolve complaints related to GST.

About

- **CBEC MITRA**, a pan-India helpdesk, a national toll-free number and “GST Seva Kendras” have been established to resolve taxpayer grievances relating to Goods & Service Tax (GST).
- Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has a helpdesk to redress taxpayer grievances regarding the GST portal.

GSTN will be converted into a Government owned entity

- The GST Council resolved that **GSTN will be converted into a 100% Government-owned entity** by transferring 51% equity shares held by the Non-Government Institutions to the Centre and States equally.
- The Union Cabinet decided to convert GSTN into a fully-owned Government company.
- **50% equity of the company to be held by the Central Government** and the balance **50% to be held by various States and Union Territories.**

Goods and Service Tax Identification Number (GSTIN)

- The Goods and Service Tax Identification Number (GSTIN) is **the unique number each taxpayer will receive once they have registered on the common portal.**
- **It is based on a taxpayer's PAN.**
- **GSTN was set up as not for profit, non-Government, private limited company in 2013.**
- It was established primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to Central and State Governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Structure

- Its 24.5% was owned by central government and similar percentage is held by state governments collectively.
- The remaining 51% owned by five private financial institutions-
- **ICICI Bank, NSE, HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank and LIC Housing Finance Ltd.**
- Its revenue model after Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rollout out consisted of User Charge to be paid by stakeholders who will use the system and making it self-sustaining organization.

Functions of GSTN

- GSTN is the backbone of the Common Portal which is the interface between the taxpayers and the government.
- The entire process of GST is online starting from registration to the filing of returns.
- It has to support about 3 billion invoices per month and the subsequent return filing for 65 to 70 lakh taxpayers.
- The GSTN will handle-
 1. *Invoices*
 2. *Various returns*
 3. *Registrations*
 4. *Payments & Refunds*

What is the GST Council?

- The GST council is the key decision-making body that will take all important decisions regarding the GST.
- The GST Council dictates tax rate, tax exemption, the due date of forms, tax laws, and tax deadlines, keeping in mind special rates and provisions for some states.
- The predominant responsibility of the GST Council is to ensure to have one uniform tax rate for goods and services across the nation.

Constitutional provisions

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is governed by the GST Council.
- The Constitution (**122 Amendment) Bill, 2016, for introduction of GST** in the country was accorded assent by the President after it was ratified by 18 states.
- **The Constitution (101 Amendment) Act, 2016 adds Article 279A in the Constitution.**
- Article 279 (1) of the Indian Constitution states that the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of the Article 279A.
- GST Council will be a joint forum for the Centre and the States.

Composition of GST Council

It consists of the following members-

1. **The Union Finance Minister – Chairperson**
2. *As a member, the Union Minister of State will be in charge of Revenue of Finance*
3. *The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.*

Mandate of GST Council

GST Council shall make recommendations to the Union and the States on-

- **The taxes, cesses and surcharges** levied by the Union, the States and the local bodies which may be subsumed in the goods and services tax;
- **the goods and services that may be subjected to, or exempted from** the goods and services tax;

- model Goods and Services **Tax Laws, principles of levy**, apportionment of Goods and Services Tax levied on supplies in the course of inter-State trade or commerce under article 269A and the principles that govern the place of supply;
- **the rates including floor rates** with bands of goods and services tax;
- **any special rate or rates for a specified period**, to raise additional resources during any natural calamity or disaster;
- **special provision with respect to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**;
- One-half of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the quorum at its meetings.
- The Goods and Services Tax Council shall determine the procedure in the performance of its functions.

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic– Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

Context

Lok Sabha passes the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019

About

The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks-

- To enhance the punishment for existing offences like illegal manufacture, sale, transfer, etc.;
- Illegal acquiring, possessing or carrying prohibited arms or prohibited ammunition;
- Illegal manufacture, sale, transfer, conversion, import, export, etc., of firearms.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Arms Act, 1959.
- It seeks to decrease the number of licensed firearms allowed per person and increase

penalties for certain offences under the Act.

- It also introduces new categories of offences.

Key features of the Bill

License for acquiring firearms

- Under the Act, a license must be obtained to acquire, possess, or carry any firearm.
- A person can obtain a **license for up to three firearms** (with certain exceptions, such as for licensed firearms dealers).
- The Bill **reduces the number of permitted firearms from three to one**.
- This includes licenses given on inheritance or heirloom basis.
- The Bill also increases the duration of the validity of a firearm license from three years to five years.

Ban on firearms

- The Act bans *manufacture, sale, use, transfer, conversion, testing or proofing of firearms without license*.
- It also prohibits shortening of firearm barrel or **conversion of imitation firearms into firearms without a license**.
- The Bill additionally prohibits obtaining or procuring un-licensed firearms, and the conversion of one category of firearms to another without a license.

Increase in punishment

- The Bill amends the punishment in relation to several offences.
- The Act specifies the punishment for
 1. *dealing in un-licensed firearms, including their manufacture, procurement, sale, transfer, conversion,*
 2. *the shortening or conversion of a firearm without a licence,*
 3. *Import or export of banned firearms.*
- The Bill increases the punishment to between **seven years and life imprisonment, along with a fine**.
- The Act punishes acquisition, possession or carrying of prohibited ammunition without

a license, with imprisonment between five and ten years, along with fine.

New offences

- The Bill adds new offences.
- These include:
 1. *forcefully taking a firearm from police or armed forces*
 2. *Using firearms in a celebratory gunfire which endangers human life or personal safety of others,*

Celebratory gunfire refers to use of firearms in public gatherings, religious places, marriages or other functions to fire ammunition.

The Bill also defines offences committed by organised crime syndicates and illicit trafficking.

Organised crime

- “Organised crime” refers to continuing unlawful activity by a person, either as a member of a syndicate or on its behalf, by using unlawful means, such as violence or coercion, to gain economic or other benefits.
- An organised crime syndicate refers to two or more persons committing organised crime.

Tracking of firearms

- The central government may make rules to track firearms and ammunition from manufacturer to purchaser to detect, investigate, and analyse illicit manufacturing and trafficking.

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topic- *Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment*

GREEN GOOD DEEDS

Context

‘Green Good Deeds’ initiative to promote environmental awareness.

About ‘Green Good Deeds’ initiative

- ‘Green Good Deeds’ is a societal movement, launched by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- The ‘Green Good Deeds’ initiative is about simple, practical steps that students/teachers/citizens can perform in their day-to-day life towards protection of environment.
- The BRICS Ministerial on Environment at Durban, South Africa, has agreed to include “Green Good Deeds” in its official agenda.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change had drawn up a list of over 500 Green Good Deeds.
- The Ministry asked people to alter their behaviour to Green Good Behaviour to fulfil their Green Social Responsibility.

Objective

The purpose of the people-oriented campaign is to sensitise people and students, in particular about climate change and global warming.

FOR PRELIMS

72-Metre all Weather Bridge

Highlights

- Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor **Shri Girish Chandra Murmu** dedicated the **72-metre-long Multi Cell Box Type Load Class 70 Bridge** to the Nation **in Rajouri**.
- The bridge spans over **Draj nallah and connected Draj Area to Tehsil Kotranka** area under District Rajouri.
- The Bridge is constructed by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- **Draj bridge** is an important bridge for military as well as for socio-economic development of the Rajouri District.
- This bridge will facilitate all weather and speedy movement of Army troops as well as locals.

PIB – DECEMBER 11, 2019

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic – Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

Context

Lok Sabha passes the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019

About

- **The Citizenship Act, 1955** regulates who may acquire Indian citizenship and on what grounds.
- A person may become an Indian citizen if they are born in India or have Indian parentage or have resided in the country for a period of time, etc.
- However, illegal migrants are prohibited from acquiring Indian citizenship.
- **An illegal migrant is a foreigner who:**
 1. Enters the country without valid travel documents, like a passport and visa, or
 2. Enters with valid documents, but stays beyond the permitted time period.

Background

- Illegal migrants may be imprisoned or deported under the **Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**.
- The 1946 and the 1920 Acts empower the central government to regulate the entry, exit and residence of foreigners within India.
- In 2015 and 2016, the central government issued two notifications exempting certain groups of illegal migrants from provisions of the 1946 and the 1920 Acts.
- These groups are **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who arrived in India on or before December 31, 2014**.
- This implies that these groups of illegal migrants will not be deported or imprisoned for being in India without valid documents.

Citizenship Act, 1955 amendment

- In 2016, a Bill was introduced to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- The Bill sought to make illegal migrants belonging to these six religions and three countries eligible for citizenship,
- The bill also made some changes in the provisions on registration of Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders.
- It was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which submitted its report on January 7, 2019.
- The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019.
- However, **it lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha**.
- Subsequently, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is being introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2019.

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019

- **The 2019 Bill seeks to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.**
 - It **exempts certain areas in the North-East** from this provision.
 - The Bill also makes **amendments to provisions related to OCI cardholders**.
 - A foreigner may register as an OCI under the 1955 Act if they are of Indian origin (e.g., former citizen of India or their descendants) or the spouse of a person of Indian origin.
 - This will entitle them to benefits such as the right to travel to India, and to work and study in the country.
 - The Bill **amends the Act to allow cancellation of OCI registration** if the person has violated any law notified by the central government.
- #### Key features of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019
- The Bill adds two additional provisions on citizenship to illegal migrants belonging to these religions from the **three countries**.

- The bill aims at providing Indian citizenship to 6 minority communities from **Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan**.
 - The communities are **Hindu, Christian, Sikhs, Buddhist and Jain**.
 - Currently for a person to get Indian citizenship, he should have resided in the country for 11 years.
 - The bill intends to amend this as 6 years.
3. *They entered India on or before December 31, 2014;*
 4. *They are not in certain tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, or Tripura included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, or areas under the "Inner Line" permit, i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland.*

Consequences of acquiring citizenship

The Bill says that on acquiring citizenship:

1. *Such persons shall be deemed to be citizens of India from the date of their entry into India, and*
2. *All legal proceedings against them in respect of their illegal migration or citizenship will be closed.*

Exception

- The Bill adds that the provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants **will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, or Tripura**, as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.
- **These tribal areas include** Karbi Anglong (in Assam), Garo Hills (in Meghalaya), Chakma District (in Mizoram), and Tripura Tribal Areas District.
- It will also not apply to the areas under **the Inner Line" under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873**.
- *The Inner Line Permit regulates visit of Indians to Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland.*

Whether differentiating on grounds of religion is a violation of Article 14?

- The Bill provides that **illegal migrants who fulfill four conditions will not be treated as illegal migrants under the Act**.
- **The conditions are:**
 1. *They are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis or Christians;*
 2. *They are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan;*

- **Article 14** guarantees equality to all persons, including citizens and foreigners.
- It only permits laws to differentiate between groups of people if the rationale for doing so serves a reasonable purpose.
- The question is whether this provision violates the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution as it provides differential treatment to illegal migrants on the basis of:
 1. *Their country of origin, (b) religion, (c) date of entry into India, and (d) place of residence in India.*

Concerns

- The bill has not mention Muslim community.
- This according Article 14 is a violation of equality before law.
- The article states that the government shall show no discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, race, sex or birth.

Religion

- The bill lists the six religions, instead of the term "persecuted minorities", which clearly excluded Muslims.
- Recently the people of Tamil Eelam persecuted in SriLanka and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are seen fleeing to India and taking refuge here.
- It fails to allow Shia and Ahmadiyya Muslims to apply for citizenship, who also face persecution in Pakistan.
- It is not clear why illegal migrants belonging to religious minorities from these countries have been excluded from the Bill.

Wide discretion to government to cancel OCI registration

- The 1955 Act provides that the central government may cancel the registration of OCIs on various grounds.
- The Bill adds one more ground for cancelling registration, that is, if the OCI has violated any law notified by the central government.
- It further states that orders for cancellation of OCI should not be passed till the cardholder is given an opportunity to be heard.
- It may be argued that giving the central government the power to prescribe the list of laws whose violation result in cancellation of OCI registration, may amount to an excessive delegation of powers by the legislature.
- The Bill does not provide any guidance on the nature of laws which the central government may notify.
- Therefore, in the absence of standards, criteria or principles on the types of laws which may be notified by the government, it may be argued that the powers given to the executive may go beyond the permissible limits of valid delegation.

GS- 3RD PAPER

Topics– *Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.*

FAME-INDIA SCHEME

Context

Incentive and Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles.

About FAME India scheme

- FAME India scheme is a part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan**.
- Main thrust of FAME is to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies.
- FAME-India Scheme is **implementing by Department of Heavy Industry** in order to promote manufacturing of electric and

hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.

- It is being implemented in two phases.
 1. *Phase-I [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India] from 1st April 2015.*
 2. *The Phase-II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles.*
- FAME-India Scheme proposes to give a push to electric vehicles (EVs) in public transport and seeks to encourage adoption of EVs by way of market creation and demand aggregation.

Phase-I of FAME-India Scheme

- Under Phase-I of FAME-India Scheme, the Government has supported about 500 charging stations to establish electric vehicle charging stations in the country.
- Out of about 500 charging stations sanctioned under Phase-I of FAME-India Scheme about 230 charging stations have been installed.
- Further, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power has deployed 65 public charging stations for EVs in the country.

Key features of Phase-2 of FAME-India Scheme

- FAME 2 scheme aims to **boost electric mobility and increase the number of electric vehicles in commercial fleets**.
- The government will provide the *incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes*.
- **The center will invest in setting up charging stations**, with the active participation of public sector units and private players.
- Projects for charging infrastructure will include those needed to extend electrification for running vehicles such as pantograph charging and flash charging.

- FAME 2 will also encourage **interlinking of renewable energy sources with charging infrastructure**.

Significance

- India needs auto industry's active participation to ease electric mobility transition.
- The auto and battery industries could collaborate to enhance customer awareness and promote domestic manufacturing.
- Government needs to focus on a phased manufacturing plan to promote EVs, provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for phased manufacturing of EVs and batteries.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic- *Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.*

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Context

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated the Human Rights Day on 10, December.

About Human Rights Day

- Human Rights Day is celebrated annually **across the world on 10 December every year**.
- The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- It was the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- The National Human Rights Commission (**NHRC**) of India was **established on 12 October, 1993**.
- The statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA),

1993 as amended by **the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006**.

- It is in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in October 1991,
- It is endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December, 1993.
- The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Human Rights Council

- The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body created by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on 15 March 2006**.
- It has replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.
- It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.
- It meets at **the UN Office at Geneva**.
- The Council is **made up of 47 United Nations Member States** which are elected by the UN General Assembly.

Composition of NHRC

- The National Human Rights Commission includes a **chairperson and seven other members**.
- Out of the seven members, **three are ex-officio members and four others are selected by the President** on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Chairperson and the members of the NHRC have **tenure of five years or the age of 70 years before the completion of his tenure**.
- The Chairperson or any other member of this commission **can be removed by the**

President even before the expiry of their full term.

- They **can be removed only on the charge of proved misbehaviour or incapacity or both**, if it is proved by an inquiry conducted by a judge of the Supreme Court.

Members of NHRC

- A Chairperson- **retired Chief Justice of India**.
- One Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- One Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court.
- Two Members to be appointed from among persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.
- Additionally, **the Chairpersons of four National Commissions, (1. Minorities 2. SC and ST 3. Women), to serve as ex officio members.**

Functions of National Human Rights Commission

Comprehensive powers and functions have been given to the Commission under section 12 of the Act.

- To **investigate grievances** regarding the violation of human rights either **suo moto or after receiving a petition**.
- To scrutinize the failure of duties on the part of any public official in preventing the violation of human rights.
- **To interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.**
- **To visit any jail or any other institution** under the control of the State Government to see the living conditions of the inmates and to make recommendations thereon.
- **To review the safeguards** provided under the constitution or any law for the protection of the human rights and to recommend appropriate remedial measures.
- To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and to make

recommendations for their effective implementation.

- To undertake and **promote research in the field of human rights**.
- To encourage the efforts of the non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights.
- To spread **human rights literacy** among various sections of society.
- To review all facts related to the activities of the terrorists which obstruct the way of the protection of human rights and to make recommendations for their effective implementation.

GS- 2ND PAPER

Topic– *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.*

MEASURES TO PREVENT CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Context

Government has taken for safety of women across the country.

About

Following are the Measures taken by Government to prevent Crime against Women-

Criminal laws

- The **Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013** was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences.
- Further, the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018** was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including **death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years**.
- The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.

Emergency Response Support System–

It provides a pan-India, single, internationally recognized **number (112)** based system for all emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

Safe City Projects

- Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, **Safe City Projects** have been sanctioned in **first Phase in 8 cities** (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a cyber-crime portal on 20th September 2018 for citizens to report obscene content.

National Database on Sexual Offenders' (NDSO)

- MHA has launched the '**National Database on Sexual Offenders' (NDSO)** on 20th September 2018.
- It facilitates investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies.

Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences

- In order to facilitate States/UTs, MHA on 19th February 2019 launched **an online analytic tool for police** called '**Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences'**.
- It monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.

One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme

- One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme is being implemented across the country **since 1st April 2015**.
- It is exclusively designed to provide integrated services such as **medical aid, police assistance, legal counselling/ court case management, psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter** to

women affected by violence under one roof.

- As per available information, 728 OSCs have been approved by Government of India, 595 OSCs are operational in the country.

PIB – DECEMBER 12, 2019

GENERAL STUDIES-III

Topic- *Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.*

“NEW SPACE INDIA LIMITED (NSIL)”

Context

Commercialising R&D of ISRO

About

- New Space India Limited (NSIL) is a **wholly owned Government of India undertaking/ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.
- It is under the administrative control of **Department of Space (DOS)**.
- It is aimed **to commercially exploit the research and development work of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Centres and constituent units of DOS.

Mandate

The new company has following mandates –

- Transfer technology to industry for producing the commercially successful PSLV spacecraft launchers;
- Outsource assembly of small satellites and the upcoming Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and
- To commercially exploit the R&D work done by ISRO centres and DoS constituents.

Functions of NSIL

- Act as an aggregator for all space related activities in industry.
- It will also develop private entrepreneurship in space related technologies.

- It will be **responsible for production and manufacturing of** commercially successful **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** spacecraft launchers via technology transfer mechanisms.
 - It will **cater to emerging global market demand of commercial SSLV.**
 - It will provide satellite building and satellite-based services which includes outsource assembly of small satellites and upcoming SSLV, supply of sub-systems for various domestic and international application needs.
 - It will enable space technology spin-offs via Indian industry interface.
 - **It differs from ISRO's existing commercial arm Antrix Corporation.**
 - Antrix will handle ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers.
 - NSIL **will deal with capacity building of local industry for space manufacturing.**
- Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is a pilot project launched for the hill district of Tamenglong (later on divided into two districts of Tamenglong and Noney) in Manipur.
 - Under the HADP, 40 projects worth of Rs.84.29 crore have been sanctioned for the districts of Tamenglong and Noney so far.

Why it is needed?

- The hilly areas of Manipur, Tripura and Assam possess a **distinct geo-physical entity** and are lagging behind in socio-economic development.
- **Due to distinct topography**, a **wide gap exists between the hill and valley districts of the states** in terms of infrastructure, quality of roads, health and education etc.
- **The Hill Development Programme aims** to address these drawbacks with a serious research and deliberation.
- As per **NER District Infrastructure Index**, prepared by Ministry of DoNER in 2009, districts of **Tamenglong, Chandel & Churachandpur in Manipur** are ranked among the lowest in NER.
- Constant efforts have been made to bring them at par with other districts of North Eastern Region through implementation of various schemes.
- The pilot project of HADP is indicative of the steps being taken in this regard.

Funds

- NSIL has an authorised capital of ₹10 crore and a paid up capital of ₹1 crore.

GENERAL STUDIES- II

Topic- *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.*

HILL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Context

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is a pilot project launched for the hill district of Tamenglong (later on divided into two districts of Tamenglong and Noney) in Manipur.

About

Key Features of HADP

- The Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) will be implemented on a pilot basis in the hilly districts of Manipur.
- Under HADP, the government will adopt a **two-fold approach**.
- **The first approach is**– to ensure equitable development of every area, tribe and every section in the North Eastern Region.
- **The second approach is**– to bring the eight North Eastern Region States at par with the more developed states of India.

Composite District Infrastructure Index

- It is an index prepared by Ministry of DoNER.
- It aims to aid in better targeting of schemes and projects within the North Eastern region (NER) for reducing intra-regional disparity.
- Composite District Infrastructure Index **acts as a benchmark in formulating and implementing various policies** by the ministry.
- **The index is prepared based on 7 indicators**, which are:
 1. Transport facilities,
 2. Energy,
 3. Water supply,
 4. Education,
 5. Health facilities,
 6. Communication infrastructure and
 7. Banking facilities.

GENERAL STUDIES- II

Topic- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY

Context

The vision of the proposed National Logistics Policy is to drive economic growth and business competitiveness of the country.

About

- **National Logistics Policy** has been prepared by the Department of Logistics, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in consultation with the **Ministries of Railways, Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Civil Aviation**.
- The aim is to reduce the logistics cost from the present 14% of GDP to less than 10% by 2022.

Vision

The vision of the proposed policy is to drive economic growth and business competitiveness of the country through an integrated, seamless, efficient, reliable, green, sustainable

and cost effective logistics network leveraging best in class technology, processes and skilled manpower.

Why it is needed?

- India's **logistics sector is highly defragmented and complex** with involvement of more than 20 government agencies, 37 export promotion councils, 200 shipping agencies and 36 logistic services.
- The Indian logistics **sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people**.
- **Improving the sector will facilitate 10 % decrease in indirect logistics cost leading to the growth of 5-8% in exports**.
- The worth of Indian logistics market would be around USD 215 billion in next two years compared to about USD 160 billion currently.

Objectives

- Creating a National Logistics e-marketplace as a one stop marketplace.
- Creating a data and analytics centre,
- Encouraging industry, academia and government to come together to create a logistics Centre of Excellence, and drive innovation in the logistics sector,
- Doubling employment in the logistics sector,
- Improve India's ranking in the Logistics Performance Index to between 25 to 30,
- Strengthening the warehousing sector in India,
- Reducing losses due to agri-wastage to less than 5% through effective agri-logistics,
- Providing impetus to MSME sector in the country through a cost-effective logistics network,
- Encouraging adoption of green logistics in the country.

Institutional Framework

Four committees/councils will be constituted:

- **National Council for Logistics**, chaired by the Prime Minister

- **Apex inter-ministerial Committee**, chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry
- **India Logistics Forum** chaired by the Commerce Secretary with representation from key industry/business stakeholders and academia.
- **Empowered task force on logistics**, as a standing committee chaired by the head of the Logistics Wing.

FOR PRELIMS EXERCISE INDRA-2019

Highlights

- A bilateral tri-service Exercise INDRA – 2019 between **India and Russia** is being conducted.
- This is **the second edition** of tri-service Exercise INDRA
- The exercise will be simultaneously conducted **at Babina (near Jhansi), Goa and Pune**.
- **The aim of exercise** is joint training of troops in counter terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.
- Exercise INDRA-2019 will further cement the long standing strategic ties between India and Russia.

Strategic Electronics Factory (SEF)

Highlights

- **Strategic Electronics Factory (SEF)** is being established by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at Kasaragod, Kerala**.
- It is established for assembly, testing, repair & manufacturing of various types of airborne computers.
- SEF, Kasaragod has so far produced 1210 and repaired 2237 airborne computers like Mission Computers, Radar Computers & Display processors for various types of fighter aircraft.

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GENERAL STUDIES- II

Topic- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

INDIA DESIGN COUNCIL (IDC)

Context

India Design Council launches two Initiatives to promote Design Education and Standards

About

- The India Design Council (IDC) launched **the Chartered Designs of India (CDI)** and the **Design Education Quality Mark (DEQM)**.
- These two initiatives are of **IDC and National Institute of design, Ahmedabad**.
- These will help to address the 5 challenges of scale, quality of design, quality of education for design, raising the priority for design in industry and design for public purpose.

Why these are needed?

- Design Education is gaining momentum in India.
- It is necessary that commissioners of Design projects and designers are able to distinguish qualified professional designers as against hobbyists and non-professionals.
- India has a growing design ecosystem that has resulted in growth both in employment of creative skills and impact in the service sector.

Key drivers

- Creative manufacturing and design innovation will be the key drivers in the Make in India initiative of 2020 and beyond and further strengthening the brand "**designed in India**".

Design Education Quality Mark (DEQM)

- The two initiatives launched today will aid and support the profession of design and help in growing the profession and to establish professional standards.
- The DEQM will benchmark design education programmes on predetermined standards.

- **The aim is** to harmonise the different education systems whilst taking into account their great diversity.
- It will accord Design Education Quality Mark to institutions that meet the provisions of the published standard.
- The DEQ Mark will be granted to institutions which undergo the review process and meet or exceed the expectations for quality and standards as prescribed in the Quality Code.
- The Quality Mark will communicate to everyone that an institution has a guaranteed minimum level of quality and standards and has undergone a third party, neutral review process.

Chartered Designs of India (CDI)

- CDI is envisaged as an institution that will establish and uphold the professional standards of design practice in India.
- The focus of CDI is the “Professional Designer” identified by a design qualification and or experience.
- CDI is a cohesive platform that adheres to the design practice to standards in professional design competence, ethics and service.

Benefits of Quality Code

- The exponential growth in the number of institutions providing design qualifications in India is necessitating the creation of a guiding framework.
- The Quality Code represents a common rationale/ philosophy for design curricula and its implementation.
- The Quality Code is the means to create this guiding framework.
- It has been based on the UK Quality Code for Higher Education published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK (QAA).

India Design Council (IDC)

India Design Council is **an autonomous body** established under the Department for

Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is a national strategic body for multi-disciplinary design and is involved in promotion of design to make India a design enabled country.

Objectives of the Council

Design Awareness & Design Promotion

- **Creating public awareness on quality design & its effectiveness**- Use of design as strategic element for business excellence and as a key factor for innovation, to improve people's quality of life.
- Promoting design awareness and effectiveness programs in private & public sectors-Country based Brand building – Design Promotion/ Exhibitions/ Conferences/ Seminars.
- Promoting Design as a tool for innovation, productivity and economic competitiveness in business and industry.
- Encouraging Micro, Small & Medium industries to follow the best design practices.

Design Development

- Promoting design investment in Industry & research organizations – work towards tax benefits for design research.
- Assisting industries in appreciating the importance of quality and effective design management in product manufacturing to upgrade market competitiveness
- Promoting best design practices & innovation in Design- India Design Mark
- Encouraging Design Research and Establish National Grants for design research.
- Building a common platform for integrating design resources of the government, the manufacturing and academic circles.
- Undertaking awareness programs in IPR in the Design Industry – Provide workshops on Intellectual Property management and design

Positioning India as a Top Design Destination

- Setting up a museum/design centre to showcase the role of design in everyday life to visitors from India and abroad.
- Building a smooth mechanism and channels of international cooperation, promoting exchange of Indian design and Indian designers

GENERAL STUDIES-III

Topic– *Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.*

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP)

Context

The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 released.

About

- The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 for the month of October 2019 stands at 127.7.
- It is 3.8 percent lower as compared to the level in the month of October 2018.
- The cumulative growth for the period April-October 2019 over the corresponding period of the previous year stands at 0.5 percent.

About Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that indicates the performance of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy.
- IIP shows the *growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.*
- It is **calculated and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) every month.**
- It is a composite indicator of the general level of industrial activity in the economy.
- **Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.**
- The **eight core industries** of India represent about **40% of the weight of items** that are included in the IIP.

The Eight Core Sectors/Industries are–

1. *Electricity*
2. *Steel*
3. *Refinery products*
4. *Crude oil*
5. *Coal*
6. *Cement*
7. *Natural gas*
8. *Fertilisers*

Significance of IIP

- The Index is **used by government agencies** including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc, for policy-making purposes.
- It is also **used for estimating the Gross Value Added** of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis.
- The Index is **also used by business analysts, financial experts and the private industry** for multiple purposes.
- It is the **only measure on the physical volume of production.**
- IIP remains extremely relevant for the calculation of the quarterly and advance GDP estimates.

GENERAL STUDIES- II

Topic- *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.*

Women and Child Development under SDGs of UN

Context

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has prepared the Baseline Report of NIF to assess the present status of SDGs which includes the status of women and child development in the country.

About

Major Initiatives to achieve SDGs are:

The SDGs are addressed in the national development agenda of the Government of

India which are being implemented through various development schemes/programmes.

Anganwadi Services Scheme

- It is a unique programme for early childhood care and development.
- It offers a package of six services, viz. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-School Non-Formal Education, Nutrition and Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-Up and Referral Services.
- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

PoshanAbhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)

- It targets to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies by reducing mal-nutrition/under nutrition, anemia among young children.
- It also focuses on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana (PMMVY)

- This scheme provides cash incentive amounting to Rs. 5,000 in three instalments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM).
- The money is providing during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- It aims at out of school girls in the age group 11-14, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills and home skills.
- The scheme has nutritional and non nutritional components which include nutrition, iron and folic acid supplementation, health check up and referral service, nutrition and health education.
- This scheme makes mainstreaming out of school girls to join formal schooling, bridge

course/ skill training, life skill education, home management etc, counselling/ guidance on accessing public services.

National Creche Scheme

- It provides day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women.
- The facilities are provided for seven and half hours a day for 26 days in a month.
- Children are provided with supplementary nutrition, early childcare education, and health and sleeping facilities.

Child Protection Services Scheme

- It aims to contribute to the improvement in the well-being of children in difficult circumstances.
- It contributes in reduction of vulnerabilities to situation and actions that leads to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parent.
- The Scheme aims to spread awareness regarding the ways and means to prevent all children from child abuse of any kind including child sexual abuse.

Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme

- It empowers rural women through community participation by involvement of Student Volunteers.
- The scheme is envisaged to work at various levels.
- At the national and state level, technical support to the respective government on issues related to women is provided.

Swadhar Greh scheme

- It targets the women victims of unfortunate circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.

Ujjawala

- It is a comprehensive scheme to combat trafficking with the objective to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

- To facilitate rescue victims and placing them in safe custody, to provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities/needs,
- To facilitate reintegration of victims into the family and society, to facilitate repatriation of cross border victims.
- To provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence through referral.
- Provide information about women related government schemes/programmes across the country through a **single uniform number (181)**.

Working Women Hostel

- It aims at providing safe and affordable accommodation to working women.
- These hostels have Day care facility for the children of inmates too.
- The Ministry provides financial support for establishing such hostels by NGOs or State Governments.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme

- BBBP is a tri-ministerial initiative of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- It focuses on awareness and advocacy campaign for changing mindsets, multi-sectoral action in select districts.
- It enables girls' education and effective enforcement of Pre-Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act.
- 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.

One Stop Centre (OSC)

- It facilitates access to an integrated range of services including police, medical, legal, psychological support and temporary shelter to women affected by violence.
- The Scheme is funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

Women Helpline

- The Scheme is being implemented since 1st April, 2015.

Self Development Goals (SDGs)

- The SDGs are a comprehensive list of 17 Global Goals and 169 associated targets.
- These integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.
- The SDGs were adopted by 193 countries including India at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 which came into effect on 1st January 2016.
- These are to be achieved by end of 2030.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) consisting of 306 country specific indicators in consultation with various Ministries for monitoring of progress on the SDGs.