

PRELIMS 2018

Quick Revision Notes

Schemes & Policies Part-II

Quick Revision Notes

Economy Schemes and Policies

POLICIES

1. New Foreign Trade Policy 2015- 20/ Export Import Policy (EXIM)

Ministry	Ministry of Commerce
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing export potential, improving export performance, encouraging foreign trade and creating favorable balance of payments position. • To double India's exports in goods and services over the next five years (from \$465 billion to \$900 billion) and upping the Indian share of the world exports pie from the current 2 percent to 3.5 percent over the same period.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy seeks to make India a bigger player in global trade by doubling the overseas sales to \$900 billion by 2019-20, while integrating the foreign trade with "Make in India" and "Digital India Programme. • To accelerate the economy from low level of economic activities to high level of economic activities by making it a globally oriented vibrant economy and to derive maximum benefits from expanding global market opportunities. • To stimulate sustained economic growth by providing access to essential raw materials, intermediates, components, consumables and capital goods required for augmenting production. • To enhance the techno local strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services, thereby, improving their competitiveness. • To generate employment. • Opportunities and encourage the attainment of internationally accepted standards of quality. • To provide quality consumer products at reasonable prices.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five existing schemes to promote merchandize exports have been merged into a single Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). In this scheme, the incentives are to be provided in the form of duty scrips as % of FOB (free on board) value of exports. • One scheme for services exports called Served from India Scheme (SFIS) have been replaced in one scheme called Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS). The benefits of this scheme will be only for India based service providers and will be based on net foreign exchange earned. The benefits of MEIS and SEIS have been extended to the SEZ units also. • Transferable Duty Scrips: A scrip literally means a "chit" and refers to a form of credit. The Duty free scrips are provided to the exporters under various export promotion schemes of the government.

- Under these schemes, the exporters get incentives at a certain percentage of the export value and these incentives can also be used to reimburse duties on imported inputs. The scrips may be transferable or non-transferable. If they are transferable the holder of these scrips can sell them in market at discount. If the scrips are non-transferable, they come with actual user condition and the holder can use it to import inputs or capital goods duty free. The foreign Trade Policy 2015 makes all duty free scrips freely transferable. These scrips can be used for payment of custom duty, excise duty and service tax also.
- Status Holder Merchants as well as Manufacturer Exporters, Service Providers, Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Agri. Export Zones (AEZs), Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTPs), Software Technology Parks (STPs) and Bio-Technology Parks (BTPs) are recognized as various status holders.
- A status holder is eligible for many benefits such as self declaration during custom clearances; exception from some documents and receipts; various incentives. In the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, the government says promises to reduce transaction costs of the status holders.
- To integrate the FTP with Make in India, the government has reduced export obligation for capital goods purchased from Indian suppliers under the EPCG {Export Promotion of Capital Goods} scheme. The exporters who export with high level of domestic content get higher level rewards.
- Trade facilitation and ease of doing business: The policy calls for online filing of documents/ applications and paperless trade in 24x7 environment; online inter-ministerial consultations and simplification of procedures/processes, digitisation and e-governance.
- Other measures include Measures to facilitate & encourage export of defence goods e-Commerce Exports. Benefits of foreign trade policy to export of items up to Rs. 25,000 per consignment Benefit available to handloom products, books/periodicals, leather footwear, toys and customized fashion garments. New initiatives for EOUs {Export Oriented Units}, EHTPs {Electronic Hardware Technology Parks} and STPs {Software Technology Parks}.
- Merchandise Export from India Scheme: The six different schemes of the earlier FTP (Focus Product Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Agriculture Infrastructure Incentive Scrip, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana and Incremental Export Incentive Scheme).

2. National Capital Goods Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Aim	Increasing exports to 40 percent of production, from the current 27 percent. Push to Domestic Production- to increase the share of domestic production in the country’s demand to 80 percent from 60 per cent, potentially making India net exporter of capital goods.
Objectives	To facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors (increasing research intensity in India from 0.9% to at least 2.8% of GDP), increase skill availability (training ~50 lakh people by 2025), ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.

- **Increase total production:** To create an ecosystem for a globally competitive capital goods sector to achieve total production in excess of Rs. 750,000 Cr by 2025 from the current Rs. 230,000 Cr.
 - **Increase employment:** Raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million by 2025.
 - **Increase domestic market share:** To increase the share of domestic production in India’s capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025 and in the process improve domestic capacity utilization to 80-90%.
 - **Increase exports:** To increase exports to 40% of total production (from Rs. 61,000 Cr to Rs. 300,000 Cr) by 2025 from current 27%, enabling India’s share of global exports in capital goods to increase to 2.5% and making India a net exporter of capital goods.
- Salient Features**
- **Increasing Exports:** The National Capital Goods Policy 2016 aims at increasing exports to 40 percent of production, from the current 27 percent.
 - **Push to Domestic Production:** The policy aims to increase the share of domestic production in the country’s demand to 80 percent from 60 per cent, potentially making India net exporter of capital goods.
 - **Technological Improvement:** The policy aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across subsectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
 - **HIEMDA Scheme:** The policy seeks to enhance Indian made capital goods export through a ‘Heavy Industry Export & Market Development Assistance Scheme (HIEMDA)’.
 - **Increased Budgetary Allocation:** This includes strengthening existing scheme of DHI (Department of Heavy Industry) on enhancement of competitiveness of Capital Goods sector by increasing budgetary allocation.
 - **Technology Development Fund:** The policy advocates launching a Technology Development Fund under the public-private partnership (PPP) model to fund technology acquisition, transfer of technology, purchase or JPRs, designs and drawings as well as commercialisation of such capital goods technologies.
 - **Integration with sub-sectors:** The policy looks to integrate key capital goods sub-sectors. It also seeks to make standards mandatory in order to reduce sub-standard machine imports and provide opportunity to local manufacturing units and launch scheme of skill development for Capital Goods sector.
 - **Start-up Center:** The policy also suggests creation of a ‘Start-up Center’ for capital goods sector’ to provide an array of technical, business and financial support sources and services to promising start-ups in manufacturing and services.
 - **Standardization:** The policy also calls for mandatory standardisation, which includes defining minimum acceptable standards for the industry and adoption of International Organization for Standardization norms.

3. National Manufacturing Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Commerce
Aim	Launch of the Make in India programme in 2014 with the aim of attracting business to make investments in manufacturing sector in India and further

increase in growth of manufacturing sector to 12 to 14 percent across the medium term.

Objectives

To increase the sectoral share of manufacturing in GOP to at least 25% by 2022; to increase the rate of job creation so as to create 100 million additional jobs by 2022; and to enhance global competitiveness, domestic value addition, technological depth and environmental sustainability of growth.

Salient Features

- Policy is based on principle of economic and industrial growth in partnership with states.
- Central government will create the enabling policy framework providing incentives for infrastructure development on PPP basis through effective financing.
- Policy aims at setting up National Investment and Manufacturing Zones using clean energy efficient technology; NIMZ are provided with land area of at least 5000 ha.
- Industrial townships are proposed to be self governing and autonomous bodies under the constitution.
- Infrastructure will be financed appropriately by Central government through Viability Gap Funding while Special Purpose Vehicle will develop zone infrastructure through PPP mode.
- NIMZ will be managed by SPV headed by government officials and experts including that from the environment.
- Policy also aims at improving access to finance for SMEs in manufacturing sector with in Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor/DMIC.
- The first phase of NIMZ is carried along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor which will be anchored in the National Manufacturing Policy.
- It will utilise the dedicated railway western Freight Corridor aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities.

DMIC project covers the following 6 states: Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

The Government has announced 8 Investment Regions along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project as National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs). The details are as under:

- Ahmedabad-Dholera Investment Region, Gujarat;
- Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Park city near Aurangabad, Maharashtra;
- Manesar-Bawal Investment Region, Haryana;
- Khushkhera-Bhiwadi-Neemrana Investment Region, Rajasthan;
- Pithampur-Dhar-Mhow Investment Region, Madhya Pradesh;
- Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region, Uttar Pradesh;
- Dighi Port Industrial Area, Maharashtra; and
- Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Region in Rajasthan.

Fourteen NIMZs outside the DMIC region have also been given in-principle approval -Nagpur (Maharashtra), Prakasam (Andhra Pradesh), Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh), Medak (Telangana), Hyderabad Pharma NIM in Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar Districts of (Telangan), Tumkur (Karnataka), Kolar (Karnataka), Bidar (Karnataka), Gulbarga (Karnataka), Kalinganagar Jajpur District (Odisha), Ramanathapuram District (Tamil Nadu), Ponneri, Thiruvallur District (Tamil Nadu), Auraiya District (Uttar Pradesh), Jhansi District (Uttar Pradesh).

4. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Aim	To provide for a uniform licensing system and to provide single licensing to cover all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, coal bed methane etc.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the production of domestic oil and gas. • To bring in substantial investment into exploration and production (E&P) sector. • Generate huge employment opportunities . • Enhance transparency. • Reduce administrative discretion.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon: HELP has a uniform licensing system which covers all hydrocarbons, i.e. oil, gas, coal bed methane etc. under a single license and policy framework. • Open acreage policy: Under this policy a bidder may seek to explore any block which is not already covered by exploration by applying to the government. The government after examining the expression of interest and justification may call for competitive bids after obtaining environmental and other clearances. This will help in tapping unused potential blocks. • Easy to administer revenue sharing model: Easy to administer revenue sharing model will replace the profit sharing model used by earlier contracts. Earlier profits were shared between the government and the contractor after recovery of the cost. With the change, government need not be concerned with the cost incurred and instead will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, gas etc. This change will augment the government’s policy of “Ease of Doing Business”. For deep water and ultra deep water areas, concessional royalty regime will be implemented. There will not be any royalty for the first 7 years and a concessional royalty of 5% in deep water areas and 2% in ultra deep water areas. Further, for shallow water areas, there will be reduction in royalty rates from 10% to 7.5%. • Marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced: The contractor can have free hand in pricing and marketing of gas produced in the domestic market on arms length basis (when a buyer and a seller act independently and have no relationship with each other and both parties in the deal act in their own interest. They are not subject to any pressure from the other party). The government’s profit share will be calculated depending on the higher of prevailing international crude or actual price to protect government’s revenue interests.

5. Food Processing Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Aim	<p>For overall growth and development of the Food Processing Industry with an overarching goal of providing remunerative return to farmers. The model policy also suggests steps needed to be taken up by the States/Union Territories to achieve these goals.</p> <p>The event ‘World Food India’ has been conceptualized to provide a platform to showcase India’s strengths in the sector and to attract major investments in the sector.</p>

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce wastages, increase value addition, ensure better prices for farmers while ensuring availability of affordable and quality products to consumers. • To address the challenges of malnourishment and malnutrition by ensuring availability of nutritionally balanced foods. • To make food processing more competitive and future ready through creation of adequate infrastructure facilities along the supply chain, use of modern technology and innovation, promoting traceability, food safety, encouraging optimum capacity utilization of assets and resources. • To position India as the most preferred investment destination for the agri-business and food processing. • To generate more opportunities for the development of the agri-business and Food Processing Industry, and create employment.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy apart from documenting footprints of the food processing sector has drafted considering best practices across states and the world. • India provides most conducive environment to food processing given parameters and conditions like abundance of food production, abundance of manpower engaged in agriculture and low cost of processing. • To make India Global Food Factory and Global Food Market brings immense opportunities for food processing sector. • India is ushering in an era of Zero Tolerance towards Post Harvest Wastage, Zero Tolerance on Delays in Commissioning of Food Processing Projects, Zero Tolerance in Delays in obtaining Licenses/ Statutory Clearances for Food Processing/ Food Retail Markets by Central/State/Local authority. • National Food Processing Policy which shall focus on building India's NATIONAL FOOD GRID and NATIONAL COLD CHAIN GRID and create Retail Markets in every nook and corner of the country. • Reforms like allowing 100% FDI in Multi Brand Retail. Additionally several initiatives and announced attractive incentives including capital subsidies, tax rebates, and reduced custom and excise duties. • Increasing focus is also being given to supply-chain related infrastructure, such as cold chains, abattoirs and food parks. The whole idea is to spur greater growth in the food processing sector as well as connect farmers with the value chain to increase their returns. • World Food India' has been conceptualized to provide a platform to showcase India's strengths in the sector and to attract major investments in the sector.

6. National Energy Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Power
Aim	Access to Electricity - Available for all households in next five years. Availability of Power - Demand to be fully met by 2022. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and adequate spinning reserve to be available.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of Reliable and Quality Power of specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates.

Salient Features

- Per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2022.
- Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2022.
- Financial Turnaround and Commercial Viability of Electricity Sector.
- Protection of consumers’ interests.
- Short-term and long term demand forecast for different regions.
- Suggested areas/locations for capacity additions in generation and transmission keeping in view the economics of generation and transmission, losses in the system, load centre requirements, grid stability, security of supply, quality of power including voltage profile, etc.; and environmental considerations including rehabilitation and resettlement.
- Integration of such possible locations with transmission system and development of national grid including type of transmission systems and requirement of redundancies.
- Different technologies available for efficient generation, transmission and distribution.
- Fuel choices based on economy, energy security and environmental considerations.

7. National Tariff Policy, 2016

Ministry

Ministry of Power

Aim

The policy envisages 24x7 power supply to all consumers by 2022.

Objectives

- To ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates and financial viability of the sector and attract investments.
- Promote transparency, consistency and predictability in regulatory approaches across jurisdictions and minimize perceptions of regulatory risks.
- Promote competition, efficiency in operations and improvement in quality of supply.
- Promote generation of electricity from Renewable sources.
- Promote Hydroelectric Power generation including Pumped Storage Projects (PSP) to provide adequate peaking reserves, reliable grid operation and integration of variable renewable energy sources.
- Evolve a dynamic and robust electricity infrastructure for better consumer services.
- Facilitate supply of adequate and uninterrupted power to all categories of consumers.
- Ensure creation of adequate capacity including reserves in generation, transmission and distribution in advance, for reliability of supply of electricity to consumers.

Salient Features

- Electricity to All: State Governments and regulators will devise a power supply trajectory to achieve this. Power would be provided to remote unconnected villages through micro grids. The policy allows production of power from coal washery rejects (these are generated during coal washing) to provide affordable power to people living near the coal mines.

- Environment-Friendly Procurement of power from waste-to-energy plants has been made compulsory. This will help the Swachh Bharat Mission. To reduce the pollution of rivers, thermal plants within 50km of sewage treatment facilities need to use treated sewage water.
- Efficiency to increase efficiency through optimal utilisation of land and other resources, power plants will be allowed to increase power production on the same project site to the extent of 100 per cent capacity.
- Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) to promote renewable energy, it is proposed to increase solar RPO to 8% by 2022. Solar RPO will not apply to power sourced from hydro power plants. Currently solar RPO is below 1% in most states.
- Transmission of Power Inter-State transmission charges and losses for renewable power (wind/solar) have been exempted.
- Hydro Power for the growth of hydropower generation capacity, hydro power projects will be awarded under cost-plus basis and they are exempted from competitive bidding till 2022. A cost-plus model promises assured returns over the investment made.
- For existing hydro power projects, the power purchase agreement will be extended by 15 years beyond the existing 35 years. Power plants are allowed to sell the surplus power generated in spot market through power exchanges.
- This is applicable when State electricity distribution utilities are not buying the contracted capacity as per the power purchase agreements.
- This would improve the PLFs of generating stations which have to reduce the capacity when states don't buy the contracted power. Central regulator will decide tariff for composite schemes where more than 10% power is sold outside State.
- This will give clarity on tariff setting authority for multi-State sales.
- To ensure faster completion at lower cost, transmission projects will be developed through competitive bidding process. This will allow greater flow of private capital into the lagging transmission sector.
- The policy removed market uncertainty by allowing pass through for impact of any change in domestic duties, levies, cess and taxes in competitive bid projects. Smart meters must be installed for consumers consuming 500 units by 2017 and 200 units by 2019.

8. Government Unveils New Hydrocarbon Policy

Ministry:	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural GAS
Aim:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the 'Minimum Government maximum Governance, Union cabinet approves the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP). • The policy is also aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing administrative discretion. The decision will enhance domestic oil & gas production, bring substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment.
What are the four main facets of this policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon, • An open acreage policy, • Easy to administer revenue sharing model and

National Data Repository

An overview of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

- Marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced.
- Lack of sedimentary data had been hampering oil and gas exploration and production.
- 52% of India’s basin had not been appraised yet.
- Repository is expected to improve the situation.
- New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was created in 1997
- To provide an equal platform to both Public and Private sector companies in exploration and production of hydrocarbons
- Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) was a nodal agency for its implementation
- Between 1998 and 2012, there were 9 rounds of oil and gas block auction (NELP 1 to NELP 9)
- Although 126 discoveries have been made in 41 active blocks, commercial production has commenced only in 3 blocks
- Reasons for the delay vary from inadequate technology to delayed regulatory approvals
- Today, only 2 blocks, the Reliance Industries-operated KG D6 block and the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation-operated Cambay onshore block, are producing oil or gas.

The uniform licence will enable the contractor to explore conventional as well as unconventional oil and gas resources including CBM, shale gas/oil, tight gas and gas hydrates under a single license. The concept of Open Acreage Policy will enable E&P companies choose the blocks from the designated area.

9. Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016

Ministry

Ministry of Defence

Aim

To ensure timely procurement of military equipment, systems and platforms as required by the Armed Forces in terms of performance capabilities and quality standards, through optimum utilisation of allocated budgetary resources in order to pursue self-reliance in defence equipment production and acquisition.

Objectives

To facilitate ‘Make in India’ in defence manufacturing and to remove bottlenecks in the procurement process and also simplify/rationalize various aspects of defence procurement.

Salient Features

- It will allow the small contract to escape the offset obligations. But the government is arguing that offsets increased the cost of product by 14-18%.
- The new DPP is expected to push ‘Make in India’ initiative. A new category, ‘Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured’ will be introduced. Under this category, with at least 40 per cent indigenous content, will get top priority and will be first to be chosen for tenders.
- Three different sub-categories under ‘Make’ procedures will be introduced.
- ‘Make I’ – Government will refund 90% of the development cost.
- ‘Make II’ – Government will refund 100% of the development cost but the request for proposal should not be issued for two years from the time of development of prototype.

- ‘Make III’ – It will be reserved for small and medium scale enterprises.
- A new provision to offer “up to 10% more price” to better equipment will be introduced.
- The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) validity will be brought down to six months from earlier one year.

10. New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

Ministry	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Aim	To enhance transparency and reduce administrative discretion and to reduce its import dependence by 10 percent.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance domestic oil and gas production. • To bring substantial investment. • Generate sizable employment.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform License: It provides for a uniform licensing system to cover all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, coal bed methane etc. under a single licensing framework, instead of the present system of issuing separate licenses for each kind of hydrocarbons. • Open Acreages: It gives the option to a hydrocarbon company to select the exploration blocks throughout the year without waiting for the formal bid round from the Government. • Revenue Sharing Model: Present fiscal system of production sharing contract (PSC) is replaced by an easy to administer “revenue sharing model”. The earlier contracts were based on the concept of profit sharing where profits are shared between Government and the contractor after recovery of cost. Under the profit sharing methodology, it became necessary for the Government to scrutinize cost details of private participants and this led to many delays and disputes. • Under the new regime, the Government will not be concerned with the cost incurred and will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, gas etc. Bidders will be required to quote revenue share in their bids and this will be a key parameter for selecting the winning bid. They will quote a different share at two levels of revenue called “lower revenue point” and “higher revenue point”. Revenue share for intermediate points will be calculated by linear interpolation. The bidder giving the highest net present value of revenue share to the Government, as per transparent methodology, will get the maximum marks under this parameter. • Marketing and Pricing Freedom has been granted, subject to a ceiling price limit, for new gas production from Deepwater, Ultra Deepwater and High Pressure-High Temperature Areas. The policy provides marketing and pricing freedom to the gas production from existing discoveries which are yet to commence commercial production as on 1.1.2016 as well as for future discoveries. Considering the imperfections in gas markets in India, and to protect the interests of the consuming sector, a ceiling based on the landed cost of the alternate fuels has been imposed. The ceiling price shall be the, lowest of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fuel oil import landed price; – Weighted average import landed price of substitute fuels (0.3 x price of imported coal + 0.4 x price of imported fuel oil + 0.3 x price of imported naphtha); and – LNG import landed price.

11. DISHA - District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee

Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development
Aim	To ensure the participation of people’s representative at all levels and successful implementation of flagship programme of central government which have clear time-bound deliverables like Swachh Bharat, Digital India besides looking at the programmes of rural development.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a better coordination among all the elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislatures and Local Governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions/Municipal Bodies) for efficient and time-bound development of districts in our country. • These Committees could monitor the implementation of the programmes in accordance with prescribed procedures and guidelines and promote synergy and convergence for greater impact. The Disha will supercede the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee currently mandated by Ministry of Rural Development.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number of significant and ambitious programmes are being implemented for improvement of infrastructure and for improving human development and the well-being of people. • District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (Disha) is being formed with a view to fulfilling the objective of ensuring a better coordination among all the elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislatures and Local Governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Municipal Bodies) for efficient and time-bound development of districts in our country. • These Committees could monitor the implementation of the programmes in accordance with prescribed procedures and guidelines and promote synergy and convergence for greater impact. • The Disha will supercede the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee currently mandated by Ministry of Rural Development.

12. National Civil Aviation Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Aim	To take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, establish an integrated eco-system which will lead to significant growth of the civil aviation sector to promote tourism, employment and balanced regional growth, enhance regional connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure development and enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance.
Objectives	To create an eco-system to make flying affordable for the masses and to enable 30 crore domestic ticketing by 2022 and 50 crore by 2027, and international ticketing to increase to 20 crore by 2027. Similarly, cargo volumes should increase to 10 million tonnes by 2027.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrapping of the decade-old 5/20 rule and replacing it with 0/20 norm: Earlier, a domestic airline could start international operations only after five years of domestic operations and having a fleet of at least 20 aircraft. As per new rules, they will be required to deploy 20 aircraft or 20% of the total fleet size, whichever is higher on domestic routes to get international flying rights. • Regional Connectivity Scheme: Airlines will no longer be able to charge more than Rs. 2500 for a 1-hour flight connecting two small cities. The government will provide financial support to fund airlines’

losses on such un-served routes. A 2% levy has been proposed on all domestic and international flights on metro routes to boost regional connectivity. 50 No frills Airports, also called low cost airports, will be revived in the next three years. Airlines operating from these airports will get concessions on landing, parking charges and other expenses.

- **Private Security Agencies:** Private security agencies comprising of retired personnel from military and para-military forces will be encouraged for non-core security functions at the airports.
- **Code sharing agreements:** Indian carriers will now be able to enter into such agreements with foreign carriers for any destination within India on a reciprocal basis.
- **Open Sky Policy:** India will have this policy for countries beyond the 5000 km radius from Delhi on a reciprocal basis. This means that airlines from European or SAARC countries, will have unlimited access, in terms of number of flights and seats, to Indian airports, leading to increased flight frequencies with these countries.
- **Growth of helicopters:** This will be supported to provide connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas. Separate regulations for helicopters will be notified by DGCA.
- **DGCA:** Necessary administrative and financial flexibility will be provided to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for an effective aviation safety oversight system and for creating a transparent single-window system for all aviation safety related issues.

SCHEMES

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- **Objective** To eradicate financial exclusion by covering all households in the country with banking facilities and having a bank account for each household.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Finance
- **Salient Features**
 - A free zero-balance bank account with a debit card for every household.
 - Rs 1 lakh accidental insurance policy and Rs. 30,000 free medical insurance cover for those who enroll before January 26, 2015.
 - All Indian citizens can now avail of a bank account despite the lack of KYC documentation.
 - Depending on the performance of the accounts in the first six months, banks will later extend a Rs. 5,000 overdraft facility, thereby turning the debit card into a kind of credit card.
 - Beneficiaries of Government Schemes would get Direct Benefit Transfer in these accounts.
 - RuPay Debit Card must be used at least once in 45 days.

2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- **Objective** To promote & ensure bank finance to unfunded segments of the economy.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Finance
- **Salient Features**
 - It will finance to “Last Mile Financiers” of small/micro businesses. The lending priority will be given to SC/ST enterprises.
 - To provide formal access of financial facilities to Non-Corporate Small Business Sector (NCSBS). All loans sanctioned on or after April 08, 2015 upto a loan size of Rs. 10 lakh for non-farm income generating activities will be branded as PMMY loans.
 - Target Clients: Non–Corporate Small Business Segment (NCSB) comprising of proprietorship/partnership firms running as small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits/vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others, in rural and urban areas.
 - Schemes under PMMY:

Scheme	Amount of Loan
Shishu	Up to Rs. 50,000/-
Kishore	Above Rs. 50,000/- and up to Rs. 5 lakh
Tarun	Above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs.10 lakh

- Borrowers can avail loan facility from any Public/Private/ Regional Rural Banks, NBFCs and MFIs.

- No processing fee for loans up to Rs. 50,000/- (SHISHU category).
- Banks have been mandated by RBI not to insist for collateral security in the case of loans up to Rs. 10 lakh extended to the units in the Micro Small Enterprises sector.
- Activities allied to Agriculture have been included under PMMY from April, 2016 onwards.
- All credit related matters of banks including charging of interest (ROI) have been deregulated by RBI and are governed by the banks' own lending policies.
- Eligibility: Any citizen, who is otherwise eligible to take loan and has a business plan for a small business enterprise, can avail MUDRA loan up to Rs.10 lakh.

3. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- **Objective** To reduce the demand for physical gold by shifting a part of the demand for physical gold into investment in Gold Bonds.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Finance in association with RBI.
- **Salient Features**
 - Bonds will be issued by RBI on behalf of govt. To be sold through banks, post offices NSE, BSE and stock Holding Corporation of India Limited.
 - The risk of gold price changes will be borne by the Gold Reserve Fund that is being created Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued on payment of rupees and denominated in grams of gold. Customers can buy gold bonds which will be relatable to the weight of gold.
 - The bonds will be issued in various denominations for 5-7 years with a rate of interest to calculated on the value of the metal at the time of investment.
 - Maximum 500 gms gold equivalent bond can be purchased in a year by one person.
 - Only offered to Indian citizen and institutions.
 - Strict KYC norms.
 - Interest taxable as per IT Act.
 - Capital gains tax treatment will be the same as for physical gold for an individual investor.
 - Rate of interest will be decided by government.
 - The bonds will be issued in denominations of 5, 10, 50, 100 grams of gold or other denominations.
 - Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.
 - On maturity, the redemption will be in rupee amount only.

Following changes in the Scheme have been approved:

- i. The investment limit per fiscal year has been increased to 4 kg for individuals: 4 Kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 Kg for Trusts and similar entities notified by the Government from time to time.
- ii. The ceiling will be counted on Financial year basis and will include the SGBs purchased during the trading in the secondary market.
- iii. The ceiling on investment will not include the holdings as collateral by Banks and Financial institutions.
- iv. SGBs will be available 'on tap'. Based on the consultation with NSE, BSE, Banks and Department of Post, features of product to emulate 'On Tap' sale would be finalised by Ministry of Finance.

- v. To improve liquidity and tradability of SGBs, appropriate market making initiatives will be devised. Market makers, could be commercial banks or any other public sector entity, such as MMTC or any other entity as decided by Gol.

4. e-Biz

- **Objective** Improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Salient Features**
 - Integrates 11 services on e-Biz portal.
 - A business user can avail all these 11 services 24 × 7 online end-to-end, *i.e.*, online submission of forms, attachments, payments, tracking of status and also obtain the license/permit from e-Biz portal.
 - The e-Biz platform enables a transformational shift in the Governments’ service delivery approach from being department-centric to customer-centric as a single window portal.
 - Implemented by Infosys.

5. Make In India

- **Objective** Promoting India as an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Salient Features**
 - This initiative does not target manufacturing sector alone, but also aims at promoting entrepreneurship in the country.
 - The initiative is further aimed at creating a conducive environment for investment, modern and efficient infrastructure, opening up new sectors for foreign investment and forging a partnership between government and industry through positive mindset.
 - Govt to look into all regulatory processes to ease the load on investors.
 - Back-end support team to answer specific enquiries within 72 hours.
 - All Central government services are being integrated with an e-Biz single window online portal.
 - DIPP and FICCI have together set up an 8-member expert group to address enquiries and apprehensions of investors. They will explain Indian policies to the investors and propose reforms to the Central and states governments.
 - The initiative is based on four pillars:
 - i. New Processes:** The program recognizes ‘ease of doing business’ as the single most important factor to promote entrepreneurship.
 - ii. New Infrastructure:** Government intends to develop industrial corridors and smart cities, create world class infrastructure with state-of-the-art technology and high-speed communication.
 - iii. New Sectors:** FDI has been opened up in Defence Production, Insurance, Medical Devices, Construction and Railway infrastructure in a big way. Similarly FDI has been allowed in Insurance and Medical Devices.
 - iv. New Mindset:** In order to partner with industry in economic development of the country Government shall act as a facilitator and not a regulator.

6. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- **Objective** To allow tax evaders to come clean with unaccounted wealth.
- **Salient Features**
 - The scheme provides an opportunity to declare unaccounted wealth and black money in a confidential manner and avoid prosecution after paying a fine of 50% on the undisclosed income. An additional 25% of the undisclosed income is invested in the scheme which can be refunded after four years.
 - The Deposits shall be held at the credit of the declarant in Bond Ledger Accounts (BLA) maintained with Reserve Bank of India.
 - The income declared under it will not be included in the total income of the declarant under the Income-tax (IT) Act for any assessment year.
 - The scheme can only be availed to declare income in the form of cash or bank deposits in Indian bank accounts and not in the form of jewellery, stock, immovable property, or deposits in overseas accounts.
 - Not declaring undisclosed income under the PMGKY will attract a fine of 77.25% if the income is shown in tax returns. In case the income is not shown in tax returns, it will attract a further 10% penalty followed by prosecution.

Swachh Dhan Abhiyan

Income Tax Department (ITD) has initiated Operation Clean Money. Initial phase of the operation involves e-verification of large cash deposits made during 9th November to 30th December 2016. Data analytics has been used for comparing the demonetisation data with information in ITD databases.

The Swachh Dhan Abhiyan will help track all the accounts in which money has been deposited.

Data analytics will be used to select cases for verification, based on approved risk criteria. If the case is selected for verification, request for additional information and its response will also be communicated electronically. The information on the online portal will be dynamic getting updated on receipt of new information, response and data analytics. The response of taxpayer will be assessed against available information.

In case explanation of source of cash is found justified, the verification will be closed without any need to visit Income Tax Office. The verification will also be closed if the cash deposit is declared under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY).

7. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram

- **Objective** To create conducive environment for industrial development and doing business with ease and also expanding government support to impart skill training for workers.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Labour
- **Salient Features**
 - This program was launched to support the 'Make in India' campaign of India for encouragement of manufacturing sector, thus felt need to bring labour reforms.
 - Several initiatives were taken by the Government under the scheme :
 - **Labour Inspection Scheme:**
 - a) A computerized list of inspections will be generated randomly to reduce inspector raj.
 - b) Inspector has to upload report within 72 hours.
 - **Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana:**
 - a) Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana envisages on imparting on-the-job training to apprentices.
 - b) Total numbers of seats are increased to 20 lakh from current 4.9 lakh in revamped scheme.

c) Government will reimburse 50 percent of stipend paid by employers to increase employability of youth by giving them skills.

– **Shram Suvidha Portal :**

- a) Allocation of Unique Labour Identification Number (LIN) to labours to facilitate online registration.
- b) The compliances would be reportable in Single Harmonized Form which will make it simple and easy for those filing such forms.
- c) Filing of self-certified and simplified Single Online Return by the industry.
- d) Labour inspector can upload inspection report within 72 hours.
- e) This portal will help timely redressal of grievances.
- f) Under this it is proposed to allot LIN to all these 6-7 lakh units.

– **Universal Account Number (UAN) for Employee Provident Fund (EPF):**

- a) An UAN is allotted to 4 crore EPF subscribers after centrally compiling & digitizing their information.
- b) Aadhar card is being seeded with the UAN for financial inclusion of labours.
- c) The portability of the Social Security Benefits to the labour of organised sector across the jobs and geographic areas will be ensured.

Other Schemes in Brief

- a) **Project SAKSHAM:** It is a New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). It will help in:
 - Implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST),
 - Extension of the Indian Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT), and
 - Other taxpayer-friendly initiatives under Digital India and Ease of Doing Business of Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- b) **Project INSIGHT:** The Income Tax department is planning to implement the first phase of ‘Project Insight’ from May 2017 to monitor high value transactions, with a view to curbing the circulation of black money. This project has been initiated for data mining, collection, collation and processing of such information for effective risk management with a view to widening and deepening tax base.
- c) **Startup India Hub Launch:** The Hub is an online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other. The portal will host Startups, investors, funds, mentors, academia, incubators, accelerators, corporates, Government bodies and more. The Hub attempts to solve the problem of information asymmetry and lack of access to knowledge, tools, & experts, especially in the nascent ecosystems across Tier II and III towns.

8. Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- **Objective** Keep the soul of rural India alive while providing its people with quality access to basic amenities and opportunities to enable them to shape their own destiny.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Salient Features**
 - Launched on the occasion of birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan.
 - Inspired by the principles and values of Mahatma Gandhi, the Scheme places equal stress on nurturing values of national pride, patriotism, community spirit, self-confidence and on developing infrastructure.

- Each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019.
- An MP should develop the first Adarsh Gram by 2016 and remaining two, during the current Lok Sabha tenure by 2019. From 2019 to 2024, five more Adarsh Grams must be developed by each MP.
- Gram Panchayat would be the basic unit for development. It will have a population of 3,000-5,000 in plain areas and 1,000-3,000 in hilly, tribal and difficult areas. In districts where this unit size is not available, Gram Panchayats approximating the desirable population size may be chosen.
- The MP would be free to identify a suitable gram panchayat for being developed as Adarsh Gram, other than his/her own village or that of his/her spouse.
- A member of Lok Sabha can choose a village from his/her constituency. A Rajya Sabha MP can choose from the state from which he/she had been elected. A member from urban areas, can identify a village nearby. A nominal member can choose from any district.
- There are no new funds. The funds can be raised from Existing schemes such as:
 - Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, MGNREGA, BRGF etc.
 - CSR funds.
 - Money from MPLADS also has to be used.
 - Central and State Finance Commission Grants.
 - Revenue from the Gram Panchayat itself.
- The planning process in each village will be a participatory exercise coordinated by the District Collector.
- At the State-level, Chief Secretaries will head empowered committee on the same and the Minister for Rural Development and Secretary, Rural Development, will chair two national-level committees to track the scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented through a village development plan that would be prepared for every identified gram panchayat with special focus on enabling every poor household to come out of poverty.

9. Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban Mission

- **Objective** To transform rural areas to economically, socially and physically sustainable spaces.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Salient Features**
 - Also called Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban mission.
 - It is a cluster based approach.
 - State Governments would identify ‘clusters’ (geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5,000 to 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas).
 - These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities. The Rurban Mission will thus develop a cluster of Smart Villages.

- The mission also aims to set up these clusters by 2019-20 across the country.
- The scheme will function with 14 mandatory components to ensure an optimum level of development of a cluster, which include skill development training linked to economic activities, digital literacy, fully equipped mobile health unit and inter-village road connectivity.
- The other components of the scheme in clusters will be providing citizen service centres- for electronic delivery of citizen centric services and e-gram connectivity, public transport, LPG gas connections, agro processing, agri services including storage and warehousing, sanitation, provision of piped water supply, solid and liquid waste management and upgrading education facilities.
- The funding will be through various schemes of the government converged into the cluster.
- The mission will provide an additional funding support of up to 30% of the project cost per cluster as critical gap funding as central share to enable development of such ‘rurban clusters’.
- The cost of developing a cluster might vary between Rs. 50 crore and Rs. 52 crore.
- The preferred mode of delivery would be through public-private partnerships while using various scheme funds.

10. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

- **Objective** To augment power supply to the rural areas and to strengthen sub-transmission and distribution systems.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Power
- **Salient Features**
 - It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
 - This will help in providing round the clock power to rural households and adequate power to agricultural consumers.
 - The earlier scheme for rural electrification, viz. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in the new scheme as its rural electrification component.
 - Components:
 - i. To separate agriculture and non agriculture feeders facilitating judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas.
 - ii. Strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas, including metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers.
 - The scheme would help in:
 - Improvement in hours of power supply in rural areas.
 - Reduction in peak load.
 - Improvement in billed energy based on metered consumption.
 - Providing access to electricity to rural households.
 - The scheme has budgetary outlay of Rs. 76,000 crore for implementation of the projects of which Union Government will provide grant of Rs. 63,000 crore.

11. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- **Objective** It was launched by the Govt. of India to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy. Govt. of India is endeavoring to set high and uniform technical and management standards and facilitating policy development and planning at State level in order to ensure sustainable management of the rural roads network.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Salient Features**
 - **Planning:** The preparation of the District Rural Roads Plan as well as the Core Network helps in the identification of the roads required to connect the unconnected Habitations as well as the network of roads to assure Basic access (single all-weather road connectivity) to all the Habitations. These plans are to be placed before the Panchayati Raj Institutions for approval.
 - **Project approach:** The road works proposed each year are identified and are executed in a time bound manner.
 - **Technical standards:** The roads under the PMGSY are designed and executed as per the standards laid down the Indian Roads Congress.
 - **Tendering:** The roads works are tendered in packages of Rs. 1 to 5 crore, to attract competent contractors with requisite equipment.
 - **Quality control:** A 3-tier Quality Control System has been designed to ensure the quality of the road works. While the concerned Executive Engineer is the first tier, all the states have been requested to enlist the services of a State level independent Agency to verify the quality of the roads. On its part, the National Rural Roads Development Agency, an agency set up by the Ministry of Rural development, engages senior technical personnel as National Quality Monitors to inspect the road works.
 - **Maintenance:** The roads constructed under the PMGSY are to be maintained by the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

12. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- **Objective** To ensure hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Urban Development(for Urban) and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (for Gramin).
- **Salient Features**
 - Swachh Bharat Mission has two sub-Missions:
 - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin); and
 - Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
 - The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is 75%:25% (90%:10% for North Eastern and special category states).
 - Enhance the Unit cost of the Individual Household Latrine. It aims to provide every rural family with a toilet by 2019.
 - The gap in financing of the aforesaid components could be met by the beneficiary contribution, private funding, and funds with private companies under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Swachh Bharat Kosh of the Ministry of Finance.
 - Provision to be included in the Indira Awas Yojana Programme for provision of functional toilets.

- Objectives:
 - i. Eliminate open defecation.
 - ii. Conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets.
 - iii. Eradication of manual scavenging.
 - iv. To create enabling environment for private sector participation in Capital Expenditure and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs.
 - v. 100% collection and scientific processing/disposal reuse/recycle of Municipal Solid Waste.
 - vi. Strengthening of urban local bodies to design, execute and operate systems.
 - vii. Generate awareness among the citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health.
 - viii. To bring about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.
- The Mission has following components:-
 - i. Construction of Household Toilets.
 - ii. Community and Public Toilets.
 - iii. Solid Waste Management.
 - iv. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness.
 - v. Capacity Building and Administrative & Office Expenses (A&OE).

13. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin

- **Objective** To achieve objective of “Housing for All” Mission in Rural areas.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Salient Features**
 - It will be implemented in rural areas across the country except Delhi and Chandigarh.
 - Government to construct 1 crore pucca (permanent) houses for the rural poor in the next three years.
 - The scheme is expected to boost job creation in rural areas.
 - The project will be implemented in a span of three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19.
 - Beneficiaries of the rural houses would be chosen according to data taken from the Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011.
 - An allowance of Rs. 120,000 in plain areas and Rs. 130,000 in hilly areas will be provided for construction of homes.
 - The unit size will be enhanced from the existing 20 sq.mt. to up to 25 sq.mt. including a dedicated area for hygienic cooking.
 - Funds will be transferred electronically directly to the account of the beneficiary.
 - The beneficiary would be facilitated to avail loan of up to Rs. 70,000 for construction of the house which is optional.
 - It replaces Indira Awas Yojana.

14. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban

- **Objective** To achieve objective of “Housing for All” Mission in Urban areas.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
- **Salient Features**
 - Construct more than two crore houses across the length and breadth of the nation.
 - The target beneficiaries of the scheme would be poor and people living under EWS and LIG categories in urban establishments of the country.
 - The government would provide an interest subsidy of 6.5% on housing loans availed by the beneficiaries for a period of 15 years from the start of loan.
 - The houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana would be allotted to preferably the female member of the family.
 - All details of “Housing for All by 2022” Mission are also applicable here.

15. Housing For All by 2022

- **Objective** To provide affordable housing to urban poor.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
- **Salient Features**
 - The scheme will cover the entire urban area consisting of **4041 statutory towns** with initial focus on 500 Class I cities and it will be implemented in three phases as follows, viz.
 - i. Phase-I (April 2015 - March 2017) to cover 100 Cities to be selected from States/UTs as per their willingness.
 - ii. Phase-II (April 2017 - March 2019) to cover additional 200 Cities.
 - iii. Phase-III (April 2019 - March 2022) to cover all other remaining Cities.
 - Two schemes have been launched to achieve the aim of the mission:
 - i. PM Awas Yojana.
 - ii. PM Awas Yojana – Gramin.
 - Ownership of houses will be in the name of woman or jointly with husband.
 - **Central grant of Rs. one lakh per house**, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme.
 - **Technology Sub-Mission** (environment, disaster management).

16. Smart Cities Mission

- **Objective** To develop 100 cities all over the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Urban development
- **Salient Features**
 - The core infrastructure elements in a Smart City include:
 - a) Adequate water supply.
 - b) Assured electricity supply.
 - c) Sanitation, including solid waste management.
 - d) Efficient urban mobility and public transport.
 - e) Affordable housing, especially for the poor.

- f) Robust IT connectivity and digitalization.
- g) Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation.
- h) Sustainable environment.
- i) Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly.
- j) Health and education.
- Smart cities to be selected through **City Challenge Competition**.
- These cities to be developed as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernizing the existing mid-sized cities.

17. HRIDAY - National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

- **Objective** To preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- **Ministry** Minister of Urban Development
- **Salient Features**
 - To promote an integrated, inclusive and sustainable development of heritage sites, focusing not just on maintenance of monuments but on advancement of the entire ecosystem including its citizens, tourists and local businesses.
 - The criterion for selection of these cities is their **rich heritage and cultural history**.
 - With duration of 4 years (Completing in November, 2018) and a total outlay of Rs. 500 crores, the Scheme is being implemented in 12 identified Cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.
 - The Scheme supports development of core heritage infrastructure projects which shall include revitalization of urban infrastructure for areas around heritage assets identified/approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and State Governments.
 - **Heritage Management Plan (HMP)** will be prepared for the identified cities which will outline heritage resources and develop policies to guide their conservation, restoration, future use and development.
 - It will help to harness full potential of India’s tourism sector which has total 35 UNESCO recognized natural, cultural and mixed heritage sites. India ranks second in Asia and fifth in the world in terms of heritage sites.

18. AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)

- **Objective** Focus of the urban renewal projects is to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewerage networks and water supply for urban transformation.
- **Ministry** Ministry of Urban Development
- **Salient Features**
 - This scheme is a new avatar of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).
 - AMRUT adopts a project approach to ensure basic infrastructure services relating to water supply, sewerage, storm-water drains, transportation and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting the needs of children.

- 10% of the budget allocation will be given to states and union territories as incentive based on the achievement of reforms during the previous year.
- States will only submit State Annual Action Plans to the centre for broad concurrence based on which funds will be released.
- States will transfer funds to urban local bodies within 7 days of transfer by central government and no diversion of funds to be made failing which penal interest would be charged besides taking other adverse action by the centre.
- It will be implemented in **500 cities** with a population of one lakh and above.
- It would cover some cities situated on stems of main rivers, a few state capitals and important cities located in hilly areas, islands and tourist areas.
- Under this mission, states get the flexibility of designing schemes based on the needs of identified cities and in their execution and monitoring.
- Union Government provides an assistance of 50 per cent of project cost for cities with a population of up to 10 lakhs each and one third of project cost for cities with a population of above 10 lakhs each.

19. Ujjawala Yojana

The Cabinet also approved the increase in the target for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, meant to provide LPG connections to rural women, to eight crore from the earlier five crore, adding that this has to be achieved by 2020. It also approved an additional allocation for the scheme of 4,800 crore.

The revised target will be achieved by 2020. In addition to the households identified under the Socio Economic Caste Census, the scheme will cover all SC/ST households, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), and Antyoday Anna Yojana, and forest dwellers, among others.

About Ujjawala Yojana

- The Ujjawala Yojana was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2016 from Maldepur Morh, Ballia in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Purpose of the scheme:** Empower women and protect their health by shifting them from traditional cooking based on unclean cooking fuels or on fossil fuels to clean cooking gas.
- **Beneficiary:** Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a BPL will be given deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs. 1,600 per connection by the Centre. Identification of beneficiaries will be through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) in consultation with state governments and Union territories.
- **Why needed?** According to WHO estimates, about 5 lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuels. Most of these premature deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Indoor air pollution is also responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children. According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is like burning 400 cigarettes an hour.
- Providing LPG connections to BPL households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. This measure will empower women and protect their health. It will reduce drudgery and the time spent on cooking. It will also provide employment for rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas
- **Tagline for the scheme:** Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.

Other Initiatives**• PAHAL**

- All consumers using LPG cylinders will get cash subsidy to buy 12 14.2-kg cylinders or 34 5-kg refills. The amount of money which is equal to the difference between the present subsidised rate and the market price is automatically transferred to the bank account of the consumer, when he or she makes the first booking for a cylinder.

• URJA GANGA

- The ambitious “Urja Ganga” gas pipe line project aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents in Varanasi within two years and in another year after that it would cater to needs of people in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- It will cater to energy needs of five states, covering 40 districts and 2,600 villages. It will pave way for revival of three large fertilizer plants, enable industrialisation of over 20 cities and development of city gas network in 7 cities, generating a large number of jobs.

GS SCORE

SCHEME RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

1. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme

Objective	It was launched for giving the agricultural education to the people.
Salient Features	<p>The intentions that this particular scheme comes up with are listed in the points given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The scheme has come up with some stories where the steps are taken to uplift the cultivation process and that lead to the success of agriculture. b) With such schemes the students who are studying agriculture get the opportunity to try and come up with certain solutions that increases the yield in the agricultural field. c) This has also helped the nation to have better outcomes from the agricultural field, thus, the farmers are benefited and that can ultimately lead the success of the nation. d) The excess yield has also helped the nation to export the grains to other countries and that will earn better profit for the farmers which will indirectly lead to the benefits of the nation.

2. Soil Health Card Scheme

Objective	To issue 'Soil Health Card' to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilizers required for the individual farms.
Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is aimed to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs. • Under this scheme, 14 crore Soil Health Cards are envisaged to be issued over the next 3 years. • The Soil Health Card is a printed report that will be given to farmers once in three years for each of his/her land holding. • The government plans to distribute 14 crore soil health cards by 2017. (Till January 2018, nearly 10 crore SHC had been distributed). • It will contain crucial information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Crop suitability for the type of soil and climate. – Macro nutrients in the soil, secondary nutrients and micro nutrients. – Fertilizer type to be used. – Type of soil. • The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers.

- The state governments will prepare yearly action plan on the issue and the cost will be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and states.

3. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Objective	To support and promote organic farming and thereby improving soil health.
Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will encourage farmers to adopt eco-friendly concept of cultivation and reduce their dependence on fertilizers and agricultural chemicals to improve yields. • Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme. • In this way, during three years, 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre areas under organic farming. There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification. • Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market. • Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market. • It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers.

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Objective	The scheme aims to bring 50% farmers under the scheme within next 2-3 years.
Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved for implementation in all States and Union Territories from Kharif 2016 season in place of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS). • Increase the risk coverage of Crop cycle – pre-sowing to post-harvest losses. • Uniform maximum premium of only 2%, 1.5% and 5% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops, Rabi crops and Commercial/ horticultural crops respectively. • The difference between premium and the rate of Insurance charges payable by farmers shall be provided as subsidy and shared equally by the Centre and State. • Removal of the provision of capping on premium and reduction of sum insured to facilitate farmers to get claim against full sum insured without any reduction. • Provision of individual farm level assessment for Post harvest losses against the cyclonic & unseasonal rains for the crops kept in the field for drying up to a period of 14 days, throughout the country. • "On-Account payment" up to 25% of sum insured for mid season adversity, if the crop damage is reported more than 50% in the insurance unit. Remaining claims based on Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) data.

- Use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smart phones & Drones for quick estimation of crop losses to ensure early settlement of claims.
- **Crop Insurance Portal** has been launched. This will be used extensively for ensuring better administration, co-ordination, transparency and dissemination of information.
- The claim amount will be credited electronically to the individual farmer's Bank Account.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.

5. PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana

Objective

Providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries and to become "end-to-end" solution in irrigation.

Ministry

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. State Agriculture Departments to be nodal agencies (Agriculture-State subject Schedule VII of Constitution).

Salient Features

- Converge investments in irrigation at the farm level and provide end-to-end solution.
- Budgetary allocation: Rs. 1,000 crore for fiscal year 2015-16.
- Funding Pattern: Centre-States will be 75:25 per cent. In case of north-eastern region and hilly states it will be 90:10.
- A state will become eligible to access PMKSY funds only if it has prepared the **district irrigation plans and state irrigation plans** and sustained an increasing expenditure trend in irrigation sector in state plan.
- This scheme has amalgamated three ongoing programmes of three different ministries as follows:
 - i. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources.
 - ii. Integrated Watershed Management Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
 - iii. Farm Water Management component of the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture.
- Providing **soil health cards** to identify suitability of soil for production capability of soil.
- **Har Khet ko Pani:** Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation.
- Identify best nearby water resources in the area.
- Enhance adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies under **More Crop Per Drop**.
- Interlinking of rivers.
- Promotion of micro-irrigation in the form of drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan).
- Use of satellite imagery and 3D photography to guide villages to use best possible sources of irrigation.
- Ensure integrated development of Rainfed areas.

- Strengthening of **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** or agriculture science centres in all the districts of the country to aid the Farmers with new technology up gradation for irrigation. Linkage of this scheme with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme to channelize the available work force to productive & value added work.
- Inter-ministerial **National Steering Committee** (NSC) will periodically review these projects.

6. National Agriculture Market

Objective	Promotion of National Agriculture Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) through provision of the common e-platform.
Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India e-trading platform. • It is designed to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. • Farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere. • NAM is not replacing the mandis. NAM is an online platform with a physical market or mandi at the backend enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level. • It will result in increased numbers of traders and greater competition. It will also ensure open price discovery and better returns to farmers. • National Agriculture Market is going to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC). • It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level. • This e-platform aims to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce and is part of implementation of the roadmap for doubling income of the farmers by 2022.

7. RKVY-RAFTAAR

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for three years, i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20. The financial allocation of the scheme will be Rs. 15,722 crore with the objective of making farming as a remunerative economic activity through strengthening the farmer’s effort, risk mitigation and promoting agri-business entrepreneurship.
- RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States) through the following streams:
 - a) Regular RKVY-RAFTAAR (Infrastructure & Assets and Production Growth) with 70% of annual outlay to be allocated to states as grants based for the following activities:
 - i. Infrastructure and assets with 50% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay.

- ii. Value addition linked production projects with 30% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay.
- iii. Flexi-funds with 20% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay. States can use this for supporting any projects as per the local needs.
- b) RKVY-RAFTAAR special sub-schemes of National priorities - 20% of annual outlay; and
- c) Innovation and agri-entrepreneur development through creating end-to-end solution, skill development and financial support for setting up the agri-enterprise -10% of annual outlay including 2% of administrative costs.
- The scheme will incentivize States in enhancing more allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors. This will also strengthen farmer's efforts through creation of agriculture infrastructure that help in supply of quality inputs, market facilities etc. This will further promote agri-entrepreneurship and support business models that maximize returns to farmers.

8. e-RaKAM

- The Union Government has launched a portal, e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM). e-RaKAM will provide a platform to sell agricultural produce and strengthen the agriculture-oriented Indian economy.
- It is a digital initiative that aims to bring together the PSUs, civil supplies, farmers and buyers on a single platform so that the selling and buying process of agricultural products become smooth.
- The e-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- With the help of the platform, various crops whose price increases due to rainfall or bad weather conditions will be managed and get in the market.
- The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.

9. AGRI-UDAAN Programme

In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, the government is launching a new AGRI-UDAAN programme that will mentor start-ups and help them connect with potential investors.

Important Objectives

- Under the programme, start-ups will get incubation space to run their businesses and have access to research laboratories and libraries. AGRI UDAAN will also help the selected start-ups with regulatory services like company registration and environmental compliances.
- The programme will help convert innovative ideas from India's rural youth into viable businesses. The idea is to attract the youth from rural India and elsewhere, and train them so they can add value to the farmers' produce.
- It will be managed by ICAR-NAARM's technology incubator, a-IDEA along with IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation.

- The programme will shortlist 40 start-ups in the first round who will pitch their ideas to a panel of evaluators. Out of these, between 8 to 12 start-ups will be selected for the final capacity building workshop.
- Following an intensive training lasting six months, the new start-ups will be connected to investors for funding.

10. Other Important Schemes in Brief

- A. Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav** • This scheme is being launched involving agricultural experts of agricultural universities and ICAR institutes for effective and deeper reach of scientific farming to the villages.
- B. Krishi Dak** • IARI initiated this novel scheme in 20 districts in which postmen supplied seeds of improved varieties of crops to the farmers in far-flung areas.
- C. Krishi Kalyan Cess:**
 - Union Budget for 2016-17 (April-March) introduced a new cess on services named Krishi Kalyan Cess at the rate of 0.5%. The effective rate of the Krishi Kalyan Cess, however, will be lower than 0.5% as the government will provide input tax credit for the cess, as against no input tax credit for Swachh Bharat Cess.
 - Proceeds of cess would be exclusively used for financing initiatives relating to improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers.
- D. National Agriculture Entrepreneurship Project:**
 - It is an externally-funded project and is proposed in order to build an ecosystem for nurturing entrepreneurship development through translational research for technology commercialisation, management of technologies for commercialisation, research for breakthrough technologies for accelerated growth and higher-economic impact.
- E. Farmer FIRST:**
 - In order to make technology delivery process more effective through the existing 630 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, this new initiative will enhance farmers–scientist contact through multi-stakeholders’ participation to move beyond production and productivity to privilege the complex, diverse and risk prone reality faced by most farmers.
- F. Student READY:**
 - A one-year composite programme, the Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Development Yojana (READY) is proposed with the objective to develop professional skills for entrepreneurship knowledge through meaningful hands-on experience in project mode; confidence through end to end approach in product development; and enterprise management capabilities including skills for project development and execution, accountancy and national/international marketing.
- G. Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture:**
 - Its objective is to attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts.
- H. Rashtriya Gokul Mission:**
 - Rashtriya Gokul Mission, a project under the National Program for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development is being launched with the objective of conserving and developing indigenous Breeds in a focused and scientific manner.

Quick Revision Notes

Environment Schemes and Policies

POLICIES

1. National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031

Ministry	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Aim	To focus on integration of climate change into wildlife planning, conservation of coastal and marine ecosystem, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, focus on wildlife health among others.
Objectives	To accord special emphasis to rehabilitation of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include inland aquatic, coastal and marine eco-systems.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan adopts landscape approach in conservation of all uncultivated flora and undomesticated fauna that has ecological value to mankind irrespective of where they occur. • Encourages tourism in wild life areas, it wants restrictions to be placed on the number of tourists and vehicles entering inside a protected area. • To add emphasis on tourism facilities which are sustainable, eco-friendly, clean and wholesome and moderately priced rather than lavish five star facilities. • The plan seeks to put all protected areas and wildlife corridors out of bounds for all mining activities and big irrigation projects. • The plan asks the Environment Ministry to work with Ministry of Steel to bar mining activities in Protected Areas and wildlife corridors. Further, it wants proper rehabilitation of degraded and abandoned mining areas. It has classified sand mining as a highly destructive activity in which many stakeholders are involved including politicians. • Ministry of Water Resources to opt for minor irrigation projects instead of big irrigation projects in the protected areas. It has favoured the use of water harvesting units like ponds, check dams, wells etc. • It also takes note of concerns relating to climate change on wildlife by integrating it into Wildlife Management Planning. • It also wants restrictions on number of tourists and vehicles entering a protected area. • The draft calls for setting up of new regional forensic laboratories, a special Tiger protection force, special courts to deal with wildlife crimes such as poaching and smuggling. • It states that while tourism in the wildlife areas needs to be encouraged, it must be strictly monitored and regulated and an emphasis must be placed on tourism facilities that are sustainable, environment-friendly, moderately priced, clean and wholesome, rather than lavish. • The draft plan calls for new regional forensic laboratories, a Special Tiger Protection Force, and setting up of special courts to deal with wildlife crime like poaching and smuggling.

2. Wetland Management Rules

Ministry	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Aim	The Union Environment and Forest Ministry has come out with a draft of the new Wetlands Rules, 2016, on the basis that the 2010 rules saw uniformly poor implementation across states with the exception of Odisha.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve wetland and managed in accordance with principle of 'wise use' for maintaining their ecological integrity. • Wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention as specified in the Schedule. • Wetlands notified by the concerned State Governments which are located in their jurisdiction. • Wetlands notified by the Central Government based on recommendation of the Union Territory Administrations for wetlands located in their jurisdiction. • The following activities shall be prohibited in wetlands notified under these rules, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reclamation of wetlands, and conversion for non-wetland uses; – Any diversion or impediment to natural water inflows and outflows of the wetland; and – Any activity having or likely to have an adverse impact on ecological character of the wetland: Provided that exceptional cases, any change to the above may be taken up with prior approval of the Central Government.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the new Draft Rules, state governments and union territories would now have to form a wetland authority comprising of top secretaries from various departments such as environment, urban development, rural development, water resources, fisheries, irrigation, tourism along with experts from each field. • The state wetlands authority will be responsible for identifying wetlands to be notified which would then be forwarded to Centre. • The move is part of the ministry's efforts to decentralize decision-making to states. The step would give more powers to states to protect and regulate wetlands. • The previous rule called for creation of a Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) while 2016 draft says all state governments shall set up a state level wetlands authority entrusted with affairs related to wetland conservation, regulation and management.

3. E-Waste Management Rules

Ministry	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To curb the increasing use and dependence on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE). • To mandate Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to prepare guidelines on implementation of E-Waste Rules, which includes-specific guidelines for extended producer responsibility, channelisation, collection centres, storage, transportation, environmentally sound dismantling and recycling, refurbishment, and random sampling of EEE for testing of RoHS parameters.

Objectives

- To enable the recovery and/or reuse of useful material from Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), thereby reducing the hazardous wastes destined for disposal and to ensure environmentally sound management of all types of WEEE.
- These rules may be called the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016.
- They shall come into force from the 1st day of October, 2016.

Salient Features

- Manufacturer, Dealer, Refurbisher and Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) have been introduced as additional stakeholders in the rules.
- The applicability of the rules has been extended to components, consumables, spares and parts of EEE in addition to equipment as listed in Schedule I.
- Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and other mercury containing lamp brought under the purview of rules.
- Collection mechanism based approach has been adopted to include collection centre, collection point, take back system etc. for collection of e-waste by Producers under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- Option has been given for setting up of PRO, e-waste exchange, e-retailer, Deposit Refund Scheme as additional channel for implementation of EPR by Producers to ensure efficient channelization of e-waste.
- Provision for Pan India EPR Authorization by CPCB has been introduced replacing the state wise EPR authorization.
- Collection and channelisation of e-waste in Extended Producer Responsibility - Authorisation shall be in line with the targets prescribed in Schedule III of the Rules. The phase wise Collection Target for e-waste, which can be either in number or Weight shall be 30% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in EPR Plan during first two year of implementation of rules followed by 40% during third and fourth years, 50% during fifth and sixth years and 70% during seventh year onwards.
- Deposit Refund Scheme has been introduced as an additional economic instrument wherein the producer charges an additional amount as a deposit at the time of sale of the electrical and electronic equipment and returns it to the consumer along with interest when the end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment is returned.
- The e - waste exchange as an option has been provided in the rules as an independent market instrument offering assistance or independent electronic systems offering services for sale and purchase of e-waste generated from end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment between agencies or organizations authorised under these rules.
- The manufacturer is also now responsible to collect e-waste generated during the manufacture of any electrical and electronic equipment and channelises it for recycling or disposal and seeks authorization from SPCB.
- The dealer, if has been given the responsibility of collection on behalf of the producer, need to collect the e-waste by providing the consumer a box and channelize it to Producer.
- Dealer or retailer or e-retailer shall refund the amount as per take back system or De posit Refund Scheme of the producer to the depositor of e-waste.

- Refurbisher need collect e-waste generated during the process of refurbishing and channelise the waste to authorised dismantler or recycler through its collection centre and seek one time authorization from SPCB.
- The roles of the State Government has been also introduced in the Rules in order to ensure safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in the dismantling and recycling operations.
- Department of Industry in State or any other government agency authorised in this regard by the State Government is to ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for e-waste dismantling and recycling in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estate and industrial clusters.
- Department of Labour in the State or any other government agency authorised in this regard by the State Government need to ensure recognition and registration of workers involved in dismantling and recycling; assist formation of groups of such workers to facilitate setting up dismantling facilities; undertake industrial skill development activities for the workers involved in dismantling and recycling; and undertake annual monitoring and to ensure safety & health of workers involved in dismantling and recycling.
- State Government to prepare integrated plan for effective implementation of these provisions, and to submit annual report to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The transportation of e-waste shall be carried out as per the manifest system whereby the transporter shall be required to carry a document (three copies) prepared by the sender, giving the details.
- Liability for damages caused to the environment or third party due to improper management of e-waste including provision for levying financial penalty for violation of provisions of the Rules has also been introduced.
- Urban Local Bodies (Municipal Committee/Council/Corporation) has been assign the duty to collect and channelized the orphan products to authorized dismantler or recycler.

4. Plastic Waste Management Rules

Ministry

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Aim

- Increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 micron for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste.
- Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also.
- To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers responsibility.
- To introduce collection of plastic waste management fee through pre-registration of the producers, importers of plastic carry bags/ multilayered packaging and vendors selling the same for establishing the waste management system.
- To promote use of plastic waste for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery, or waste to oil etc. for gainful utilization of waste and also address the waste disposal issue;

to entrust more responsibility on waste generators, namely payment of user charge as prescribed by local authority, collection and handing over of waste by the institutional generator, event organizers.

- An eco-friendly product, which is a complete substitute of the plastic in all uses, has not been found till date. In the absence of a suitable alternative, it is impractical and undesirable to impose a blanket ban on the use of plastic all over the country. The real challenge is to improve plastic waste management systems.

Objectives

To address the issue of scientific plastic waste management and to help in achieving the vision of our Prime Minister of Swacchh Bharat and cleanliness is the essence of health and tourism.

Salient Features

- Rural areas have been brought in ambit of these Rules since plastic has reached to rural areas also. Responsibility for implementation of the rules is given to Gram Panchayat.
- for the first time, responsibility of waste generators is being introduced. Individual and bulk generators like offices, commercial establishments, industries are to segregate the plastic waste at source, handover segregated waste, pay user fee as per bye-laws of the local bodies.
- Plastic products are left littered after the public events (marriage functions, religious gatherings, public meetings etc) held in open spaces. First time, persons organising such events have been made responsible for management of waste generated from these events.
- Use of plastic sheet for packaging, wrapping the commodity except those plastic sheet's thickness, which will impair the functionality of the product are brought under the ambit of these rules. A large number of commodities are being packed/wrapped in to plastic sheets and thereafter such sheets are left for littered. Provisions have been introduced to ensure their collection and channelization to authorised recycling facilities.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility:** Earlier, EPR was left to the discretion of the local bodies. First time, the producers (i.e persons engaged in manufacture, or import of carry bags, multi-layered packaging and sheets or like and the persons using these for packaging or wrapping their products) and brand owners have been made responsible for collecting waste generated from their products. They have to approach local bodies for formulation of plan/system for the plastic waste management within the prescribed time-frame.
- State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) will not grant/renew registration of plastic bags, or multi-layered packaging unless the producer proposes the action plan endorsed by the concerned State Development Department.
- Producers to keep a record of their vendors to whom they have supplied raw materials for manufacturing carry bags, plastic sheets, and multi-layered packaging. This is to curb manufacturing of these products in unorganised sector.
- The entry points of plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging in to commodity supply chain are primarily the retailers and street vendors. They have been assigned the responsibility of not to provide the commodities in plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging which do not conform to these rules, otherwise, they will have to pay the fine.
- Plastic carry bag will be available only with shopkeepers/street vendors pre-registered with local bodies on payment of certain registration fee.

The amount collected as registration fee by local bodies is to be used for waste management.

- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been mandated to formulate the guidelines for thermoset plastic (plastic difficult to recycle). In the earlier Rules, there was no specific provision for such type of plastic.
- Manufacturing and use of non-recyclable multi-layered plastic to be phased out in two years.

5. Solid Waste Management Rules

Ministry

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Aim

To extract the maximum practical benefits from products and to generate the minimum amount of waste, to enlighten the state of the art technology, organizational and legislative developments and practices and financial burdens and benefits of handling solid wastes.

Objectives

To implement integrated solid waste management in ways that is protective to human health and the environment.

To maintain clean and hygienic conditions and reduce the quantity of Solid Waste, which has to be disposed of in Sanitary Landfill Facility (SLF) after recovery of waste materials and energy from it.

Salient Features

- The Rules are now applicable beyond Municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations, census towns, notified industrial townships, areas under the control of Indian Railways, airports, airbase, Port and harbour, defence establishments, special economic zones, State and Central government organizations, places of pilgrims, religious & historical importance.
- The source segregation of waste has been mandated to channelize the waste to wealth by recovery, reuse and recycle.
- Responsibilities of Generators have been introduced to segregate waste in to three streams, Wet (Biodegradable), Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.) and handover segregated wastes to authorized rag-pickers or waste collectors or local bodies.
- Integration of waste pickers/ rag pickers and waste dealers/ Kabadiwalas in the formal system should be done by State Governments, and Self Help Group, or any other group to be formed.
- No person should throw, burn, or bury the solid waste generated by him, on streets, open public spaces outside his premises, or in the drain, or water bodies.
- Generator will have to pay 'User Fee' to waste collector and for 'Spot Fine' for Littering and Non-segregation.
- Used sanitary waste like diapers, sanitary pads should be wrapped securely in pouches provided by manufacturers or brand owners of these products or in a suitable wrapping material and shall place the same in the bin meant for dry waste / non- bio-degradable waste.
- The concept of partnership in Swachh Bharat has been introduced. Bulk and institutional generators, market associations, event organizers and hotels and restaurants have been made directly responsible for segregation and sorting the waste and manage in partnership with local bodies.

- All hotels and restaurants should segregate biodegradable waste and set up a system of collection or follow the system of collection set up by local body to ensure that such food waste is utilized for composting /bio-methanation.
- All Resident Welfare and market Associations, Gated communities and institution with an area >5,000 sq. m should segregate waste at source- in to valuable dry waste like plastic, tin, glass, paper, etc. and handover recyclable material to either the authorized waste pickers or the authorized recyclers, or to the urban local body.
- The bio-degradable waste should be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises as far as possible. The residual waste shall be given to the waste collectors or agency as directed by the local authority.
- The bio-degradable waste should be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises as far as possible. The residual waste shall be given to the waste collectors or agency as directed by the local authority.
- New townships and Group Housing Societies have been made responsible to develop in-house waste handling, and processing arrangements for bio-degradable waste.
- Every street vendor should keep suitable containers for storage of waste generated during the course of his activity such as food waste, disposable plates, cups, cans, wrappers, coconut shells, leftover food, vegetables, fruits etc. and deposit such waste at waste storage depot or container or vehicle as notified by the local authority.
- The developers of Special Economic Zone, industrial estate, industrial park to earmark at least 5% of the total area of the plot or minimum 5 plots/ sheds for recovery and recycling facility.
- All manufacturers of disposable products such as tin, glass, plastics packaging etc. or brand owners who introduce such products in the market shall provide necessary financial assistance to local authorities for the establishment of waste management system.
- All such brand owners who sell or market their products in such packaging material which are non-biodegradable should put in place a system to collect back the packaging waste generated due to their production.
 - Manufacturers or Brand Owners or marketing companies of sanitary napkins and diapers should explore the possibility of using all recyclable materials in their products or they shall provide a pouch or wrapper for disposal of each napkin or diapers along with the packet of their sanitary products.
 - All such manufacturers, brand owners or marketing companies should educate the masses for wrapping and disposal of their products.
 - All industrial units using fuel and located within 100 km from a solid waste based RDF plant shall make arrangements within six months from the date of notification of these rules to replace at least 5% of their fuel requirement by RDF so produced.
 - Non-recyclable waste having calorific value of 1500 K/cal/kg or more shall not be disposed of on landfills and shall only be utilized for generating energy either or through refuse derived fuel or by giving away as feed stock for preparing refuse derived fuel.
 - High calorific wastes shall be used for co-processing in cement or thermal power plants.

- Construction and demolition waste should be stored, separately disposed off, as per the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- Horticulture waste and garden waste generated from premises should be disposed as per the directions of local authority.
- An event, or gathering organiser of more than 100 persons at any licensed/ unlicensed place, should ensure segregation of waste at source and handing over of segregated waste to waste collector or agency, as specified by local authority.
- Special provision for management of solid waste in hilly areas:- Construction of landfill on the hill shall be avoided. A transfer station at a suitable enclosed location shall be setup to collect residual waste from the processing facility and inert waste. Suitable land shall be identified in the plain areas, down the hill, within 25 kilometers for setting up sanitary landfill. The residual waste from the transfer station shall be disposed off at this sanitary landfill.
- In case of non-availability of such land, efforts shall be made to set up regional sanitary landfill for the inert and residual waste.

6. Bio-Medical Waste Management Rule-2016

Ministry

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Aim

These rules shall apply to all persons who generate, collect, receive, store, transport, treat, dispose, or handle bio-medical waste in any form and shall not apply to:

- Radioactive wastes,
- Wastes covered under the MSW Rules, 2000,
- Lead acid batteries,
- Hazardous wastes,
- E-waste, and
- Hazardous microorganisms.

Objective

To minimize the adverse impact on health workers and on the environment by scientific disposal of Biomedical Waste through segregation, collection and treatment in an environmentally sound manner.

Salient Features

- The ambit of the rules has been expanded to include vaccination camps, blood donation camps, surgical camps or any other healthcare activity;
- Phase-out the use of chlorinated plastic bags, gloves and blood bags within two years;
- Pre-treatment of the laboratory waste, microbiological waste, blood samples and blood bags through disinfection orsterilisation on-site in the manner as prescribed by WHO or NACO;
- Provide training to all its health care workers and immunise all health workers regularly;
- Establish a Bar-Code System for bags or containers containing bio-medical waste for disposal;
- Report major accidents;
- Existing incinerators to achieve the standards for retention time in secondary chamber and Dioxin and Furans within two years;
- Bio-medical waste has been classified into 4 categories instead 10 to improve the segregation of waste at source;

- Procedure to get authorisation simplified. Automatic authorisation for bedded hospitals. The validity of authorization synchronised with validity of consent orders for Bedded HCFs. One time Authorisation for Non-bedded HCFs;
- Prescribe more stringent standards for incinerator to reduce the emission of pollutants in environment;
- Inclusion of emissions limits for Dioxin and furans;
- State Government to provide land for setting up common bio-medical waste treatment and disposal facility; and
- No occupier shall establish on-site treatment and disposal facility, if a service of 'common bio-medical waste treatment facility is available at a distance of seventy-five kilometer.
- Operator of a common bio-medical waste treatment and disposal facility to ensure the timely collection of bio-medical waste from the HCFs and assist the HCFs in conduct of training.

7. Policy on Promotion of City Compost

Ministry	Ministry of Chemical and Fertiliser
Aim	This policy will help in circulating compost produced from city waste for the purpose of farming and agriculture.
Objectives	Conversion of urban waste to compost is considered an optimum solution to meet the objectives of disposal of waste and providing an organic fertiliser for agriculture.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For increasing production and consumption of City Compost, provision for Market development assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost has been added. • Farmers will be benefitted from lower MRP of city compost as result of Market development assistance. • To ensure that environment friendly quality city compost, eco-Mark standard has been made mandatory. • Fertilizer companies will co-market City Compost along with chemical fertilizers. • For promoting the use of compost, these companies will adopt villages. • It will be mandatory for Public Sector undertakings and Government Departments to use City Compost for purpose of their horticulture. • Concerned Ministries will undertake campaigns to create awareness among farmers about benefits of city compost and its uses. • Agriculture Universities and other departments will also contribute in demonstration activities related to use of City compost. • In the initial phase, promotion and marketing of city compost will be done through the existing fertilizer companies, but later, it will be done by compost manufacturers and other marketing entities after the approval from Department of Fertilisers.

8. Fly Ash Utilisation Policy

Ministry	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Aim	To pave way for prosperity by generating wealth from waste and environment protection.

Objectives	To ensure environment-friendly construction and also lead to a reduction of pollution, as dry fly ash being a major air pollutant.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy seeks 100% use of fly ash generated from thermal power plants and biogas plants for construction activities. • The ash would also be used in the production of bricks and other construction material, besides helping in setting up of ash based construction material production unit within its vicinity. • The ash is to be used in soil conditioning for improving its quality which would help in increasing the crop yield, within the radius of 300 km. • Facilitates use of fly ash to make bricks, blocks, tiles, wall panels, cement and other construction materials. • The policy extends use of fly ash to 300 kms. radius of power plant from earlier 100 kms radius of power plant. The thermal plants would use the ash in the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. • It will help in environment protection and save soil excavation. • It also will make available raw material for construction at low cost to help 'Housing for All' projects. • It will also help create new employment opportunities in the power plant sector and pave way for prosperity by generating Wealth from Waste.

9. Green Highways Policy, 2015

Ministry	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
Aim	Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 to promote greening of National Highway corridors across the country.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide dignified employment to local people and communities, changing the whole process for the avenue plantation and landscape improvement. • To reduce the impacts of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs along the Highways, as they act as natural sink for air pollutants and arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes. To help in making India pollution free. • To evolve a policy frame work for plantation along National Highways. • To reduce the impacts of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants. • To provide much needed shade on glaring hot roads during summer. • To reduce the impact of ever increasing noise pollution caused due to increase in number of vehicles. • To arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes. • Prevention of glare from the headlight of incoming vehicles. • Moderating the effect of wind and incoming radiation. • Employment to local people. • Augmenting in maintaining biodiversity.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote greening and develop eco-friendly National Highway corridors across the country with participation of farmers, private sector and government institutions including Forest Department.

- It will address the issues that lie in the road of development and pave the way towards sustainable development.
- Stake holders: Contracts for greening highways will be given to NGOs, agencies, private companies and government organisations.
- These stakeholders will be responsible for the survival and health of trees.
- Planting of trees in any particular area will depend on the soil suitability and climatic conditions.
- Monitoring Agency: It will be responsible for monitoring the plantation status on continuous basis by carrying out the site visit for field verification to check survival, growth and size of plantation and maintenance of the same.
- Performance audit of executing agencies will be regularly conducted by the agency on an Annual basis. New contracts will be awarded to the agencies based on their past performance audit.

GS SCORE

SCHEMES

SCHEMES RELATED TO FORESTATION

1.	Compensatory Afforestation	Compensatory afforestation shall be done over equivalent area of non-forest land.
2.	National Mission for a Green India	To Increase forest/tree cover on 5 m ha of forest/non-forest lands and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 m ha (a total of 10 m ha); improve ecosystem services and carbon sequestration as a result of treatment of 10 m ha; increase forest-based livelihood income for 3 million forest dependent households; and enhance annual CO ₂ sequestration of 50-60 million tonnes by the year 2020.
3.	Social forestry	Social forestry as an instrument of sustainable development, i.e. to provide food security, fuel security and livelihood security with eco-friendly approach to development.
4.	Nagar Van-Udyan	To create 200 City Forests in the Country. A City Forest will be developed in each City with Municipal Council.
5.	School Nursery Yojana	To involve children in raising saplings in nurseries created inside their school campuses.

SCHEMES FOR WETLAND AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

1.	Ramsar Convention	It provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Montreux Record under the Convention is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
2.	'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems'	It aims at holistic conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands for achieving desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and the ecosystem, through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach with a common regulatory framework.
3.	Central Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves & Coral Reefs	Its objectives are Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Restoration of Mangroves, Regeneration of Corals, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness related to mangroves and coral reefs.
4.	Mangroves for the Future	Its objective is to strengthen the environmental sustainability of coastal development. MFF is being coordinated by International Union for Conservation of Nature, (IUCN) covering, initially, six Tsunami affected countries namely India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Srilanka and Thailand.

5.	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme	It is an initiative by World Bank to assist Government of India (GoI) in building national capacity for implementation of comprehensive coastal management approach in the country, and piloting the integrated coastal zone management approach in states of Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal.
6.	Marine Protected Areas	Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in India comprise national parks and wildlife sanctuaries declared in coastal wetlands, especially mangroves, coral reefs and lagoons, under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

SCHEMES FOR WATER CONSERVATION

1.	Namami Gange	It aims at Ganga Rejuvenation by combining the existing ongoing efforts and planning under it to create a concrete action plan for future.
2.	Yamuna Action Plan	It is a bilateral project between the Government of India and Japan. It aims at sewage treatment and solid waste management along with river front development.
3.	Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana	To achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko Pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies.
4.	National Water Mission	For comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resource and promotion of citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation.
5.	Integrated Watershed Management Programme	It aims at harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

SCHEMES FOR CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

1.	Project Tiger	To ensure maintenance of a viable population of Tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.
2.	Project Elephant	To protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-animal conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants.
3.	Project Snow Leopard	To safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions.
4.	Biodiversity Conservation and Rural livelihood Improvement Project	To develop and promote new models of conservation at the landscape scale through enhanced capacity and institution building for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation outcomes. It is in link with World bank.

4.	Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)	Created to oversee and co-ordinate conservation, campaigning and fundraising activities to help the plight of south Asia's vultures.
5.	Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020	To protect and increase the population of the one-horned rhinoceros. IRV 2020 is a partnership between the Assam Forest Department, the Bodoland Territorial Council, WWF, IRF, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
6.	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)	To provide information needed for elephant range States to make appropriate management and enforcement decisions, and to build institutional capacity within the range States for the long-term management of their elephant populations. It is launched by CITES.

SCHEMES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT

1.	National Solar Mission	To make solar energy competitive with fossil-based energy options by increasing the share of solar energy in the total energy mix.
2.	National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency	To address national problems of inefficient energy use.
3.	National Mission on Sustainable Habitats	To make habitats sustainable through improvements in energy efficiency in buildings, management of solid waste and a modal shift to public transport.
4.	National Water Mission	Aims at conserving water, minimizing wastage, and ensuring more equitable distribution and management of water resources.
5.	National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem	Calls for empowering local communities especially Panchayats to play a greater role in managing ecological resources.
6.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture	Aims to make Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change by identifying new varieties of crops.
7.	National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change	To work with the global community in research and technology development by collaboration through different mechanisms.
8.	National Mission for a Green India	Aims at enhancing ecosystem services such as carbon sinks.
9.	Perform, Achieve and Trade	For trading energy-efficiency certificates in large energy-intensive industries under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency.
10.	Renewable Purchase Obligations	For creating domestic markets for renewable energy through regulatory interventions at state level.

1. Van Mahotsav

- Van Mahotsav festival was started in 1950 by Kulapati Dr. K M Munshi, then the Union Minister for Agriculture and Food to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees.
- It is now a week-long festival, celebrated on different days in different parts of India, but usually between 1 July to 7 July.
- It began after a flourishing tree planting drive which was undertaken in Delhi, in which national leaders participated.
- The festival raises the awareness of trees among people, and highlights the need for planting and tending of trees as one of the best ways to prevent global warming and reduce pollution. Tree planting during the festival serves various purposes, such as providing alternative fuel,

increasing production of food resources, creating shelter-belts around fields to increase productivity, providing food for cattle, offering shade and decorative landscapes, reducing drought and helping to prevent soil erosion, etc.

2. India signs Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement

Context

- A Grant Agreement from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank of USD 24.64 million for “Ecosystem Service Improvement Project” was signed.

About the Project

- The size of Project is USD 24.64 million which entirely will be financed by the World Bank out of its GEF Trust Fund. The project’s duration is 5 years.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) will implement the Project in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh through Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education under the National Mission for Green India. The objective of the Project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Departments of Forestry and Community Organisations to enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands.

About Global Environment Facility

- **GEF is a unique partnership** of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world’s most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel.
- **It is a financial mechanism** for 5 major international environmental conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

3. Blood Bank for Cattle

- Odisha has become the first state in the country to have a blood bank for the cattle.
- The cattle farmers will provide blood voluntarily. The blood bank will also go and collect blood from centres.
- Blood transfusion facility for cattle blood will also be done at the proposed blood bank. This will prevent death of cattle during deliveries and other ailments.
- The storage facility would come in handy for the veterinarians to save lives of the domesticated animals.

4. SECURE Himalaya

- The Centre has launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
- Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.

- The project has been launched in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme.
- The SECURE - securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems - is meant for specific landscapes. It include Changthang (Jammu and Kashmir), Lahaul - Pangi and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Kanchenjunga - Upper Teesta Valley (Sikkim).
- Enhanced enforcement efforts and monitoring under the project will also curb illegal trade in some medicinal and aromatic plants which are among the most threatened species in these landscapes.

5. Wood is Good Campaign

- The Government has launched the “Wood is Good” campaign in the “Partnership for Land Use Science” conference.
- Wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint.
- The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus) is a joint programme by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to strengthen capacity for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) implementation in India.
- The programme brings together experts from India and the United States to develop technologies, tools and methods of forest management to meet the technical challenges of managing forests for the health of ecosystem, carbon stocks, biodiversity and livelihood.
- Some of the objectives of the conference include – exploring issues and opportunities for ecosystem approach to land management in India; discussing how the approaches and tools developed under the Forest-PLUS programme can be used to improve forest management in India and to document and disseminate that learning with a wider group.

About REDD

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

6. Brahmaputra Biodiversity Biology Boat

- The Centre plans to safeguard the fast-eroding Majuli island — Asia’s largest riverine island — using research carried out on floating ‘B4’ boat labs along the Brahmaputra river.
- Majuli, the first island district of the country, was once 1200 square kilometres but due to excessive erosion has since shrunk to under 500 square kilometres. It is also known for being the seat of Assam’s Vaishnava monasteries.

- ‘B4’ – the ‘Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat’, will initially cover the region from Pasighat, Dibrigargh, Neemati, Tejpur and Guwahati in the state of Assam.
- The large barge (or boat) which will be set up on the river will be a “well-equipped laboratory” with cold storage facilities for holding samples, along with multiple satellite boats or rafts that will venture into shallower and narrower parts of the river to lift samples.
- The aim is to study the changes caused by dams, climate change, human interventions and the eventual effects it has on the river ecosystem.

7. Strategic Plan for Human-Elephant Conflict

- A new regional plan to tackle human-elephant conflict in eastern and central India has proposed a number of strategic measures, from creating “elephant removal zones” to relocating or even holding captive “problem” elephants that roam on agricultural land.
- The proposals are:
 - a) The plan divides zoning habitats into three zones: areas with large forest cover that are relatively intact where elephants can be conserved, creating elephant-human co-existence zones which will serve as an interface between human settlements and elephants, and elephant removal zones in agricultural areas. These are areas where elephants have now moved in, resulting in increasing conflict.
 - b) The plan will be to capture the elephants and relocate them to other forest areas which are intact, but if that fails, maybe keep some of the elephants under captivity.
 - c) Capacity-building on the ground by training forest officials on how to tranquilise elephants and capture them.
- Project Elephant was launched by the central government in 1992 to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, and address issues of man-animal conflict.

8. Save the Sparrow

About Sparrows

- Sparrows primarily eat moths and other small insects, but they can also eat seed, berries and fruit.
- Sparrows usually fly at the speed of 24 miles per hour. When needed (in the case of danger), they can accelerate to the speed of 31 miles per hour.
- Although sparrows do not belong to the group of water birds, they can swim very fast.
- Sparrows can survive between four and five years in the wild.
- Sparrows are social birds and they live in colonies called flocks.

Why Number of Sparrows Decreasing?

- Trees have been felled indiscriminately, causing the sparrow to lose its home. But, a sparrow nests in homes too.
- Homes are now high rise buildings with no cosy alcoves or ledges, nooks or crannies. A sparrow needs cavities to build its home.
- Most gardens, these days, are given over to exotic species that do not belong there. Native plants have been uprooted and thrown out. Sparrows feed on insects and aphids that are found in plenty on native

plants. Sparrows love to bathe — in water and dust. But, water is a scarce resource in most cities and concrete has replaced dust.

Save sparrow initiative

- Mobile towers create electromagnetic fields and radiation that is harmful to sparrows. The effects range from damage to the immune and nervous system of sparrows to interference with their navigating sensors.
- World Sparrow Day, celebrated on March 20 annually, is an initiative of the Nature Forever Society. In less than four years, this popular event has been celebrated in more than 50 countries around the world; including in Europe and parts of South Asia. World Sparrow Day is not only about house sparrows. It includes all 26 species of sparrows found in the world.

9. Land Degradation Neutrality

- The project objective is to enable countries to establish national voluntary targets for LDN with the overall goal to achieve LDN by 2030 as a mean to **sustainably increase food security, reduce biodiversity losses and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation**. The project will provide critical support to countries for the application of the LDN response hierarchy to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation.
- The project will ensure strong Government leadership and active involvement of all stakeholders and sectors impacting and benefitting from the land based natural capital in order to achieve project objectives and related expected results.
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) has been defined by the Parties to the Convention as:

“A state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.”

Why are Countries Setting LDN Targets?

- It is a unique approach that counterbalances the expected loss of productive land with the recovery of degraded areas. It squarely places the measures to conserve, sustainably manage and restore land in the context of land use planning.
- The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 15.3 states: “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.
- Target 15.3 has therefore become a strong vehicle for driving UNCCD implementation, while at the same time contributing to other SDGs, including those relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, and poverty.
- At the 12th session of the Conference of Parties of the UNCCD held in October 2015 in Ankara, Turkey, country Parties reached a breakthrough agreement to endorse this vision and link the implementation of the Convention to the SDGs in general, and target 15.3 in particular.

10. Biodiversity Heritage Site

- “Biodiversity Heritage Sites” (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters, and marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or

more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.

Ameenpur Lake

- Ameenpur lake, located in the metropolitan area limits of Hyderabad with a number of industrial units nearby, has been designated a biodiversity heritage site.
- A major attraction for admirers of birds, particularly the Majestic Flamingos, is the first water body in the country to get such a status.
- A variety of local and migratory birds, including egrets, herons, cormorants, kingfishers and river terns, throng the lake and make it an attractive destination for people and for photographers — amateur and professional.
- TSSPF has adopted the Ameenpur village, and with the help of residents initiated a garbage disposal system in cooperation with the authorities of Medak district.
- Apart from protecting the lake from pollutants, the Force also turned to the State Pollution Control Board for its support to check effluents and set up a sewerage treatment plant with funds provided by the industries in the vicinity of the lake.
- TSSPF also planted over 4,000 saplings in the dry tracts of the lake bed and on its fringes.

11. Energy Conservation Building Code, 2017

- ECBC 2017 prescribes the energy performance standards for new commercial buildings to be constructed across India.
- ECBC 2017 sets parameters for builders, designers and architects to integrate renewable energy sources in building design with the inclusion of passive design strategies.
- The code aims to optimise energy savings with the comfort levels for occupants, and prefers life-cycle cost effectiveness to achieve energy neutrality in commercial buildings.
- In order for a building to be considered ECBC-compliant, it would need to demonstrate minimum energy savings of 25%.
- Additional improvements in energy efficiency performance would enable the new buildings to achieve higher grades like ECBC Plus or Super ECBC status leading to further energy savings of 35% and 50%, respectively.
- With the adoption of ECBC 2017 for new commercial building construction throughout the country, it is estimated to achieve a 50% reduction in energy use by 2030. This will translate to energy savings of about 300 Billion Units by 2030 and peak demand reduction of over 15 GW in a year. This will be equivalent to expenditure savings of Rs 35,000 crore and 250 million tonnes of CO2 reduction.
- ECBC 2017 was developed by BEE with technical support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the U.S.-India bilateral Partnership to Advance Clean Energy – Deployment Technical Assistance (PACE-DTA) Program.

12. Special Protection Force for Rhinos

- A Special Rhino Protection Force would be raised by recruiting local youth to bring down the number of incidents of rhino poaching in Kaziranga National Park and other rhino-bearing areas in the State to zero.

13. Regional Project on Stubble Burning

About Stubble Burning

- Stubble burning refers to the use of a controlled fire to clear the crop residue that remains in the paddock after harvest and could more accurately be called 'crop residue burning'.
- Open burning of husk produces harmful smoke that causes pollution. Open burning of husk is of incomplete combustion in nature. Hence large amount of toxic pollutants are emitted in the atmosphere. Pollutants contain harmful gases like Methane, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Volatile organic compound (VOC) and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Steps Initiated

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved a regional project on 'climate resilience building among farmers through crop residue management,' to effectively combat the climate change.
- The project, under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), aims to mitigate climate change impacts, enhance adaptive capacity and counter the adverse environmental impacts caused from stubble burning.
- The first phase of the project has been approved at a cost of Rs 100 crore for the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The project will be implemented in a phased manner, such as awareness generation and capacity building activities among farmers in the initial stage.
- This will be followed by steps to encourage farmers to adopt alternate practices, which would help diversify livelihood options and enhance their income.
- A slew of technological interventions will be undertaken for timely management of crop residue, in addition to the effective utilisation of existing machineries.

14. Blue Flag Pilot Project

- With prime objective of enhancing standards of cleanliness, upkeep and basic amenities at beaches, this Ministry has launched a pilot project for beach cleanup and development, also striving for the "Blue Flag" Certification for such identified beaches.
- Under the pilot programme, each of the coastal State/UT was requested to identify/nominate a beach, to be funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Programme.
- All the coastal States have nominated the pilot beaches in their receptive territories including Goa. Formal nominations are, however, awaited from the coastal UTs viz., Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar".

15. Red Alert on the Green Index

- India ranks low in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, slipping from rank 141 in 2016, to 177 in 2018.
- The EPI is produced jointly by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. In comparison, emerging peer economies, Brazil and China, rank 69 and 120, respectively. The EPI ranks countries on 24 performance indicators across 10 issue categories.
- Top 5 countries are Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden.
- The countries at the bottom of index are Nepal, India, Congo, Bangladesh, and Burundi.
- The report has ranked India as fourth worst country worldwide in curbing environmental pollution.

GS SCORE

Quick Revision Notes

Policies Related to Science

POLICIES RELATED TO SCIENCE

1. Science, Technology & Innovation Policy, 2013

Ministry	Ministry of Science and Technology.
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It lays greater thrust on innovation, establishing research institutes and encourages women scientists with an aim to position itself among the top five scientific powers in the world by 2020. • Producing and nurturing talent in science, to stimulate research in universities, to develop young leaders in the field of science and to reward performance.
Objectives	To meet the governments declared 2010-20 as the “Decade of Innovation”. The Government has stressed the need to enunciate a policy to synergize science, technology and innovation and has also established the National Innovation Council (NInC).
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the spread of scientific temper amongst all sections of society. • Enhancing skill for applications of science among the young from all social strata. • Making careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talented and bright minds. • Establishing world class infrastructure for R&D for gaining global leadership in some select frontier areas of science. • Positioning India among the top five global scientific powers by 2020. Linking contributions of science, research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance. • Creating an environment for enhanced Private Sector Participation in R&D. • Enabling conversion of R&D outputs into societal and commercial applications by replicating hitherto successful models as well as establishing of new PPP structures. • Seeding S&T-based high-risk innovations through new mechanisms. • Fostering resource-optimized, cost-effective innovations across size and technology domains. • Triggering changes in the mindset and value systems to recognize, respect and reward performances which create wealth from S&T derived knowledge. • Creating a robust national innovation system.

2. Nuclear Suppliers' Insurance Policy

Launched by	India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP). And it was unveiled by Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
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Aim	For ‘Right to Recourse’ Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) of Rs. 1,500 crore was launched as per the mandatory provision under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND), 2010.
Objectives	To provides capacity for insurance coverage to operators and suppliers for any nuclear liability towards third party.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INIP will offer policies on the nuclear operators liability insurance policy and a nuclear suppliers’ special contingency (against right to recourse) insurance policy. • It will also address third-party liability insurance and later expand into property and other hot zone, i.e. inside reactor areas risk. At present, it only covers cold zones (outside reactor areas). • It will also provide the risk transfer mechanism to the operators and suppliers to meet their obligations under the CLND Act, 2010. • INIP is the 27th global nuclear insurance pool which was launched by state run General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), in association with non-life insurance companies. • New India Assurance Co (NIAC) and INIP will issue the policy and administer the claims on behalf of the pool.

3. National Biotechnology Development Strategy, 2015-2020

Ministry	Ministry of Science and Technology
Aims	To establish India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub. It intends to launch a major mission, backed with significant investments, for the creation of new biotech products, creates a strong infrastructure for R&D and commercialization, and empowers India’s human resources scientifically and technologically.
Objectives	The primary objective of the NBDS is to build a skilled workforce and improve research facilities in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary streams of scientific studies.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBDS intends to launch a major mission under the Make in India programme backed with significant investments for the creation of new biotech products. • It also seeks to create a strong infrastructure for Research and Development and commercialization and also empower India’s human resources scientifically and technologically. • The key elements of the strategy are building a skilled workforce and enhance research opportunities in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary sciences. • Its major component will be training of work force and this includes dual degree programmes which will cover both the aspect of core science and business applicability. • It will also focus on enhancing research opportunities in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary sciences and also foster global and national alliances.

4. Technology Vision Document, 2035

Ministry	Ministry of Science and Technology
Aims	To ensure the Security, Enhancing of Prosperity, and Enhancing Identity of every Indian, this is stated in the document as “Our Aspiration” or “Vision Statement” in all languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

Objectives	The document presents a vision of requirements of Indian citizens in 2035 and how technology should bring this vision to fruition.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document has identified 12 sectors for development of technologies. They are Education, Medical Sciences & Healthcare, Food and Agriculture, Water, Energy, Environment, Habitat, Transportation, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Materials, Information and Communication Technology. • These 12 Committees are mandated to oversee generation of Scenario Reports for respective sectors. • An apex body comprising of the social scientists, economists, S&T leaders and Chairpersons of Advisory Committees will guide in synthesis of Technology Vision 2035 from scenarios in the Reports from all the sectors put together. • The draft document is proposed to be put in public domain for inviting suggestions before it is formally released.

5. Space Vision India, 2025

Ministry	Department of Space
Aim	To set the advancement and updating in the Space Technology up to 2025.
Objectives	<p>To develop and launch of different Missions into the Space with the help of ISRO launch vehicle family. For eg. Mission to - Mars, Venus, Astroids, Chandrayan, Indian human space flight programme, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) 2009. • Geo Synchronous Launch Vehicle MK III 2010. • Semi cryogenic Engines 2015. • Indian Human Space Mission Reusable Launch Vehicle 2016. • High thrust cryogenic Engine Boosters 2017. • Air-breathing Engines 2018. • Interplanetary Mission to beyond MARS. • Advanced Propulsion for Planetary Exploration 2020. • Two Stage to Orbit to reduce the Cost Single Stage. • To Orbit using Air breathing Propulsion 2025.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite based communication and navigation systems for rural connectivity, security needs and mobile services. • Enhanced imaging capability for natural resource management, weather and climate change studies. • Space science missions for better understanding of solar system and universe. • Planetary exploration. • Development of Heavy lift launcher. • Reusable Launch Vehicles - Technology demonstrator missions leading to Two Stage To Orbit (TSTO). • Human Space Flight.

6. National Cyber Policy

Ministry	Ministry of communication and IT
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Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy aims at facilitating creation of secure computing environment and enabling adequate trust and confidence in electronic transactions and also guiding stakeholder’s actions for protection of cyber space. • The National Cyber Security Policy document outlines a road-map to create a framework for comprehensive, collaborative and collective response to deal with the issue of cyber security at all levels within the country. • The policy recognises the need for objectives and strategies that need to be adopted both at the national level as well as international level.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate our concerns, understanding, and priorities for action as well as directed efforts. • Provide confidence and reasonable assurance to all stakeholders in the country (Government, business, industry and general public) and global community, about the safety, resiliency and security of cyber space. • Adopt a suitable posturing that can signal our resolve to make determined efforts to effectively monitor, deter & deal with cyber crime and cyber attacks.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vision and mission statement aimed at building a secure and resilience cyber space for citizens, businesses and Government. • Enabling goals aimed at reducing national vulnerability to cyber attacks, preventing cyber attacks & cyber crimes, minimising response & recover time and effective cyber crime investigation and prosecution. • Focused actions at the level of Government, public-private partnership arrangements, cyber security related technology actions, protection of critical information infrastructure and national alerts and advice mechanism, awareness & capacity building and promoting information sharing and cooperation. • Enhancing cooperation and coordination between all the stakeholder entities within the country. • Objectives and strategies in support of the National cyber security vision and mission. • Framework and initiatives that can be pursued at the Government level, sectoral levels as well as in public private partnership mode. • Facilitating monitoring key trends at the national level such as trends in cyber security compliance, cyber attacks, cyber crime and cyber infrastructure growth.

7. One Time Licensing for Drugs

Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Aim	To change present rule of the renewal of licences for each formulation which rests with state regulators and takes around three years.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help in ‘ease of doing business’ and give fillip to domestic pharmaceutical sector under Union Government’s ‘Make in India’ initiative at a time when the country is slipping in the competitiveness index. • It will also give a boost to pharmaceutical industry and give comfort to customers.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate rules for manufacturing, import, sale and distribution of cosmetics.

- It has suggested the European Union’s model. Making of influenza drugs Oseltamivir and Zanamavir available widely at all pharmacies, by putting it in the Schedule H1 list.
- These two drugs at present have been treated as Schedule X drugs and available at select pharmacies. Retain the four-year approval threshold for ‘new drugs’.
- If the definition of a new drug is extended to 10 years, then innovation will take a back seat and wanting the four-year period to be retained.

8. New IPR Policy, 2016

Ministry

Ministry of Finance

Aim

To create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review. It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario. The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy will endeavor for a “Creative India; Innovative India”.

Objectives

- **IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion** - To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.
- **Generation of IPRs** - To stimulate the generation of IPRs.
- **Legal and Legislative Framework** - To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights of owners with larger public interest.
- **Administration and Management** - To modernize and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration.
- **Commercialization of IPRs** - Get value for IPRs through commercialization.
- **Enforcement and Adjudication** - To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.
- **Human Capital Development** - To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

Salient Feature

- It helps India to well-established TRIPS-compliant legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, which meets its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns.
- It reiterates India’s commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS agreement.
- While IPRs are becoming increasingly important in the global arena, there is a need to increase awareness on IPRs in India, be it regarding the IPRs owned by oneself or respect for others’ IPRs.
- The importance of IPRs as a marketable financial asset and economic tool also needs to be recognised. For this, domestic IP filings, as also commercialization of patents granted, need to increase. Innovation and sub-optimal spending on R&D too are issues to be addressed.
- This policy shall weave in the strengths of the Government, research and development organizations, educational institutions, corporate entities including MSMEs, start-ups and other stakeholders in the creation of an innovation-conducive environment, which stimulates creativity and innovation across sectors, as also facilitates a stable, transparent and service-oriented IPR administration in the country.

9. National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy

Ministry	The Department of Science and Technology is serving the nodal functions of coordination and monitoring of policy through close collaboration with all Central Ministries and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology by creating data.gov.in through National Informatics Centre (NIC).
Aim	Facilitating access to data and information that is owned by Government of India and in both human and machine readable forms. It aims to provide an enabling provision and platform for proactive and open access to the data generated by various Government of India entities.
Objectives	To facilitate access to Government of India owned shareable data (along with its usage information) in machine readable form through a wide area network all over the country in a periodically updatable manner, within the framework of various related policies, acts and rules of Government of India, thereby permitting a wider accessibility and usage by public.
Salient Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy will apply to all data and information created, generated, collected and archived using public funds provided by Government of India directly or through authorized agencies by various Ministries/Departments/Organizations/Agencies and Autonomous bodies. • The policy envisages three types of access to data: open, registered and restricted. Access to data in the open category will be “easy, timely, user-friendly and web-based without any process of registration/authorization.” • But data in the registered access category will be accessible “only through a prescribed process of registration/authorization by respective departments/organizations” and available to “recognized institutions/organizations/public users, through defined procedures.” Data categorized as restricted will be made available only “through and under authorization.” • The policy also provides for pricing, with the Ministries and Departments being asked to formulate their norms for data in the registered and restricted access categories within three months of the notification of the policy. • As per NDSAP, every Department has to identify datasets by the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Negative List: The datasets, which are confidential in nature and would compromise to the county’s security if made public, are put into this list. The datasets which contain personal information are also included in this list. – Open List: This list comprises of datasets which don’t fall under negative list. These datasets shall be prioritized into high value datasets and non-high values datasets.