

PRELIMS 2018

Quick Revision Notes

Schemes & Policies Part-I

Quick Revision Notes

Governance Schemes and Policies

SCHEMES

1. SANKALP & STRIVE Scheme

Objectives

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore – named as *Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)* and *Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)*. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government’s implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results. SANKALP is Rs. 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank. STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance.
- There has been a long felt need for a national architecture for promoting convergence, ensuring effective governance and regulation of skill training and catalysing industry efforts in vocational training space. The two schemes SANKALP and STRIVE shall address this need by setting up national bodies for accreditation & certification which shall regulate accreditation and certification in both long and short term Vocational Education and Training (VET).
- Both the schemes are aimed at institutional reforms and improving quality & market relevance of skill development training programs in long and short term VET.

Salient Features

- The schemes shall provide the required impetus to the National Skill Development Mission, 2015 and its various sub missions. The schemes are aligned to flagship Government of India programs such as Make in India and Swachhta Abhiyan and aim at developing globally competitive workforce for domestic and overseas requirements.
- The schemes will develop a skilling ecosystem that will support the country’s rise in the Ease of Doing Business index by steady supply of skilled workforce to the industry. The schemes will also work towards increasing the aspirational value of skill development programs by increasing the marketability of skills, through better industry connect and quality assurance.

2. Stand up India Scheme

Objective

To promote **entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women** for loans in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs.

Ministry

Ministry of Finance

Salient Features

- Composite loan between Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 100 lakh, inclusive of working capital component for setting up any new enterprise.
- Debit Card (RuPay) for drawal of working capital.
- Credit history of borrower to be developed.

- Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs.10,000 crore.
- Creation of a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore for credit guarantee through NCGTC.
- Handholding support for borrowers with comprehensive support for pre loan training needs, facilitating loan, factoring, marketing etc.
- Web Portal for online registration and support services.

3. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana

Objective It aims at **developing the skills of urban youth in order** to make them self reliant and capable of earning meaningful livelihoods.

Ministry Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

- Salient Features**
- **Employment through Skill Training and Placement** - An expenditure of Rs. 15,000 per person is allowed on training of urban poor which is Rs. 18,000 in North-East and J&K. Moreover, training urban poor to meet the enormous demand from urban citizens by imparting market-oriented skills through City Livelihood Centers.
 - **Social Mobilization and Institution Development** - It will be done through formation of Self-Help Groups (SHG) for training members and hand holding, an initial support of Rs. 10,000 is given for each group. Assistance of Rs. 50,000 is provided to Registered Area Level Federations.
 - **Subsidy to urban poor** - An interest subsidy of 5%-7% for setting up individual micro-enterprises with a loan of up to 2 lakh and for group enterprises with a loan limit of up to Rs. 10 lakhs.
 - **Shelters for urban homeless** - Cost of construction of shelters for urban homeless is fully funded under the Scheme.
 - **Other means** - Development of vendor markets and also the promotion of skills for the vendors through setting up infrastructure and special projects for the rag picker and differently abled etc.

4. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Objective It is the **skilling and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development.**

- Salient Features**
- It aims to target youth, under the age group of 15–35 years.
 - A corpus of Rs. 1,500 crore and is aimed at enhancing the employability of rural youth.
 - Under this programme, disbursements would be made through a digital voucher directly into the student’s bank account as part of the government’s skill development initiative.
 - The DDU-GKY projects are market linked and implemented in PPP mode. The involvement and partnership between civil society organizations, Educational institutions, apex skill partners and regulating organizations, the Government and Private organizations, ensures that DDU-GKY can leverage on the strengths of all and achieve transformative change.

5. Skill Development Initiative Scheme

Objective The objectives of the scheme are:

- To provide vocational training to school leavers, existing workers, ITI graduates, etc. to improve their employability by optimally utilizing the infrastructure available in Govt., private institutions and the Industry. Existing skills of the persons can also be tested and certified under this scheme.
- To build capacity in the area of development of competency standards, course curricula, learning material and assessment standards in the country.

Ministry

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Salient Features

- Demand driven short term training courses based on Modular Employable Skills (MES) decided in consultation with Industry. MES is the ‘minimum skills set’ which is sufficient for gainful employment.
- Central government facilitates and promote training while industry, private sector and State Governments provide training to the persons.
- Optimum utilisation of existing infrastructure to make training cost effective.
- Flexible delivery mechanism (part time, weekends, full time, onsite/offsite) to suit needs of various target groups.
- Different levels of programmes (Foundation level as well as skill upgradation) to meet demands of various target groups.
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) envisaged in the form of active participation of the industry/Private Sector in every stage of design and implementation of the scheme. Industry bodies are represented in the Central Apex Committee and State Committees which have overall responsibility of implementation of the scheme.
- MES benefits different target groups like :
 - a) Workers seeking certification of their skills acquired informally.
 - b) Workers and ITI graduates seeking skill up gradation.
 - c) Early school drop-outs and unemployed.
 - d) Previously child labour and their families.

6. Self-Employment & Talent Utilisation (SETU)

Objective

Support all aspects of start up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.

Department

Under **NITI Aayog**

Salient Features

- SETU will be a Techno-Financial, Incubation and Facilitation Programme to support all aspects of start up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.
- An amount of Rs. 1000 crore is being set up initially in NITI Aayog for SETU.
- It will involve setting up of incubation centres and enhance skill development.
- It aims to create around 100,000 jobs through start-ups.

7. Atal Innovation Mission

Objective

To give substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit in the country.

Organisation

Under NITI Ayog

Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission would be guided by a Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) which will take all decisions relating to approval of requisite guidelines including Grand Challenge areas, prize money and implementation of various elements of AIM. • NITI Aayog will hire Mission Director and other appropriate manpower. • The headquarter of the Mission will be New Delhi. • Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs. • Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.
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Other Schemes in Brief

- a) **YUKTI:** Yukti aims at Skill Development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.
- b) **Udaan:** It is a Special Industry Initiative for Jammu & Kashmir in the nature of partnership between the corporates of India and Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The programme aims to provide skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed youth of J&K. The Scheme covers graduates, post graduates and three year engineering diploma holders. It has two objectives:
 - To provide an exposure to the unemployed graduates to the best of Corporate India; and
 - To provide Corporate India, an exposure to the rich talent pool available in the State.
- c) **TREAD:** The Government of India has launched a scheme titled “Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development” (TREAD) for economic empowerment of women through the development of their entrepreneurial skills in non-farm activities. The Office of the Development Commissioner (SSI) in the Ministry of SSI is responsible for the implementation of this scheme.
- d) **Seekho Aur Kamao:** It is a special scheme for Minorities under which it runs courses as per Modular Employable Skills (MES) as per the guidelines of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT). Implemented by Ministry of Minorities affairs, the scheme focuses on skilling and upskilling of youth from minorities so that that they can earn their livelihood. The age of trainees should be between 14 to 35 years of age.
- e) **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** PKVY is aimed at imparting skill training to Indian youth seeking employment overseas.
- f) **Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres:** The government will set up ‘Garib Nawaz’ skill development centres in 100 districts of the country to offer employment-oriented training to the youth from minority communities. The course will include training in use of latest technology and machines in cleaning and preparation of compost from biodegradable garbage.

8. Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana

Objectives	To provide affordable life insurance services to people, particularly those living in rural areas of the country.
Ministry	Ministry of Communications
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each. • Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme. • Under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI; it has now been decided that benefits of PLI will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange)

and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange). The decision has been taken to enlarge the cover of social security and bring maximum number of people under the protection of Postal Life Insurance (PLI).

9. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

Introduction

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana’ (PMAGY) is being implemented for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SC) majority villages having SC Population concentration > 50%. Initially the scheme was launched on Pilot basis in 1,000 villages in 5 States, viz. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The Scheme was further revised on 22.01.2015 with expansion to another 1,500 SC majority villages distributed in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana.

Objectives

The principal objective of the Scheme is integrated development of SC Majority Villages:

- Primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central and State Schemes.
- By providing these villages Central Assistance in form of gap-filling funds to the extent of Rs. 20.00 lakh per village, to be increased by another 5 lakh if State make a matching contribution.
- By providing gap-filling component to take up activities which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes.

10. Atal Pension Yojana

Objective

To address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.

Ministry

Ministry of Finance

Salient Features

- APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of **18 to 40** years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- The APY will be focussed on all citizens in the **unorganised sector**, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and **who are not** members of any statutory social security scheme.
- Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.
- The existing subscribers of Swavalamban Scheme would be automatically migrated to APY, unless they opt out.
- The monthly pension would be available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- Administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority**.
- The Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the total contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower, for a period of 5 years for those eligible subscribers who joined the scheme between the period 1st June, 2015 and 31st March, 2016 and who are not members of any statutory social security scheme and who are not income-tax payers.

11. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Objective	Extend life insurance cover to people both in case of natural deaths or accidents.
Ministry	Ministry of Finance
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: Available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 and having a bank account. This scheme will be linked to the bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme. • Premium: Rs. 330 per annum excluding service tax, which is above 14% of the premium. It will be auto-debited in one instalment. • Risk Coverage: Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death for any reason. • Payment Mode: The payment of premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers account. • Terms of Risk Coverage: A person has to opt for the scheme every year. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing, in which case his account will be auto-debited every year by the bank. • Implemented by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurers who are willing to join the scheme and tie-up with banks for this purpose.

12. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

Objective	Insurance subscriber will get annual life insurance in case of accidental death, partial disability or full disability.
Ministry	Ministry of Finance
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: Available to people in age group 18 to 70 years with bank account. • Premium: Rs. 12 per annum. • Payment Mode: The premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers account. This is the only mode available. • Terms of Risk Coverage: A person has to opt for the scheme every year. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing in which case his account will be auto-debited every year by the bank. • Risk Coverage: For accidental death and full disability - Rs. 2 Lakh and for partial disability – Rs. 1 Lakh. • Implementation: The scheme would be offered/administered through Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) and other General Insurance Companies willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with Banks for this purpose.

13. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

Objective	<p>The Government of India has launched Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY), to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs).</p> <p>This scheme has been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).</p>
Parent Ministry	Union Ministry of Rural Development.
Objectives	The main objective of AGEY is to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of SHGs under DAY-NRLM by <i>facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.</i>

About Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

This will provide safe, affordable and community-monitored rural transport services like e-rickshaws, three and four wheeler motorised transport vehicles to connect remote villages with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.

The sub-scheme will be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.
- The financial support under the programme is mainly in the form of Revolving Fund and Community Investment Funds, given as grants to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations.
- The programme has a special focus on women empowerment including a dedicated component for promoting farm and non-farm based livelihoods for women farmers in rural areas. In addition, start-up enterprises at village levels are also supported to promote entrepreneurial activities in those areas.

14. Inclusive India Initiative

Objective

The Inclusive India Initiative is an attempt to facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into the fabric of society. The three core focus areas of Inclusive India Initiative are Inclusive Education, Inclusive Employment and Inclusive Community Life.

Ministry

National Trust under M/O Social Justice & Empowerment launches 'Inclusive India Initiative'

Salient Features

- In the domain of Inclusive Education, large-scale awareness campaigns would be executed on pan-India basis, making the schools and colleges inclusive for the children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Association with government and private organisations will be explored for making the infrastructure of educational institutes accessible and inclusive, by providing necessary mobility aids, assistive devices, accessible information and social support.
- The initiative will engage at least 2,000 corporate sector organisations; public and private, for creating awareness towards inclusive employment for persons with intellectual disabilities. The efforts towards accomplishing inclusive community life can be made successful, only when the people with intellectual and development disabilities, their families, Civil Society organisations and State Government connect. The Inclusive India Initiative was born out of this very need of creating awareness among general public, ensuring that the people becomes sensitive towards the focus group.
- The National Trust is a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, set up under the "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Retardation and Multiple Disabilities" Act (Act 44 of 1999). The National Trust was envisaged with a core mission of providing opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Disabilities and their families, fulfilling their rights, facilitating and promoting the creation of an enabling environment and an inclusive society.

15. SATH Program

Objective

A program providing ‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital’ with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors. The program addresses the need expressed by many states for technical support from NITI Aayog.

Launched by

NITI Aayog

Salient Features

- ATH aims to identify and build three future ‘role model’ states for health systems. NITI will work in close collaboration with their state machinery to design a robust roadmap of intervention, develop a program governance structure, set up monitoring and tracking mechanisms, hand-hold state institutions through the execution stage and provide support on a range of institutional measures to achieve the end objectives. The program will be implemented by NITI along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium, who were selected through a competitive bidding process.
- To select the three model states, NITI defined a three-stage process – expression of interest, presentations by the states and assessment of commitment to health sector reforms. NITI invited all states and UTs to participate in the program. Sixteen states expressed prima facie interest, of which fourteen made their presentations. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh presented their project proposal to a Committee headed by Member of NITI Aayog, Shri Bibek Debroy and comprising of CEO, Amitabh Kant as well as a representative from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Of these fourteen states, five have been shortlisted. Subsequently, three will be selected on the basis of further evaluations and objective assessment of criteria affecting the potential for impact and likelihood of success. Metrics such as MMR, IMR, incidence of malaria and others have been considered for determining potential impact while density of doctors and nurses, compliance to IPHS norms are some of the metrics used to determine likelihood of success. The program will be launched in the three selected states after the signing of MoUs.

16. Nai Roshni Scheme

Objective

Leadership Development of Minority Women

Ministry

Ministry of Minority Affairs

Salient Features

- To empower and instil confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels.
- Training modules including audio visual aids and case studies and qualities of leadership will form an integral part of the training.
- Leadership development training modules will be developed pertaining to rights of women in education, employment, livelihood etc; these will be used to empower women.
- Specific training modules will also be based on local needs and issues faced by women from the minority community.
- The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

17. USTAAD Scheme (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)

Objective	Upgrading Skills and Training of minority communities by preservation of traditional ancestral Arts and Crafts.
Ministry	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the scheme, assistance will be provided to traditional artisans to sell their products in order to make them more compatible with modern markets. • It also envisages at boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work. • It is fully funded by Union Government. • Applicable for all areas in India.

18. Nai Manzil Scheme

Objective	To address educational and livelihood needs of minority communities lagging behind in terms of educational attainments.
Ministry	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the scheme girls from minority communities are being imparted three-month skill development training in seven identified sectors relevant to the region. These include training in saffron processing, food processing, embroidery, computers IT (both software and hardware), tourism/hospitality, electronics and plumbing. • The scheme aims to benefit the minority youths in the age group of 17 to 35 years who are school-dropouts or educated in the community education institutions like Madarsas, by providing them an integrated input of formal education (up till Class VIII or X). • Skill training along with certification, with a view of enabling them to seek better employment in the organized sector and equipping them with better lives. • It seeks to provide trade based skill training in four courses at the same time of formal education, in field of: (i) Manufacturing, (ii) Engineering, (iii) Services, and (iv) Soft skills. • Minimum 30% seats are earmarked for minority girls. • The scheme covers the entire country. • Initiative supported by the World Bank. • For implementation of the scheme, the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) have been shortlisted for project allocation as per laid down procedure.

Other Schemes in Brief

- a) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students:**
 - This scheme provides fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to Minority Communities to pursue higher studies at M. Phil and Ph.D level.
 - The scheme covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- b) Seekho aur Kamao:**
 - The objective of the scheme is to allow urban and rural livelihoods to improve for inclusive growth by providing skill to the minority communities who do not possess any skill.
 - For those who already possess skills, the Scheme proposes to upgrade the same to enhance their employment opportunities and also provide credentials to allow such persons to gain access to credit to help them expand their enterprises.

- c) **Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women:**
 - To ensure that the benefits of growth reach deprived women, such women are being provided with, leadership training and skill development so that they are emboldened to move out of the confines of their homes and community and begin to assume a leadership role in accessing services, skills and opportunities available to them under various programmes and schemes.
- d) **Hamari Dharohar:**
 - Hamari Dharohar scheme is proposed to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India under the overall concept of Indian culture.
- e) **Progress Panchayats:**
 - An information campaign at ground level. “Progress Panchayat” will prove to be an effective mission for informing people about welfare measures as there is no dearth of schemes and funds for development of Muslim and other Minority communities.

19. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Objective	To address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country targeted at changing societal mindsets & creating awareness about the criticality of the issue.
Ministry	It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme will have focussed intervention & multi-sectoral action in 100 districts with low Child Sex Ratio. • This scheme will also generate awareness and improve the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women. • To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination by strict enforcement of laws with stringent punishment to violators. • Union government will try to ensure access and availability of essential requirements related to nutrition, health-care, education, protection and elimination of discrimination of girl child. • Implemented under the overall guidance and supervision of concerned District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioners. • Madhuri Dixit is the brand ambassador of this scheme.

20. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

Objective	To ensure a bright future for the girl children by facilitating their education and marriage expenses.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the scheme, a parent or legal guardian can open an account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of ten years. • The account can be opened in any post office branch and designated public sector banks. • The rate of interest for the scheme is 9.2 per cent which will be compounded annually, and will be revised every year. • The minimum deposit that needs to be made every year is Rs. 1,000, and the maximum Rs. 1,50,000. • There is no limit on the number of deposits either in a month or in a financial year. • The account will be valid for 21 years from the date of opening, after which it will mature and the money will be paid to the girl child in whose name the account had been opened. • If the account is not closed after maturity, the balance amount will continue to earn interest as specified for the scheme from time to time.

- The account will also **automatically close** if the girl child gets married before the completion of the tenure of 21 years.
- Deposits can be made up to 14 years from the date of opening of the account. After this period the account will only earn interest as per applicable rates.
- In case the required minimum annual deposit of Rs. 1,000 is not made by a parent or a guardian, the account will cease to be active. In such a situation, the account can be easily reactivated by paying a **penalty** of Rs. 50 per year along with the minimum amount required for deposit for that year.
- A parent or guardian can open only one account per girl child, and a maximum of two such bank accounts in the name of two girl children.
- In case of twin girls as second birth, or if the first birth itself results in the birth of three girl children, three bank accounts can be opened in the name of three girl children.
- Tax exemption is one of the greatest advantages of the Sukanya Samridhi Account programme.

21. Digital Gudda Guddi Board

Ministry	Union Ministry of Child and Development under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao as a best practice Scheme.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The digital Board has been popularized in the district of Jalgaon, Maharashtra and works as a platform for dissemination of IEC (Information, Education, Communication) Material on BBBP as well as updating monthly birth statistics. • The digital board displays audio video material as well as still frames for disseminating information. • It is also used to update monthly birth statistics.

22. Sabla

Objective	Empowering Adolescent Girls (AGs) (11-18 years) through nutrition, health care and life skills education.
Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is being implemented using the platform of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Anganwadi Centres are the focal point for the delivery of the services. • Scheme Sabla has two major components viz: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nutrition: Take Home Ration or Hot Cooked Meal. – Skill development: Health check-up, Supplements, Vocational training etc. • It also aims towards mainstreaming out of school AGs into formal/ non formal education.

23. Ujjwala Scheme

Objective	Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-tegration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective and Rehabilitative Centres are given financial support for providing shelter and basic amenities such as food, clothing, medical

care, legal aid; education in the case the victims are children, as well as for undertaking vocational training and income generation activities to provide the victims with alternate livelihood option.

- The Scheme is being implemented mainly through NGOs.

24. Janani Suraksha Yojana

Objective	To reduce maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.
Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible pregnant women are entitled for cash assistance irrespective of the age of mother and number of children for giving birth in a government or accredited private health facility. • It comes under National Health Mission. • ASHAs play an important role by convincing and bringing pregnant women to hospital for which they get fixed commission.

25. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram

Objective	To provide better health facilities for pregnant women and sick neonates and eliminating “out-of-pocket” expenses.
Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under this scheme, pregnant women are entitled for free drugs and consumables, free diagnostics, free blood whenever required, and free diet up to 3 days for normal delivery and 7 days for C-section. • This initiative also provides for free transport facilities from home to institution, in case of a referral and drop back home. • Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick new borns accessing public health institutions for treatment till 30 days after birth.

26. Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the partial compensation to working women against their wage loss and ensure their proper rest nutrition. • Improving the health of pregnant women and lactating mothers and reducing the effects of under-nutrition through cash incentives.
Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is the renamed and revamped version of Matritva Sahyog Yojana. • The scheme would benefit pregnant women and lactating mothers for the birth of their first live child. The benefit amount would be send directly to the bank account of the beneficiary through DBT mode. • Under this, government would provide Rs. 6000 aid to pregnant and lactating mothers for the first live birth.
Exemption	<p>Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) would not be applicable for the following category of pregnant women and lactating mothers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those who are in regular employment with central or state government or any public sector undertaking. 2. Those who are the recipients of similar benefits under any other scheme or law.

27. SHeBOX**Objective**

SHe-Box portal offers the facility of making online complaints of sexual harassment at workplace to all women employees in the country including government and private employees.

Ministry

Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Salient Features

- The new SHe-Box portal offers the facility of making online complaints of sexual harassment at workplace to all women employees in the country including government and private employees. Those who have already filed a written complaint with the concerned Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) or Local Complaint Committee (LCC) constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.

28. Expansion of Sub-schemes under ICDS**Salient Features**

- These are the sub-schemes under Umbrella Scheme “Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)”.
- The approved Schemes include:
 - i. Anganwadi Services
 - ii. Scheme for Adolescent Girls
 - iii. Child Protection Services
 - iv. National Crèche Scheme
- The Cabinet has also approved:
 - i. Implementation of Scheme for Adolescent Girls for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years, and its phased expansion.
 - ii. Phasing out of the on-going Kishori Shakti Yojana for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years.
- The decision also provides for conversion of National Crèche Scheme from Central Sector to Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the revised cost sharing between Centre and States as 60:40 for all States and UTs with legislature, 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislature and implementation of the Scheme through States/UTs instead of existing implementation agencies.

Impact

The sub-schemes listed above are not new schemes but are continuing from the XII Five Year Plan. The programme through targeted interventions will strive to reduce the level of malnutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies, ensure empowerment of adolescent girls, provide protection to the children who are in conflict with law, provide safe place for day-care to the children of working mothers, create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue negative alerts for timely action, encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line Ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals and bring more transparency.

29. ‘Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh’**Objective**

With this donor human milk bank, all newborns in and around Delhi will have access to life saving human milk regardless of the circumstances of their birth. “Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh” is established in collaboration with the Norwegian government, Oslo University and Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).

Ministry

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a national human milk bank and lactation counseling centre that will collect, pasteurize, test and safely store milk that has been donated by lactating mothers and make it available for infants in need. • In addition, this facility will protect, promote and support breastfeeding of their own healthy mothers by providing lactation support to mothers through dedicated lactation counsellors. • This project will not only act as a dedicated centre to support breastfeeding and improve infant survival but also act as the teaching, training and demonstration site for other milk banks to be established under the Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
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30. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child; and • The cash incentives provided would lead to improved health seeking behaviour amongst the Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).
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Ministry Ministry of Women and Child Development

Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address the problem of malnutrition and morbidity among children, the Anganwadi Services Scheme, which is universal, is available to all PW&LM including the second pregnancy. • Further, in order to address the malnutrition and morbidity during pregnancies a number of interventions are provided to the pregnant women, viz. universal screening of pregnant women for Anaemia and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, Calcium supplementation in pregnancy, Deworming in pregnancy, Weight gain monitoring and Counselling on nutrition, family planning and prevention of diseases. • The Government of India has approved Pan-India implementation of PMMVY in all districts of the country under which the eligible beneficiaries gets Rs. 5,000 under PMMVY and the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6000.
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Other Schemes in Brief

- a) **SWADHAR GREH:** Swadhar Scheme was launched as a Central Sector Scheme for the benefit of women in difficult circumstances.
Objective of the scheme:
 - To provide primary need of shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women/girls living in difficult circumstances who are without any social and economic support.
 - To provide emotional support and counselling to such women.
 - To provide for help line or other facilities to such women in distress.
 - Swadhar scheme is being implemented through implementing agencies, i.e. Social Welfare/Women and Child Welfare Departments of State Governments, Women’s Development Corporations, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trusts or Voluntary organisations.
- b) **Mahila Police Volunteer Programme:** MPVs will act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress. The MPVs shall report the incidence of violence against women, domestic violence and dowry harassment. They shall be given an Identity Card to authorize their identity and engagement with public. The contribution of the MPVs will be rewarded annually.
- c) **Khoya Paya:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development, with the assistance of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), has launched a web portal Khoya-Paya this year for reporting and searching missing children. The web portal ‘Khoya-Paya’ will have information of missing and sighted children.

- d) **National Nutrition Mission:** A new Mission to tackle the problem of malnutrition is being launched by March 2016 so that supplementary nutrition can be provided in a targeted manner with real-time IT based monitoring at ground level. It will put in place a comprehensive set of measures and activities that will address pivotal and complex issues of malnutrition and focus on outcome monitoring, training and capacity building.
- e) **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:** Under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, the pregnant ladies will be given free health check-up and required treatment for free on 9th of every month. The scheme will be applicable for pregnant women and can be availed in all Government hospitals across the country.
- f) **“Kanyashree” Scheme**
Objective - Aimed at retaining girls in schools and other educational institutions. It also aims towards skill development and prevent child marriage.
Ministry - Initiative of Bengal Government.
- g) **PENCIL PORTAL**
Objective - An electronic platform for effective enforcement for eradication of child labour.
Ministry - **Ministry of Labour & Employment**
Salient features - Online portal which connects Central Government to State Government, District and to all Project Societies would provide a mechanism for implementation. In this backdrop, the online portal PENCIL was conceptualized. PENCIL Portal has following components:
 - a. Child Tracking System
 - b. Complaint Corner
 - c. State Government
 - d. National Child Labour Project
 - e. Convergence

31. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

Objective	Develop tribal people by streamlining and ensuring all benefits reach them.
Ministry	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall development of tribal people with an outcome-base approach, which would ensure that all the intended benefits goods and services to the tribal people through various programmes/schemes of Central and State Governments covered under the respective Tribal Sub-Plans actually reach them by way of appropriate convergence. • Develop the backward blocks in the Schedule V States as model Blocks with visible infrastructural facilities to further the mission development while ensuring the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Qualitative and sustainable employment. ii. Emphasis on quality education & higher education. iii. Accelerated economic development of tribal areas. iv. Health for all. v. Housing for all. vi. Safe drinking water for all at doorsteps. vii. Irrigation facilities suited to the terrain. viii. All weather roads with connectivity to the nearby town/cities. iv. Universal availability of electricity. x. Promotion of Sports in Tribal Areas. xi. Promotion and conservation of Tribal Cultural Heritage. xii. Robust institutional mechanism to roll the vehicle of development with sustainability. xiii. Urban development.

32. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

Introduction

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana’ (PMAGY) is being implemented for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SC) majority villages having SC Population concentration > 50%. Initially the scheme was launched on Pilot basis in 1,000 villages in 5 States, viz. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The Scheme was further revised on 22.01.2015 with expansion to another 1,500 SC majority villages distributed in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana.

Objectives

The principal objective of the Scheme is integrated development of SC Majority Villages:

- Primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central and State Schemes.
- By providing these villages Central Assistance in form of gap-filling funds to the extent of Rs. 20.00 lakh per village, to be increased by another 5 lakh if State make a matching contribution.
- By providing gap-filling component to take up activities which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes

33. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Objective

- It is a scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-Living Devices for Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category.

Parent Ministry

- Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Salient Features

- Under the Scheme, the following Aids and Assisted-Living Devices will be provided to eligible elderly beneficiary senior citizens, depending upon their physical impairment :- Walking sticks, Elbow crutches, Walkers/Crutches, Tripods/Quadpods, Hearing Aids, Wheelchair, Artificial Dentures and Spectacles.

34. ANUYATRA

Objective

- **For making Kerala a disabled-friendly State.**

Initiative by

- Kerala Government

Salient Features

- It is a comprehensive project for making Kerala a disabled-friendly State.
- The project adopts a rights-based life cycle approach to disability management, from primordial prevention to organising sustainable rehabilitation programmes for the disabled.
- **Primordial and primary prevention of disabilities** will be ensured through awareness creation regarding pre-natal determinants of disability. In this context, the government would take steps to introduce universal and mandatory screening of newborns to check for any hearing disabilities.
- **Secondary and tertiary prevention** will include early identification through screening and disability management, including rehabilitation and palliative care services.
- The government would also establish **District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC)** with all facilities in all districts for the early management of disabilities.

35. Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

Objective	To achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, 2015. • Enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. • The campaign has been drafted by Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to which India is a signatory. • Under the campaign, at least 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals will be made fully accessible for persons with disabilities by July 2018. • All the international airports in the country and railway stations of A1, A & B categories will be made fully accessible by July 2016. • At least 50% of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities by March 2018.

Other Schemes in Brief

- a) **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** Under the Scheme, funds for the welfare of persons with disabilities are provided to the non governmental organizations for projects like special schools for disabled, Vocational Training Centres, Half Way Homes, Community Based Rehabilitation Centres, Early Intervention Centres for Disabled and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons etc.
- b) **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP):** Under the scheme, aids/appliances are distributed to the needy persons with disabilities.
- c) Under the **Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons**, the Government of India provides the employer’s contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities including visually impaired persons employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.
- d) Under the **National Scholarship Scheme** which is funded from Trust Fund for Empowerment of PwDs financial assistance is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses from recognized institutes and get employed/self employed. Under the Scheme every year 1,000 scholarships are provided to the students with disabilities through out the country. 30% scholarships are reserved for girls. Only Indian nationals are eligible for scholarships.

36. Indian Community Welfare Funds revised

Objective	<p>The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is aimed at providing ‘on site’ welfare services to overseas Indian citizens who are in distress.</p> <p>The government has revised guidelines for Indian Community Welfare Funds.</p>
Salient Features	<p>Overseas Indian workers duped by unscrupulous intermediaries in the host countries, runaway house maids, those who become victim of accidents, deserted spouses of overseas Indians or undocumented overseas Indian workers in need of emergency assistance or any other overseas Indian citizens who are in distress would be the main beneficiaries of the Fund. The Fund will also be utilized to meet the expenditure for airlifting the mortal remains of overseas Indian citizens to India on a means tested basis, on the recommendation of respective Heads of Missions.</p> <p>The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is aimed at providing ‘on site’ welfare services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases including:</p>

- Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indian workers in Household/domestic sectors and unskilled labourers.
- Extending emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need.
- Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need.
- Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases.
- Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

Apart from assisting Indian nationals in distress abroad, ICWF has been a critical support in emergency evacuation of Indian nationals in conflict zones in Libya, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan and other challenging situations like assistance extended to undocumented Indian workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Nitaqat drive in 2013 and the ongoing Amnesty drive in 2017.

The scale and speed of these evacuations and assistance rendered through the Fund has been universally appreciated. It has also created a sense of confidence among the migrant workers going overseas about the support they can expect from India during critical times.

ICWF stands extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad and is primarily funded by levying service charge on various consular services rendered by Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

Recent Changes

The revised guidelines being made broad-based seek to expand the scope of welfare measures that can be extended through the Fund. The guidelines would cover three key areas namely: Assisting Overseas Indian Nationals in Distress Situations, Community Welfare Activities, and Improvement in Consular Services. They are expected to provide Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing to requests for assistance by Overseas Indian nationals.

37. Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Programme

Objective

- To identify and groom young sporting talent, the Union cabinet has approved a revamped *Khelo India* (Play India) scheme under which 1,000 selected athletes will receive an annual scholarship of Rs. 500,000 each for eight years.

Ministry

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Salient features:

- a) An unprecedented Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year across select sports disciplines.
- b) Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5 lakh for 8 consecutive years.
- c) This is the first time ever that a long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to gifted and talented youngsters to excel in competitive sports and will create a pool of highly competitive athletes who can compete to win at the world stage.
- d) The Programme aims to promote 20 universities across the country as hubs of sporting excellence, which would enable talented sports persons to pursue the dual pathway of education and competitive sports.

Impact:

- e) The Programme also aims at creating an active population with healthy life-style.
- f) The Programme would cover about 200 million children in the age group of 10-18 under a massive national physical fitness drive, which will not only measure the physical fitness of all children in the age group, but also support their fitness related activities.
- a) The power of sport in promoting gender equity and social inclusiveness is also fully recognized and special measures are provided for to achieve these objectives.
- b) The programme also aims at engaging youth living in disturbed and deprived areas, in sporting activities, to wean them away from unproductive and disruptive activities and mainstream them in the nation-building process.
- c) The programme strives to raise the standards of competition, both at school and college level, to have maximum access to organized sports competitions.
- d) It also includes the use of latest user-friendly technology in all aspects of sports promotion such as, use of mobile apps for dissemination of sports training; National Sports Talent Search portal for talent identification; interactive website for indigenous sports; GIS based information system for locating and using sports infrastructure, etc.
- e) This programme strives to promote “Sports for All” as well as “Sports for Excellence.”

38. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana

Objective	To formulate and implement appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable development through cluster approach.
Ministry	Ministry of Science & Technology
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched “Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana” which will experiment and endeavour to formulate and implement appropriate S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand. • DST has conceived this developmental approach to adopt a few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand and transform them to become self-sustainable in a time bound manner through the tools of Science and Technology (S&T). • The key deliverable in this approach is to utilise local resources and locally available skill sets using science and technology and convert them in a manner so that substantial value addition takes place in their local produce and services for sustaining the rural population locally. • Further, this approach would help in preventing the local communities to migrate from their native places in search of jobs and livelihoods. Once this concept is validated in the few selected clusters, it can be replicated across large number of village clusters in the country. • Areas of interventions in these selected clusters would be processing and value addition of milk, honey, mushroom, herbal tea, forest produce, horticulture and local crops, medicinal & aromatic plants, traditional craft, and handloom of Uttarakhand. • Post-harvest processing of Kiwi, Strawberry, Cherry, Tulsi, Adrak, Badi Elaichi through solar drying technology, extraction of apricot oil

using cold press technology. Stringent product and process control interventions for energy and water conservation would also be ensured through this project.

- Sustainable employment and livelihood options within the clusters such as eco-tourism, naturopathy and yoga, are also planned to be promoted.
- These clusters would act as model production cum training and demonstration centres.

39. Maatru Poorna Scheme in Karnataka

Objective	To meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.
Initiative by	Karnataka Government
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the programme, pregnant and lactating poor women in rural areas will get one nutritious meal daily for 25 days in a month. A full meal, consisting of rice, dal with vegetables/sambar, one boiled egg and 200ml of milk, will be given to pregnant women. Those who don't eat eggs would be given two varieties of sprouts. • This meal will meet 40-45% of the daily calorie, protein and calcium requirement per day of the pregnant and lactating mothers. Along with the meal, Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets will be administered and gestational weight monitoring will be ensured for pregnant women. • The scheme has been scaled up in all the districts of the State benefiting around 12 lakh pregnant women and lactating mother, and anganwadi assistants and helpers. • The scheme will be implemented through anganwadis in the State. Each meal is estimated to cost around Rs. 20. The food will be provided for 15 months, from the start of pregnancy up to six months after delivery.

40. Jeevan Praman

Objective	Streamline the process of getting Life certificate and making it hassle free and much easier for the pensioners.
Ministry	Ministry of Communication and IT
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a AADHAR Biometric Authentication based digital life certificates for Pensioners. • It will do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate in November each year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into their account.

41. Digilocker

Objective	Provide citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud and making all documents/certificates available on this cloud.
Ministry	Ministry of Communication and IT.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative under Digital India. • Targeted at the idea of paperless governance, DigiLocker is a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents.

- A secure dedicated personal electronic space for storing the documents of resident Indian citizens.
- The storage space (maximum 1GB) is linked to the Aadhaar number of the user.
- The space can be utilized for storing personal documents like University certificates, PAN cards, voter id cards, etc., and the URI's of the e-documents issued by various issuer departments.
- There is also an associated facility for e-signing of documents.

42. Bharatnet Project (National Optical Fibre Network)

Objective	To provide broadband connectivity to over two lakh Gram Panchayats.
Ministry	Ministry of Communication and IT
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the special purpose vehicle created as a PSU for execution of NOFN. • Connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks will be filled. • The project provides internet access using existing optical fibre and extending it to the Gram Panchayats. • The project was intended to enable the Government of India to provide e-services and e-applications nationally. • All the Service Providers like Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), ISPs, Cable TV operators etc. will be given non-discriminatory access to the National Optic Fibre Network and can launch various services in rural areas. • Various categories of applications like e-health, e-education and e-governance etc. can also be provided by these operators. • Its target was subsequently scaled down to less than half (1.10 lakh Panchayats) due to miserable implementation and then the targets as well as the plan lost into oblivion. • Funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund.

43. Inspire (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research)

Objective	To attract talent to Science.
Ministry	Ministry of Science & Technology
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate to the youth of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science. • Attract talent towards science at an early age. • Build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base. • It does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level. It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent. • It has three components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS) – Awards and Internships. II. Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE). III. Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) – Fellowship and Faculty Scheme.

44. SAKAAR**Objective****To highlight the achievements of Department of Space.****Ministry/Department**

Department of Space (ISRO)

Salient Features

- It is an Augmented Reality (AR) application designed for Android devices.
- This application superimposes live camera view (physical world) and virtual objects/video clips such that physical world and virtual objects looks tightly coupled.
- The virtual objects can consist of 3D models, videos and anaglyph images.

45. Digital India**Objective**

Transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy.

Ministry

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Salient Features:

- The Digital India is transformational in nature and would ensure that Government services are available to citizens electronically.
- Digital India has three core components. These include:
 - a) Creation of digital infrastructure.
 - b) Delivering services digitally.
 - c) Digital literacy.
- The programme will be implemented in phases that will culminate in 2018-19.
- Umbrella programme which includes the hitherto National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) to connect 2,50,000 gram Panchayats by providing internet connectivity to all citizens.
- Key points of Digital India Programme are as follow:
 - Universal Access to Phones.
 - Broadband Highways.
 - Public Internet Access Programme.
 - e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology.
 - e-Kranti – Electronic delivery of services.
 - Information for All.
 - Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports.
 - IT for Jobs.
 - Early Harvest Programmes.
- It seeks to deliver all government services electronically. It not only envisages giving boost to information technology but also envisages achieving import-export balance in electronics.
- Will also ensure public answerability via a unique ID, e-Pramaan based on standard government applications and fully online delivery of services.
- Has capacity to create huge number of jobs.
- Also includes development of an electronic development fund.
- Give India equal footing with the developed world in terms of development with the aid of latest technology.

- Implementation shall be monitored and overseen by a Digital India Advisory group that will be headed by the Ministry of Communications.

46. Namami Gange Project (Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission Project)

Objective	Ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga and all its tributaries.
Ministry	Ministry of Water Resources
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries of Environment, Urban Development, Shipping, Tourism & Rural Development are coordinating with Water Resource ministry in it. • Application of bio-remediation method /in-situ treatment to treat waste water in drains. • Setting up Ganga Eco-Task Force. • It will cover 8 states & 12 rivers. • Emphasises on sustainable agriculture. • The works are executed by the State Project Management Groups (SPMGs) of the respective States through the designated Executing Agencies. • Expanding waste/sewage treatment. • Centre will now take over 100% funding of various activities/ projects under this program. • Involving people living on the banks of the river to attain sustainable results.

47. Ganga Gram Yojana

Objective	To develop the villages located along the main stream of river Ganga which have historic, cultural, and religious and/or tourist importance.
Ministry	Ministry of Water Resources
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the “Namami Gange” Programme. • Make the village open defecation free. • Encompass comprehensive rural sanitation, development of water bodies and river ghats, construction/modernization of crematoria etc. • Develop proper solid waste disposal facilities in order to avoid any pollution to river Ganga. • Abate direct discharge of untreated liquid waste-water from such villages into river Ganga. • Promote better sanitation practices in the villages through IEC activities. • Facilitate adequate infrastructure for crematoria.

48. Jal Kranti Abhiyan

Objective	To consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it mass movement.
Ministry	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies for Participatory Irrigation Management.

- There are four important components of Jal Kranti Abhiyan:
 - I. Jal Gram Yojana.
 - II. Development of Model Command Area.
 - III. Pollution Abatement.
 - IV. Mass Awareness Programme.
- Two water stressed villages in each district of the country will be selected as **Jal Gram** and a comprehensive water security plan will be formulated to achieve water security for these villages.
- Activities proposed under the campaign include rain water harvesting, recycling of waste water, micro irrigation for using water efficiently and mass awareness program.
- A cadre of local water professional **Jal Mitra** will be created and they will be given training to create mass awareness.

49. One Rank One Pension Scheme

Objective	Uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their date of retirement.
Ministry	Ministry of Defence
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will benefit ex-servicemen of all three services- Army, Navy and Air Force. • The benefit will be given with effect from 1st July, 2014. • Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly instalments. All widows, including war widows, will be paid arrears in one instalment. • Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension in 2013. Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected. • Personnel who voluntarily retire will not be covered under the OROP scheme. • In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years. • Future enhancements in the rates of pension would be automatically passed on to the past pensioners. This implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past pensioners at periodic intervals. • Union Government has constituted Judicial Committee headed by Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, in December 2015 to give recommendations for the removal of anomalies that may arise in the implementation of OROP retrospectively with effect from 1st July, 2014.

50. Pragati (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

Objective	The platform is aimed at addressing common man’s grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
Ministry/Department	PMO
Salient Features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed in-house by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) team with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC).

- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies:
 - Digital data management.
 - Video-conferencing.
 - Geo-spatial technology.
- An ICT-based, multi-modal platform for **interaction between state and central governments** (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, Chief Secretaries).
- Three-tier system that brings PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States at one stage. Thus, offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism.
- Systems use data from **CPGRAMS** for grievances, Project Monitoring Group (**PMG**) and the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. PRAGATI provides an interface and platform for all these three aspects.
- With this, the Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials with full information and latest visuals of the ground level situation. It is also an innovative project in e-governance and good governance.
- On a monthly basis, Prime Minister will interact with bureaucrats, i.e. on fourth Wednesday of every month at 3.30 PM - called as PRAGATI Day.

51. KUSUM Scheme

- The Union Government has announced Rs. 1.4 lakh-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme for promoting solar farming, i.e. decentralised solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers.
- KUSUM scheme will start with building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands and providing 1.75 million off-grid agricultural solar pumps.
- It will provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.
- It will help in de-dieselising the agriculture sector as India had about 30 million farm pumps that include 10 million pumps running on diesel. The surplus electricity generated by farmers will be bought by state electricity distribution companies (discoms).

52. Online Portal NARI

- In a path breaking initiative to empower women, the Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated an online portal NARI in New Delhi.
- Developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, the portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- In order to make this information more easily accessible in one place, the NARI portal summarizes over 350 government schemes and other important information for the benefit of women, with more being added everyday. It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes as well as easy access to online applications and grievance redressal.

- NARI will provide information to women on issues affecting their lives. There are tips on good nutrition, suggestions for health check ups, information on major diseases, tips for job search and interview, investment and savings advice, information on crimes and against women and reporting procedures, contacts of legal aid cells, simplified adoption procedures and much more. It will endow women with the power of information to build their life skills and facilitates them in taking full advantage of the services provided by the Government for them.
- Empowerment and welfare of women and children is top priority of the government, NARI and e-Samvad portals are initiatives in this direction.

53. e-Samvad Portal

- E-Samvad is a portal started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide a platform to interact with NGOs, civil society and concerned citizens.
- This is a way for the Ministry to receive input on its schemes and programmes. Individuals and organisations can register themselves here to share their feedback, suggestions, best practices, grievances etc. with the Ministry.
- MWCD will be able to view the inputs/suggestions received for their concerned subject areas and appropriately respond to NGOs.
- This will help in formulation of effective policies and measures for welfare of women and children.

54. Khelo India School Games (KISG)

Khelo India School Games 2018 will be held from January 31 for under-17 age group (boys and girls) across 16 sports disciplines. The games will be conducted at par with international level competitions so as to give the best experience to players and other stakeholders.

In a move to identify and groom young sporting talent, the Union cabinet has approved a revamped Khelo India (Play India) scheme.

Some of the salient features of the Programme include:

- An unprecedented Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year across select sports disciplines.
- Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs.5. lakh for 8 consecutive years.
- This is the first time ever that a long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to gifted and talented youngsters to excel in competitive sports and will create a pool of highly competitive athletes who can compete to win at the world stage.
- The Programme aims to promote 20 universities across the country as hubs of sporting excellence, which would enable talented sports persons to pursue the dual pathway of education and competitive sports.
- The Programme also aims at creating an active population with healthy life-style.
- The Programme would cover about 200 million children in the age group of 10-18 under a massive national physical fitness drive, which

will not only measure the physical fitness of all children in the age group, but also support their fitness related activities.

Impact:

- The power of sport in promoting gender equity and social inclusiveness is also fully recognized and special measures are provided for to achieve these objectives.
- The programme also aims at engaging youth living in disturbed and deprived areas, in sporting activities, to wean them away from unproductive and disruptive activities and mainstream them in the nation-building process.
- The programme strives to raise the standards of competition, both at school and college level, to have maximum access to organized sports competitions.
- It also includes the use of latest user-friendly technology in all aspects of sports promotion such as, use of mobile apps for dissemination of sports training; National Sports Talent Search portal for talent identification; interactive website for indigenous sports; GIS based information system for locating and using sports infrastructure, etc.
- This programme strives to promote “Sports for All” as well as “Sports for Excellence.”

55. Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban Launches Smart Star-Rating for Garbage Free Cities

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the ‘Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities’ in Goa. It has been developed under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban for rating cities on 7-star rating system based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management.
- Indicators: These include Door to Door garbage collection, source segregation, sweeping, scientific processing of waste, bulk generator compliance, scientific land filling, construction and demolition management, plastic waste management, dump remediation & citizen grievance redressal system etc.
- Cities can be rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 star based on their compliance with the protocol conditions specified for each of the rating. Further city should be ODF (Open Defecation Free) before it could be given rating of 3 star or above. While cities may self-declare themselves as 1-star, 2-star or 4-star, MoHUA will carry out an additional verification through an independent third party to certify cities as 3-star, 5-star or 7-star. Cities will need to get recertified themselves every year to retain their star-status.

56. Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched beneficiary module (i.e. Phase-1) of Rapid Reporting System (RRS), a web based online monitoring for Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG).
- The RRS portal will facilitate monitoring of SAG and take corrective measures by ensuring faster flow of information, accurate targeting of beneficiaries and reduction of leakages. It has been developed by Ministry of WCD in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC).

57. Stree Swabhiman

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has launched Stree Swabhiman Initiative. Its aim is to create sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- Under this initiative, Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins (menstrual pads) to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- Its purpose is to improve awareness on menstrual health and hygiene of women, thus help to protect dignity and rights of women.

Other Schemes in Brief

- a) **Zero Defect, Zero Effect Scheme:** To enable the advancement of Indian industry to a position of eminence in the global marketplace and leverage India's emergence as the world's supplier through the 'Made in India' mark.

Mission: To develop and implement a 'ZED' culture in India based on the principles of:

1. **Zero Defect (focus on customer)**

- Zero non-conformance/non-compliance
- Zero waste

2. **Zero Effect (focus on society)**

- Zero air pollution/liquid discharge (ZLD)/solid waste
- Zero wastage of natural resources

- b) **Panchdeep Project:** It is a **project to provide health and social security services to members of ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation)** through a national digital network.

It is the **largest e-governance program** to provide online facilities to employers and insured people for registration, payment of premium, disbursement of cash benefits and automated Medicare services to all insured people.

Project Panchdeep has five components:

- **Pehchan:** Includes all services related to identification, authentication and verification of Insured Persons (IPs) through the use of biometric cards.
- **Milap:** Comprises of all services related to provisioning network and bandwidth.
- **Pashan:** Consists of services related to hardware for Data Centre, Disaster Recovery, desktops/PCs/Laptops and middleware.
- **Dhanwantri:** Includes all services related to hospitals and dispensaries.
- **Pragati:** For all services related to ERP modules.

- c) **National Alliance:** The Ministry of Women & Child Development to setup National Alliance against online Child sexual abuse and exploitation. The National Alliance is to make a comprehensive outreach system to engage parents, schools, communities, NGO partners and local governments (PRIs and ULBs) as well as police and lawyers to ensure better implementation of the legal framework, policies, national strategies and standards in relation to child protection and child rights.

- d) **Saur Sujala Yojana:** **The government has launched the Saur Sujala Yojana that would provide solar powered irrigation pumps to farmers at a subsidized price.** Under the scheme, solar powered irrigation pumps of 3HP and 5HP capacity will be distributed to the farmers. The beneficiaries would get the pumps at the subsidised price. It is mainly aimed to give priority to those areas where electricity has not reached, so that farmers can utilize them in irrigation and agriculture.

- e) **Vittiya Saksharta Abhiyan:** The purpose of the 'Vittiya Saksharta Abhiyan' is to actively engage the youth/students of Higher Education Institutions to encourage and motivate all payers and payees to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of funds. Ministry of Human Resource Development views the institutions of higher education in the country, faculty members and students to take the lead and act as engines of this transformational shift.

- f) **'100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign:** The '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world, to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children and promote the right of every child to be safe, free, and educated, over the next 5 years.

- g) **National Seismic Programme:** The NSP aims to undertake a fresh appraisal in all sedimentary basins across India, especially where no/scanty data is available, to have a better understanding of the hydrocarbon potential

of India. Under this programme, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have been entrusted to conduct 2D seismic Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation (API) across India.

- h) Slum Yuva Daud Objective:** Slum Yuva Daud to mark the beginning of the Adopt Slum Campaign.
Ministry: Initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
Salient features: The NYKS has adopted slums across 11 districts and will work for their overall development with young volunteers.
 Creating model slums and create groups of youth who will work as agents of change to work for the development of their respective slums/areas.
- i) 'Skill for Life, Save a Life'**
Objective: Initiative to promote skill development in the health sector.
Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Salient features: India is working towards the attainment of the global mandate of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for providing affordable, accountable and appropriate health care of assured quality to the fellow citizens, which is possible through substantive and strategic investment in the health workforce. "This is part of a larger plan and program for ensuring Universal Health Coverage. This program will provide trained and skilled people by broadening the base to include the community.
- j) Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres (Skill initiative)**
Objective: To ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.
Ministry: Ministry of Minority Affairs.
Salient features: Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 districts of the country which will effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.
- k) Zero Hunger Programme**
Objective: India's ambitious Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in farm sector was launched on occasion of World Food Day (October 16) with focus on agriculture, nutrition and health in a symbiotic manner.
Initiated by: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in association with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
Salient features: The programme consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up genetic gardens for biofortified plants and initiation of 'Zero Hunger' training. A genetic garden for biofortified plants contains germplasm of naturally biofortified crops through plant breeding. It has plants and crops that help supplement micro-nutrient deficiencies, including iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine among others.



POLICIES

1. New Education Policy, 2016

Ministry	Ministry of Human Resource and Development
Aim	To address deficiencies and challenges in current education system, along with the need to sharply increase the quality of Indian education, across the board. It offers a framework for change, make education modern with optimal use of technology, without compromising on India's traditions and heritage.
Objectives	It reiterates the role of education in inculcating values, and to provide skills and competencies for the citizens, and in enabling them to contribute to the nation's well-being; strengthens democracy by empowering citizens; acts as an integrative force in society, and fosters social cohesion and national identity.
Recommendations of TSR Subramanian Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Indian Education Service (IES) should be established as an all India service with officers being on permanent settlement to the state governments but with the cadre controlling authority vesting with the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry. • The outlay on education should be raised to at least 6% of GDP without further loss of time. • There should be minimum eligibility condition with 50% marks at graduate level for entry to existing B.Ed courses. Teacher Entrance Tests (TET) should be made compulsory for recruitment of all teachers. The Centre and states should jointly lay down norms and standards for TET. • Compulsory licensing or certification for teachers in government and private schools should be made mandatory, with provision for renewal every 10 years based on independent external testing. • Pre-school education for children in the age group of 4 to 5 years should be declared as a right and a programme for it should be implemented immediately. • The no detention policy must be continued for young children until completion of class V when the child will be 11 years old. At the upper primary stage, the system of detention shall be restored subject to the provision of remedial coaching and at least two extra chances being offered to prove his capability to move to a higher class. • On-demand board exams should be introduced to offer flexibility and reduce year end stress of students and parents. A National Level Test open to every student who has completed class XII from any School Board should be designed. • The mid-day meal (MDM) program should now be extended to cover students of secondary schools. This is necessary as levels of malnutrition and anaemia continue to be high among adolescents.

- UGC Act must be allowed to lapse once a separate law is created for the management of higher education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) needs to be made leaner and thinner and given the role of disbursement of scholarships and fellowships.
- Top 200 foreign universities should be allowed to open campuses in India and give the same degree which is acceptable in the home country of the said university.

2. National Policy for Women, 2016

Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Aim	To create sustainable socio-economic, political empowerment of women to claim their rights and entitlements, control over resources and formulation of strategic choices in realisation of the principles of gender equality and justice.
Objectives	<p>To create a conducive socio-cultural, economic and political environment to enable women enjoy de jure and de facto fundamental rights and realize their full potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming gender in all-round development processes/ programmes/projects/actions. • A holistic and life-cycle approach to women’s health for appropriate, affordable and quality health care. • Improving and incentivising access of women/girls to universal and quality education. • Increasing and incentivising work force participation of women in the economy. • Equal participation in the social, political and economic spheres including the institutions of governance and decision making. • Transforming discriminatory societal attitudes, mindsets with community involvement and engagement of men and boys. • Developing a gender sensitive legal-judicial system. • Elimination of all forms of violence against women through strengthening of policies, legislations, programmes, institutions and community engagement. • Development and empowerment of women belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized groups. • Building and strengthening stakeholder participation and partnerships for women empowerment. • Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, audit and data systems to bridge gender gaps.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a society with women working as equal partners in all spheres of life. • To develop a framework to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women. • To make cyber space a safe place for women and to address “redistribution of gender roles, for reducing unpaid care work, review of personal and customary laws in accordance with the Constitutional provisions and many more.” • It also seeks to review the criminalisation of marital rape keeping women’s rights in mind.

- Health and education of women have been kept a priority in the proposed draft.
- The draft has proposed to “improve access to pre-primary education, enrolment and retention of adolescent girls.”
- To carry out skill development and provide equal employment opportunities.
- To provide suitable benefits related to maternity and child care services.
- The draft plans to increase women’s participation in the political, administration, civil services and corporate boardrooms arena.
- To address all forms of violence against women.
- To improve child sex ratio (CSR).
- To prevent trafficking at source, transit and destination areas through effective monitoring of the networks.
- Operational strategies.
- To enable safety and security of women with the help of “One Stop Centres, Women Helpline, Mahila Police Volunteers, Reservation of women in police force, Panic buttons in mobiles, Surveillance mechanisms in public places.”
- To create eco-systems to encourage entrepreneurship amongst women. This has been proposed to be done through podiums like Mahila E-Haat etc.
- Aiding women in workplace through “flexi timings, increased maternity leave, provision of child care/creches at workplace, life cycle health care facilities.”

3. National Student Startup Policy

Formulated by

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Aim

To create 100,000 technology based student start-ups and a million employment opportunities within the next 10 years (2025).

Objectives

The policy plans on achieving the aim by developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships among technical institutions. It emphasizes on the much-desired need for an appropriate startup policy to propel the youth of India through and beyond the 21st century.

- To prepare students as they gain benefits from GoI’s ‘Start-up India’ programme.
- The policy is aimed at guiding and grooming students to take up entrepreneurial careers and successfully launch their start-ups.
- To motivate students to convert their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and projects into viable B-plans.
- To create a common virtual platform and ask institutions to submit students’ projects on this platform to make the project nationwide.
- To inculcate social responsive behaviours among students aspiring to launch start-ups.
- To offer students, from rural regions of India, training in business opportunity identification in their local areas.
- To orient students as to how they can conceptualize social business start-ups that will address social issues.

Salient Features

- To equip students with the necessary skills for managing their business enterprise.
- The mentoring and handholding processes of student start-ups are also covered in the policy. A Startup Implementation Committee is already constituted by the Council under the Chairmanship of Shri. Sanjay Inamdar.
- The formulated policy has outlined the role of the AICTE, TBI and academic institutions in creating student entrepreneurs all along implementing the government’s initiative the “Start-up India”.
- According to the policy, the curriculum pattern followed by these institutions would include 40 per cent skills based courses, 30 per cent knowledge related courses and 30 per cent attitude related courses.
- Courses on Basic Business Management will orient students with the fundamentals of business and other related areas.
- The new policy has made a provision to set up a fund to support start-up events and fest that would be organized at national and international levels. An amount of Rs. 10,000 crore will be invested through the venture funds registered with SEBI and interested to support student startups.
- Seed Fund for Student Start-up: Private, institute specific funds shall be encouraged to set up operations in the academic institutions and for funding start-ups.
- Student Start-up Infrastructure Fund (SSIF): A ‘Student Start-up Infrastructure Fund’ with an initial annual outflow of Rs.20 crores shall be set up to support start-ups in academic institutions.
- This policy will also support Technology Business Incubators (TBI) in creating new number of student startups and entrepreneurs pan India.
- A national level acceleration programme could be designed to benefit students of AICTE approved/affiliated Institutions. Through this programme, 50 selected start-ups may get Angel Funds of up-to 25 lakhs annually. Private investors may also be used.
- The policy shall be governed by the ‘National Resource Institution’ selected by AICTE, MHRD, New-Delhi and will be implemented by the Regional Hubs among the AICTE Approved Institutions. There will be 4 Regional Hubs to monitor the activities across the country.
- To develop hard and soft infrastructure like testing labs, IT labs, tools room, design studios, data set, laboratories, video-conferencing facilities and research and analysis labs in the academic institutes, an initial annual outflow of Rs. 20 crore will be provided to help student start-ups in institute.

4. No Detention Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Human Resource and Development
Aim	No child admitted in a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from the school till the completion of elementary education.
Objectives	Under this policy, the students up to class VIII are automatically promoted to the next class without being held back even if they do not get a passing grade. The policy covers elementary stage of schooling covering classes 1 to 8.

Salient Features

- Concerning the higher dropout rate due to being unable to read, write and pass, the Act under Section-16, prohibits schools from detaining or expelling any student up to Class VIII for reducing the higher dropout rate and to have a minimum educated citizenry.
- The essence of the policy is that children should not be “failed” and detained up to Class 8. This also means there are no “examinations” in the narrow traditional sense of the word up to Class 8. Instead, the Act mandates a process of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) to assess and evaluate the student’s learning.
- CCE regularly assesses student progress in multiple ways and uses the feedback in the teaching-learning process. It gives a continuous progress record and specific inputs for improving learning.
- Unlike exams, it can also assess things such as social attitudes, creativity, emotional development and perseverance.
- Research evidence across the world suggests that such methods (called formative assessments) tend to improve student learning.

5. National Child Policy

Ministry

Ministry of Women and Child Development

Aim

To protect and encourage the rights of the children to survival, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation.

Objectives

To help in the implementation of programmes and schemes for children all over the country. The policy gives utmost priority to right to life, health and nutrition and also gives importance to development, education, protection and participation.

Salient Features

- It focuses on the prevention of disabilities.
- Since it has been estimated that a large percentage of disabilities in India are preventable, so, it is expected that with early interventions, further disabilities could be treated and managed, after which rehabilitation and social support measures need to be provided.
- It recognizes that, at times, children with disabilities are not given access to education and may be in need of additional care and protection.
- They are included in a larger group of vulnerable children who need to be tracked and have access to their right to education.
- It highlights the need for schools to be inclusive and for the availability of trained teachers and special educators, appropriate pedagogy and education material, barrier-free access for mobility, functional toilets and co-curricular activities towards the development of a child’s fullest potential and autonomy, as well as dignity and self-worth.
- It specifically states that the views of children with disabilities must be promoted and strengthened within the family, community, schools and institutions, different levels of governance, as well as in judicial and administrative proceedings concerning them.
- It is the first policy document in India that specifically highlights “disability” as a ground for discrimination that must be countered.

6. New Health Policy, 2017

Ministry

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Aim

To inform, clarify, strengthen and prioritize the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions- investments in health,

organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross sectoral actions, access to technologies, developing human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building knowledge base, developing better financial protection strategies, strengthening regulation and health assurance.

Objectives

Improve health status through concerted policy action in all sectors and expand preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services provided through the public health sector with focus on quality.

Salient Features

- **Professionalism, Integrity and Ethics:** The health policy commits itself to the highest professional standards, integrity and ethics to be maintained in the entire system of health care delivery in the country, supported by a credible, transparent and responsible regulatory environment.
- **Equity:** Reducing inequity would mean affirmative action to reach the poorest. It would mean minimizing disparity on account of gender, poverty, caste, disability, other forms of social exclusion and geographical barriers. It would imply greater investments and financial protection for the poor who suffer the largest burden of disease.
- **Affordability:** As costs of care increases, affordability, as distinct from equity, requires emphasis. Catastrophic household health care expenditures defined as health expenditure exceeding 10% of its total monthly consumption expenditure or 40% of its monthly non-food consumption expenditure, are unacceptable.
- **Universality:** Prevention of exclusions on social, economic or on grounds of current health status. In this backdrop, systems and services are envisaged to be designed to cater to the entire population including special groups.
- **Patient Centered & Quality of Care:** Gender sensitive, effective, safe, and convenient healthcare services to be provided with dignity and confidentiality. There is need to evolve and disseminate standards and guidelines for all levels of facilities and a system to ensure that the quality of healthcare is not compromised.
- **Accountability:** Financial and performance accountability, transparency in decision making, and elimination of corruption in health care systems, both in public and private.
- **Inclusive Partnerships:** A multistakeholder approach with partnership & participation of all non-health ministries and communities. This approach would include partnerships with academic institutions, not for profit agencies, and health care industry as well.
- **Pluralism:** Patients who so choose and when appropriate, would have access to AYUSH care providers based on documented and validated local, home and community based practices. These systems, inter alia, would also have Government support in research and supervision to develop and enrich their contribution to meeting the national health goals and objectives through integrative practices.
- **Decentralization:** Decentralisation of decision making to a level as is consistent with practical considerations and institutional capacity. Community participation in health planning processes, to be promoted side by side.
- **Dynamism and Adaptiveness:** Constantly improving dynamic organization of health care based on new knowledge and evidence with learning from the communities and from national and international knowledge partners is designed.

7. Skill Development Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
Objectives	To empower the individual, by enabling her/him to realize their full potential through a process of lifelong learning where competencies are accumulated via instruments such as credible certifications, credit accumulation and transfer, etc. As individuals grow, the society and nation also benefit from their productivity and growth.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make quality vocational training aspirational for both youth and employers whereby youth sees it as a matter of choice and employer acknowledges the productivity linked to skilled workforce by paying the requisite premium. • Ensure both vertical and horizontal pathways to skilled workforce for further growth by providing seamless integration of skill training with formal education. • Focus on an outcome-based approach towards quality skilling that on one hand results in increased employability and better livelihoods for individuals, and on the other hand translates into improved productivity across primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. . • Increase the capacity and quality of training infrastructure and trainers to ensure equitable and easy access to every citizen. • Address human resource needs by aligning supply of skilled workers with sectoral requirements of industry and the country's strategic priorities including flagship programmes like Make in India. • Establish an IT based information system for aggregating demand and supply of skilled workforce which can help in matching and connecting supply with demand. • Promote national standards in the skilling space through active involvement of employers in setting occupational standards, helping develop curriculum, providing apprenticeship opportunities, participating in assessments, and providing gainful employment to skilled workforce with adequate compensation. • Operationalize a well-defined quality assurance framework aligned with global standards to facilitate mobility of labour. • Leverage modern technology to ensure scale, access and outreach, in addition to ease of delivering content and monitoring results. • Recognise the value of on-the-job training, by making apprenticeships in actual work environments an integral part of all skill development efforts. • Ensure that the skilling needs of the socially and geographically disadvantaged and marginalized groups (like the SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, differently abled persons etc.) are appropriately taken care of. • Promote increased participation of women in the workforce through appropriate skilling and gender mainstreaming of training. • Promote commitment and ownership of all stakeholders towards skill development and create an effective coordination mechanism.

8. National Youth Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Aim	To empower youth to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations.

Objective

- Create a productive work force that can make a sustainable contribution to India’s economic development.
- Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges.
- Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership.
- Facilitate participation and civic engagement at levels of governance.
- Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth.

Priority Areas- Education, Employment and skill development, Entrepreneurship, Health and healthy lifestyle, Sports, Promotion of social values, Community engagement, Participation in politics and governance, Youth engagement, Inclusion, Social Justice.

Salient Features

- To cater the needs of youth in the age group of 15-29. The target groups identified are- (i) Student Youth, (ii) Migrant Youth, (iii) Rural Youth, (iv) Tribal Youth, (v) Youth at Risk, (vi) Youth in violent conflicts, (vii) Out of school/dropouts, (viii) Groups with social /moral stigma, and (ix) Youth in Institutional Care.
- Young women, Youth belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged communities/groups, and differently abled youth form the three priority groups among the target age group.
- To achieve a productive workforce through education, skill development for better employability and entrepreneurship training; a healthy generation with sports as a way of life; a sense of community service and strong social values; high levels of participation in governance; and social inclusiveness by creating equitable opportunities for all.
- **The NYP 2014 will be implemented in four steps -**
 - GOI will formulate an action plan within 6 months for the implementation of the policy across all the concerned ministries and department;
 - The MYAS also constituted a Youth Council consisting of exceptional youth from across the country to oversee the implementation of the policy;
 - A set of short-term and long-term indicators for measuring the success of the policy; and
 - The youth are encouraged to engage with their elected representatives and the government if there is any shortcomings in the implementation of youth oriented schemes as outlined in the NYP.

9. Mental Health Policy

Ministry Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Aim To train anganwadi workers and school teachers to help parents and care-givers to understand the “physical and emotional needs of children to facilitate an affirmative and positive environment” for their growth. It also proposes teaching mandatory life skills education in schools and colleges that, among other things, includes discussions on issues of gender and social exclusion.

Objectives

- To reduce distress, disability, exclusion, morbidity and premature mortality associated with mental health problems across life-span of a person;

Salient Features

- To enhance understanding of mental health in the country;
- To provide universal access to mental health care;
- To increase access to mental health services for vulnerable groups;
- To reduce risk and incidence of suicide and attempted suicide;
- To ensure respect for rights and protection from harm of persons with mental health problems, and reduce stigma associated with mental health problems; and
- To enhance availability and distribution of skilled human resources for mental health.
- The National Mental Health Policy is based, inter-alia, on the values and principles of equity, justice, integrated and evidence based care, quality, participatory and holistic approach to mental health.
- It enlists the comprehensive list of vulnerable groups, which include the poor (who are linked with mental illnesses in a “negative vicious cycle”), the homeless (who have “no provision for care and support”), persons in custodial institutions (who face a “deprivation of personal liberty”), orphans, children, the elderly and people affected by emergencies and various natural or man-made disasters.
- It also recognises the fact that mental health is linked to many other aspects of life, and thus recommends allocation of funds not just to the government’s health department but also to other sectors such as social welfare, school education and women and child development.
- In addition to the treatment of mental illnesses, the policy also stresses the need to prevent such problems and promote mental health. It places the onus of such promotion on early childhood care itself, by targeting anganwadi centres for children below six years of age.

10. National Action Plan for Children- 2016

Ministry

Ministry of Women and Child Development

Aim

It aims at establishing effective coordination and convergence among all stakeholders, including Ministries and Departments of Government of India and civil society organisations to address key issues pertaining to rights of children.

Objectives

To facilitate the children issue in four priority areas such as- survival health and nutrition; education and development; participation; and protection.

Salient Features

- The NPAC defines objectives, sub-objectives, strategies, action points and indicators for measuring progress under the four key priority areas and also identifies key stakeholders for the implementation of different strategies.
- The plan also puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change, etc.
- The strategies and action points largely draw upon the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments.
- However, for new and emerging issues related to children, it also suggests formulation of new programmes and strategies, as required.
- The plan takes into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a roadmap towards achieving them though co-ordination and convergence with different stakeholders.

EDUCATION SCHEMES

1. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat

- **Objective** To ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling, i.e., classes I and II.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development
- **Salient Features**
 - A nationwide sub-programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan.
 - Through this programme it will be ensured that all children are able to read with comprehension as well as basic numeracy skills.
 - The programme envisages dedicated teachers for classes I and II.
 - It centers on capacity building of teachers, organizing separate reading periods in daily school time-table, maintaining a print rich environment, for reading through children’s literature in school libraries and reading corners in classes I and II.
 - For tribal children special bridge materials have been prepared in states which have a high tribal population.

2. Mid Day Meal Scheme

- **Objective** To enhance, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- **Salient Features**
 - Started in 1995 as National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education.
 - To achieve the above objectives, a cooked mid-day meal with the following nutritional content is provided to all eligible children.
 - For Primary students: Calories 450, Protein 12 gms.
 - For Upper Primary students: Calories 700, Protein 20 gms.
 - Adequate quantities of micro-nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin-A.
 - Scheme covers all children studying in class I to VIII.
 - The programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government, government aided, local body, Education Guarantee Scheme, and alternate innovative education centres, Madarsa and Maqtabas supported under SSA and National Child Labour Project schools run by the ministry of labour.
 - MDM is covered by National Food Security Act, 2013.

3. Ishan Uday

- **Objective** A special scholarship scheme for North Eastern Region
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development

- **Salient Features**
 - Scholarships for undergraduates from northeast.
 - Instituted after **Bezbaruah committee** recommendations.
 - Under the scheme ten thousand fresh scholarships are to be provided for general degree course, technical and professional courses including medical and para-medical courses.
 - An amount of Rs.3500 per month for General Degree courses and Rs. 5000 per month for Technical & Professional courses (including Medical & Para medical courses) will be given through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary student.

4. GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks)

- **Objective** Tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- **Salient Features**
 - Programme in Higher Education.
 - Aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment the country’s existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India’s scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.
 - It enables interaction of students and faculty with the best academic and industry experts from all over the world and also share their experiences and expertise to motivate people to work on Indian problems.
 - It is a system of Guest Lectures by internationally and nationally renowned experts targeted towards a comprehensive Faculty Development Programme not only for new IITs, IIMs, IISERs but also other institutions in the country.

5. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan

- **Objective** Developing the spirit of innovation and experimentation among students.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development
- **Salient Feature**
 - Launched by Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, former President of India.
 - Government schools will be mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits, etc to develop a natural sense of passion towards learning of Science and Maths.
 - Motivate and engage children in 6-18 age group in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation and experiment.

6. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active - Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)

- **Objective** To offer courses from the high school stage to Post-Graduate stage through an interactive electronic platform.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Human Resource Development
- **Salient Features**
 - Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform with a comprehensive academic structure.
 - Microsoft will be deploying the team of professionals to set up the state of the art mobile application.

- In this regard, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has signed a deal of 38 Crore rupees with Microsoft.
- Microsoft will be running the app for three years and later AICTE will take over it.
- The integrated platform will offer courses covering engineering, humanities and social sciences etc., to be used by learners at large.
- Formation of a Consortium of premier educational institutions and universities to offer flipped online courses instantaneously after due authentication and award of certification.
- All courses will be made available free of cost for learning. In case the learner requires a Verified Certificate, a small fee will be applicable.

Other Initiatives in Brief

- a) **Cabinet approves establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency:** The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of Rs.2,000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs.1,000 crore. The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions. The HEFA would also mobilise CSR funds from PSUs/ Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis. The HEFA would finance the civil and lab infrastructure projects through a 10-year loan. The principal portion of the loan will be repaid through the 'internal accruals' (earned through the fee receipts, research earnings etc.) of the institutions. The Government would service the interest portion through the regular Plan assistance. All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as members of the HEFA. For joining as members, the Institution should agree to escrow a specific amount from their internal accruals to HEFA for a period of 10 years. This secured future flows would be securitised by the HEFA for mobilising the funds from the market. Each member institution would be eligible for a credit limit as decided by HEFA based on the amount agreed to be escrowed from the internal accruals.
- b) **ShaGun a web portal:** ShaGun a web portal (from the words **Shaala and Gunvatta**) is being developed by Ministry of HRD. It has two components, i.e. one is a Repository of best practices, photographs, videos, studies, newspaper articles etc. on elementary education, State /UT wise. These provide a platform for all stakeholders to learn from success stories of each other and a positive competitive spirit among all the States and UTs.
- c) **Vidyanjali:** This is sub-programme under SSA launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country under the overall aegis of the SSA. The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.
- d) **Madan Mohan Malviya Teacher Training Programme:** This will address all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation, professional development, and curriculum design.
- e) **Shaala Siddhi:** The objective is to establish an agreed set of standards and benchmarks for each school, by focusing on key performance domains and their core standards. The web portal for the framework will enable all schools to engage in self-evaluation in the 7 key domains under the Framework. The results of the evaluations will be available on a public platform along with the School Report card.
- f) **Shaala Darpan:** Under School Information Services, the following list of services will be enabled, i.e., School Profile Management, Student Profile Management, Employee Information, Student Attendance, Leave Management, Report Cards, Curriculum Tracking Custom, SMS Alerts for Parents / Administrators on student & teacher attendance.

- g) **Seema Darshan:** It is an initiative to provide an opportunity for the children to experience the border environment and to foster patriotism among the students.
- h) **National Institutional Ranking Framework: MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development)** has released Ranking System Framework for Higher Educational Institutions of India. The ranking, which will be an annual exercise, was done by an independent and autonomous body National Board of Accreditation (NBA). These clusters have been assigned certain weightage and this weightage is a function of type of institution. Ranking methods have been worked out for 6 categories of institutions, viz. **Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Architecture, Universities and Colleges**. There are separate rankings for different types of institutions depending on their areas of operation.
- i) **National Academic Depository:** The government is creating an online database NAD where all academic certificates will be available in digital format by the end of next year. In NAD all academic degrees, certificates and awards would be digitally available for verification. The NAD would be established and operationalize in three months and would be rolled out throughout the country in 2017-18. Academic institutions would be directed to upload and authenticate all documents in digital form. The database will be established in an electronic format by an identified registered depository, with all institutes, including school boards, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Technology and polytechnics from different States having linkages to the depository.
- j) **Prashikshak:** 'Prashikshak' is launched with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.
- k) **Swachh Vidyalaya:** The Swachh Vidyalaya initiative was a collaborative effort of all the Central Government which provided funding through Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Kosh, and the States and Union Territories in partnership with 64 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and 11 Private Corporate.