



La Excellence
— IAS Academy —



CONCISE

SCHEMES/ POLICIES/ PROGRAMMES

Volume - II

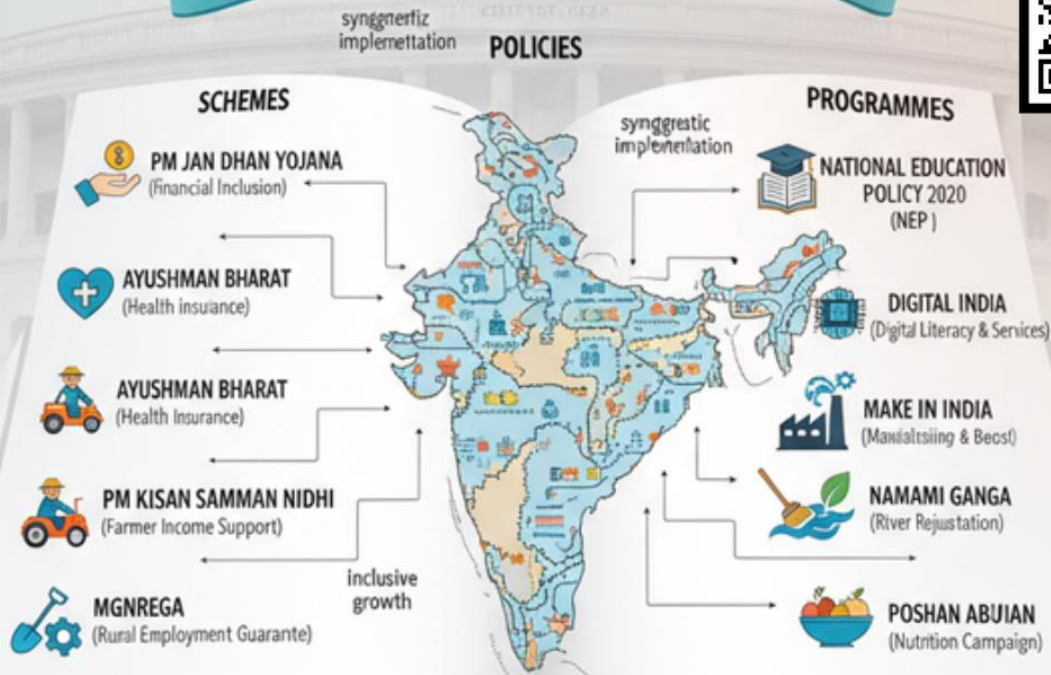
Current Affairs for Prelims 2026
(OCTOBER 2025- JANUARY 2026)

Scan to download
or Visit

<https://laex.in/materials/concise/>



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INITIATIVES



Ashok Nagar
9052 29 2929

Madhapur
9052 49 2929

Bangalore
9121 44 2929

Kolkata
kolkata@laex.in

Join Newly Launched Course IAS + Graduation 9052 99 2929

Our Resources in “CONCISE” Series for UPSC Prelims 2026

1. International Relations
2. Economy
3. Environment, Ecology & Geography
4. Schemes/ Policies/ Programmes
5. History, Art and Culture
6. Polity and Governance
7. Science and Technology



La Excellence
— IAS Academy —



PREFACE

Concise Prelims Current Affairs 2026

Current Affairs-Sine QuaNon of UPSC Preparation

Proficiency in Current affairs is sine non qua for UPSC preparation. It is the basic foundation of any aspirant 's preparation. Knowledge and skill to relate current news with UPSC syllabus is quintessential part of the preparation.

Our new initiative - Concise

What if we told you we have panacea for all the problems related to preparation of current affairs!? A one stop solution for revising all current affairs material in a style where mains answer writing becomes very easy.

What is Concise

- Systematic segregation of monthly news in tandem with syllabus
- Contextual relation of topic in news with UPSC news.
- Brief and crisp explanation
- Extremely precise information which will make revision easy

Dear Aspirants

Join our official La Excellence IAS telegram channel

<https://t.me/CivilsPrepLaEx>

To get all value-added materials, RRP notes, workbook, slides, and Daily current affairs handout.

Index

Sl no.	Topic	Pg no.
01	National Manufacturing Mission (NMM)	
02	MGNREGA	
03	Gyan Bharatam Mission - 2025	
04	Mission Vatsalya Scheme	
05	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	
06	Centralised Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal	
07	Natural Farming in India	
08	India's National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna (2025)	
09	iDEX Scheme	
10	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) vs PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan	
11	National Livestock Mission (NLM)	
12	Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)	
13	PM-KUSUM Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan)	
14	Tex-RAMPS Scheme	
15	Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)	
16	IIT Kharagpur launches 'Impact RISE' Initiative	
17	VOCAL FOR LOCAL INITIATIVE	
18	PRAGATI	
19	Tsunami-Ready Villages Initiative	
20	Bharat Vidya Kosh	
21	Reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs	
22	VB-G RAM G	
23	Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	
24	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)	
25	Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	
26	Samagra Shiksha Scheme	
27	Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)	
28	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	
29	UMEED Portal	
30	Startup India Initiative	
31	Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)	

National Manufacturing Mission (NMM)

Space for Notes:

Why in News?

NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery announced that the Cabinet note for the National Manufacturing Mission (NMM) is under preparation. The Mission aims to boost India's manufacturing share in GDP by strengthening supply chains, standards, and skill ecosystems nationwide.

Description:

About the Mission:

- Covers small, medium, and large industries to promote inclusive industrial growth.
- Aims to provide policy support, implementation roadmaps, and monitoring structures for Central Ministries and States.
- Seeks to enhance domestic value addition and build self-reliant supply chains in critical manufacturing sectors.

Objective:

To position India as a global manufacturing hub, enhance employment, and reduce import dependence in critical sectors.

Five Focal Areas:

1. Ease and Cost of Doing Business – Simplified procedures and lower compliance burden.
2. Future-Ready Workforce – Skill development for emerging sectors.
3. Vibrant MSME Sector – Boost innovation, financing, and global linkages.
4. Technology Availability – Adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.
5. Quality Products – Global standards and export competitiveness.

Key Focus Sectors:

- Clean Tech Manufacturing – Solar PV cells, wind turbines, electrolysers.
- Electric Mobility – EV batteries, motors, controllers.
- Energy Infrastructure – High-voltage transmission and grid-scale batteries.
- Footwear Manufacturing – Support for design, machinery, and production of both leather and non-leather footwear.

MSME Boost Measures (Complementary to NMM):

- Credit Guarantee Cover increased to ₹10 crore (from ₹5 crore).
- Investment and Turnover Limits for MSME classification raised by 2.5× and 2×, respectively.

MGNREGA:

Why in News?

The Supreme Court dismissed the Centre's plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's order to resume MGNREGS in West Bengal from August 1, 2025. The scheme was halted in 2022 over alleged irregularities, and the verdict was hailed as a victory for rural workers.

Description:

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a significant social security scheme aimed at improving livelihood security for rural households.
- **Eligibility:** Any Indian citizen over the age of 18, residing in a rural area, and willing to perform unskilled manual labor can apply.

- **Guarantee:** The scheme guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment per household in a financial year.
- **Coverage:** The scheme is applicable across the country, except for areas with 100% urban districts.
- **Implementation:** The Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat play a critical role in approving and prioritizing works to be carried out under the scheme.

Space for Notes:


MGNREGS
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

GUARANTEES	FUNDING PATTERN	WAGES BASED ON:	IMPLEMENTED BY
100 days of unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage	Centre covers 100% Unskilled Labour Cost 75% Material Cost	CPI-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL). 	Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) + State Governments

Section 27 of MGNREGA	Key Features
SECTION 27: Empowers Centre to monitor & direct states for effective implementation. MISUSE OF FUNDS Centre can withhold funds if misused & enforce corrective measures.	RIGHT TO WORK The state must give rural households work on demand. 
MGNREGS: Poverty Alleviation instrument for the Rural Region	UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE If work isn't provided within 1. days of application. 
PURPOSE Safety net through guaranteed work & wages.	WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION Priority to women At least one-third of beneficiaries must be women. 
REVIEW Committee headed by AMARJEET SINHA to assess effectiveness.	WORK RADIUS (5 KM) Extra wages >5 KM. for distance 
Expansion Proposals	WORKSITE FACILITIES Crèches, drinking water, first aid. 
DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT Extend to 200 days ©PMF IAS	AUDIT By Gram Sabha.  ©PMF IAS
INCREASED BUDGET Augment the budget allocation for MGNREGA	
URBAN INCLUSION Encompass urban areas.	
WAGE HIKE Align with state's statutory minimum wage	

Gyan Bharatam Mission - 2025

Why in News?

The Gyan Bharatam Mission, a Culture Ministry initiative to **document, preserve, and digitise India's manuscripts**, is set to sign MoUs with 20 institutes as cluster and independent centres, strengthening the National Digital Repository and manuscript conservation efforts.

Description:

Ministry: Ministry of Culture

Launched by: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Launch Date: June 9, 2025

Under: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

Earlier Name: National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), 2003

Objective:

- To survey, document, conserve, and digitize over 1 crore manuscripts across India.
- To create a National Digital Repository (NDR) of Indian Knowledge Systems.
- To make ancient manuscripts accessible globally for education and research.

Key Features:

- **Massive Coverage:** Over 1 crore manuscripts targeted.
- **Digital Repository:** AI-driven archiving, metadata tagging, translation tools.
- **Collaboration:** With academic, cultural, and private institutions.
- **Technology Use:** AI and 3D imaging for manuscript preservation.
- **Budget:** Increased from ₹3.5 crore to ₹60 crore; Total Outlay – ₹482.85 crore (2024–31).
- **Funding Pattern:**
 - 70% released initially.
 - 30% after submission of progress & utilization reports.

Institutional Structure:

- **Cluster Centres:** Manage own and up to 20 partner institutions.
- **Independent Centres:** Manage their own collections only.
- **Dedicated Gyan Bharatam Cells** to handle survey, conservation, digitisation, translation, and research.

What is a Manuscript?

A handwritten document on paper, bark, or palm leaves, at least 75 years old, holding scientific, historical, or artistic importance.

Example: *Bakhshali Manuscript* (3rd–4th century BCE) – earliest known use of zero.

Significance:

- Preserves India's knowledge heritage and traditional wisdom.
- Supports the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) initiative.
- Promotes research in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, and regional languages.
- Enhances global access to India's cultural heritage.

Mission Vatsalya Scheme

Why in News?

The Supreme Court directed all States and Union Territories to appoint nodal officers for missing children cases, ensuring their details are uploaded on the Mission Vatsalya portal and mandating prompt action, better coordination, and information sharing among stakeholders.

Description:

Launched by: Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)

Launch Year: 2021

Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

Funding Pattern:

- 60:40 → Centre : States
- 90:10 → NE & Himalayan States

Objective:

To ensure child protection, welfare, and holistic development of children, especially those in vulnerable conditions such as orphans, abandoned, or distressed children.

Space for Notes:

Key Features:

- Promotes **family-based care** – adoption, foster care, and sponsorship (reduces reliance on institutional care).
- Strengthens **Child Protection Institutions:**
 - **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)**
 - **Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)**
 - **District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)**
- Focus on **rehabilitation, reintegration, skill development, and counseling.**
- Works under **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.**
- Promotes **collaboration** among Centre, States, NGOs, and community organizations.
- **Subsumes:** Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

Significance:

- Strengthens **child rights protection** mechanisms.
- Reduces dependence on institutional care.
- Helps prevent **child abuse, trafficking, and exploitation.**
- Ensures **access to education, health, and a secure environment.**
- Encourages **community participation** for child welfare.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
Why in News?

A report by IEEFA and JMK highlights challenges in the **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**, noting only **13.1% of the 1 crore rooftop solar target** achieved and **14.1% of ₹65,700 crore subsidies** released till July 2025, citing procedural delays and higher costs.

Description:

Launched: February 2024

Implementing Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Budget: ₹75,021 crore

Target: Installation of rooftop solar systems in **1 crore households** across India by 2026–27.

Objectives:

- Promote **rooftop solar adoption** in the residential sector.
- Enable **energy self-reliance** and reduce power bills.
- Provide **free electricity up to 300 units per month** for households generating solar power.
- Support India's commitment to **net zero by 2070** and decentralized renewable energy generation.

Key Features:

- **Subsidy Support:**
 - 60% subsidy for solar systems up to **2 kW**.
 - 40% subsidy for additional capacity between **2–3 kW** (maximum capped at 3 kW).
 - Approximate subsidy: ₹30,000 (1 kW), ₹60,000 (2 kW), ₹78,000 (3 kW).
- **Single National Portal:** pmsuryaghar.gov.in for online applications, vendor selection, and subsidy tracking.
- **Financing Support:** Loans at concessional rates through banks and DISCOM tie-ups.
- **Employment Creation:** Trains and deploys **Surya Mitras** for installation and maintenance.
- **Incentives to DISCOMs:** For promoting and facilitating rooftop installations.

Space for Notes:

Significance:

- Reduces household electricity expenditure and enhances energy security.
- Promotes local manufacturing under *Make in India*.
- Boosts green energy capacity and contributes to India's solar rooftop target (40 GW).
- Aligns with SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Centralised Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal

Why in News?

The Vital Statistics of India 2023 report shows 2.52 crore births (slight decline) and 86.6 lakh deaths (marginal rise). It highlights sex ratio imbalances, institutional births at 74.7%, and varied state-wise birth registration levels.

Description:

- Established under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, effective 1 October 2023.
- Implemented by the Office of the Registrar General of India (MHA).
- Mandates digital registration of all births and deaths through a centralised CRS portal.

Key Features:

- Digital Birth Certificates serve as valid proof of date and place of birth for passports, education, voter ID, etc.
- CRS database automatically updates National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration, and electoral rolls.
- 23 States and 6 UTs have migrated; others must send data in real time (e.g. Tamil Nadu).
- NPR linkage: Built on data from 2010 and 2015, covering 119 crore residents.

Natural Farming in India

Why in News?

Himachal Pradesh farmers are increasingly adopting chemical-free natural farming under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana, supported by training, MSPs, and certification, improving soil health, crop yields, incomes, and promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly agriculture.

Description:

A sustainable agricultural practice that avoids chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and intensive tillage, relying on ecological balance and indigenous bio-inputs.

Key Principles:

1. No chemical inputs – avoids synthetic fertilizers/pesticides.
2. Use of bio-inputs – *Jeevamrut, Beejamrut, Panchagavya*.
3. Minimal soil disturbance – no tilling or plowing.
4. Intercropping & crop rotation – maintain soil fertility and pest control.
5. Mulching & cover cropping – conserve moisture, reduce erosion.

Space for Notes:

Key Benefits:

1. **Improves Soil Health:**
 - Boosts **microbial activity** & organic matter.
 - Reduces land degradation (India's 30% land degraded).
 - Example: *Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming (APCNF)* improved soil carbon in 3–5 years.
2. **Saves Water:**
 - Practices like mulching reduce irrigation needs.
 - India uses **25% of global groundwater**; NF enhances retention.
3. **Reduces Costs:**
 - On-farm inputs → lower cultivation cost.
 - *Zero Budget Natural Farming* cuts water & electricity use by ~50–60%.
4. **Climate Resilient:**
 - Reduces **methane & nitrous oxide** emissions.
 - More resilient during floods/cyclones (e.g., *Titli & Pethai* in 2018).
5. **Enhances Food & Nutritional Security:**
 - Encourages **diverse cropping & agroforestry**.
 - Helps combat undernutrition (16.6% Indians undernourished).
 - Boosts organic food market (₹75,000 crore by 2025).
6. **Rural Livelihood Generation:**
 - Labor-intensive → promotes **rural employment**, esp. for **women (Krishi Sakhis)**.

Best Practices:
Global:

- **Agroecology (Brazil, Cuba)** – biodiversity-based farming.
- **Permaculture (Australia)** – integrates farming & ecology.
- **SRI (Madagascar)** – water-efficient rice cultivation.
- **Biodynamic farming (Europe)** – natural cycles for soil fertility.

Indian:

- **Zero Budget Natural Farming (AP, Karnataka)** – Subhash Palekar's model.
- **Rishi Krishi (Maharashtra)** – cow-based organic inputs.
- **Sikkim** – first fully organic state.
- **Odisha (Tribal areas)** – agroforestry + indigenous seeds.

India's National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna (2025)
Why in News?

India has launched a **National Red List Assessment** – the **first-ever nationwide survey** to assess the extinction risk of **nearly 11,000 species** of plants and animals. The exercise aims to provide a **science-based, accurate national inventory** of species and their conservation status.

Description:

Feature	Details
Name of the Initiative	<i>National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna</i>
Launched by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
Implemented by	Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

Space for Notes:

Total Species to be Assessed	Around 11,000 species (plants + animals)
Duration	Up to 2030
Funding	Entirely publicly funded (budget: ₹95 crore)
Model Used	IUCN Red List methodology (international standard)
Goal	To publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030
Assessors	Creation of a pool of 300 certified Red List assessors in India
Lead Official (2025)	Kirtivardhan Singh, MoS Environment
Associated Convention	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Global Framework Alignment	Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)
Announcement Venue	IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi (2025)

Space for Notes:
Objectives of the Project:

- Develop an indigenous Red Listing System following IUCN standards.
- Assess the vulnerability and extinction risk of Indian species.
- Support biodiversity conservation planning and policy formulation.
- Build national expertise in species risk assessment.
- Publish India's National Red Data Books (by 2030).

What is a "Red List Survey"?

- A systematic study to evaluate each species based on:
 - Population trends
 - Habitat range
 - Threat factors (habitat loss, climate change, poaching, pollution, etc.)
 - Conservation measures in place
- Uses quantitative criteria identical to those of the IUCN Red List, ensuring global comparability.

Why This Matters for India?

- India is a megadiverse country, home to ~7–8% of all recorded species globally.
- Until now, the country depended mainly on IUCN global data or Wildlife Protection Act schedules, not a nationally verified extinction-risk list.
- The National Red List will:
 - Fill data gaps on Indian species.
 - Help prioritize conservation and funding.
 - Guide environmental clearances & biodiversity impact assessments.
 - Strengthen India's reporting under CBD & Global Biodiversity Targets.

Expected Outcomes by 2030:

- Publication of *National Red Data Books* (Flora + Fauna).
- Creation of central biodiversity database for India.
- Enhanced capacity building – 300 certified experts.
- Better integration of biodiversity data into policy & planning.
- Alignment with Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Goal A & B) on species protection.

iDEX Scheme

Space for Notes:

Why in News?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised **iDEX startups** driving India's defence innovation ecosystem, highlighting indigenous tech like drones, AI, and quantum systems, and urged young entrepreneurs to create India's first defence unicorn.

Description:

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme (MoD)
- **Launched:** 2021
- **Aim:** Promote innovation in **defence & aerospace** via startups, MSMEs, innovators.
- **Budget:** 2021–26; **90%** already utilized.
- **Achievements:** 37 products developed.

Components:

1. **iDEX Prime:**
 - Grant raised **₹1.5 cr → ₹10 cr**.
 - Supports advanced defence technologies.
2. **ADITI Scheme (2024):**
 - Grant up to **₹25 cr**.
 - 30 key technologies under iDEX framework.
3. **ADITI 2.0 (2025):**
 - 19 new challenges in **AI, quantum tech, anti-drone, adaptive camouflage**.
4. **Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC):**
 - Jointly with Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog).
 - **12th edition (2025):** 41 challenges in UAVs, AI, etc.
 - Grant up to **₹1.5 cr**.

Significance:

- Boosts **Aatmanirbhar Bharat & self-reliance** in defence.
- Encourages **public-private R&D ecosystem**.
- Reduces **import dependence** and promotes **dual-use tech**.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) vs PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan

Why in News?

The Union government plans to map all **drinking water assets** under Jal Jeevan Mission on the **PM Gati Shakti GIS platform**. The Jal Shakti Ministry signed an MoA with **BISAG-N** to enable geo-tagging, monitoring, and data-driven planning of rural water supply systems.

Description:

Aspect	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan
Launched	15 August 2019	13 October 2021
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Jal Shakti	Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – DPIIT)
Objective / Aim	To provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household by 2024 ensuring safe and adequate drinking water.	To ensure integrated and coordinated infrastructure development for multi-modal connectivity and reduce logistics costs.

Focus Area	Rural drinking water supply, source sustainability, and community participation.	Multi-modal infrastructure (roads, railways, ports, airports, power, telecom, logistics, etc.)
Nature / Type	Sector-specific (Water supply and sanitation)	Cross-sectoral (Infrastructure planning and logistics integration)
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-village piped water infrastructure • Water source development & treatment • Greywater management • Community ownership through Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) • Water quality surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS-based National Master Plan (NMP) portal • Integration of data from 16 ministries and 1,600+ layers • Six pillars: Comprehensiveness, Prioritization, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytical, Dynamic • District Master Plans (DMPs) under preparation
Funding Pattern	Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS): Centre–State sharing ratio (90:10 for NE & Himalayan states, 50:50 for others, 100% for UTs).	Funded through budget allocations of respective ministries; States incentivized through “Special Assistance for Capital Expenditure” scheme aligned with Gati Shakti.
Implementation Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram Panchayats to manage local water systems • State Water and Sanitation Missions • National Jal Jeevan Mission as apex body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) • Network Planning Group (NPG) • Technical Support Unit under DPIIT
Technology Used	Digital dashboard (ejalshakti.gov.in), mobile water testing kits, IoT for monitoring flow & quality.	GIS-based planning, satellite imagery, data analytics, digital twin mapping of infrastructure.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves public health, reduces water-borne diseases • Empowers women and communities • Ensures water sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces logistics cost & time • Avoids project overlap • Boosts Ease of Doing Business & industrial competitiveness
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source sustainability & groundwater depletion • O&M capacity at local level • Delays due to terrain & contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data integration across ministries • State-Centre coordination • Capacity building at district level
Example / Outcome	Villages in Gujarat, Telangana, and Goa achieved full “Har Ghar Jal” status.	PM Gati Shakti portal used to plan Dedicated Freight Corridors, port connectivity, and industrial corridors.

Space for Notes:

National Livestock Mission (NLM)

Space for Notes:

Why in News?

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying plans the **National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)** under the broader framework of the **National Livestock Mission**, aiming to halt camel population decline, support livelihoods, strengthen conservation, trade, and awareness campaigns.

Description:

Aspect	Details
Launched	2014-15
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Type	Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
Objective	Sustainable livestock development, focusing on feed & fodder, risk management, and breed improvement.
Main Goal	Enhancing livestock productivity, entrepreneurship, and availability of quality feed and fodder.
Key Focus Areas (Sub-Missions)	1. Feed and Fodder Development 2. Breed Development of Livestock and Poultry 3. Innovative Livestock and Poultry Entrepreneurship Development 4. Livestock Insurance and Extension Services
Funding Pattern	- 60:40 (Centre: State) for general States - 90:10 for NE & Himalayan States - 100% Central for UTs
Implementing Agencies	State Animal Husbandry Departments, ICAR Institutes, Universities, Cooperatives, FPOs, and private entrepreneurs
Target Beneficiaries	Farmers, FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, Cooperatives, Startups in animal husbandry
Associated Schemes	Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)
Significance	Aims at doubling farmers' income , reducing imports of livestock products, and promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat in the livestock sector.

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Why in News?

The Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) received applications exceeding targets: ₹1,15,351 crore investment vs ₹59,350 crore target and expected employment of 1.41 lakh vs 91,600 target, signaling strong industry interest and fast-tracked approvals.

Description:

- **Scheme Tenure:** 6 years
- **Gestation Period:** 1 year
- **Objective:** Promote domestic manufacturing of select passive electronic components
- **Scope:** Benefits industries such as automobiles, consumer electronics, and electronics manufacturing
- **Mandatory Requirement:** Employment generation for all applicants

Incentive Structure:

1. **Turnover-linked Incentive:** Based on revenue growth
2. **Capex-linked Incentive:** For investment in plant & machinery
3. **Hybrid Model:** Combination of both turnover & capex-linked
 - Incentive range: 1–10% depending on component & year

Additional Points:

- Focus is on **passive components**; active components fall under **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.
- Encourages **skilled job creation** alongside manufacturing promotion.
- First PLI scheme exclusively for **passive electronics** in India.

PM-KUSUM Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan)
Why in News?

The Ministry of Labour & Employment released the draft National Labour & Employment Policy – Shram Shakti Niti 2025 for public consultation, aiming to unify social security schemes, boost women's labour participation, and create a future-ready, digitally compliant workforce.

Description:

As the PM-KUSUM scheme approaches its **target year 2026**, experts call for **recalibration** to address challenges and maximize its impact on **renewable energy adoption** and **farmers' energy security**.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Launch Year: 2019

Objectives:

- Promote **renewable energy** in agriculture.
- Reduce **diesel dependency** and grid load.
- Enhance **farmers' income** through sale of surplus solar power.
- Support India's **climate and renewable energy targets (500 GW by 2030)**.

Components:

Component	Objective	Target/Support
A	Installation of decentralized solar power plants on barren/fallow land	10,000 MW capacity; power sold to DISCOMs
B	Standalone solar pumps in off-grid areas	17.5 lakh pumps; 30% Central + 30% State subsidy + 40% farmer share
C	Solarization of existing grid-connected pumps	10 lakh pumps; farmers can sell surplus power to DISCOMs

Benefits:
Socio-Economic:

- Reliable power for irrigation
- Reduces diesel use & input costs
- Provides **additional income** via surplus power sale
- Generates **rural employment** in solar infrastructure

Environmental:

- Cuts **~32 million tonnes CO₂** annually
- Promotes **sustainable & clean energy**

Space for Notes:

Technological:

- Boosts innovation in solar technology and low-maintenance systems

Significance:

- Supports energy self-sufficiency for farmers.
- Advances India's renewable energy & climate goals.
- Strengthens rural economy and promotes green growth.

Tex-RAMPS Scheme
Context / Why in News?

The Government has approved the Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-up (Tex-RAMPS) Scheme to strengthen research, data systems, innovation, and competitiveness in the textile sector.

About the Scheme:

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles
- **Duration:** 2025-26 to 2030-31
- **Outlay:** ~₹305 crore
- **Nature:** Centrally sponsored initiative to support research, data, innovation, and start-up development in textiles.

Beneficiaries:

- Textile R&D institutions
- Start-ups and incubators
- State textile departments
- Academia-industry partnership bodies
- MSMEs and innovation clusters

Significance:

- Helps India transition from low-value to high-value textiles.
- Boosts global competitiveness of Indian textiles and apparel.
- Enhances evidence-based governance through structured data.
- Strengthens the innovation ecosystem in textiles, supporting future-ready technologies.

Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)
Context / Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹7,280 crore scheme to establish domestic capacity for manufacturing Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs), a critical component for EVs, clean energy, defence, and electronics.

Brief on the New Scheme:

- **Outlay:** ₹7,280 crore.
- **Target Capacity:** 6,000 Metric Tons Per Annum integrated REPM manufacturing.
- **Incentives:** Sales-linked incentives + capital subsidies.
- **Goal:** Build end-to-end REPM value chain (oxide → metal → alloy → magnet).

About REPMs (Rare Earth Permanent Magnets):

- REPMs are high-performance permanent magnets made using rare earth elements such as Neodymium, Praseodymium, Samarium, and Dysprosium.
- They provide exceptionally high magnetic strength, thermal stability, and energy density, making them indispensable for advanced technologies.

Space for Notes:

What Are *Sintered* Rare Earth Permanent Magnets?

Sintered REPMs are magnets produced by the following process:

1. **Powdering:** Rare-earth alloys are crushed into fine powders.
2. **Compaction:** Powder is pressed in a magnetic field to align its magnetic domains.
3. **Sintering:** Compacted powder is heated at very high temperatures ($\approx 1100\text{--}1150^\circ\text{C}$) **without melting**, forming a **dense and strong magnetic solid**.
4. **Finishing:** Magnet is machined, coated, and magnetised.

Why Sintering?

- Produces the **strongest commercially available magnets** (e.g., NdFeB magnets).
- Enhances durability, heat resistance, and magnetic performance.

Types of REPMs:

1. **NdFeB (Neodymium-Iron-Boron)** – strongest known magnets; widely used in EV motors and electronics.
2. **SmCo (Samarium-Cobalt)** – excellent high-temperature stability; used in defence and aerospace.

(The government scheme primarily targets NdFeB-type sintered REPMs.)

Applications of Sintered REPMs:

- **Electric Vehicles:** traction motors, power steering, regenerative braking.
- **Renewable Energy:** wind turbine generators.
- **Electronics:** smartphones, laptops, speakers, hard drives.
- **Aerospace & Defence:** missile guidance, radar systems, precision actuators.
- **Industrial Robotics:** high-torque compact motors.

Why REPMs Matter for India?

- India currently imports over **90%** of REPMs, mainly from China.
- REPMs are essential for EV transition, clean energy targets, electronics manufacturing, and national security.
- Domestic REPM capacity strengthens **strategic autonomy** in critical minerals and advanced manufacturing.

NOTE: The '**Lithium Triangle**' region, covering parts of **Argentina, Bolivia and Chile**, hosts about 50 per cent of known global lithium resources in salty brines found in salt flats, or *salars*.

IIT Kharagpur launches 'Impact RISE' Initiative

Context:

IIT Kharagpur has launched **Impact RISE** – an initiative aimed at promoting *sustainable technology, innovation, skill development and entrepreneurship* to support **large-scale societal transformation**.

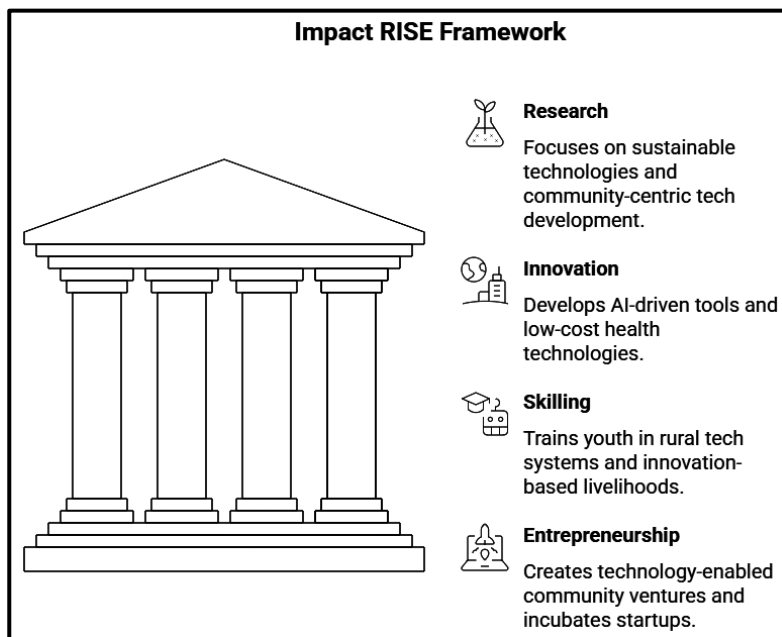
What is Impact RISE?

Impact RISE stands for:

- Research
- Innovation
- Skilling
- Entrepreneurship

It aims to integrate **deep tech, management practices, and community-focused applications**.

Space for Notes:

Key Pillars of the Initiative:

Space for Notes:
Key Focus Areas:

- Climate resilience in the Sundarbans
- Water purification (arsenic removal)
- Women's health diagnostics
- Rural micro-grids
- Smart farming systems
- Affordable cancer screening tools

Arsenic Filters:

Technologies to remove arsenic contamination from groundwater – a major issue in parts of West Bengal and Bihar. West Bengal faces **severe groundwater arsenic contamination**, especially in districts along the **Ganga–Brahmaputra alluvial belt**, where natural geogenic processes release arsenic from sediment into tube wells.

VOCAL FOR LOCAL INITIATIVE
Why in News?

The Union Department of Consumer Affairs released draft rules proposing mandatory “searchable and sortable” filters on e-commerce platforms to display the **country of origin** of packaged commodities sold online, aiming to boost consumer transparency and support ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Vocal for Local’ initiatives.

Description:

- **Implementing Authority:**
 - NITI Aayog under **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
- **Objective:**
 - To encourage **self-reliance**, promote **local products**, and enable sustainable growth & prosperity at grassroots level.
- **Coverage:**
 - Local products from **500 Aspirational Blocks** have been identified & mapped.
- **Brand Integration:**
 - These products are consolidated under an umbrella brand called **Aakanksha**.
 - Aakanksha can have multiple sub-brands with potential for **international market** outreach.

Space for Notes:

- **e-Procurement Support:**
 - A dedicated **Aakanksha window** has been created on the Government **e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal.
- **Support Provided:**
 - Technical & operational support for:
 - e-commerce onboarding
 - market linkages
 - digital/financial literacy
 - certifications/documentation
 - skill enhancement

Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

- Launched: **2016**
- Ministry: **Commerce & Industry**
- Purpose: Online procurement platform for govt departments/PSUs.
- Mandatory procurement: Under **GFR 2017**.
- Ownership: **GeM SPV** → 100% Govt-owned, not-for-profit company under Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Aspirational Blocks Programme:

- Modelled on **Aspirational District Programme (2018)**
- Target: **500 blocks** in **31 States/UTs**
- Aim: Improve socio-economic indicators in lagging blocks.
- Highest Count (major share in 6 states): UP: 68, Bihar: 61, MP: 42, Jharkhand: 34, Odisha: 29, West Bengal: 29.

PRAGATI
Context:

At the Fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries, the Prime Minister urged States/UTs to **replicate the PRAGATI model** and **establish Data Strategy Units (DSUs)** to improve governance efficiency, project monitoring, and cooperative federalism.

About PRAGATI:

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a flagship ICT-enabled platform for **grievance redressal and monitoring of critical projects** of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

Key Features:

Feature	Details
Launch Year	2015
Nodal Agency	PMO (with NIC)
3-Tier Structure	PMO → Union Secretaries → State Chief Secretaries
Core Objectives	Grievance Redressal; Project Monitoring; Programme Implementation
Technologies Used	Digital dashboards, Video-conferencing, Geo-spatial tools
Review Cycle	PRAGATI Day: 4th Wednesday of every month (3:30 PM)

Technological Integrations (Not a standalone app):

- **CPGRAMS** – Public grievance redressal
- **Project Monitoring Group (PMG)** – Large project tracking

- PM GatiShakti – Spatial planning & infrastructure mapping
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) – Programme statistics & monitoring

5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries:

- Dates & Venue: 26–28 December 2025, New Delhi
- Theme: Human Capital for Viksit Bharat

New Reform Emphases:

- DSUs: Data governance, analytics, geo-spatial MIS, interoperability
- Human Capital: Early Childhood Education; skilling aligned to global demand
- Gyan Bharatam Mission: Manuscript digitisation
- Manufacturing: “Zero Defect, Zero Effect” for global competitiveness

Tsunami-Ready Villages Initiative

Context:

India is set to become the first country in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to have over 100 “Tsunami-Ready” villages, under a community-based disaster preparedness certification programme aligned with UNESCO-IOC standards.

About the Tsunami-Ready Programme:

- **Tsunami-Ready:** A certification recognising coastal communities that meet internationally defined preparedness benchmarks for tsunami and coastal hazards.
- **Nature:** Voluntary, community-driven preparedness initiative
- **Origin:** UNESCO-IOC global framework (IOC: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission).
- **Indian Coordinating Agency:** Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
 - Operates Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)
 - Disseminates tsunami advisories across the Indian Ocean
- **State Governments & Local Bodies:** Identification of vulnerable villages; on-ground implementation

Certification Criteria:

A village is certified “Tsunami-Ready” if it demonstrates:

1. Tsunami hazard awareness among residents
2. Clearly marked evacuation routes and safe shelters
3. 24×7 access to official warning systems
4. Community participation in mock drills
5. Local preparedness plans integrated with district disaster management

(Certification awarded by UNESCO-IOC through national coordination)

Indian Coverage & Targets:

- Existing certified villages: 24 (across Odisha districts)
- New target: ~72 additional coastal villages
- States/UTs involved: Odisha, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Timeline: By March–April 2026
- Hazards Covered: Primarily Tsunamis and additional benefits include protection against Cyclones, Storm surges, Coastal flooding. *(Enhances overall coastal disaster resilience)*

Space for Notes:

Bharat Vidya Kosh

Space for Notes:

Context:

NITI Aayog has proposed a \$10-billion research fund and Vishwa Bandhu scholarships/fellowships to internationalise India's higher education ecosystem, in line with National Education Policy 2020.

Core Proposals:

1. **\$10-bn Research Corpus – “Bharat Vidya Kosh”:**
 - National research sovereign wealth fund.
 - **Funding mix:** ~50% diaspora/philanthropy + ~50% government matching.
2. **Vishwa Bandhu Programmes:**
 - **Scholarships** for foreign students.
 - **Fellowships** for foreign faculty and researchers.
3. **Erasmus-like Mobility Programme:**
 - Structured student/faculty exchange with global institutions.
4. **Regulatory Easing:**
 - Facilitate **international campuses** and joint programmes in India.
 - Develop **non-binding frameworks** for internationalisation.
5. **Curriculum & Rankings:**
 - Globally relevant curricula; expand **NIRF** to include internationalisation metrics.

NITI Aayog (2015) is India's apex **policy think tank**, created by Executive Resolution to replace the Planning Commission, functioning as a **non-constitutional, non-statutory** body. It promotes **cooperative & competitive federalism** through policy advice, long-term vision (SDGs, 2047 goals), and flagship tools like **Aspirational Districts Programme, Atal Innovation Mission, and national indices**.

Reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs

Why in News?

The Union Home Ministry has decided to **increase reservation for ex-Agniveers in CAPFs from 10% to 50%** in **Group C posts**, marking a major shift in post-Agnipath rehabilitation policy.

Agnipath scheme?

- Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers (will be called 'Agniveers') will be recruited annually (for a short period, and most will leave the service in just four years).
- Of the total annual recruits, only 25 per cent will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.
- **Format of the scheme: Eligibility:** Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 21 years will be eligible to apply.
- The scheme is **only applicable to personnel below officer ranks**.
- **Recruitment:** Twice a year through rallies.
- **Training period:** 6 months + deployment for three and a half years.

Key Policy Changes:

- **Reservation increased:** From 10% → 50% for ex-Agniveers
- **Applicable to:** Group C posts in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
- **BSF:** 50% of constable vacancies reserved for ex-Agniveers

Recruitment Process:

- **Ex-Agniveers:**
 - Exempted from Physical Standard Test (PST) & Physical Efficiency Test (PET)
 - Must appear for written examination like other candidates
- Recruitment conducted in **two phases:**
 - Phase 1: Nodal CAPF fills **50% vacancies** earmarked for ex-Agniveers
 - Phase 2: SSC conducts recruitment for remaining vacancies

Age Relaxation Provisions:

- **First batch of Agniveers:** Eligible for CAPF recruitment in **2026**
- **Age relaxation:**
 - **5 years** for first batch
 - **3 years** for subsequent batches
- For **BSF Constables (Tradesmen):** Upper age limit relaxed from **30 to 35 years**

VB-G RAM G
Context:

The President of India has granted assent to the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill**, which officially replaces the MGNREGA.

About:

- **Nature:** Statutory (replacing the 2005 Act).
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Legal Basis:** Replaces the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Labor Rights:** Includes strengthened legal provisions for **unemployment allowance** and mandatory **penalties for delay in wage payments**.
- **Objective Shift:** MGNREGA focused on "creating works"; VB-G RAM G focuses on "creating outcomes."

Core Features:

- **Guarantee:** Increases the number of guaranteed work days from **100 to 125 days** per year per household.
- **Funding Pattern: Wages:** 100% borne by the Central Government.
 - **Administrative/Material costs:** Follows a **60:40** ratio (Centre:State) for most components.
- **Four Focus Areas for Works:**
 - Water Security.
 - Core Rural Infrastructure.
 - Livelihood-related Infrastructure.
 - Extreme Weather Mitigation (Climate Resilience).

Significance:

- **Climate Adaptation:** Inclusion of "Extreme Weather Mitigation" as a core pillar aligns rural labor with climate goals.
- **Financial Discipline:** Explicit penalties for wage delays aim to solve the historic "delayed payment" crisis in rural jobs.
- **Asset Creation:** Focus on livelihood-related infrastructure ensures that the assets built contribute to long-term income, not just temporary employment.

Space for Notes:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

Space for Notes:

Context:

Concerns were raised in Parliament regarding nearly three lakh vacancies in ICDS, low honorarium, and work burden of frontline workers such as Anganwadi Workers, Helpers, and ASHAs, affecting nutrition, health, and early childhood services.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

1. Core Identity & Governance:

- Nature: A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched on October 2, 1975.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- Vision: Holistic development of the child and empowerment of the mother.
- The Anganwadi Unit: The primary link between the government and the community.

2. The Hexagon of Services (The 6 Pillars):

The ICDS provides a package of six services. Crucially, the MWCD provides the first three, while the last three are delivered in convergence with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Service	Target Group
1. Supplementary Nutrition	Children (6m–6y), Pregnant/Lactating Mothers
2. Pre-school Non-formal Ed.	Children (3–6 years)
3. Nutrition & Health Ed.	Women (15–45 years)
4. Immunization	Children (0–6y), Pregnant Mothers
5. Health Check-ups	Children (0–6y), Pregnant/Lactating
6. Referral Services	Children (0–6y), High-risk cases

3. Saksham Anganwadi & POSHAN 2.0:

Under the 15th Finance Commission cycle, ICDS was integrated into the Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 umbrella.

- **Components:** Includes ICDS, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and Vatshalyas.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

Context:

The Supreme Court of India held that doctors (public and private) deputed for COVID-19 duties are eligible for insurance benefits under PMGKY, reiterating State obligation to honour sacrifices of health workers during the pandemic.

About PMGKY:

- Launched: March 2020
- Type: Central Government relief package (non-scheme umbrella)
- Administered by: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- Insurer: New India Assurance Company (on behalf of GoI)

Coverage Details:

Parameter	Detail
Beneficiaries	Public & private healthcare providers
Nature of Cover	Personal Accident Insurance
Insurance Amount	₹50 lakh
Validity	90 days per coverage cycle (extended multiple times)
Eligible Conditions	Death due to COVID-19 related duty/exposure
Mode	Cashless, paperless, claim-free for beneficiaries

Who Were Covered?

Doctors (public & private), Nurses and paramedical staff, ASHA workers, Auxiliary nurse midwife, Sanitation workers, Community health workers

Condition: Must be directly involved in COVID-19 care or contact

Scale of Coverage:

- Covered approx. 22.12 lakh healthcare providers across India
- Included both regular employees and deputed/contractual staff

Supreme Court Observation:

- Private doctors deputed by State qualify as Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) under PMGKY
- Insurance eligibility does not depend on permanent government employment
- Reinforces welfare interpretation of emergency relief measures

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

Context:

A Parliamentary Standing Committee has directed the Ministry of Tribal Affairs not to sanction new EMRS schools until land availability is ensured, citing that over one-third of sanctioned schools remain non-functional due to lack of land. Out of 722 sanctioned EMRS, only 477 are functional, and many still operate from rented/government buildings.

About EMRS:

- A flagship initiative under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
- Provides free, high-quality residential education to ST (Scheduled Tribe) children from Classes VI–XII.
- Established initially in 1997–98; expanded significantly after Budget 2018–19.
- Purpose: Reduce educational gap between tribal children and others through enhanced access to schooling in remote tribal areas.
- Supports constitutional obligations under Article 46 (promotion of educational and economic interests of SCs/STs).
- Non-ST students can be admitted in these schools on seats up to 10% of the total seats.

Key Features:

1. **Minimum Population Criterion:** It is sanctioned in each block with $\geq 50\%$ ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons.
2. **Residential & Fully Funded:**
 - Entirely funded by the Government of India.
 - Facilities include classrooms, hostels, sports, skill development spaces, and staff quarters.
3. **Governance Structure:**
 - Implemented through the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under MoTA.
 - State governments provide land, while centre funds construction, staffing, and operations.
4. **Student Capacity:** 480 students per school (standard design), expandable up to 1000 depending on demand.

Space for Notes:

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

Space for Notes:

Why in the News?

The Union Education Minister reaffirmed that **States must comply with Samagra Shiksha norms**—including utilisation certificates, audit reports, and NEP-aligned implementation—to receive **Central share of funds**, even as expansion under **Samagra Shiksha 2.0** continues.

Key Terms:

Samagra Shiksha – India’s flagship integrated school education scheme (Pre-primary to Class 12).

Launch Date & Background:

- **Launched: 2018** (Ministry of Education).
- **Created by merging:**
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
 - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
 - Teacher Education (TE)
- **Rationale:** Remove fragmentation, ensure seamless learning from **pre-school to Class 12**, improve quality, allow flexible planning by States.
- **Expanded and realigned with:**
 - Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – Quality Education
 - **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** reforms
- Covers **1.16 million+** schools, **15.6 crore** students, **57 lakh** teachers.
- **NIPUN Bharat** – Foundational literacy & numeracy mission (3–9 years).

Funding Pattern (CSS):

- **General States: 60:40** (Centre:State).
- **NE & Himalayan States: 90:10.**
- **UTs without Legislature: 100% Central funding.**
- Ensures cooperative federalism across the country.

Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)

Why in News?

Data tabled in Parliament shows that although companies made **1.65 lakh internship offers** under the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)**, only **20%** of candidates accepted them and many quit before completion.

About PM Internship Scheme (PMIS):

- **Announcement:** Union Budget 2024–25
- **Launch:** Pilot began in **October 2024**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
- **Target:** Provide **1.25 lakh internship opportunities per year**
- **Platform:** Central internship portal linking companies and applicants
- **Participants:** Companies across multiple sectors; 500 companies in five years (pilot phase data)

Objective:

- PMIS aims to strengthen **industry exposure**, **early career skills**, and **youth employability**.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Space for Notes:

Context:

The Centre reported **17,036 complaints** regarding poor-quality execution under the Jal Jeevan Mission, with **Uttar Pradesh forming ~84%** of these.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

- **Launch Year:** 2019
- **Objective:** Universal FHTC to all rural households; **55 litres per capita per day** potable water; community-led water supply management.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Background:** Restructured from the **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)**.
- **Funding Pattern:**
 - **90:10** – Himalayan & NE States
 - **100%** – UTs
 - **50:50** – Other States
- **Governance Mandate:**
 - At least **50% women** in Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs).

JJM Extended Till 2028:

- Union Budget 2025–26 formally **extended the Mission to 2028**.
- Focus of extended phase:
 - Strengthening **source sustainability**
 - Improving **water quality monitoring**
 - Ensuring **asset durability** in high-coverage States

Key Terms:

- **JJM** – Rural drinking water programme targeting *Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)*.
- **FHTC** – Household-level piped water ensuring **55 litres per capita per day**.
- **Pani Samiti / VWSC** – Village committees mandated for decentralized water supply governance.
- **TPIA** – Third Party Inspection Agencies for quality audit.

UMEED Portal

Context:

The West Bengal government has directed District Magistrates to upload details of **waqf properties** onto the Centre's **UMEED portal**, triggering a political debate since the State earlier opposed implementing the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**. UMEED is the Central government's unified digital platform for waqf property management.

UMEED Portal:

Category	Details
Full Form	Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency & Development Portal
Purpose	Centralised digital platform to digitise, monitor, and manage all Waqf properties in India

Legal Basis	Implemented under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025
Lead Authority	Union Ministry of Minority Affairs
Primary Functions	Digitisation of Waqf records, property verification, monitoring, transparency, encroachment prevention
Users / Contributors	State Waqf Boards, Mutawallis (property managers), District Magistrates, IMAMS & madrasa teachers
Data Upload Requirement	Mandatory upload of all existing Waqf properties within 6 months of portal launch
Data Entry Structure	1) Mutawalli registration 2) Property enrolment & details upload
Key Capabilities	Digital registry, geo-tagging potential, dispute/encroachment reporting, audit trail
Intended Benefits	Transparency, corruption reduction, better governance, efficient utilisation of Waqf land

Space for Notes:

Waqf: Endowment of movable/immovable property for religious/charitable purposes under Islamic law.

Startup India Initiative

Context:

India recorded the **highest-ever annual addition** of ~44,000 startups in 2025, reinforcing its position as the **third-largest startup ecosystem** globally.

About:

- **Launch:** 16 January 2016
- **Nature:** Flagship initiative of Government of India
- **Managed by:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- **Aim:** Transform India from job seekers to job creators

Objectives:

- Build a **robust startup ecosystem**
- Encourage **innovation and entrepreneurship**
- Simplify regulations and reduce compliance burden
- Provide **financial, incubation, and mentorship support**
- Generate **large-scale employment**

Action Plan – Core Pillars:

1. **Simplification & Handholding**
2. **Funding Support & Incentives**
3. **Industry–Academia Partnership & Incubation**

Key Features:

- **Self-certification** under labour & environmental laws
- **Startup India Portal & Mobile App** for single-window support
- **Fund of Funds for Startups (FoF): ₹10,000 crore**, implemented via **Small Industries Development Bank of India**
- **Credit Guarantee Fund (₹500 crore per year for 4 years via SIDBI)**

- **Tax benefits:** Income tax exemption for **3 consecutive years**, Capital gains tax exemption (subject to conditions)
- **Fast-track patents** with **80% fee rebate**
- **Easier exit** within 90 days under IBC
- Relaxation in **government procurement norms**

Incubation & Innovation Support:

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **SETU** under NITI Aayog
- Startup fests, incubators, accelerators
- **7 Research Parks** (modelled on IIT Madras)
- Industry-academia collaboration and student innovation programs

Eligibility for Startup Recognition:

- Entity age \leq **10 years**
- Annual turnover \leq **₹100 crore**
- Innovation-driven business model
- Not formed by splitting/restructuring existing business

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Context:

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has approved **22 additional projects** under the **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** to strengthen India's electronics component ecosystem and reduce import dependence.

Key Terms:

- **Electronics Components:** Parts such as PCBs, semiconductors (non-fab), passive components, connectors, sensors, display components, etc.
- **Incremental Production:** Additional output generated over a defined base year, used for incentive calculation.
- **First-Finisher Principle:** It prioritises incentive disbursement to firms that achieve production milestones ahead of others, within the scheme's capped financial outlay.

About ECMS:

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Nature:** Incentive-based manufacturing support scheme
- **Objective:** Promote domestic manufacturing of electronic components and sub-assemblies
- **Coverage:** Small firms as well as large manufacturers

Key Features:

- **Incentive Basis:** Payouts linked to **incremental production** and **employment generation**
- **Competition-driven:** Firms that complete production milestones earlier are prioritized for incentives
- **Broad Component Focus:** Targets upstream component manufacturing (not just final assembly)
- **Private Sector-led:** Encourages investments by Indian and global firms

Space for Notes: