GS SCORE

Special Edition for Prelims 2018

Year End Review of
Ministries & Departments

New Initiatives

New Schemes

New Policies

for Civil Services Examination

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INTRODUCTION

The government programmes, policies and schemes mainly of the past one year are one of the most important segments for Prelims examinations as 5-6 questions are generally asked from this area.

Hence, we are compiling the Year End Review of different Ministries and Departments which covers new schemes, new policies and new initiatives.

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YEAR END REVIEW OF MINISTRIES

This section covers following Ministries:

1. *Ministry of Home Affairs*

2. *Ministry of Rural Development*

3. *Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*

4. *Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region*

5. *Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports*

6. *Ministry of Tourism*

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) or Home Ministry is a ministry of the Government of India, serving as the Indian State Department. As an interior ministry, it is mainly responsible for the maintenance of internal security and domestic policy. The Home Ministry is headed by Union Minister of Home Affairs. Shri Rajnath Singh is the present Minister of Home Affairs.

Departments Of MHA

• **Department of Border Management**

Department of Border Management, dealing with management of borders, including coastal borders, strengthening of border guarding and creation of related infrastructure, border areas development, etc

• **Department of Internal Security**

Department of Internal Security, dealing with the Indian Police Service, Central Police Forces, internal security and law & order, insurgency, terrorism, naxalism, activities of inimical foreign agencies, terrorist financing, rehabilitation, grant of visa and other immigration matters, security clearances,"Protection of Human Rights Act and also matters relating to National integration and Communal Harmony and Ayodhya", etc.

• **Department of J & K Affairs**

Department of Jammu & Kashmir Division deals with the Constitutional provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, administration of the Armed Forces (J&K) Special Powers Act, 1990 (21 of 1990) and all matters relating to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, including counter terrorism within Jammu and Kashmir and coordination in respect of subjects/matters specifically allotted to any other Ministry/Department like coordination with Ministry of Defence with regard to manning and managing the line of control between India and Pakistan, but excluding those with which the Ministry of External Affairs is concerned. The Division also coordinates with various Ministries/Departments, primarily concerned with development and welfare activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

- **Department of Home**

Dealing with the notification of assumption of office by the President and Vice-President, notification of appointment/resignation of the Prime Minister, Ministers, Governors, nomination to Rajya Sabha/ Lok Sabha, Census of population, registration of births and deaths, etc.

- **Department of Official Language**

Dealing with the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution relating to official languages and the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963.

- **Department of States**

Dealing with Centre-State relations, Inter-State relations, administration of Union Territories, Freedom Fighters' pension, Human rights, Prison Reforms, Police Reforms, etc.

The Department of Internal Security, Department of States, Department of Home, Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs, and Department of Border Management do not function in watertight compartments. They all function under the Union Home Secretary and are inter-linked. There is a designated Secretary for Department of Border Management and Internal Security also.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. **Cabinet approves umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces.** Special provision has been made under the Scheme for internal security, law and order, women security, availability of modern weapons, mobility of police forces, logistics support, hiring of helicopters, upgradation of police wireless, National Satellite Network, CCTNS project, E-prison project etc.

2. **Cabinet approves extension of implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project by one year.** CCTNS aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adopting principle of e-Governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system for 'Investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

3. **Union Home Minister launches the Digital Police Portal under CCTNS project.** The MHA will undertake steps to integrate the various organs of the Criminal Justice System such as the Police, Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, Forensic Laboratories, Finger Prints and Juvenile Homes with the CCTNS database.

4. **'SAMADHAN'** to fight Left Wing Extremism. The elements of this strategy are S for Smart Leadership, A for Aggressive Strategy, M for Motivation and Training, A for Actionable Intelligence, D for Dashboard-based Key Result Areas and Key Performance Indicators, H for Harnessing Technology, A for Action Plan for each Theatre and N for No access to Financing.

5. The Government has appointed **Shri Dineshwar Sharma,** former Director of Intelligence Bureau, to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the positive initial response from different sections of people in J&K, it is expected that all stakeholders in the state who believe in peace would support the Government initiative and join the dialogue process.

6. **CRPF's Helpline in J&K.** The CRPF Helpline was launched in J&K on June 16, 2017. The Helpline has been started to build bridge of trust and confidence with citizens.

7. The Union Home Minister chaired the first meeting of the newly constituted **Islands Development Agency (IDA)**, in New Delhi on July 24, 2017. The IDA was set up on June 01, 2017 following the Prime Minister's review meeting for the development of islands. It was decided that the Naval air station at Shibpur near Diglipur in northern Andaman & Nicobar Islands would be co-used as Joint User Airport. It was also decided to develop a PPP package including an airport (Joint User Airport) at Minicoy Island, to unlock the tourism potential.

8. The Union Cabinet approved the **Memorandum of Cooperation on Home Land Security between India and USA on 28th June, 2017.** It will further strengthen bilateral security relations between India and the USA and will also help in coordination and interactions among the six Sub-Groups that are proposed to be formed under Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries.

9. **The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, Disaster Management Exercise** (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) was held from October 10-13, 2017. Members of the BIMSTEC, i.e Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal participated in the four-day exercise, conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the nodal agency in Delhi and the National Capital Region.

10. **Cabinet approves bilateral MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development.** The MoU will help in capacity building of Afghanistan National Police and improving the security apparatus in the region.

11. **Cabinet approves enhancement of the age of superannuation of Medical Officers of Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles.** The Union Cabinet on July 12, 2017 gave its ex-post facto approval for enhancement of the age of superannuation in respect of doctors of Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles from 60 to 65 years. It would help in retention of officers in Specialist and General Duty Medical Cadre and thereby help in better patient care, proper academic activities in Medical colleges as also in effective implementation of National Health Programmes for delivery of health care services.

12. **MHA Mobile Application launched for Grievances Redressal of CAPF personnel.** The Union Home Minister launched the MHA Mobile Application for grievance redressal of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel on May 11, 2017. The Union Home Minister also launched BSFMyApp on the occasion. The MHA Mobile App provides a common system in which all personnel of various CAPFs can submit their grievances through a Mobile Application and the same provides respective Forces to receive the submitted grievance for further action. The Mobile application also has a provision for MHA to continuously monitor the action taken by various CAPFs on their grievances and regulate the process for further improvement in the Grievance Redressal System.

13. **Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) Mobile App for CAPF personnel launched.** On 18th September, the Union Home Minister launched the Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) Mobile App for CAPF personnel. The App is available on Google Play store and is user friendly. It contains various useful features to facilitate retired CAPFs and Assam Rifles personnel to get their genuine grievances redressed, re-employment and other relevant and important information.

Ministry of Rural Development

The **Ministry of Rural Development,** a branch of the Government of India, is entrusted with the task of accelerating the socio-economic development of rural India. Its focus is on health, education, drinking water, housing and roads.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Awwas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)** is in line with the Government's commitment of providing 'Housing for All by 2022' with improved scheme architecture and robust delivery and monitoring mechanism.

Achievement/Initiatives during 2017-18:

• The Ministry envisages to construct 1 crore houses in rural India at enhanced unit assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in difficult areas/hilly states/IAP districts by 2018-19 under PMAY-G. In addition to the unit assistance, the beneficiary is also entitled to receive Rs. 12,000 for construction of a toilet and 90/95 days of unskilled wage labour for construction of the house in convergence with MGNREGS.

- Innovative use of space technology has ensured that resources are targeted to genuine beneficiaries by allowing verification of current housing status.

- Uploading of geo tagged and time stamped photographs of beneficiaries in front of their existing dwellings, using the mobile Application, viz. Awaas App, has been made mandatory for sanctioning houses under PMAY-G.

- It is proposed that 20,000 rural masons will be trained and certified under the training initiative in FY 2017-18.

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aims at enhancing livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.

- The allocation of Rs. 48,000 crore for the FY 2017-18, is the highest ever allocation for MGNREGA.

- During 2017-18, 4.35 crore households have been provided employment in 156 lakh works. In the process, 160 crore person-days of employment have been generated. Out of the total employment, 54% have been generated for women, well above the statutory requirement of 33%.

- The thrust on agriculture and allied activities is visible at the field level with about 71% expenditure on these works in FY 2017-18. Under Mission Water Conservation, 2,264 water stressed blocks have received special attention for Natural Resource Management including water harvesting and water conservation.

- 96% of the wages are being paid electronically into the Bank/Post Office accounts of MGNREGA workers through NeFMS.

- Under GeoMGNREGA, using space technology, more than 2 crore assets have been geo-tagged and made available in the public domain.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):** Primary objective of PMGSY is to provide connectivity by way of all-weather roads. The programme also has an upgradation component with a target to upgrade existing rural roads in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity. PMGSY-II aims to cover upgradation of existing selected rural roads based on a criterion to make the road network vibrant. Development of Rural Hubs and growth centres are crucial to the overall strategy of facilitating poverty reduction through creating rural infrastructures. Growth centres/rural hubs provide markets, banking and other service facilities enabling and enhancing self-employment and livelihood facilities.

PMGSY is aggressively encouraging use of "Green Technologies" and non-conventional materials like waste plastic, cold mix, geo-textiles, fly-ash, iron and copper slag etc. in rural roads. Till 27th Sept. 2017, 2,484 kms PMGSY road length had been constructed using "Green Technologies.

15% of all PMGSY roads are now being taken up through use of innovative green technologies like use of waste plastic, geo-textiles, fly ash, iron and copper slag and cold mix.

With a view to bring transparency & responsiveness in governance, plug leakages and to quickly address the citizen grievances, PMGSY has been encouraging use of information technology, mobile technology and space technology. A Mobile Application "Meri Sadak" launched to enable citizens to register complaints regarding the quality and pace of construction of PMGSY roads.

4. **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** comprises of five sub-schemes namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme. The schemes of NSAP are implemented both in urban and rural areas, by the Social Welfare Department in the States.

NSAP has been included under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme and in the current year, State of Gujarat and UT of Lakshadweep are using 100% transfer through DBT mechanism. DBT has been partially implemented in the States of Jharkhand, Haryana, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

There is proposal to revamp the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) as Pradhan Mantri Samajik Suraksha Yojana (PMSaSY) admissible to 5.07 crore beneficiaries.

5. **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission** seeks to reach out to 8-9 crore rural poor households and organize one woman member from each household into affinity based women SHGs and federations at village level and at higher levels.

"Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" has been initiated as a sub scheme under DAY-NRLM to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas and to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services (e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles) to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (including access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of the area by making use of the supports available within the framework of DAY-NRLM. The sub-scheme will be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20. Till date, proposals from 17 States have been approved and 153 vehicles have started operating in rural areas.

6. **Promotion of rural enterprises:** Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is a sub-scheme of DAY-NRLM designed to support rural youth to take up local entrepreneurship. As on date, 7,800 enterprises have been promoted across 17 States. It is expected that SVEP will support an additional 25,000 entrepreneurs during the year 2018-19.

7. **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** is a placement linked skill-training programme and is uniquely placed to empower rural poor youth with employable skills and facilitate their participation in regular labour market. It is currently being implemented in 28 States.

8. **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs):** At present RSETIs are offering training in more than 56 vocations classified under major areas like agriculture, processing, product manufacture and general EDP.

Another initiative 'Kaushal Panjee' (Skill Register) has also been undertaken which provides a citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs) and DDU-GKY.

9. The Government approved the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with an outlay of Rs. 5,142.08 crores on 16th September, 2015 with the objective to transform rural areas into economically, socially and physically sustainable spaces. Under this Mission, 300 clusters in rural areas, across 29 States and 5 UTs, with latent potential for growth are to be identified, following clearly enunciated methodologies in the framework of implementation.

Against the allocation of 300 clusters, 267 clusters have already been identified following the prescribed cluster selection methodology. The emphasis is to develop the thematic economic strengths of the clusters, provide required amenities to support this, apart from saturating basic, social and digital infrastructure in the clusters within a period of 3 years.

At the end of the Mission period, the country will have 300 Rurban clusters which will be ODF, green, agro based and thematic clusters based on skilled manpower and access to economic opportunities.

10. **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** was launched with the objective of creating model Gram Panchayats in all parts of the country. The development of SAGY Gram Panchayats takes place under the guidance of Hon'ble Members of Parliament through the convergence and implementation of existing Government Schemes and Programmes without allocating any additional funds.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to the housing and urban development in India.

The ministry also published the National City Rating, which ranked the cleanest cities in India, under which Indore was rated as the cleanest.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a Mission to provide HFA by 2022 and is being implemented from 2015. It provides central assistance to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other implementing agencies through States/UTs for in-situ Rehabilitation of existing slum dwellers using land as a resource through private participation; Credit Linked Subsidy; Affordable Housing in Partnership and Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancement.

   So far, 37.5 lakh houses have been approved for funding under the Mission. A number of 17.32 lakh houses have been grounded of which construction of 4.68 lakh houses have been completed since launch of the Mission.

   To fast track the construction of sanctioned houses, the Ministry has identified 16 new technologies for mass housing construction and further issued schedule of rates for eight new construction technologies and building materials for adoption among States/UTs. In addition, the Ministry is also organizing Global Housing Construction Technology Challenge (GHCTC) to co-opt internationally acclaimed rapid mass housing construction technologies and to help States/UTs to construct sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) to address housing shortage in the urban areas by 2022.

2. Under Smart City Mission, Smart Cities have been selected in 3 Rounds, based on All India Competition. Process is on for the selection of balance 10 cities. Out of the 90 Smart Cities selected so far, 77 have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

   Value Capture Finance (VCF) Policy Framework was released by the Ministry on 28th February 2017. It is an important tool for generating much needed additional finances required by the States/ Cities for funding the infrastructural investments. So far, 17 States have already engaged professional firms for preparing the VCF framework. This is expected to help the States to generate additional revenue.

3. Real Estate (Regulation And Development) Act is aimed at preventing diversion of funds and protect the buyers interest and help in curbing black money and speculation leading to price control. The Act is aimed at ensuring operations transparent project information and promote informed choice for buyers. The disclosure of 'carpet area' for sale will curb unfair trade practices. The Act along with the Rules will ensure timely completion of projects. This will help to achieve the PM's vision of "HOUSING FOR ALL". The Agreement for Sale Rules would end one-sided agreements and end consumer exploitation and power asymmetry prevalent in the sector. Indefinite delay in dispute resolution through civil courts will end with fast track dispute resolution mechanism.

   A total of 26 States/UTs have notified Real Estate Rules under the Act. 6 States/UTs have established permanent Real Estate Regulatory Authority and 23 States/UTs have established interim Real Estate Regulatory Authority. In Gujarat, permanent Appellate Tribunal has been set up and 10 States/UTs have appointed interim Appellate Tribunal under the Real Estate Act. Further 14 States/UTs have made a fully operationalized web portal for enabling online registration of Real Estate projects and agents. Around 20,000 projects have been registered with the Regulatory Authorities across the country.

4. Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban: During the year 2017 an additional 1,472 cities have been declared as ODF taking the total number to 1,977; 42.72 lakh Individual Household Toilets (IHHL) and 2.43 lakh Community and Public Toilet seats (CT/PT) have been constructed. Further, 8 states (AP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh) and 3 UTs (Chandigarh, Andaman and Daman & Diu) have become ODF.

    To enable people to easily locate public toilets and give feedback on the same, a major initiatives of mapping all public toilets in the country on Google Maps has been launched.

5. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, in order to foster a healthy competition between cities for improving cleanliness standards, conducted Swachh Survekshan survey for the rating of 73 cities in January 2016 followed by 'Swachh Survekshan-2017' conducted in Jan-February 2017 ranking 434 cities. Indore secured 1st rank in 'Swachh Survekshan' 2017. The third round will be conducted from 4th January to 10th March, 2018 covering all 4,041 statutory towns in India. The Ministry has introduced several initiatives to inculcate behavioural change, i.e., a National Helpline Number - 1969 - has been launched, to address queries from citizens around Swachh Bharat Mission. A 'Swachhata' app has been launched as a grievance redressal platform for any complaints from citizens related to cleanliness.

    SBM-Urban has introduced an online educational portal where 135 best practices have been uploaded, in the form of training modules. 40,000 Swachhagrahis have been selected across cities, to work with communities. Various multimedia campaigns such as Asli Tarakki (to promote toilet usage and construction), Compost Banao Compost Apnao (for promoting production and consumption of city compost), Har din do bin (to promote source segregation of waste), and Swachh Shouchalaya (to promote responsible usage of public toilets) have been launched.

    A massive campaign, namely, "segregation of waste at source", has been launched with the objective that all ULBs will be practicing source segregation. Currently, 55,913 wards out of 82,607 wards are practicing door to door collection, and 22.99% of waste produced is being processed. Waste-to-Compost (WTC) plants: 148 Plants are operational with 15 lakh MTPA compost production capacity and 300 Plants with 23.6 lakh MTPA capacity are in progress. Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants: 9 Plants are operational with 94.1 MW capacity and 50 Plants with 398 MW capacity are in progress. It has been made mandatory for DISCOMs to purchase WtE power.

6. During the last three years, nine new Metro Projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Lucknow, Chennai (Extension), Pune and Noida-Greater Noida and Delhi Metro extension with a total length of about 180 km at a total cost of about Rs. 49,000 crore.

7. Metro Rail Policy- 2017 was unveiled during the year. This policy will fill up the much needed gap for ascertaining and enhancing the feasibility of metro rail projects from economic, social and environmental perspective. It also aims to focus on systematic planning and implementation of metro rail systems and act as a guide to state governments for preparing comprehensive proposals for metro rail projects. This policy will also enable greater private participation and innovative financing through Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Value Capture Finance (VCF). It also provides for rigorous appraisal process. This policy suggests a range of Public Private Partnership models. It focuses on maximizing non-fare box revenues and revenues through commercial developments at stations and other allocated land.

8. MoHUA has issued National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policy which aims to promote planned and sustainable urban centers with high density, mixed land-use development within an influence zone of 500-800 meters of mass transit stations. The policy aims to enable transformation of cities from private vehicle dependent development to public transport oriented development.

TOD increases the accessibility of the transit stations by creating pedestrian and Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) friendly infrastructure like footpaths and cycle tracks that benefit large number of people, thereby increasing the ridership of the transit facility and improving the economic and financial viability of the system. Many cities have strengthened their public transport by developing Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) such as metro rails and Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRTS). The national TOD policy will help these cities to formulate city specific policies to efficiently use these systems.

9. Under NULM, during the last three years, 8,37,764 urban poor have been imparted skill training to improve employment opportunities.

   The scope of NULM has been enhanced to cover all statutory towns and it has been renamed as DAY-NULM. The primary target of DAY-NULM is urban poor, including urban homeless and particular emphasis is laid on mobilisation of vulnerable sections of urban population such as SCs, STs minorities, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, destitute, migrant labourers, and especially vulnerable occupational groups such as street vendors, rag pickers, domestic workers, beggars, construction workers, etc.

10. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households and is under implementation in the States/UTs since April 2014. The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, to be decided by the State/UT as per local need and capability. The primary target of DAY-NULM is urban poor, including urban homeless and particular emphasis is laid on mobilisation of vulnerable sections of urban population.

11. A system of ranking of states and cities named as SPARK (Systematic Progressive Analytical Real-time Ranking) has been put in place by the Ministry to infuse competitive spirit amongst the States and cities. Personalised After-training Rapid Assessment System (PARAS) has been launched by the Ministry to seek feedback regarding skill training directly from the beneficiaries. Also, mid-term evaluation and impact assessment of the Mission has been initiated. Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into with UrbanClap for placement of skill-trained candidates in high-demand sectors in sixteen major cities in the country.

12. AMRUT launched in June 2015 for 500 cities has achieved significant milestones during the year 2017. From 2017 onwards, a set of 5 transformational reforms have been identified and enhanced provision of Rs. 10,000 crores is proposed as reform incentive for the next three years.

   The thrust areas of the Mission are Water Supply, Sewerage & Septage Management, Storm Water Drainage, Green Spaces & Park, Urban Transport: NMT, Reforms Management, and Capacity Building.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** is a Government of India ministry, established in September 2001, which functions as the nodal Department of the Central Government to deal with matters related to the socio-economic development of the eight States of North-east India. (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim). It acts as a facilitator between the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments of the North Eastern Region in the economic development including removal of infrastructural bottlenecks, provision of basic minimum services, creating an environment for private investment and to remove impediments to lasting peace and security in the North Eastern Region.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. The President of India in November promulgated the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 to exempt bamboo grown in non-forest areas from the definition "Tree", thereby dispensing with

the requirement of obtaining a permit for felling of bamboo for economic use. The decision following the approval by the Union Cabinet has been hailed as historic because the bamboo was legally defined as a "Tree" under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 which proved to be a major impediment for bamboo cultivation by non-farmers on non-forest land.

2. The Government constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog. The Committee would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism. Ministry of DoNER serves as the coordinating point.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports functions under the overall guidance of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports. In April, 2008, two separate Departments, namely, Department of Youth Affairs and Department of Sports, were created under the Ministry, each Department under the charge of a Secretary to the Government of India.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. Training Center for Para Athletes at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It will have the World Class facilities where Para athletes will be trained for various International Competitions including Asian Games, Common Wealth Games and Olympic Games.

2. International Boxing Academy: A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) involving International Boxing Association (AIBA), Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and Sports Authority of India (SAI) was signed to set up boxing academy at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi and Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex, Rohtak.

3. High level committee under the chairmanship of AS & FA with representatives from athletes, an advocate and a senior officer of MYAS and a sports journalist (all women) has been constituted to resolve the grievances and complaints of women sports persons.

4. India conducted successfully 22nd Asian Athletic Championship, 2017 (06-09 July, 2017) at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India topped in the medal tally by winning 29 medals (12 Gold, 5 Silver, and 12 Bronze).

5. The first Grameen Marathon for the youth of rural area in Delhi (Nizampur village) with around 15,000 participants. Objective of such sporting events is also to provide a platform to talented youngsters from rural and tribal regions and to help them grow and to train them further so that they can represent India at world stage.

6. The first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav was organized. The Rural Games aimed at popularising the indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc. and also had fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens to add the fun element in the games to convey the message that every age category needs to take up and practice sports.

7. Sports Talent Search Portal was launched to spot the best talent from among the young population of the country. The portal will provide a transparent platform for talented youth to upload their achievements. Shortlisted applicants will undergo selection trials and those who pass the trials will be offered admission to SAI schemes.

8. India Australia Sports Partnership will advance India-Australia cooperation in four areas- Athlete and Coach training and Development, Sports Science, Sports Governance & Integrity and Grass-root participation.

9. The Ministry has approved the constitution of an Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) based on the recommendations of the Olympic Task Force for preparation of a comprehensive action plan, including short-term and medium to long-term measures for effective participation of Indian sportspersons in the next three Olympic Games to be held in 2020 (Tokyo), 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles).

10. On the recommendation of the Olympic Task Force, the Ministry has decided to give stipend of Rs. 50,000 per month to all the athletes selected under Target Olympic Podium Scheme to meet pocket expenses during their preparation for participation in international sports events.

11. The Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India programme, which aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development. The revamped Khelo India Programme would impact the entire sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure and sports economy.

12. Mission XI Million is a joint programme, of this Ministry, All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) to popularise football across the country.

Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency to formulate national policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism. In the process, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other stakeholders in the sector including various Central Ministries/agencies, the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and the representatives of the private sector. Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India. It has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind - from the most specialized to the unskilled and hence can play a major role in creation of additional employment opportunities. It can also play an important role in achieving growth with equity. It has the main objective of increasing and facilitating tourism in India. Augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, etc. are some of the responsibilities of the Ministry.

Following initiatives have been taken:

1. India's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017 has also shown a 25 places jump from 2013. Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40th as compared to 52nd in 2015 and 65th in 2013.

2. Development of tourism infrastructure is being given priority to provide a better tourism experience to the tourists. Theme based circuits are being developed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme spanning the entire country.

3. Holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations is being undertaken under the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme.

4. Ministry of Tourism is according priority for holistic development of tourism destinations into world class destinations using a cluster approach including development of infrastructure, amenities, interpretation centres and skill development by achieving synergy and convergence with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Industry Stakeholders. As a step in this direction, Ministry of Tourism has recently launched the 'Adopt a Heritage' project. Heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become 'Monument Mitras' for developing amenities and facilities at these sites under this programme.

5. Paryatan Parv was organized covering 31 States and Union Territories. The main objective of the event was to focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and

reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All". The event included cultural performances, food festivals, tourism exhibitions, displays of handicrafts & handlooms, yoga sessions, tourism & heritage walks, tourism related competitions for students & public, excursions trips to tourist sites, sensitization & awareness programmes, seminars & workshops etc.

6. Ministry of Tourism launched "Incredible India 2.0 Campaign" which marks a shift from the present generic promotions being undertaken across the world, to market specific promotional plans and product specific creatives, with greater focus on digital presence and social media. The Incredible India 2.0 Campaign is being released in the prime existing markets as well as important potential markets. Niche tourism products like Heritage Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Cruise Tourism, Rural Tourism, Wellness & Medical Tourism, MICE, Golf, etc. are being promoted through the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign.

7. Ministry of Tourism participated in the "International Tourism Bourse" (ITB) held in Berlin, Germany and "World Travel Mart" (WTM) held in London.

8. Ministry of Tourism as part of its Rail Tourism Policy is collaborating with MoR for manufacturing of three glass top coaches to be deployed on scenic rail routes of the country. These glass top coaches are fitted with extra wide comfortable seats, wide windows, single observation window at one end, glass roof, rotatable seats, automated sliding doors, mini pantry and wider body side door. Two glass top coaches were launched on the Vishakhapatnam-Araku Valley and Dadar to Madgaon route. The third glass top coach is being refurbished to make it suitable for plying on the Qazigund - Baramullah route in Jammu and Kashmir.

YEAR END REVIEW OF ECONOMIC SECTOR

This covers the Year End Review of the following Ministries:

1. *Ministry of Finance*

2. *Ministry of Corporate Affairs*

3. *Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises*

4. *Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution*

5. *Ministry of Food Processing Industries*

Ministry of Finance

1. Overall fundamentals of the economy remained strong for the Year 2017-18

Macroeconomic Indicator	For Year 2017-18
GDP Growth Rate (%)	6.0 (Up to Q2)
CPI	3.6% (Q2)
WPI	3.6% (Q2)
Current Account Deficit	US$ 14.3 billion (Q1)
Trade Deficit	US$ 41.2 billion (Q1)
External Debt to GDP Ratio (%)	20.2
FDI Inflows (As on October, 2017)	US$ 1,350.93 million
Foreign Exchange Reserves (As on December 1, 2017)	US$ 401,942.0 million

Manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services and trade, hotels, transport & communication, and services related to broadcasting sectors, registered growth of over 6.0 percent in Q2 of 2017-18 over Q2 of 2016-17.

2. Moody's Investors Service upgraded Government of India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed the outlook on the rating to stable from positive after a period of 13 years in recognition of the Government's commitment to macro stability which led to low inflation, declining deficit and prudent external balance along with Government's fiscal consolidation programs.

3. India's ranking in World Bank's Doing Business Report rose to 100 - 30 places up over its rank of 130 in the Doing Business Report 2017 - highest jump in rank of any country in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Report, 2018. This made India the only country in South Asia and BRICS economies to feature among most improved economies of the EoDB Report this year.

4. After Demonetization with High Denomination Notes been brought down by 50% of value in circulation, 50 lakh new bank accounts opened to enable cashless transaction of wages, 26.6% increase in number of taxpayers added from FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17 and 27.95% increase in number of e-returns filed, the value of IMPS transactions increasing almost 59% from August 2016 to August 2017, 2.24 lakh shell companies were struck off, undisclosed income worth Rs. 29,213 crore was detected and admitted and revenues of the ULBs across the country increased.

5. Constitution of the Fifteenth Finance Commission was notified on 27th November 2017 to look into issues of distribution between Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be divided between them; the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India and to review the current status of the finance, deficit, debt levels, cash balances and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the States, and to recommend a fiscal consolidation roadmap for sound fiscal management, taking into account the responsibility of the Central Government and State Governments to adhere to appropriate levels of general and consolidated government debt and deficit levels, while fostering higher inclusive growth in the country, guided by the principles of equity, efficiency and transparency.

6. The Logistics Sector was granted Infrastructure status to meet the need for integrated Logistics sector development in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries. It will thus enable the Logistics Sector to avail infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits, access to larger amounts of funds as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), access to longer tenor funds from insurance companies and pension funds and be eligible to borrow from India Infrastructure Financing Company Limited (IIFCL).

7. As a significant milestone in the operationalization of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), NIIF signed its first investment agreement with a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) to mobilize 1 billion USD over the long term into the fund.

8. GST

Key features

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on the midnight of 30 June 2017 and came into effect from 1 July 2017.

- GST is administered by both Centre and States and has subsumed several state and central indirect taxes such as State VAT, Central Excise Duty, Purchase Tax and Entry Tax.

- GST is bringing transparency and accountability in business transactions along with ensuring ease of doing business and rationalization in tax rates.

- GST has removed the hurdles in inter-State transactions resulting in the setting up of a common market.

- GST allows taxpayers to take credit of taxes paid on inputs (input tax credit) and utilize the same for the payment of output tax.

GST evolving and responding to needs of the hour

- Subsequent to the rollout of GST, 22 States in India abolished their check posts for smooth movement of goods across the country on 3rd July 2017.

- Goods and Services Network (GSTN) released a simple excel based template to facilitate taxpayers in preparing and filing their monthly returns with maximum ease and minimal cost. The template is available on GST Common portal and can be used by taxpayers to collate all invoice related data on a regular basis. The offline tool was unveiled on 17th July 2017.

- The Government of India set up a Central Monitoring Committee on 21st July 2017, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, to monitor the impact of GST.

- On 16th November 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of National Anti-profiteering Authority, an apex body, to ensure that the full benefits of input tax credits and reduced GST rates on supply of goods or services flow to the consumers. The authority, led by Shri B.N. Sharma, is playing a key role in bolstering the confidence of consumers with regards to GST.

9. Direct tax

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified new Safe Harbour Regime on 8th June, 2017 to minimise transfer pricing disputes, provide certainty to taxpayers, align safe harbour margins with industry standards, and to enlarge the scope of safe harbour transactions.

- Aaykar Setu, a new taxpayer service module, was launched on 10th July 2017 to provide better taxpayer services and minimise the direct physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities. The module provides live chat facility, compiles various tax tools, generates dynamic updates and includes important links to several processes of the ITD.

- Income Tax Department undertook a slew of measures to widen the tax base and bring about efficiency, transparency and fairness in tax administration. Some of the initiatives include - introduction of Single Page ITR-1 (SAHAJ) Form for taxpayers with income up to Rs. 50 lakhs and slashing of corporate tax to 25% for companies with turnover of up to Rs. 50 crore. With these initiatives, the numbers of taxpayers increased significantly from 4.72 crore in F.Y. 2012-13 to 6.26 crore during F.Y. 2016-17 as of 18th September 2017.

- As part of the Government's efforts to widen the tax base, Direct Tax collections for F.Y. 2017-2018 reached Rs. 4.39 lakh crore up to October 2017, accounting for 15.2% growth from the corresponding period last year.

- Government constituted a Task Force on 22nd November 2017 to review the Income-tax Act, 1961 and draft a new Direct Tax Law in consonance with economic needs of the country.

10. Combatting corruption and pilferage

- A task force was constituted in July 2017 to effectively tackle the malpractices by shell companies.

- The Government of India undertook various measures to curb benami transactions across the country. Some of the measures include setting up of 24 Benami Prohibition Units (BPUs) for taking effective action under the Benami Act and empowering relevant authorities to attach and eventually confiscate benami properties.

- Department of Financial Services advised banks in September 2017 to put restrictions on bank accounts of over two lakh struck-off companies and use enhanced diligence while dealing with companies.

- The Income Tax Department intensified actions under the new Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 w.e.f. 1st November, 2016 and framed the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Rules, 2016.

11. With the aim of using Exchange Traded Funds as a vehicle for divestment of shares to meet the target for CPSE's disinvestment in 2017-18 set at Rs. 72,500 crore, the Government launched a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) by the name BHARAT 22 on 14th November 2017, managed by ICICI Prudential, targeting an initial amount of about Rs. 8,000 crore. Bharat-22 is a unique blend of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Compared to energy heavy CPSE ETF, Bharat 22 is a well-diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials and Utilities). The strength of this ETF lies in the specially created Index S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEX and has been demonstrated in its performance from the time of its announcement in August 2017 wherein it has out-performed the NIFTY-50 and Sensex and raised about Rs. 14,500 crore.

12. Following table shows the other major disinvestments successfully done by the Department in the FY 2017-18.

Name of CPSES	% of GOIS Shares Disinvested	Receipts (In Crores)	GOIS Shareholding Post Disinvestment
OIL	5.6	1135.26	66.13%
NALCO	9.2125	1191.73	65.38%
HUDCO	10.193	1207.35	89.81%
SUUTI	Strategic Disinvestment	41.53.65	-
NIA	11.65	7653.32	85.44%
NTPC	6.63	9117.92	63.11%
GIC	12.5	9704.16	85.78%

(SOURCE - DIPAM SITE)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

True to the motto of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) of "Empowering Business, Protecting Investors" and its function as Regulator, Integrator, Facilitator and Educator, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been actively and affirmatively engaged in improving both the quantity and quality of implementation of laws related to Corporate Governance.

The Ministry has given a major thrust to check the menace of black money by striking-off about 2.10 lakh shell companies from the Register of Companies and disqualifying more than 2 lakh Directors of such companies from holding any such position on the Board of Directors of any such company or any other Company for that matter.

• **Initiatives related to Shell companies**

It was decided that the Directors of all such shell companies which have not filed returns for three or more years, will be disqualified from being appointed in any other company as director or from being reappointed as director in any of the company where they had been directors, thereby compelling them to vacate office. It is expected that as a result of this exercise, at least two to three lakh directors on such companies will get disqualified.

It would help in checking the menace of black money and it would promote an ecosystem of "Ease of Doing Business" and enhancing investors' confidence to which the present Government is fully committed.

Taking forward the initiative launched by the Government of India to curb the menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money in the country and prevent misuse of corporate structure by shell companies for various illegal purposes, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have now concluded a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange.

The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between CBDT and MCA on an automatic and regular basis. It will enable sharing of specific information such as Permanent Account Number (PAN) data in respect of corporates, Income Tax returns (ITRs) of corporates, financial statements filed with the Registrar by corporates, returns of allotment of shares, audit reports and statements of financial transactions (SFT) received from banks relating to corporates.

• **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has seen hectic activity in the year 2017. To speed-up resolution of companies that are in trouble, IBBI in 2017 amended its Corporate Insolvency

Resolution Process Regulations to ensure that as part of due diligence, prior to approval of a Resolution Plan, the antecedents, credit worthiness and credibility of a Resolution Applicant, including promoters, are taken into account by the Committee of Creditors.

To improve the Regulatory Environment, IBBI notified the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017 on 31st March, 2017.

These Regulations provided that ordinarily a person should not hold more than 10% of paid-up equity share capital or voting power of an information utility, while allowing certain specified persons to hold up to 25%.

These further provided that a person may hold up to 51% of paid-up equity share capital or total voting power of an information utility till the expiry of three years from its registration. IBBI has amended the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017 on 29th September, 2017.

The IBBI notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016.

The Regulations provide the process from initiation of voluntary liquidation of a corporate person - companies, limited liability partnerships and any other persons incorporated with limited liability - till its dissolution. The Regulations came into effect from 1st April, 2017.

The IBBI notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. The Regulations provide for a framework for registration and regulation of information utilities. An Information Utility constitutes a key pillar of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Ecosystem, the other three being the Adjudicating Authority (National Company Law Tribunal and Debt Recovery Tribunal), the IBBI and Insolvency Professionals.

On the Regulatory level, IBBI notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Fast Track Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2017. These regulations provide the process from initiation of insolvency resolution of eligible corporate debtors till its conclusion with approval of the resolution plan by the Adjudicating Authority. The process in these cases shall be completed within a period of 90 days, as against 180 days in other cases. However, the Adjudicating Authority may, if satisfied, extend the period of 90 days by a further period up to 45 days for completion of the process.

- **Initiatives for Transparency**

Besides above, MCA put a major thrust on transparency through digitization of records and taking its core processes as Regulator and Facilitator online. The MCA website is regularly updated and caters to a wide range of individuals and companies. The information on the website is standardized, thus eliminating the possibility of arbitrary intervention. The ultimate beneficiary is the end user as MCA and its related branches communicate and interact with public online. Feedback from the professionals and corporations are sought online, thus making the process of gathering intelligentsia and feedback generation streamlined.

- **Initiatives by Competition Commission of India**

On the other hand, Competition Commission of India (CCI) is actively engaged in ensuring a level-playing field in the developing and market-driven economy in India. It takes suo-moto cognizance besides taking action against unfair practices on complaints and appeals received from various entities. It also carries-out Workshops on issues related to Corporate Governance.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed penalties on many companies for rigging tenders and for following unfair practices by both private and public enterprises.

- **For Corporate Governance**

To promote conscience in Corporate Governance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has instituted National CSR Awards to recognise and promote corporate initiatives in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to achieve inclusive growth along with inclusive and sustainable development. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is rendering technical and logistics support to the Ministry in conduct of the Awards.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), with its one Principal Bench in New Delhi and 10 Regional Benches with one each in New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai, has been actively involved in arbitration and settlement related issues of corporate governance. The issues of M/s Jaypee and M/s Unitech are already in the Hon'ble Supreme Court after having seen arbitration proceedings in NCLT.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) envisions a vibrant MSME Sector by promoting growth and development of the MSME Sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries, in cooperation with the concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments and other Stakeholders, through providing support to existing enterprises and encouraging setting-up of new enterprises.

The year 2017 has been very significant for the Ministry of MSME during which it took various initiatives to promote MSME Sector including launching of Digital MSME Scheme, augmented the package for supporting MSEs, took various initiatives to support MSMEs in the backdrop of demonetization, work started to establish Technology Centers in eight cities, launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal and Public Procurement Portal among others.

The Major Initiatives of the Ministry during this year are mentioned below:

- **Digital MSME Scheme launched:**

The Digital MSME Scheme is revolving around Cloud Computing which is emerging as a cost effective and viable alternative in comparison to in-house IT infrastructure installed by MSMEs. In Cloud Computing, MSMEs use the internet to access common as well as tailor-made IT infrastructure including software for managing their business processes. Cloud Computing is free from the burden of investment on hardware/software and infrastructural facilities. This Scheme would encourage MSMEs towards Cloud Computing for ICT adoption.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Following are the major highlights of the activities of the Department of Food & Public Distribution during the year 2017:

- **Implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**

a) Persistent efforts has resulted in universal implementation of the NFSA, 2013 in all 36 States & UTs, benefiting 80.72 crore persons in the country by providing them access to highly subsidized foodgrains at Rs.1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively.

b) The prices of foodgrains specified under NFSA - Rs.3 per kg for rice, Rs.2 per kg for wheat and Re.1 per kg for coarse grains - which were valid upto July, 2016, have been continued upto June, 2018.

c) During the Financial Year 2017-18 (upto 13.12.2017), Rs. 2,959.22 crore has been released to State Governments as Central assistance to meet the expenditure incurred on intra-State movement of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margins. Such an arrangement has been made for the first time under NFSA. Under erstwhile TPDS, State Governments were required to either meet this expenditure on their own or pass it on to beneficiaries (other than AAY beneficiaries).

- **End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations**

a) As an outcome of digitization of Ration Card/beneficiary records, de-duplication due to Aadhaar seeding, transfer/migration/deaths, change in economic status of beneficiaries, and during the run-up to and implementation of NFSA, a total of 2.75 Crore ration cards have been deleted/cancelled by State/UT Governments during the years 2013 to 2017 (up to November 2017). Based on this the Government has been able to achieve an estimated 'Rightful Targeting of Food Subsidies' of about Rs. 17,500 Crore per annum.

b) To modernize and to bring about transparency in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Department is implementing scheme on end-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations at a total cost of 884 Crore on cost-sharing basis with the States/UTs. The Scheme provides for digitization of ration cards & beneficiary records, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms.

c) Key achievements under the scheme are as follows:-

Sl.	Schematic Activity	Achievement
1	Digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries data	Completed in all States/ UTs.
2	Online allocation of food grains	Started in 30 States/UTs.
3	Computerization of Supply Chain Management	Completed in 20 States/UTs, and the work is in progress in the remaining States/UTs.
4	Transparency portals	Set up in all States/UTs
5	Grievance redressal facilities	Either or both toll-free helplines/Online registration facility is available in all States/UTs.

d) To identify and weed-out duplicate/ineligible beneficiaries, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies, seeding of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with their Ration Cards is being done by States and UTs. Presently, 81.35% of all ration cards have been seeded.

e) As part of the scheme, electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices are being installed at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution of foodgrains through authentication and electronic record-keeping of the sale transactions. As on date, 2.83 lakh FPSs out of total 5.27 lakh FPSs have ePoS devices in 23 States/UTs.

- **Launch of hybrid model of DBT:**

A pilot scheme on DBT (In-cash & In-kind) on the pattern of "PAHAL" has been launched in Nagri Block of Ranchi District, Jharkhand w.e.f. October 2017. Under this scheme, the subsidy amount (economic cost, less the central issue price) is directly transferred into the bank account of the eligible NFSA beneficiaries in advance in the beginning of the month. The beneficiary then can purchase the foodgrains as per entitlement from the Fair Price Shop at economic cost of the foodgrains after authentication on Point of Sale (PoS) device. Central Issue Price is contributed by the beneficiary. This model enables continued support to the procurement exercise from farmers at MSP, while dis-incentivising any leakage of food grains from PDS.

- **Launch of ePoS transactions portal:**

Annavitran Portal has been implemented to display electronic transactions made through ePoS devices for distribution of subsidized foodgrains to beneficiaries. This portal also shows all India picture of Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries besides allocated and distributed quantity of foodgrains up to district level.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Major strides were undertaken by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2017 under the leadership of Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Highlights of the major achievements are as follows;

- **Investors Portal 'Nivesh Bandhu' Launched** - At the inaugural ceremony of World Food India, PM launched Nivesh Bandhu - Investors' Portal on the occasion. The unique portal is aimed at bringing together information on Central and State government policies and incentives provided for the food-processing sector. The portal maps resources upto the local level, with processing requirements. It is also a platform for business networking, for farmers, processors, traders, and logistics operators. Seven publications of Ministry of Food Processing Industries to help investors in Food Processing Sector in making informed decisions have been included in the portal. The portal also includes Food Map of India. The Food Map enables investor to take decision with regard to locating their projects as the food map showed mapping of the potential of food processing in surplus production areas. The Prime Minister also released a Coffee table book and commemorative stamp on Indian Cuisines.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana**

  The Schemes of the Ministry were restructured and new schemes were approved by Cabinet and launched as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

  The SAMPADA Scheme aims to target creation of Infrastructure and increasing capacities of processing and preservation in entire supply chain of food processing sector right from farm gate to retail outlets. The New Scheme will help in integrating food processing units and food trade with the farmers creating huge opportunities for employment and increasing income of the farmers. PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

- **Mega Food Parks:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries is focusing on boosting the food processing industry so that agriculture sector grows exponentially and become a major contributor to doubling the farmer's income and aid 'Make In India' initiative of the government. To give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country. Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach. Common facilities and enabling infrastructure is created at Central Processing Centre and facilities for primary processing and storage is created near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) and Collection Centers (CCs). Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

- **National Food Processing Policy.**

  Approach Paper on the National Food Processing Policy has been uploaded on MoFPI website and suggestions are invited from all stakeholders and general public. National Food Processing Policy shall focus on building India's NATIONAL FOOD GRID and NATIONAL COLD CHAIN GRID and create Retail Markets every nook and corner of the country.

YEAR END REVIEW OF SOCIAL SECTOR

This covers the Year End Review of the following Ministries

1. *Ministry of Tribal Affairs*

2. *Ministry of Women and Child Development*

3. *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*

4. *Ministry of Human Resource Development*

5. *Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship*

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

The ministry was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (India) to have a more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian Society. The functions of the ministry are:

1. Tribal Welfare-Planning, Policy formulation, Research and Training.

2. Tribal development including scholarships to STs.

3. Promotion of voluntary efforts in development of STs.

4. Administrative Ministry with respect to matters concerning Scheduled Areas.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development for Scheduled Tribes.

Following are the highlights of the activities of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2017.

• Ministry of Tribal Affairs continued its endeavors for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) through especially tailored educational, infrastructure and livelihood schemes to fill in for critical gaps. Allocation of Business Rules (ABR) of the Government now mandates this Ministry to monitor 'Tribal Sub-Plan' (now called as 'Scheduled Tribe Component') funds of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog. In order to consistently improve public service delivery, Ministry of Tribal Affairs continuously reviews various schematic initiatives; the recent ones being rationalization of scholarship schemes, onboarding of scheme on DBT, online portal for NGO Grants etc.

• **Monitoring of funds for tribal development:** There are 32 Central Ministries and Departments having 'Tribal Sub-Plan' (TSP) funds [now called as 'Scheduled Tribe Component'(STC)] catering to specific tribal development in various sectors through 273 different schemes.

Allocation of Business Rules (ABR) has been amended in January, 2017 whereby Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has been given mandate for monitoring of STC funds of Central Ministries based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog. An online monitoring system has been put in place with web address stcmis.nic.in. The framework envisages monitoring of allocations for welfare of STs under the schemes, monitoring of expenditure vis-à-vis allocations, monitoring of physical performance and outcome monitoring.

The framework also envisages to capture location wise details to ensure accountability and targeted spending. Further, nodal officer has been nominated in the line Ministries/Departments for coordination and monitoring. The allocations under schemes for welfare of STs have already been allotted a separate budget head for avoiding possibility of diversion of funds. Ministry/Department-wise performance shall be reviewed on a half yearly basis jointly by MoTA and NITI Aayog.

With the implementation of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) complete transparency and monitoring of funds released is ensured by the Ministry. All agencies receiving funds from the Ministry on 100% basis and sub-agencies that receive funds from the main agency have been on boarded in the system. This ensures tracking of utilisation of funds by the implementing agencies.

- **Scheme for Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)** is a Government of India scheme for model residential school for Indian tribals (Scheduled Tribes) across India.

- **Construction of Museums for Tribal Freedom Fighters:** The Government desires and is planning permanent museums in the States where Tribals lived, struggled against the Britishers and refused to be bowed down. The Government will work to make such museums in different States so that the coming generations may know how our tribals were far ahead in making sacrifices. Ministry has decided to construct a state-of-the-art Tribal Museum of national importance in Gujarat.

- Ministry has enhanced the allocation of funds for the development of particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from Rs. 270 crores in 2016-17 to Rs. 340 crores in 2017-18. State Government have been given the flexibility of utilizing the funds using the gaps identified through Base Line Survey. In order to ensure the overall and particular development of PVTGs, emphasis is being given on Micro planning using GIS mapping of tribes. Emphasis in the Comprehensive cum Development (CCD) is for preserving traditional architecture, traditional medical practices and cuisine and maintaining the heritage and culture of PVTGs.

- **Scholarships:**

  I. Pre Matric Scholarship.

  II. Post Matric Scholarship.

  III. National fellowship and Scholarship Scheme for higher education of ST students.

  IV. Scholarship Scheme: NSP is used for inviting application from top class students. Tuition fees are being disbursed directly to the institute while maintaining allowance for students to student's individual accounts directly online through PFMS. Family Income ceiling for eligibility increased from Rs. 4.50 lakhs to Rs. 6.00 lakhs.

- **Aadi Mahotsav** Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with TRIFED had organized a National Tribal Festival from 16thNovember, 2017 to 30th November, 2017. The Festival commenced with a tribute to Birsa Munda, legendary tribal leader, freedom fighter and folk hero on his 142nd birth anniversary through an advertisement in print and social media on 15th November, 2017.

  The Aadi Mahotsav, a celebration of the spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce, was successfully conducted with 15 days of engagement with lakhs of Delhi residents.

  The Festival showed exquisite craftsmanship of tribal artisans. This included beautiful sarees, dress materials, jewellery, bamboo & cane products, paintings and hundreds of other items.

Ministry of Women and Child Development

The Department of Women and Child Development was set up in the year 1985 as a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to give the much needed impetus to the holistic development of women and children. In the year 2006, the Department has been upgraded to a Ministry.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is responsible for overall development of women and children in the country. Detailed information about the child development, women development schemes and programmes, Integrated Child Protection scheme and details of anti-trafficking activities are given. Information about the Food and Nutrition Board and budgeting for gender equity is provided. One can also find legislations for protection of women and children rights.

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development launched several new initiatives and consolidated on those of the previous two years during the year 2016. Some of the key initiatives this year included launch of POCSO e-Box, Mahila e-Haat, passage of Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Rajya Sabha, expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016, expansion of One Stop Centre scheme, launch of SMPV scheme on ground, draft anti-trafficking bill, draft national policy for women, training of women panchayats, greater engagement with media to generate awareness among others.

During the year 2017, the Ministry of Women and Child Development made tremendous strides with approval and launch of several of its big initiatives like National Nutrition Mission , pan-India expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, launch of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Universal Scheme for Adolescent Girls, launch of Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme and a large number of measures for promotion of safety of women and children as well as leveraging ICT to ensure transparency, quick delivery of services as well as preventing leakages, among others.

- **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)**

Although malnutrition indices have shown a decline as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 4 in 2015-16 over NFHS-3 in 2005-06, the overall malnutrition scenario still continues to look bleak across the country. In NFHS-4, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS - 3 which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) which is a decline from the previous NFHS-3 levels which reported 35.5% women having chronic energy deficiency.

To deal with this problem of malnutrition on a war footing, the Government of India has approved setting-up of the National Nutrition Mission with a three year budget of Rs. 9,046.17 crores commencing from 2017-18. It ensures convergence with various programmes, i.e Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Scheme for Adolescent Girls of WCD Ministry; Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DW&S); Public Distribution System (PDS) of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (CAF&PD); Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD); Drinking Water & Toilets with Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Bodies through Ministry of Urban Development.

The Goals of NNM are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner during the next three years beginning from 2017-18 with fixed targets as under:

S.No	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce stunting in children (0-6 years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a
2.	Prevent and reduce under nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a
3.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children (6-59 months)	By 9% @ 3% p.a
4.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years	By 9% @ 3% p.a
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW)	By 6% @ 2% p.a

One of the key activities in project is Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of ICDS. Accordingly, a customized mobile based Common Application software (ICDS-CAS) has been developed. Anganwadi workers feed the information regarding the services delivered, through the mobile devices installed with ICDS-CAS application. Information entered by the AWWs is visible on the dashboard that can be accessed at Block, District, State and Centre Level at www.icds-cas.gov.in.

The roll-out of ICT-RTM has been initiated in 6 states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. A total of 70,000+ Smart Phone devices pre-installed with ICDS-CAS Software Application have been provided in these 6 States. 70,299 Anganwadi Workers have been trained in Phase-I in using the mobile application.

- **Pan-India expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme after successful implementation in 161 districts:**

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is one the flagship programmes of the Government, launched on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and address other related issues of disempowerment of women. It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development with focus on Awareness and Advocacy Campaign; Multi-sectoral action in select 161 districts (low on CSR); Effective enforcement of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act and enabling girls' education.

It has been successful in establishing improvement in CSR as a National Agenda. In addition, as per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2015-16, the girl's enrolment in secondary education has increased to 80.97% against 76% in 2013-14. Construction of girl's toilets in every school in selected districts has been achieved.

Based on the successful implementation in 161 districts, the Cabinet has approved the expansion of BBBP which would include Multi-sectoral intervention in 244 districts in addition to existing 161 districts, where physical implementation of the scheme will happen under the leadership of Collector/ DM/DC. 235 districts are to be covered through Alert District Media, Advocacy and Outreach, thus covering all the 640 districts (as per census 2011) of the Country to have a deeper positive impact on Child Sex Ratio.

- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**

The Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers. The Programme has since been named as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). The eligible beneficiaries would receive cash incentive of Rs. 6000 as per approved norms during pregnancy and after institutional delivery.

- **Universal Scheme for Adolescent Girls**

The Government has approved implementation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years to provide them nutrition support and vocational/skill training under non-nutrition. The scheme has been extended to additional 303 districts in addition to existing 205 districts across the country in 2017-18 targeting targets to provide nutrition to 40 lakh out of school adolescent girls of age 11-14 years in 2017-18.

- **Women Welfare initiatives**

    a) 2017 saw the launch of Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme to address women's issues at the village level. Over 300 thousand student volunteers are being sent out in 115 most backward districts under this new scheme. These volunteers, mobilised through local colleges, NCC, NSS, NYK etc., will work with local women to help them access government schemes for their benefit. District Level Centres for Women are also being set up in 640 districts under this scheme,

which will provide convergence at the district level for all initiatives related to women. State Resource Centres for Women will be the state-level mechanism to ensure coordination between blocks, districts, state and centre.

b) The National Policy for Women, 2017 was drafted and is currently under consideration. The Policy has been prepared keeping in view the socio-economic changes that have occurred since the last policy of 2001. It has taken into consideration multi-stakeholder feedback. Over 15,000 crowd-sourced ideas have been considered as part of the policy formulation process. The draft Policy addresses the diverse needs of women with regard to health including food security and nutrition; education; economy including agriculture, industry, labour, employment, NRI women, soft power, service sector, science and technology; governance and decision making; violence; creation of an enabling environment among others.

c) In a game-changing initiative for working women, Maternity leave has been extended to a period of 26 weeks (~6 months). Passport rules have been amended in favour of single mothers. Now either mother or father's name can be provided in application form and do not have to provide certificate of marriage/divorce during application.

d) In the last one year, 117 new One Stop Centres (OSCs) have become operational in addition to previous 51 OSCs. These 168 centres have offered support to over 70,000 women. They offer a single window to a range of services including access to police, medical, legal and psychological support and temporary shelter in 32 States/UTs. A further 150 OSCs are planned to be set up by 2020.

e) During 2017, 10 new Women Helplines with the uniform code '181' have been started taking total coverage now in 28 States. Over 11 lakh calls of women have been handled in the past one year or so.

f) To help women report incidents of Sexual harassment at the workplace, an online complaint mechanism - SHe-Box - has been established. Any female employee in the country, whether employed by the government or private, can file an online complaint of sexual harassment through this portal.

g) An amendment has been proposed by the Ministry to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 so as to make child marriages henceforth void ab initio or invalid in law. This would be an effective deterrent to the practice. In 2017, the Ministry also took up the issue for dichotomy between IPC Section 375 (rape) and the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012. In accordance with this, a decision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court this year has criminalized sex between a man and his underage wife - a big success for the Ministry. Further, since Panchayats are usually aware of the child marriages occurring in their villages, the Ministry is working to prosecute panchayat members for promoting or permitting solemnization of child marriages.

h) The Ministry has conceptualized, after extensive stakeholder consultations, a comprehensive Bill on Trafficking which clearly outlines and differentiates between Regulatory and Rehabilitation aspects. The Bill is under consideration.

i) A number of projects are being implemented under the Nirbhaya Fund, which is managed by the Ministry for the safety and security of women. Proposals amounting to more than Rs. 2,000 Cr. have been appraised in the last one year. A robust online MIS has been developed to track implementation of all the projects under Nirbhaya.

j) A focussed project for women's safety in 8 prominent cities is being prepared under the Nirbhaya Fund, which will cover Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Lucknow.

k) A project for Integrated Emergency Response Management under Nirbhaya is run by Railways. CCTVs and monitoring rooms are being installed at 983 major Railway Stations to provide 24x7 security to women passengers at stations and in trains.

l) Mahila Police Volunteers are being appointed to encourage women to report crime and are serving as role models in their communities. The scheme is currently operational in 5 States.

m) Central Victim Compensation Fund has been created under Nirbhaya, which is a corpus fund to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme. This is helping ensure adequate and timely support for women survivors of crime and violence.

n) To address the issue of easy availability of child sexual abuse material/imagery, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), with membership of MWCD has issued an advisory to all Internet Service Providers within the country to prevent the distribution and transmission of child sexual abuse material. Efforts are being made to develop a fast track mechanism (green channel) to complain and enable swift and speedy removal/blockage of online content offensive to women and children.

o) This year, the Ministry has taken many steps to build the capacities of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions so they may exercise their power effectively. These women are being trained through the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development to take up their responsibilities as development planners.

- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme:**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is executing an Integrated Child Protection Scheme for ensuring implementation of the JJ Act. The scheme has been brought under the Umbrella ICDS as its sub-scheme with the nomenclature as Child Protection Services. The erstwhile ICPS got EFC approval for the FFC period 2017-18 & 2019-20. The financial norms under the scheme were enhanced with the following important changes:

i. The maintenance grant for children of Rs. 2000 has been increased by 8% annually in homes, open shelter and SAAs.

ii. Increase in programmatic allocation for CIF Head Office & its regional centers, by Rs. 9.70 crore for protection services of CHILDLINE.

- **Cradle Baby Reception Center:**

The Ministry has stressed upon the need to place cradles at important locations such as hospitals, PHC, etc. to save the lives of unwanted new born babies and placing them in the adoption net managed by CARA with the intent to rehabilitate them in the familial care.

- **Celebration of Hausala 2017:**

WCD Ministry celebrated the child rights week by hosting an inter-Child Care Institution festival, "Hausla 2017" for the children who reside in child care institutions between 16-20th November 2017. During the week-long celebration children participated in various events like Bal Sansad, painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing. More than 400 children from child care institutions across the country participated in the event.

- **Khoya-Paya Portal:**

Citizen friendly web portal for Khoya Paya for reporting and searching missing children was launched in June, 2015.

- **Railway CHILDLINE:**

33 Railway stations which serve as 'source' and 'destination' centres for child trafficking have been identified & rescue services has been started in collaboration with Ministry of Railways. The initiative

is currently operating at 33 railway stations. Proposal for extending the service in 55 more new railway stations have been approved by the Ministry.

- **Swadhar Greh:**

Swadhar Greh Scheme targets the women victims of difficult circumstances and envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women. At present total 561 Swadhar Greh are functioning in the country benefiting 17,291 beneficiaries. In addition one Widow Home with the capacity of 1,000 inmates fully funded by the Ministry has been constructed at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.

- **DBT onboarding of ICDS Scheme:**

The Ministry has identified two components of ICDS Scheme, viz, (i) payment of honorarium to Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helpers; and (ii) providing supplementary nutrition to pregnant women & lactating mothers and children in the age group of six months to six years, for transfer of benefits/services, using Aadhaar as the primary identifier of beneficiaries and has issued Gazette notification in this regard on 6th February, 2017. This will help speed up delivery of services and prevent leakages.

- **Supplementary Nutrition (under the ICDS) Rules, 2017:**

In pursuance of the provisions contained in the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the Ministry has notified the Supplementary Nutrition (under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017 on 20th February 2017 to regulate the entitlement specified under provisions of said Act for every pregnant women and lactating mother till 6 months after child birth, and every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition) for 300 days in a year, as per the nutritional standards specified in Schedule II of the said Act.

Revision of cost norms for Supplementary Nutrition: The Government has also revised the cost norms for supplementary nutrition with annual indexation under the Anganwadi Services.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

The Ministry of Social Justice is responsible for welfare, social justice, and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, including Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), the disabled, the elderly, and the victims of drug abuse. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (ST).

The Ministry of Welfare adopted the name Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 1998. In 1999, the Tribal Development Division left the ministry to become its own ministry, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Passing of the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Bill-2016" by Parliament was one of the major achievements of the Ministry during the year 2016. Besides, the Ministry launched various initiatives for the welfare of Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Class, Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Persons with Disabilities, Persons in Destitute, Safai Karamcharis, etc. These initiatives include financial support to the target groups, rehabilitation of beggars, and result oriented skill development programs. Some of the programs launched during the year include:

- **Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project in Process**

The Department is in the process of implementing UDID Project with a view to creating a national data-base for Persons with Disabilities and also to issue unique ID card to every one of them. It will subsequently help in tracking the physical and financial progress of delivery of benefits and in terms of hierarchy at all levels on implementation from Village level to Block level, District level, State level and National level. So far more than 2.74 lakh disability certificates as well as e-UDID cards have been processed through this online mode in about 318 districts in 12 States/UTs namely Gujarat, Madhya

Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya.

- **Accessible India Campaign (AIC)**

Accessible India Campaign was launched to achieve universal accessibility for persons with Disabilities in Built Environment, Transport systems, and Information & Communication Technology eco system.

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ministry of Human Resource Development took a leap forward in transforming education sector with the motto उत्तम शिक्षा सबको, गुणवत्ता पूर्ण शिक्षा of 'Education for All, Quality Education'.

Year 2017 has been a yet another landmark year in the field of education as 'Education For All & Quality Education' guided policy actions and decisions enabling transformation, that emphasized upon making education Available, Accessible, Affordable and Accountable.

- **Learning Outcomes in RTE**

A frequent criticism against the RTE Act was that it did not adequately focus on issues promoting quality education in schools. Therefore, in a landmark step, the Rules to the RTE Act were amended in February 2017 to include, for the first time, the class wise, subject wise Learning Outcomes till Class VIII, thereby emphasizing the importance of quality education.

In this regard, Learning Outcomes for each class in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science up to the elementary stage have been developed. These are the basic levels of learning that children should arrive at the end of each class.

Subsequently, 21 States and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, have incorporated the Learning Outcomes in their State Rules, while the remaining States have initiated the process.

All the States and UTs have translated the Learning Outcomes document in their regional languages, and they are circulating these to all the teachers, and also providing them with the requisite training. Posters for display of Learning Outcomes on the schools along with leaflets on Learning Outcomes for reference of parents have been developed and circulated to all States and UTs. An amount of **Rs. 91.20** crore has been released by the MHRD to all States and UTs for printing the Learning Outcomes documents, the Posters and the leaflets in regional languages, and for their distribution.

- **Teacher Education Major Reforms:**

    a) **Introduction of four year B.Ed. integrated programme with multiple pathways-** with specialization for pre-primary, elementary, secondary and senior secondary teachers for enabling regulatory framework and orientation of all existing Teacher Education Institutions will be introduced from the academic session 2019-2020.

    b) **Guideline on Strengthening of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs):** As per the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, DIETs were envisaged for in-service as well as pre-service education. However, over the years, the focus had gradually shifted to pre-service education. Moreover, currently, there is no nodal agency with expertise in in-service training and thus to address this challenge, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently developed Guidelines on strengthening of DIETs. Accordingly, States have been encouraged to do a district wise analysis before considering a reconceptualization of DIETs as per the models proposed in the MHRD Guideline on DIETs. This will also allow flexibility of getting more expertise into in-service teacher training.

    c) **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing):** DIKSHA will accelerate and amplify solutions, experiments and innovations that are underway, and is being attempted in

the areas of teacher training and professional development. States and TEIs have the autonomy and choice to repurpose and extend DIKSHA to suit their own needs and purposes. DIKSHA is for the benefit of Teachers in Schools, Teacher Educators and Student Teachers in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs).

d) Amendment of the RTE Act for Training of In-service Untrained Teachers: In another landmark achievement, the Amendment to the Section 23(2) of the RTE Act to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament. The same was notified in Gazette of India on 10th August, 2017. As per the above amendment all untrained in-service elementary teachers working in Government, Government aided, and Private unaided schools should acquire minimum qualification as laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by 31st March, 2019. This would ensure an improvement in the overall quality of teachers and teaching processes, and consequently learning outcomes of children. Further, it reinforces the Government's emphasis on improvement of quality of elementary education.

The training for untrained teachers is being conducted through Online Mode by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

- **"Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya" Campaign**

"Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya" campaign as a collaborative effort of the Central Government which provided funding through Centrally sponsored schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Kosh, and the States/Union Territories with Public Sector Undertakings and Private Corporates.

The provision of toilet facilities in all schools has enhanced sanitation standards in schools leading to better health and hygiene among the children. 'Swachh Vidyalaya' was also recognized as one of the priority programmes for Prime Minister's Excellence Award for 2016.

- **New Education Policy (NEP)**

In view of the vastly transformed landscape of education in India in terms of coverage, content and delivery systems, a New Education Policy is being formulated after nearly 30 years.

- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**

It was launched on 29th September 2015, ranks institutions based on objective and verifiable criteria. It has been made available separately for Engineering, Management, Pharmaceutical, Architecture, Humanities, Law and for Universities.

For the first time ranks were declared on 4th April 2016. More than 3,500 institutions have participated in the exercise, making it the highest participated ranking exercise in the World. The second India Rankings were released in April 2017.

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

The Ministry of HRD, has embarked on a major and new initiative called 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses, using information and communication technology (ICT) and covering all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at affordable cost.

The SWAYAM IT platform is indigenously developed that facilitates hosting of courses, taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation in a number of disciplines that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. The three cardinal principles of Education Policy, viz., access, equity and quality shall be achieved by providing high quality e-content to all learners in the country through SWAYAM.

- **Swayam Prabha**

It is an initiative to provide 32 high quality educational channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis. This would enable to deliver e-education in a most cost effective manner.

- **National Academic Depository (NAD)**

The Government of India is committed towards bringing administrative and academic reforms using technology for delivery of efficient services to all stakeholders. A step in this direction is the initiative of digital depository of academic awards known as National Academic Depository (NAD).

NAD is an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets etc) lodged by the academic institutions/ school boards/ eligibility assessment bodies in a digital format.

NAD is on 24X7 online mode for making available academic awards and help in validating their authenticity, their safe storage and easy retrieval. As on 24th November, 2017, 74.81 lakh records have been uploaded on the NAD Portal.

- **National Digital Library (NDL)**

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is establishing the National Digital Library (NDL) under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) with the objective to host a national repository of existing e-content available across educational institutions in the country and e-content developed under NMEICT. IIT Kharagpur has been entrusted to host, coordinate and set-up National Digital Library (NDL) of India towards building a national asset.

The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitized and digital contents across educational and cultural institutions/bodies to provide a single-window access to different groups of users ranging across the entire population.

- **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**

The creation of HEFA will enable major investments for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be formed as an SPV within a PSU Bank/Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 Cr for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.

The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10 year loan. The principal portion of the loan will be repaid through the 'internal accruals' of the institutions. The Government would service the interest portion through the regular grant assistance.

All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as members of the HEFA.

The HEFA would also mobilize CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis.

Canara Bank was identified and appointed as Joint Venture partner for establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to manage the financing agency incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI as NBFC.

HEFA has now been incorporated as Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on 31.5.2017.

- **India Survey on Higher Education**

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) was initiated in 2011 in which data for the year 2010-11 were collected.

For the first time all the major Stakeholders in Higher Education such as Medical Council of India, University Grants Commissions, All India Council for Technical Education as well as State Governments have participated in for the data collection exercise. The entire survey was conducted through electronic mode and a dedicated portal www.aishe.gov.in was developed for this purpose, thus making the exercise completely paperless.

The survey covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting higher education. Data are being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, infrastructure etc. Indicators of education development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index etc. are calculated from the data collected through AISHE. These are useful in making informed policy decisions and research for development of education sector.

During AISHE 2016-17, 96.6% University, 92.1% Colleges and 72.4% Stand-Alone Institutions uploaded the data on the portal. Final report for the AISHE 2010-11 to 2015-16 are available on MHRD website. Survey for the year 2016-17 has been completed & Survey for the year 2017-18 will soon be launched.

- **Swachhta Pakhwada**

An exercise called 'Swachhta Rankings" of Higher Educational Institutions were held on 14th September 2017. More than 3000 institutions participated in the online submission of their levels of campus cleanliness based on some key parameters like toilet adequacy, water purity & supply, hostel kitchen facilities & cleanliness, campus greenery, method of waste disposal, garbage cleaning systems etc. The best institutions in 5 categories were awarded.

- **Imprint India**

IMPRINT India is an effort to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. Under this, 10 domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas: (1) Health care technology, (2) Energy security, (3) Rural urban housing design, (4) Nano technology, (5) Water/river system, (6) Advanced materials, (7) Computer science and ICT, (8) Manufacturing technology, (9) Advanced security, and (10) Environment/climate change. Each of these domains is coordinated by one IIT.

- **Uchchtar Aavishkar Abhiyaan**

The scheme was launched to promote industry-specific need-based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market. All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required and come up with solutions that could be brought up to the commercialization level.

Under the UAY, it is proposed to invest Rs. 250 crores every year on identified projects proposed by IITs, provided the Industry contributes 25% of the project cost. For the year 2016-17, 92 projects for Rs. 285.15 crore have been approved for implementation.

- **Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN):** The GIAN programme brings together foreign and Indian faculties to teach an academic course that provides the credit to participating students selected from the world's leading academic institutions. Under this Scheme, foreign faculties are coming and conducting courses, out of which 802 courses have been completed. In 2017-18, a total of 156 courses have been conducted till now.

- **UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017** have been notified to create a distinct category of Deemed to be Universities, called Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities, which would be regulated differently from other Deemed to be Universities so as to evolve into Institutions of world class in reasonable time period. Also, in order to assist Indian Higher Education Institutions to get a rank within the top 100 in globally renowned rankings, UGC has invited applications under the Institutions of eminence scheme wherein 10 institutions from the

government and 10 institutions from the private sector are to be selected. Government Institutions will get financial assistance of 1,000 crores over a period of five years in addition to the grant already being received. The institutions selected from the private sector will have complete autonomy to promote innovation and creativity expected to result in producing competent graduates for the development of the country.

- **Passing of IIM Bill:** Indian Institutes of Management are the country's premier institutions imparting best quality education in management on globally benchmarked processes of education and training in management. IIMs are recognized as world-class management Institutions and Centers of Excellence and have brought laurels to the country. All IIMs are separate autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Act.

Being societies, IIMs were not authorized to award degrees and, hence, they have been awarding Post Graduate Diploma and Fellow Programme in Management.

Salient Features of IIM Bill

Apart from authority to grant degrees, the Bill provides for complete autonomy to the Institutions, combined with adequate accountability. Management of these Institutions would be Board driven, with the Chairperson and Director of an Institution to be selected by the Board. A greater participation of experts and alumni in the Board is one of the important features in the Bill. Provision has also been made for presence of women and members from Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the Board. The Bill also provides for periodic review of the performance of Institutions by independent agencies, and placing the results of the same on public domain. The Annual Report of the Institutions will be placed in the Parliament and CAG will be auditing their accounts. There is also a provision of a Coordination Forum of IIMs, chaired by an eminent person, as an advisory body.

- **Important Achievements of NCERT**

a) **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA):** NCERT has developed guidelines for the creation of State Resource Group for RAA. This has been shared with the states/UTs.

b) **Veer Gatha:** NCERT has developed "Veer Gatha" highlighting the sacrifices and patriotism of the war heroes of the country.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) completed it 3 successful years since inception in 2014. For the first time, a ministry with its core focus on converging all skill development initiatives in the country under one National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), was created by the Government of India.

Investment in Skill Development Infrastructure

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras:** In year 2017, MSDE focused extensively on building industry standardized infrastructure for driving skill development training under which it launched its Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK). PMKK has the potential to become the benchmark of skill development infrastructure, training, and placement in the respective district and also in the country. It will make skill development quality oriented, sustainable and aspirational.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing flagship scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on pan-India basis. PMKVY enables large number of prospective youth, which also includes tribal, for taking Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) through accredited and affiliated training partner/ training centers.

- **SANKALP & STRIVE:** MSDE in October 2017 got approval by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on the "Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)"

and "Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)" which are all set to boost the Skill India Mission in the country. SANKALP is Rs. 4,455 crore centrally sponsored project including Rs. 3,300 crore support from World Bank, whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore central sector project, with half of the project outlay as World Bank assistance. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused projects marking a shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results building in a strong shift to an outcome based skill ecosystem.

- **Takshashila (Trainers and Assessors Portal) -** National Portal for Trainers and Assessors is an initiative by NSDC under Skill Indian Mission. The portal is a dedicated platform towards the management of trainers and assessors training life-cycle and would function as the central repository of information concerning the development of quality Trainers and Assessors in the Indian skill eco-system. It is built in with a feature to search trainers and assessors trained by SSCs across states, sectors and job roles for access to a pool of qualified and skilled professionals.

- **National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017** In order to reorganize the entrepreneurial spirit of India's youth and encourage more young Indians to become entrepreneurs, MSDE presented the National Entrepreneurship Awards for the 2nd year on 09-11-2017, the third foundation day of the Ministry, in New Delhi to 10 Young Entrepreneurs (Award track winners with a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh per award) and two awards (Recognition Track Winner @10 lakhs per award) to Institutes/organizations as well as three awards to individual (Mentors) carrying a prize money of Rs. 5 lakhs each.

- **Special Projects under PMKVY especially focused on tribal populations have been initiated in 2017. Below are few of them:**

  (i) **Bru Project:** The project aims for skilling of Bru Tribe of Mizoram, who were displaced and currently living in the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in the districts of North Tripura. Under the project, 556 candidates have been benefited.

  (ii) **Katkari Primitive Tribe:** Project aims to skill 1,020 candidates from the Katkari tribe in Maharashtra.

  (iii) **Skilling in Odisha:** Project aims to skill 12,000 candidates from 62 indigenous communities (tribes) of Odisha, of which 13 are classified as primitive.

  (iv) **Project YUVA with Delhi Police under PMKVY:** Ministry of Skill Development also this year initiated Project YUVA which is a joint initiative of NSDC and the Delhi Police under which Delhi Police will connect young 3,000 deprived youth and across the capital, 8 police stations under phase 1 of the project with training partners so that they can upgrade their skill as per their capability post which, they will be given placement assistance. This mission is being undertaken to prevent the youth from committing crime and delinquent acts as well as to encourage them to partner with police in maintaining law and order, management of crime and connecting with the community at large. At present, 715 candidates have been enrolled of which 390 have been trained and 240 have been placed in companies like Burger King, Lemon Tree Premier, Sodexo India and Hotel Taurus Sarovar Portico.

YEAR END REVIEW OF HEALTH AND HYGIENE SECTOR

This covers the Year End Review of the following Ministries:

1. *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*

2. *Ministry of AYUSH*

3. *Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation*

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an Indian government ministry, holding a cabinet rank as a member of council of ministers. It is responsible for health related policies and issues in the country, including family planning. The Ministry regularly publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia since 1955 through Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), an autonomous body under the ministry for setting standards for drugs, pharmaceuticals and healthcare devices and technologies in India.

The ministry is composed of Departments namely: Health & Family Welfare & Health Research.

For the holistic development of citizens of the country in terms of health and family welfare, Ministry has taken following initiatives in the past one year :

• **National Health Policy 2017**

The year 2017 saw the release of a new National Health Policy of the country after a gap of 15 years. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 15th March, 2017 approved the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017. NHP 2017 addresses the current and emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic, technological and epidemiological landscape. The process of formulation of the new Policy entailed wide consultation with multiple stakeholders and regional consultations before its approval by the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare and Group of Ministers.

The major commitment of the NHP 2017 is raising public health expenditure progressively to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025. It envisages providing larger package of assured comprehensive primary healthcare through the Health and Wellness Centres. The Policy aims to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages through a preventive and promotive healthcare and universal access to quality health services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery. NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion (two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care and aims to ensure availability of two beds per 1,000 population distributed in a manner to enable access within golden hour. The Policy also takes a fresh look at strategic purchase from the private sector and leveraging their strengths to achieve national health goals and seeks stronger partnership with the private sector.

Besides this, the highlights of the Policy are as following:

1. Assurance based approach: The Policy advocates progressively incremental assurance based approach with focus on preventive and promotive healthcare

2. Health Card linked to health facilities: The Policy recommends linking the health card to primary care facility for a defined package of services anywhere in the country.

3. Patient Centric Approach: The Policy recommends the setting up of a separate, empowered medical tribunal for speedy resolution to address disputes /complaints regarding standards of care, prices of services, negligence and unfair practices, standard regulatory framework for laboratories and imaging centers, specialized emerging services, etc

4. Micronutrient Deficiency: There is a focus on reducing micronutrient malnourishment and systematic approach to address heterogeneity in micronutrient adequacy across regions.

5. Quality of Care: Public hospitals and facilities would undergo periodic measurements and certification of level of quality. Focus on Standard Regulatory Framework to eliminate risks of inappropriate care by maintaining adequate standards of diagnosis and treatment.

6. Make-in-India Initiative: The Policy advocates the need to incentivize local manufacturing to provide customized indigenous products for Indian population in the long run.

7. Application of Digital Health: The Policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and aims at an integrated health information system which serves the needs of all stake-holders and improves efficiency, transparency, and citizen experience.

8. Private sector engagement for strategic purchase for critical gap filling and for achievement of health goals.

- **National Medical Commission Bill, 2017**

Cabinet approved the National Medical Commission Bill 2017 on 15th December, 2017.

The Bill envisages to:

a) Replace the Medical Council 1956 Act.

b) Enable a forward movement in the area of medical education reform.

c) Move towards outcome based regulation of medical education rather than process oriented regulation.

d) Ensure proper separation of functions within the regulator by having autonomous boards.

e) Create accountable & transparent procedures for maintaining standards in Medical Education.

f) Create a forward-looking approach towards ensuring sufficient health workforce in India.

Expected benefits of the new legislation:

a) End of heavy handed regulatory control over medical education institutions and a shift towards outcome based monitoring.

b) Introduction of a national licentiate examination. This will be the first time such a provision is being introduced in any field of higher education in the country, as was the introduction of NEET and common counselling earlier.

c) Opening up the medical education sector will lead to significant addition in the number of UG and PG seats and substantial new investment in this infrastructure sector.

d) Better coordination with AYUSH systems of treatment.

e) Regulation of up to 40% seats in medical colleges to enable all meritorious students to have access to medical seats irrespective of their financial status.

- **National Nutrition Mission**

The Cabinet has recently approved the National Nutrition Mission, a joint effort of MoHFW and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) towards a life cycle approach for interrupting the intergenerational cycle of under nutrition.

The impact of the mission is envisioned to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies. It will create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action, and encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line Ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals.

The mission aims to benefit more than 10 crore people.

Major components/features of the Mission:

a) Mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition.

b) Introducing a very robust convergence mechanism.

c) ICT-based real time monitoring system.

d) Incentivizing States/UTs for meeting the targets.

e) Incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools.

f) Eliminating registers used by AWWs.

g) Introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).

h) Social Audits.

i) Setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres, involving masses through Jan Andolan for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.

- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**

a) The Act adopts a rights-based statutory framework for mental health in India and strengthens equality and equity in provision of mental healthcare services in order to protect the rights of people with mental health problem to ensure that they are able to receive optimum care and are able to live a life of dignity and respect.

b) The Act strengthens the institutional mechanisms for improving access quality and appropriate mental healthcare services.

c) The Act increases accountability of both government and private sectors in delivery of mental healthcare with representation of persons with mental health problem and their care-givers in statutory authorities such as Central and State Mental Health Authority.

d) The most progressive features of the Act are provision of advance directive, nominated representative, special clause for women and children related to admission, treatment, sanitation and personal hygiene; restriction on use of Electro-Convulsive Therapy and Psychosurgery.

e) Decriminalization of suicide is another significant facet of the Act, which will ensure proper management of severe stress as a precursor for suicide attempts.

- **HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017**

a) It aims to end the epidemic by 2030 in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

b) A person living with AIDS cannot be treated unfairly at employment, educational establishments, renting a property, standing for public or private office or providing healthcare and insurance services.

c) The Act also aims to enhance access to healthcare services by ensuring informed consent and confidentiality for HIV-related testing, treatment and clinical research.

d) Every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household.

e) The Act prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.

f) No person shall be compelled to disclose his/her HIV status except with their informed consent, and if required by a court order.

g) Every person in the care and custody of the State shall have right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.

h) The Act suggests that cases relating to HIV positive persons shall be disposed off by the court on a priority basis and duly ensuring the confidentiality.

- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**

India's UIP is one of the largest public health programmes in the world. It targets 3 crore pregnant women and 2.7 crore new borns annually. More than 90 lakh immunization sessions are conducted annually. It is the most cost effective public health intervention and largely responsible for reduction of under-5 mortality rate.

New initiatives under UIP:

a) Mission Indradhanush: Government of India has launched Mission Indradhanush (MI), a targeted programme to immunize children who have either not received vaccines or are partially vaccinated. The activity focuses on districts with maximum number of missed children.

b) Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) has been launched from Vadnagar, Gujarat. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush will be held in 121 districts in 16 States, 52 districts in the North Eastern States and 17 urban areas where immunization coverage has been very low in spite of repeated phases of Mission Indradhanush and in UIP, with an aim to rapidly build up full immunization coverage to more than 90% by December 2018. During the two rounds of IMI, held in October and November 2017, a total of 39.19 lakh children and 8.09 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated in 190 districts/urban areas.

Introduction of new vaccines

- **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV):** India is polio free but to maintain this status, the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) was introduced. Till October, 2017, 2.95 crore doses of IPV have been administered in the country.

- **Adult Japanese Encephalitis (JE) Vaccine:** Japanese Encephalitis is a life threatening viral disease affecting brain mainly in children aged less than 15 years. However, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) had identified 31 high burden districts from Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for adult JE vaccination in the age-group of 15- 65 years. The Adult JE vaccination campaign has been completed in all 31 districts of Assam, UP, West Bengal, wherein more than 3.3 crore beneficiaries aged 15-65 years were vaccinated.

- **Rotavirus Vaccine:** Rotavirus is one of the leading causes of severe diarrhoea and death among young children. At present, Rotavirus vaccine has been introduced in 9 States - Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. Till October, 2017 around 1.12 crore doses of Rotavirus vaccine have been administered.

- **Measles-Rubella (MR) Vaccine:** Rubella vaccine has been introduced in UIP as Measles-Rubella vaccine to provide protection against congenital birth defects caused by Rubella infection. The

vaccine is being introduced in a phased manner as MR campaign, which started from February, 2017 in 5 States/UTs (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Lakshadweep and Puducherry), where 3.33 crore children were vaccinated with a coverage of 97%. MR vaccine has been introduced in routine immunization in these States/UTs as two doses at 9-12 months and 16-24 months. The next phase started from August, 2017 and is completed in 6 states/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana). Campaign is ongoing in Kerala and Uttarakhand. By November, 2017, more than 3 crore children have been covered under the campaign in these 8 States/UTs.

- Pneumococcal Vaccine (PCV): PCV was launched in a phased manner in UIP in May'17 for reducing infant mortality and morbidity caused by pneumococcal pneumonia. At present, PCV vaccine has been introduced in all 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh, 6 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 17 districts of Bihar. By October, 2017, around 5.7 lakh doses have been administered since introduction.

- **Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative - LaQshya**

a) MoHFW launched LaQshya to improve the quality of care that is being provided to the pregnant mother in the Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres, thereby preventing the undesirable adverse outcomes associated with childbirth.

b) The goal is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and still-births associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

c) The initiative will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges (MCs) besides District Hospitals (DHs), and high delivery load Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).

d) The initiative plans to conduct quality certification of labour rooms and also incentivize facilities achieving the targets outlined.

- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**

a) The program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.

b) Over 4,500 volunteers are registered on PMSMA portal across all State/UTs.

c) PMSMA is conducted at over 12,500 health facilities across all State/UTs.

d) More than 90 lakh antenatal checkups have been conducted at PMSMA sites for comprehensive services under the programme.

e) More than 5 lakh high risk pregnancies have been identified under PMSMA.

- **Intensified Diarrhea Control Fortnight (IDCF)**

a) Observed during July-August every year since 2014 with the ultimate aim of 'zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhea'.

b) During fortnight health workers visit the households of under five children, conduct community level awareness generation activities and distribute ORS.

c) In 2017 (July-August), more than 7 crore under 5 Children visited by ASHAs for Prophylactic ORS.

- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**

a) Launched in February 2013 for child screening and free treatment for 4 Ds, i.e. Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, and Development delays including disability.

b) As on September, 2017:

   a. 11020 teams in 36 State/UTs are in place.

   b. 92 District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) are functional.

   c. 11.7 crore children were screened; 43.4 lakhs children were referred to secondary tertiary facilities; 27.8 lakhs children availed services in secondary tertiary facilities.

- **National Deworming Day (NDD)**

To combat STH infections, the Health Ministry has adopted a single day strategy called NDD, wherein single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of age group through the platform of schools and anganwadi centres.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)

Started in 2014 as a comprehensive programme focusing on Sexual Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Injuries and Violence (including gender based violence), Non-Communicable Diseases, Mental Health and Substance Misuse with a promotive and preventive approach.

The following interventions are carried out using health facilities, community and schools as platforms:

a) **Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs):** These act as the first level of contact of primary health care services with adolescents. Till date 7,632 AFHCs have been established across the country and around 29.5 lakh adolescent clients avail services during Q2 of 2017-18.

b) **Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme:** It entails provision of weekly supervised IFA tablets to in-school boys and girls and out-of-school girls and biannual albendazole tablets, besides Nutrition & Health Education. Upto Q2 of 2017-18, 3.9 crore beneficiaries (adolescent boys & girls) benefitted under WIFS.

c) **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme:** The scheme is being implemented for adolescent girls in the rural areas. From 2014, procurement of sanitary napkins has been decentralized. This year Rs. 42.9 crores have been allocated through NHM to 16 States for de-centralised procurement of sanitary napkins through the process of competitive bidding. Eight states are implementing the scheme through State funds.

d) **Peer Education Programme:** Under the programme four peer educators (Saathiya) - two male and two female are selected per 1000 population to orient the adolescents on health issues. The Peer Education programme is being implemented in 211 districts and till date 1.94 lakh PEs have been selected and training of ANMs and Peer Educators is under process.

- **Mission Parivar Vikas (MPV)**

MPV encompasses the following gamut of activities:

a) Roll out of Injectable Contraceptives.

b) Sterilization Compensation Scheme.

c) Condom Boxes in Public Health Facilities.

d) MPV Campaigns and Saarthi (IEC vehicle).

e) Nayi Pehl Kits to the Newly Married Couples.

f) Saas Bahu Sammellan.

- **Family Planning - Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS)**

a) Launched to strengthen the supply-chain management system.

b) The National training of trainers (ToT) has been completed.

c) State level trainings have been completed in 13 states and 3 States/ UTs have also initiated the district level trainings.

d) The ground stock entry for state warehouses has been completed in 34 State/UTs (except Lakshadweep and Nagaland).

- **Health And Wellness Centres (HWCs)**

In 2017-18, the Ministry announced transformation of Sub-health Centres to Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) to expand the basket of services of primary care to make it comprehensive.

The HWCs are expected to provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care for a package of services related to RMNCH+A, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, Ophthalmology, ENT, Dental, Mental, geriatric care, treatment for acute simple medical conditions and emergency & trauma services.

The indicative package of services envisaged is:

a) Care in pregnancy and child-birth.

b) Neonatal and infant health care services.

c) Childhood and adolescent health care services.

d) Family planning, Contraceptive services and Other Reproductive Health Care services.

e) Management of Communicable diseases: National Health Programmes.

f) Management of Common Communicable Diseases and General Out-patient care for acute simple illnesses and minor ailments.

g) Screening and Management of Non-Communicable diseases.

h) Screening and Basic management of Mental health ailments.

i) Care for Common Ophthalmic and ENT problems.

j) Basic Dental health care.

k) Geriatric and palliative health care services.

l) Trauma Care (that can be managed at this level) and Emergency Medical Services.

The H&WC will deliver comprehensive primary health care using a team based approach and would be led by a mid-level service provider with a primary health care team including ANMs, ASHAs, and AWWs, of the sub center area.

4,000 Sub-centres are targeted to be transformed to HWCs by March 2018 and 1.25 lakh HWCs by March 2022. So, far approval has already been given for 3,871 HWCs.

- **Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme**

'National Dialysis Programme' to be supported in all district hospitals in a PPP mode under NHM. Under NHM support is provided to States/UTs for provision of free dialysis services to the poor.

- **National Programme For Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases And Stroke (NPCDCS)**

In order to prevent and control major NCDs, GoI is implementing the NPCDCS in all States across the country with the focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral.

For comprehensive management of lifestyle related disorders, a pilot project on 'Integration of AYUSH with NPCDCS' has been initiated in six districts in collaboration with the different Central Councils for AYUSH.

Synergy is being harnessed between the Allopathy system under NPCDCS and the alternative systems of medicine under AYUSH, for prevention and management of 'lifestyle-related' common NCDs.

- **AMRIT (Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants For Treatment)**

105 pharmacies have been set up across 19 states for providing medicines for Diabetes, CVDs, Cancer and other disease at discounted prices to the patients. A total of more than 5,000 drugs and other consumables are being sold at upto 50% discounts.

- **Revised National Tuberculosis Programme (RNTCP)**

As per the Global TB Report 2017, updated estimate of incidence is 27 lakh cases in 2016 as compared to 28 lakhs in 2015 (Rate: 211 per 100,000 population in 2016 as compared to 217 per 100,000 population in 2015).

The updated number of TB deaths (excluding HIV) is 4.23 lakhs in 2016 as compared to 4.80 lakhs in 2015 (Rate: 32 per 1,00,000 population in 2016 as compared to 36 per 1,00,000 in 2015).

Since October 2017, entire country has been covered by the Daily Regimen Fixed Dose Combination Drugs.

Child friendly flavoured & dispersible paediatric formulations have been made available.

- **National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI)**

The Ministry released the **National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17)** in December, 2017.

The report declares India free from 'infective trachoma'. The survey findings indicate that the active trachoma infection has been eliminated among children in all the survey districts with overall prevalence of only 0.7%, which is much below the elimination criteria of infective trachoma as defined by the WHO according to which active trachoma is considered eliminated if the prevalence of active infection among children below 10 years is less than 5%.

With this India met the goal of trachoma elimination as specified by the WHO under its GET2020 program and trachoma is no longer a public health problem in India.

- **IT Initiatives**

A case based web based reporting system called **NIKSHAY** is established and this has been scaled-up nationwide to capture all TB cases in the public health system.

For adherence monitoring **99DOTS** has been implemented wherein the patient just has to give a missed call to a toll free number and the system captures the adherence information.

- **m-Diabetes**

MoHFW has launched a mobile health initiative for the prevention and care of diabetes.

mDiabetes will contribute in improving awareness about diabetes and promoting healthy diets and active lifestyle, which are vital to the prevention of diabetes.

Text messages were sent to 130 million mobile phone numbers using data base of individuals working in public enterprises across the country. A total of 107,548 responded and were registered.

- **Mera Aspataal**

MoHFW has designed an ICT-based Patient Satisfaction System (PSS) for implementation in public and empanelled private hospitals. The application has been named 'मेरा अस्पताल' ('My Hospital' in English). A

multi-channel approach, i.e. web portal, mobile application, Short Message Service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) is being used to collect patients' feedback. The application automatically contacts the patient to collect information on patient's experience in government hospitals.

- **MOBILE APPS:** Various mobile apps have been launched namely.

a) Indradhanush Immunization (for immunisation tracker).

b) India Fights Dengue (enables a user to check Dengue Symptoms, get nearest Hospital / Blood bank information and also share feedback).

c) NHP Swasth Bharat (information dissemination on Disease, Lifestyle, First Aid).

d) NHP Directory Services Mobile App. (provides information related to Hospital and Blood banks across India).

e) No More Tension Mobile App. (information on stress management related aspects).

f) Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) Mobile App. (for reporting pregnancy care related information from across states).

- **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)**

a) India is committed to malaria elimination by 2030 in response to the global call by WHO for eliminating malaria by the end of the year 2030. In response to the above, India drafted National Framework for malaria elimination and was launched by HFM in February, 2016 which was followed by drafting of National Strategic Plan (NSP) for malaria elimination (2017-2022). Both the above documents give clear vision as well as time bound strategies for malaria elimination by 2027.

b) Constitution of National Programme for Prevention and Control of JE/AES to reduce morbidity, mortality and disability due to JE/AES.

c) Kala-azar is a notifiable disease in all four endemic states.

Ministry of AYUSH

The Ministry of AYUSH continued to work tirelessly in 2017 to propagate, publicise and popularise the alternate system of medicine with an aim of minimising the gap between demand and supply of medical facilities in the country. During the year 2017, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda to the Nation; Union Cabinet has approved three years extension of National AYUSH Mission(NAM); Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for international cooperation in the field of AYUSH were signed with many countries; grand celebration of International day of Yoga and National Ayurveda Day; and organization of international conferences, are some of the most credible accomplishments of the Ministry.

Following are the significant achievements and details of the important activities of Ministry of AYUSH during the year 2017:

- **National AYUSH Mission (NAM):**

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2020 with financial outlay of Rs. 2,400 crore. The Mission was launched on September 2014 for promotion of AYUSH healthcare in the country.

Under mainstreaming of AYUSH component, 8,994 PHCs, 2,871 CHCs and 506 District Hospitals have been co-located with AYUSH facilities. Under NAM, Ministry intends to set up fifty bedded hospitals in all the districts in next 10 years. So far 66 fifty bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals and 992 yoga wellness centres have been assisted. An amount of Rs. 490 crores for the year 2017-18 has been released to various States/UTs under NAM.

- **National Ayurveda Day Celebration on 17th October, 2017**

- **International Day of Yoga Celebration:**

The Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country with mass yoga demonstrations at National and International level at various places. The main event of Mass Yoga Demonstration was organized at Ramabai Ambedkar Ground, Lucknow on 21st June, 2017 where the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the mass Yoga demonstration event.

- **International AROGYA 2017:**

Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Pharmexcil organized the 'International AROGYA 2017' - First Edition of International Exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness on the theme 'Enhancing the export potential of AYUSH' during 4-7 Dec. 2017. The event was attended by International Ayurveda Experts/ Academicians/ Scientists/ Regulators/ Manufacturers. During the International Conference and Regulators Meet, important topics relating to standardization and quality control in AYUSH sector; enhancing the export potential of AYUSH and business opportunities; and integrative healthcare, etc. were extensively deliberated.

- **BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine:**

1st Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine in India was organised by the Ministry of AYUSH during 24-25 October, 2017 at New Delhi, wherein delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand along with the BIMSTEC Secretariat participated.

- **AYUSH Education Reforms**

In order to raise the levels of the AYUSH education, Ministry is planning a country-wide collective of AYUSH students which will serve as a platform for students for organizing various activities.

a) National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) for all AYUSH Educational Institutions for admission of undergraduate course through designated Authority. For all system of AYUSH, minimum 50% marks should be obtained by the candidates to be eligible for admission in Under Graduate Course.

b) National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) for all AYUSH Educational Institutions for admission of Post graduate Course/ Exit Exam through designated Authority. For all system of AYUSH, minimum 50% marks should be obtained by the candidates to qualify the test. By assessing the percentage of qualifying students in PG NEET / Exit examination of a particular AYSUH Institution, the due benefits should be given to that particular college and the same will be incorporated in MSR of both ASU&H system. Colleges shall be exempted from obtaining permission from Central Government for one year, if 70% of the students of the previous batch qualify the PG-NEET / Exit exam.

c) AYUSH National Teachers Eligibility Test shall be conducted for appointment of all teachers in AYUSH Institutions, and a unique verification code for such teachers shall be allotted by CCH/ CCIM before their appointment.

d) The attendance of Teaching Staffs in all AYUSH Medical Colleges shall be through geo location based system, which shall be made accessible by the relevant Council (CCIM/CCH) as well as the Ministry.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

1. **Swachh Bharat Mission:** To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on access to safe sanitation, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Swachh

Bharat Mission (SBM) on 2nd October, 2014, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. SBM aims at achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) nation and a Swachh Bharat by 2nd Oct, 2019 thereby paying a befitting tribute on his 150th anniversary.

Behavior change is the primary focus and fundamental tool for achievement of ODF outcomes. The Ministry is doing it by its focused Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programme. It promotes gender sensitive information, behavior change guidelines and various mass education activities. The Ministry issued gender guidelines in 2017 and Menstrual Management Guidelines in 2015.

Sanitation Coverage at the launch of SBM(G) on 2nd Oct, 2014 was 38.70%. This has increased to 74.15% as on 18th December, 2017.

SBM (G) Milestones	
568.15 IHHLs built (in Lakh) since 2nd Oct 2014	**35.45** % increase in sanitation coverage since 2nd Oct 2014
255 No. of ODF Districts Self Declared	**4,470** ODF villages in Namami Gange
8 ODF States/UTs (Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Chandigarh)	**2,92,896** No. of ODF Villages Self Declared

2. **Swachhata Pakhwada** started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhhata by engaging Central Ministries and Departments in their jurisdiction. An annual calendar is pre-circulated among the Ministries to help them plan for the Pakhwada activities.

3. **Namami Gang**e Programme is an initiative of Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), comprising of making villages on the bank of River Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management are being implemented by MDWS.

    All 4,470 villages located across 52 districts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal have been declared ODF with active help of state governments. Now the Ministry has taken up 24 villages on the bank of River Ganga to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with NMCG.

4. **Swachhta Action Plan (SAP),** a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta, is a concrete realization of Prime Minister's vision that Swachhta is everyone's business. All Union Ministries/Departments have started to work for its realization in a significant manner with appropriate budget provisions.

5. **Swachh Iconic Places (SIP):** Under the inspiration of Prime Minister, the Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across India that are "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.

    The goal of the Initiative is to improve the cleanliness conditions at these places to a distinctly higher level. This initiative is in partnership with Ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with MDWS being the nodal ministry. So far in first two phases, 20 iconic places has been taken up. All these 20 Iconic Sites have designated PSUs or corporates for financial and technical support.

6. **Darwaza Bandh Media Campaigns**: Aiming at Behavior Change, an aggressive mass media campaign titled 'Darwaza Band' featuring Amitabh Bachchan to promote continued toilet use especially by men has been launched. The campaign includes 5 TV and Radio spots in 9 languages including Hindi and has been successfully launched on the mass media across the country.

YEAR END REVIEW OF INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

This covers the Year End Review of the following Ministries:

1. *Ministry of Road Transport and Highways*

2. *Ministry of Railways*

3. *Ministry of Shipping*

4. *Ministry of Power*

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Introduction

2017 has been a major milestone year for the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. While the period since 2014 to 2016 was utilised for the purposes of reform and course correction, 2017 witnessed consolidation, culmination and the rollout of a new road-map for the Highways sector.

Keeping the rapid developments in the sector in mind, RBI appreciated the highway infrastructure development sector in their Annual Report 2016-17, noting that there is a decline in cost and time overruns to the tune of Rs. 1.5 Billion and an all-time rise in award and construction of highways projects including a peak of daily additions to the roads constructed. Further, it pointed out that stalled projects have declined, both in terms of value and numbers.

Another creditworthy development was that following the upgrade of India's sovereign rating from Baa3 positive to Baa2 stable on 16th November 2017, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the issuer ratings of National Highways Authority of India to Baa2 from Baa3 and revised the outlook to stable from positive.

2017 witnessed several highlights. This was the year when engineering marvels like the Dhola Sadiya bridge in Assam and Chenani Nashri tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir were opened up to connect far-off areas and pave the way for their socio-economic development.

This was also the year that saw the launch of Bharatmala Pariyojana, India's largest ever highways development programme that promises to optimize the efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps. In the area of road safety too, we witnessed a slight decrease in the number of road accidents.

The Ministry and its project executing organizations have carried forward the good work of the previous years in 2017, expanding the national highways network in the country, taking various steps to make these highways safer for the commuter and making best efforts to minimize adverse impacts on the environment. Significant activities taken up by the Ministry during the year are as follows:

New Programmes, Projects and Structures

(i) Bharatmala Pariyojana: Phase-I

This is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that aims to optimize the efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps. Special attention has been

paid to fulfilling the connectivity needs of areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, border areas, backward and tribal areas, coastal areas and trade routes with neighbouring countries under the programme. Multi-modal integration is one of the key focuses of this programme.

A total of around 53,000 kms of NHs have been identified to improve National Corridor efficiency, of which 24,800 kms are to be taken up in Phase-I, which will be implemented over a period of five years, i.e., 2017-18 to 2021-22 in a phased manner. This includes 5,000 kms of the National Corridors, 9,000 kms of Economic Corridors, 6,000 km of Feeder Corridors and lnter-Corridors, 2,000 kms of Border Roads, 2,000 kms of Coastal Roads and Port Connectivity Roads and 800 kms of Green-field Expressways. Total likely fund provision for Bharatmala Phase-I is Rs. 5,35,000 crore. Bharatmala will be a major driver for economic growth in the country. lt is estimated that more than 35 crore man-days of employment shall be generated under Phase-l of the programme.

(ii) Chenani- Nashri Tunnel

An ideal example of the government's 'Make in India' and 'Skill India' initiative, the 9 km long, twin-tube, all-weather tunnel between Udhampur and Ramban in Jammu & Kashmir is not only India's longest highway tunnel but also Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel.

Built at an elevation of 1,200 metres on one of the most difficult Himalayan terrains, the tunnel cuts the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by two hours, bypassing about 41 kms of road length. It will also ensure an all-weather passage on a route that often sees heavy traffic jams and disruptions due to landslides, snow, sharp curves, breakdown of vehicles and accidents.

(iii) Dhola Sadiya Bridge

India's longest bridge, the 9.15 km long Dhola-Sadiya Bridge has been inaugurated over River Brahmaputra in Assam. The bridge has ensured 24x7 connectivity between upper Assam and Eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh, marking a major transformation from the ferry-based, day-only connectivity that collapses during floods.

Status/Progress of important programmes/projects under implementation

• **Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna**

The projects envisages development of easy access to the four prominent Dhams, namely, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedranath and Badrinath, situated in the state of Uttrakhand. The projects are being taken up on EPC mode and the program is targeted for completion by March, 2020.

• **Eastern Peripheral Expressway- Western Peripheral Expressway**

The project of Peripheral Expressways around Delhi, comprising Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) emanating from NH-1 (near Kundli) and terminating at NH-2 (near Palwal), bypassing Delhi aims to decongest Delhi and reduce pollution levels in the NCR. While the EPE is being developed by the NHAI, the WPE is being developed by the State of Haryana.

• **Delhi-Meerut Expressway**

The Delhi-Meerut Expressway aims to provide a fast link between the two cities. The alignment of DME starts from Nizammudin Bridge from Delhi and follows existing NH 24 upto Dasna.

> **Other Highways**
>
> (i)   Delhi-Jaipur Expressway
>
> (ii) Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway
>
> (iii) Vadodra-Mumbia Expressway
>
> (iv) Hyderabad- Vijayawada-Amravathi (HVA) Expressway

- **Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS)**

The Ministry took-up a new initiative, known as Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS), to inventorise all structures, e.g. Bridges and culverts constructed on the National highways.

- **Setu Bharatam**

In order to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic, Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of Level Crossings on National Highways by ROBs/RUBs under a scheme known as Setu Bharatam.

- **Funding Models and other policies to facilitate construction of National Highways**

  (i) Toll- Operate-Transfer (TOT): The Ministry is monetizing its road assets constructed with public funds through Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) scheme. The scheme envisages bidding of bundled national highways for a concession period of 30 years.

  (ii) Masala Bonds: Targeting mobilization of funds, NHAI launched an issue of Masala Bonds at the London Stock Exchange in May 2017. The Masala Bond saw an overwhelming response from a wide spectrum of investors.

  (iii) Planning for Multi Modal Transport Systems: An India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit was organized in New Delhi from 3rd to 5th May 2017. It was attended by around 3,000 delegates from India and abroad which included central and state government organizations, international organizations like World Bank and ADB, global transport and supply chain experts and representatives of private companies.

Road Safety

- **Decrease in road accidents and fatalities**

India is committed to bring down fatalities from road accidents. This requires a multi-pronged approach for strengthening automobile safety standards, improving road infrastructure, generating awareness programmes, strengthening enforcements and streamlining the trauma care assistance programme. The Ministry's concerted efforts at bringing down the number of road accidents has started showing results. As per the report Road Accidents in India-2016, there has been a decrease in road accidents by 4.1% in 2016. The data for first three quarters indicates that this trend continues. The number of accidents up to September, 2017 saw a reduction of 5.2% over the figures for the corresponding period in 2016. The fatalities have shown a decrease of 4.4% during this period. Except the States of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, all the States have witnessed a decrease in road accident fatalities ranging between 2-10% during this period.

- **New Accident Reporting Format**

A strong Road safety action plan requires a credible database. The current format of reporting was, therefore, revised on the basis of the recommendations of an expert committee comprising of experts from IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, WHO, senior officers from the Police and Transport Departments of States and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The new format of accident reporting has been adopted by all the States and will help in focussing at the key risk areas to strengthen road safety in coming years.

Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Ministry constituted a Group of Ministers across states to deliberate upon and propose strategies for reducing road fatalities and to suggest actionable measures for implementation. On the basis of

recommendations of the GoM, MoRTH introduced the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016 in Parliament (Lok Sabha) on 9th August, 2016.

The Bill addresses road safety issues by providing for stiffer penalties, permitting electronic enforcement, improving fitness certification and licensing regime, statutory provisions for protection of good Samaritans and recognition of IT enabled enforcement systems.

The Bill also paves way for reforms in public transport which in turn will help in improving road safety.

The Bill contains provisions for treatment of accident victims during golden hour which will help in saving precious lives.

The Bill also aims to simplify processes for the citizens dealing with transport departments and usher in an era of transport reforms in the country.

The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha and has been referred to the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.

Green Initiatives

- **Green Highways Division in NHAI**

NHAI has set up a Green Highways Division and has planted over 2.5 lakh trees last year in order to make National Highways green, clean and pollution free.

- **Linking of Construction of Highways with digging of Water Bodies in drought affected areas**

The requirement of earth work for the development of National Highway network for embankments is met by the contractors/concessionaires through buying the earth from landowners or procuring the same through mining of minor minerals as per the provisions laid down by the concerned State Governments. Keeping in view that many parts of the country face drought conditions and restoration of ponds, check dams, water tanks offers an age-old system of water conservation/ground water recharging, instructions have been issued by the Ministry to the agencies responsible for construction of National Highways to advise their contractors/construction agencies through their field officers to approach the concerned District Collectors/ Sub-collectors/ Water Conservation Departments to obtain a list of any such villages/ rural areas where de-siltation/ revival of existing ponds/ water bodies or digging of areas for creation of new water bodies are required and procure the requisite soil for road embankments by digging/de-silting the existing village ponds/water bodies, subject to such soil being found suitable for the embankment purposes. This arrangement would help in restoration of such dried-up water bodies without any charge and the contractors will be able to source the requisite soil without any payment.

- **Swachhta Pakhwada**

Swachhta Pakhwada was observed from 16th to 31st July, 2017 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The main focus was to accelerate the pace of on-going Swachh Bharat Mission activities of construction of toilets and provision of litter-bins at 371 NHAI Toll Plazas, and additional activities including provision of temporary toilets and drinking water facilities at toll plazas, cleaning of roads and drains, proper management of road construction sites, removing litter etc.

Measures undertaken to combat Vehicular Pollution

(i) Ministry has taken a landmark step towards reducing the vehicular pollution. Emission norms for Tractors and Construction Equipment vehicles have been notified for low Sulphur fuel, to be implemented from 01st October, 2020.

(ii) Ministry has also taken initiatives to promote alternate fuels in vehicles. The Electric vehicles are being given a big push by the Ministry. India's first multi modal Electric Vehicle passenger transport project was launched in Nagpur with integrated solution of buses, taxis and e-rickshaws.

(iii) The E-Rickshaw, which has proved to be an effective substitute for manual rickshaws, has emerged as a cost effective, environment friendly solution for improving last mile connectivity. These have been exempted from the requirement of obtaining permits. This has created a game changing scenario for promoting r-rickshaws. During the year to promote last mile connectivity for metro passengers, 1,000 e-rickshaws were launched at Gurugram, Haryana.

E- Initiatives

- **Project Monitoring Information System(PMIS)**

A very effective Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) has been introduced for tracking the status of all projects, preparation of reports and online upload of important project documents like DPRs and contract documents, etc.

- **INAM-Pro+**

INAM-Pro+, an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, was launched on 01 June 2017. More than 700 construction companies have used INAM-Pro during the last two years. With 37 Cement companies registered on it, the portal facilitated comparison of price, availability of materials etc. and made it convenient for prospective buyers to procure cement at reasonable rates in a transparent manner. INAM-Pro+, with enhanced features will reduce the time and efforts in preparation of proposals and bid submissions, and help increase efficiency and transparency in procurement of construction materials as a user can now place orders, obtain price quotes and track them in swift manner on this portal.

- **Bhoomi Rashi, a Web Utility for Land Acquisition**

ln its attempt to move towards total e-governance and avoid delays, this Ministry has developed a Web Utility for land acquisition related processes including gazette notification. The web utility would be linked with the e-gazette platform of the Ministry of Urban Development, for e-publication of land acquisition related Gazette Notifications. The affected/ interested parties would also be given an access to the system so as to track the status of their acquired land and the CALA(s) in different states are being taken on board to deposit the compensation amount in the respective accounts of affected/ interested person.

- In order to further augment the services provided to FASTag users, all the lanes at the fee plazas are being converted to Hybrid lanes with one dedicated lane on either side, exclusively for FASTag users.

- Mobile app e-Challan and m-Parivahan have been developed for comprehensive enforcement solution.

- E-Challan being launched in multiple states by both Transport Enforcement and Traffic Police.

- mParivahan App - for information and comprehensive services to citizen.

International Partnerships

- **MoU between India and Nepal**

A MoU between India and Nepal for laying down implementation arrangement on cost sharing, schedules and safeguard issues for construction of a new Bridge over River Mechi at Indo-Nepal Border has been signed.

- **MoU between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

The MoU envisages cooperation, exchange and collaboration between India and UAE for promoting increased investment in infrastructure development and logistics efficiency. A Joint Working Group (JWG) has been formed under the MoU from both the sides.

- **Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) between India and Afghanistan**

A Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for regulation of passenger, personal and cargo vehicular traffic between India and Afghanistan was signed for enhanced regional connectivity through road transport and for promoting cross-border road transportation for increased trade with Afghanistan via the land route.

- **IMT Friendship Motor Rally-II, 2017**

India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Friendship Motor Rally-II, 2017, supported by MoRTH from Guwahati to Bangkok, was organized jointly by Kalinga Motor Sports Club (KMSC), Bhubaneswar and Mahindra Adventure, Mumbai.

Ministry of Railways

- A new Integrated Mobile App 'Rail SAARTHI' launched which provides various services, viz. Rail e-ticket booking, unreserved ticketing, complaint management, Clean my Coach, passenger enquiry etc.

- Project Swarn: 14 Rajdhanis and 15 Shatabdi trains were identified to significantly improve passengers experience under "Project Swarn". To achieve the objectives under this Project, 'staff behaviour' was identified as an important parameter. The frontline staff of these premier trains was trained in various aspects such as catering, linen management and cleanliness.

- High Speed Railway/Mobility: A road map developed to increase speed of trains by overcoming the existing impediments on Principal routes of the railways on Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) along with diagonals (Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Howrah, Howrah-Chennai, Chennai-Mumbai, Delhi - Chennai and Howrah-Mumbai) due to fixed infrastructure, movable infrastructure, and operational practices.

- Gate Mitras were deployed at all unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge instead of only identified UMLCs in order to enhance safety.

- Under Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) a provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made in 2017-18 out of 'RRSK' to fund essential works for ensuring safety.

- High Level Safety Review Committee (HLSRC): A High Level Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission was constituted on 16.09.2011 to go into all technical and technology related aspects in connection with safe running of train services in the country. The Committee submitted its Report on 17.02.2012. All the 106 recommendations of the Committee have since been deliberated upon. 87 recommendations have been found fully/partially acceptable and 19 have not been found acceptable to the Ministry of Railways.

- Self-Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURTZ Car) is under procurement and trial of Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection System is underway. Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) is under implementation on Suburban/High-density Routes.

- India's first Tejas Express between Mumbai and Karmali inaugurated.

- Vistadome Tourist Coach with glass walls launched at Vishakhapatnam to run between Visakhaptnam and Araku Valley. The Vistadome coach having features like glass roof, LED lights, rotable seats, GPS based info system etc. will offer to tourists to enjoy scenic beauty not only at destination but also along the journey.

- Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF) sets gold standards by winning Golden Peacock Award for Eco Innovation for the year 2017 for introducing eco friendly and cost saving Dual Fuel 1400 HP Diesel engines on DEMU trains.

- Project Saksham Launched: The decision of imparting a week-long training in skills and domain knowledge to all the employees of Indian Railways had been taken. The focus of all such training is to 'make a difference' to the job performance.

- NIVARAN- Portal for Grievance Redressal of Railway Employees was launched.

- Mirabai Chanu, Indian Railways Sportsperson, became the first Indian in over two decades to claim a gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA.

Ministry of Shipping

For the Ministry of Shipping the year 2017 has been a year of consolidation, a year of building up on the good work of the past few years and strengthening the ground for further ongoing development.

- **Deendayal Port**

In recognition of the invaluable contribution and sacrifices made by Pandit Deendayal Upadhaya towards serving the nation and also upliftment of the poor & downtrodden, the name of Kandla Port has been changed to Deendayal Port.

- **Chahbahar Port in Iran**

India is also engaged in the development of Chahbahar Port in Iran. An MoU has been signed between the two countries in this regard. Inauguration ceremony of the Phase-I of Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar, Iran was held on 3rd December, 2017, and was inaugurated the Hon'ble President of Iran.

- **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)**

'Jal Marg Vikas' (National Waterway-I: River Ganga) Project envisages to develop a fairway with upto 3 meters depth between Varanasi and Haldia covering a distance of 1,380 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,369 crore. On completion, the project would enable commercial navigation of 1,500-2,000 ton vessels. The project is being implemented by the IWAI with technical and investment support of World Bank and is to be completed by 2022-23. The major activities under the project are construction of multi-modal terminals, jetties, river information system, channel marking, navigational lock, river training and conservancy works.

The project has been appraised by the Public Investment Board (PIB). The World Bank loan for the JMVP has been approved.

- **Development of National Waterway-4**

The Hon'ble Vice-President of India laid the foundation stone for commencement of development work for Phase-I of National Waterway-4 from Muktiyala to Vijaywada on 3rd October, 2017. The project would facilitate movement of construction material for Amravati, the upcoming capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The work for dredging and setting up of floating terminals has commenced.

- **Freight Village and Logistics Hub at Varanasi**

To improve logistics efficiency, it is proposed to set up a Freight Village and Logistics Hub in Varanasi in continuation of the multi-modal terminal under construction as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project.

- **MoU between India and Bangladesh on Fairway development of Ashuganj-Zakigunj and Sirajgunj-Daikhawa stretch of Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route**

An MoU on Fairway Development of Ashuganj-Zakigunj and Sirajganj-Daikhawa stretches of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route was signed. The fairway is to be developed by IWAI and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). The tender documents for fairway development of both the stretches are under finalization. Ministry of External Affairs has agreed to bear the dredging cost of fairways development of the above stretches which would be Rs. 244 crore over a period of seven years.

- **Agreement between India and Bangladesh for use of Chittagong and Mongla Port for movement of goods to and from India**

- **The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017**

The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017 was enacted on 9th August, 2017. The Act consolidates the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues and repeals five obsolete British statues on admiralty jurisdiction in civil matters. The Act confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends upto territorial waters. This Act will fulfill a long-standing demand of the maritime legal fraternity.

Now, High Courts of all the coastal states will exercise admiralty jurisdiction over maritime claims which include several aspects not limited to goods imported and chattel as earlier, but also other claims such as payment of wages of seamen, loss of life, salvages, mortgage, loss or damage, services and repairs, insurance, ownership and lien, threat of damage to environment etc. The legislation accords highest priority to payment of wages of the sea-farers. It also provides for protection against wrongful and unjustified arrest and has provision for transfer of cases from one High Court to another High Court.

International Cooperation

- **International Maritime Organization**

India got re-elected as a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council under Category 'B' by getting second highest number of votes during the IMO Council election held at IMO on December 1, 2017.

- **Agreements/MoUs Signed**

a. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Institutional Cooperation on Maritime Transport was signed.

b. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Federal Transport Authority- Land and Maritime of the United Arab Emirates and the Directorate General of Shipping of Republic of India on the Mutual Recognition of certificates of competency as per the provisions of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) and amendments thereof was signed.

c. An Agreement on Merchant Shipping between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus was signed.

d. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Netherlands for bilateral cooperation in the fields of ports, maritime transport and logistics was signed.

Initiatives taken in Cruise Shipping

i. To develop cruise shipping and tourism in the country, Government has constructed New cruise terminals at Mormugao port and Chennai Port.

ii. The revised SoPs have been implemented at major ports w.e.f 29.11.17.

iii. E-visa facility was extended to 5 major ports namely Mumbai Port, Mormugao Port, New Mangalore Port, Cochin Port and Chennai Port.

iv. A uniform tariff rate at all major ports has been fixed at $ 0.35 per GRT to attract cruise vessels in India.

v. Facility for foreign flag passenger vessels to call at Indian ports without obtaining license from DG(S) has been extended from February, 2019 to February, 2024.

In view of the growing need of the Indian Economy, Government of India has embarked upon a massive programme to provide 24x7 power across the country by 2019. After the completion of half of its term, the Government has achieved many important milestones in the Power sector. Special focus has been given to Rural Electrification, under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY); and Urban Electrification under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). The schemes have been now oriented towards individual household electrification by March 2019, under SAUBHAGYA scheme.

Several landmark decisions have already been taken in thermal power generation, hydel and more importantly in solar, wind and other green energy, besides strengthening of transmission and distribution, separation of feeder and metering of power to consumers. These also include not only achievements in capacity addition but also important reforms being undertaken on increasing energy efficiency of the present infrastructure and thereby reducing power losses, including increasing accountability and transparency by launching Mobile applications and websites like URJA app, SAUBHAGYA portal, National Power Portal, MERIT portal etc.

The details of Year-long achievements for Ministry of Power are as below:

1. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

Under DDUGJY, projects with total cost of Rs. 42,565 crores have been sanctioned in 32 States/UTs.

Status of Village electrification in the Country

Cumulatively (as on 30.11.2017), electrification in 1,24,219 villages and intensive electrification in 4,68,827 villages has been completed. Free electricity connections to 277.20 lakh BPL Households have been released.

18,452 census villages in the country (out of total inhabited villages of 5,97,644 as per Census 2011) were reported un-electrified by the States as on 1st April 2015.

As on 30.11.2017, electrification in 15,183 villages has been completed and 1,052 villages have been reported un-inhabited. Remaining 2,217 villages are expected to be electrified by 1st May 2018. These 2,217 villages are located in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (1,069), Assam (214), Bihar (111), Chhattisgarh (176), J&K (99), Jharkhand (176), Karnataka (8), Madhya Pradesh (34), Manipur (54), Meghalaya (50), Mizoram (11), Odisha (182) and Uttarakhand (33).

Achievement during January to November 2017

- Electrification of Un-electrified villages: 3,652

- Intensive electrification of villages: 60,218

- Free electricity connections to BPL households: 24.55 Lakh

2. SAUBHAGYA: Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

Government of India has launched a scheme called "Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)" in Sep'17 to achieve universal household electrification in the country at a total cost of Rs. 16,320 crore including gross budgetary support of Rs. 12,320 crores from Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to provide last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and urban areas. Free of cost electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households with at least one deprivation on the basis of SECC data in rural areas and economically poor households in urban areas would be given. Others would be charged a sum of Rs. 500 per household in ten equal instalments with the bill. The households located in remote and inaccessible areas would be provided with Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone systems with LED lights, fan, power plug etc. The beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of socio economic-conditions using SECC 2011 data.

It is targeted to achieve universal household electrification in the country by 31st March 2019.

The Scheme was launched in Manipur on 28th Nov 2017 and 1.75 lakh households of Manipur (1.62 lakh rural households and 0.13 lakh urban households) are proposed to be included under the Scheme.

3. Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)

IPDS Scheme aims to provide quality and reliable 24x7 power supply in the urban area. So far, projects worth Rs. 26,910 crores covering 3,616 towns have been sanctioned by the Monitoring Committee. State utilities have awarded the works worth Rs. 23,448 crores. The IT and technical intervention envisaged in the scheme will not only ensure 24x7 power supply in urban area but will also help in improvement in billing and collection efficiency which will ultimately result in reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. So far, under R-APDRP 1,363 towns have been declared "Go-Live", 52 towns SCADA control systems have been established, 20 SCADA towns have been completed and 20 out of 21 Data Centre have been commissioned under Part-A of the Programme. Part-B projects have been completed in 970 towns. All India Short Code '1912' for consumer connect adopted in 45/57 Discoms (including private) in India.

4. Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), a scheme for financial and operational turnaround of Power Distribution Companies was formulated and launched by the Government on 20.11.2015 in consultation with various stakeholders. The scheme aims to provide permanent solution to legacy of debts of approximately Rs. 4.3 lakh crores and address potential future losses. The scheme also envisages reform measures in all sectors - generation, transmission, distribution, coal, and energy efficiency. The scheme availability period has expired on 31-03-2017.

An inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee Mechanism for UDAY has been put in place to ensure a close monitoring of the performance of the participating States under UDAY. Also a web portal (www.uday.gov.in) has been created for monitoring purposes. The last meeting of the Monitoring Committee was held on 04-10-2017.

Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu signed MoU with Government of India under UDAY Scheme on 20th Nov, 2017. With this, 27 States and 4 UTs have joined UDAY till date.

6. Thermal

To reduce the pollution caused by stubble burning, Ministry of power has issued a policy for Biomass utilization for power generation through co-firing in pulverized coal fired boilers to reduce the pollution.

7. Hydro power projects

In Hydro Power Sector, 11 hydro projects, having total installed capacity of 1,305 MW, are likely to be commissioned in the year 2017-18. Out of these projects, 7 projects with installed capacity of 465 MW have already been commissioned till 30.11.2017 & balance capacity is likely to be commissioned by March 18. The Hydropower Generation for the Financial Year 2017-18 (January' 2017 to November' 2017) is 120.87 BU.

DPR of 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose project concurred by CEA in the year 2017.

Investment approval of 60 MW Natwar Mori HEP conveyed to SJVNL.

8. Extension of waiver of ISTS Transmission Charges and Losses for Solar Projects:

As per the provisions of revised Tariff Policy 2016, the Ministry of Power has issued an Order on 30.9.2016 for applicability of waiver of inter-state transmission charges and losses on transmission of the electricity generated from solar and wind sources of energy. Such waiver was available for Wind Projects achieved COD till 31st March 2019 and for Solar Projects achieved COD till 30th June 2017.

An amendment order has been issued on 14.6.2017 through which ISTS Transmission charges and losses waiver is available to Solar Projects which will achieve COD till 31st December 2019. This will give boost to solar and wind energy generation in the country.

9. **Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for Procurement of Power from Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects**

Solar Bidding Guidelines have been issued on 03.08.2017 for long term procurement of electricity by the distribution licensees, or the Authorized Representative(s), or an Intermediary Procurer, from grid-connected Solar PV Power Projects, having size of 5 MW and above, through competitive bidding under the provisions of Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

10. **Mobile applications and websites launched to ensure accountability and transparency**

URJA (Urban Jyoti Abhiyan) Mobile App:

URJA App offers information on Consumer complaints redressal, Release of new service connection; Average number of interruptions faced by consumer, Average duration of interruptions faced by consumer; Number of consumers making e-payments; Energy lost/power theft, i.e. AT&C loss; IT Enablement (Go-live of towns); SCADA Implementation; Urban System Strengthening, Feeder Data on National Power Portal; IPDS NIT progress, IPDS Award progress.

SAUBHAGYA Webportal

'Saubhagya' Web-Portal - a Platform for transparent monitoring of Universal Household Electrification - was launched on 16th Nov, 2017.

National Power Portal

National Power Portal (NPP) - a Centralized Platform for Collation and Dissemination of Indian Power Sector Information - was launched on 14th Nov, 2017 and would be a single point interface for all Power Sector Apps launched previously by the Ministry.

Launch of e-Bidding portal for utilization of domestic coal in IPP Power Stations for reducing the cost of power generation

An e-bidding portal was launched on 5th July 2017 for providing e-Bidding solution to States to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for procurement of power by transferring their domestic coal under the scheme of flexibility in utilization of domestic coal. The e-Bidding portal has been designed to facilitate States in inviting bids for procurement of power from the prospective IPPs in transparent and fair manner. The successful bidder shall be selected through e-Reverse Bidding process. The link for portal is available on the website of Ministry of Power and PFC Consulting Ltd.

The flexibility in utilization of domestic coal scheme envisages transferring coal to more efficient IPPs generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers.

MERIT (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency) Web Portal

A Web Portal 'MERIT' (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency) was launched on 23rd June 2017. This Mobile App and Web Portal displays the actual data of dispatched generation by the states transparently and provides opportunity to states for improving their power purchase portfolio.(http://www.meritindia.in)

11. **Revised Guidelines and Model Bidding Documents for medium-term procurement of power**

Revised Guidelines and Model Bidding Documents for medium-term procurement of power by Distribution Licensees through tariff based competitive bidding process was notified on 17th January,

2017. Introduction of medium-term procurement through e-bidding portal will result in greater transparency and fairness in the procurement process for ultimate benefit of the consumers.

12. National High Power Test Laboratory (NHPTL) has started its commercial testing

NHPTL a joint venture of NTPC, NHPC, POWERGRID, DVC & CPRI having a state of the art professionally managed, international class, On-Line High Power Short Circuit Test Facility has started the commercial testing at NHPTL, Bina, MP under CPRI supervision. BHEL, Bhopal make 400/11.5-11.5 kv, 120 MVA Station Transformer was tested and this is the first commercial testing carried out in NHPTL, Bina, using 400 kV Grid as source for testing, under the supervision of CPRI Engineers.

13. Country's First Phasor Measurement Unit Test Facility

CPRI has established country's first Phasor Measurement Unit (PMU) test facility. Fluke calibration 6135A/PMUCAL Phasor Measurement Unit Calibration system is a automated system and traceable solution for PMU Testing and Calibration. It's a unique facility for carrying out Validation/Evaluation of PMU both M-class and P-Class Steady state and Dynamic conditions as per relevant International standards. Phasor Measurement Units enable real-time computer control to safeguard the stability and reliability of modern power grids. New test and calibration standards for PMUs will promote consistent performance across PMU manufacturers.

14. Energy Conservation

National LED Programme

Prime Minister, on 5th January, 2015 launched the National LED Programme with the aim of promoting use of the most efficient lighting technology at affordable rates. This programme has two components: (i) Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All (UJALA) to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers with a target to replace 77 crore incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs; and (ii) Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) to replace 1.34 crore conventional street lights with smart and energy efficient LED street lights by March, 2019.

EESL has evolved a service model to enable municipalities to replace conventional lights with LEDs at no upfront cost. The balance cost is recovered through the municipalities by monetising the energy savings. Similarly, for domestic lights, EESL service model enables domestic households to procure LED lights at an affordable price of Rs. 10 each and the balance on easy instalment from their electricity bill.

The current progress of implementation of the National LED programme up to 18th December 2017 since its launch on 5th January 2015 is as follows:

Parameters	UJALA	SLNP
No. of LED bulbs distributed/streetlights installed	28.07 crore	41.79 lakh
Average energy saved per year	36.45 billion kWh	2.80 billion kWh
Avoided peak demand/avoided capacity	7299 MW	467 MW
GHG emission CO2 reductions per year	29.53 million t CO2	1.93 million t CO2

Standard & Labelling of Appliances

a. Launch of mandatory program for Inverter AC.

b. Revision of standards for room AC, Direct Cool refrigerators, Color TV and geysers.

c. MOU signed with CPRI to setup four testing labs for LED bulbs.

Buildings

a. Updated version of Energy Conservation Building Codes i.e. ECBC 2017 launched in June 2017.

b. ECO-NIWAS, an online tool to guide the public in incorporating energy efficiency elements in their homes, such as building materials, its design features and appliances launched.

Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme

a. PAT cycle III commenced from 1st April, 2017 with the identification of 116 more DCs in the 11 existing sectors, totalling 737 DCs.

b. Hotels under Commercial Buildings category having energy consumption of more than 1000 TOE and Petrochemical units having energy consumption more than 1,00,000 TOE has been notified as new sectors under PAT scheme.

c. Online portal on E-SCerts trading infrastructure launched which has been developed by BEE in collaboration with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). So far, more than 2.9 lakhs E-SCerts have been traded at an overall cost of Rs 18.4 crores.

Transport Sector

a. The Corporate Average Fuel Consumption Standards (CAFC) for passenger cars which was notified on April, 2015, has become effective w.e.f 1st April, 2017.

b. The fuel economy norms for Heavy duty vehicles notified on 16th August, 2017. These norms are applicable for M3 (Buses) and N3 (Trucks) category vehicles complying with BS IV norms with gross vehicle weight exceeding 12 tonnes.

c. Government plans to procure 10,000 e-vehicles through demand aggregation. Bids were invited via open tender and under Phase-I, and contracts have been awarded to Tata Motors Ltd. for 250 e-cars and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. for 150 e-cars which includes five years Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC).

15. International Cooperation (IC)

India announced the Activation of Association with International Energy Agency (IEA) during the meeting of Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director, IEA with the Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, NRE and Mines on 30th March, 2017 in New Delhi.

An agreed Joint Work Program 2018-2020 was exchanged between the Govt. of India and the International Energy Agency on 8th November, 2017 in Paris.

GS SCORE

IAS 2018

Prelims
TEST SERIES 2018

(🖥 CLASSROOM) & (🖥 ONLINE)

Programme 1

Sectional + Mock

Total 18 Tests

➤ 6 GS Sectional, 3 CSAT Sectional, 5 Current Affairs & 4 Mock Test

Value Addition Material

➤ All India Ranking

Batch Starts: 24th March, 2018

Test Timings: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Programme 2

Mock Test

Total 12 Tests

➤ 8 Mock Tests for GS and 4 Mock Tests for CSAT

➤ Value Addition Material

➤ All India Ranking

Batch Starts: 31st March, 2018

Test Timings: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM