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1

Land & The People

- ◉ India has a unique culture and is one of the oldest and greatest civilizations of the world.
- ◉ It covers an area of 32,87,263 sq. km. India is the seventh largest country in the world and ranks second in population.
- ◉ Bound by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.
- ◉ Lying entirely in the northern hemisphere, the mainland extends between latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east and measures about 3,214 km from north to south between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes.
- ◉ It has a land frontier of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.

◉ Geographical Background

- ▶ Countries having a common border with India are Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the far east and Bangladesh to the east.
- ▶ Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- ▶ The country can be divided into six zones mainly north, south, east, west, central and north-east zone.
- ▶ It has 29 states and seven union territories.

◉ Physical Features

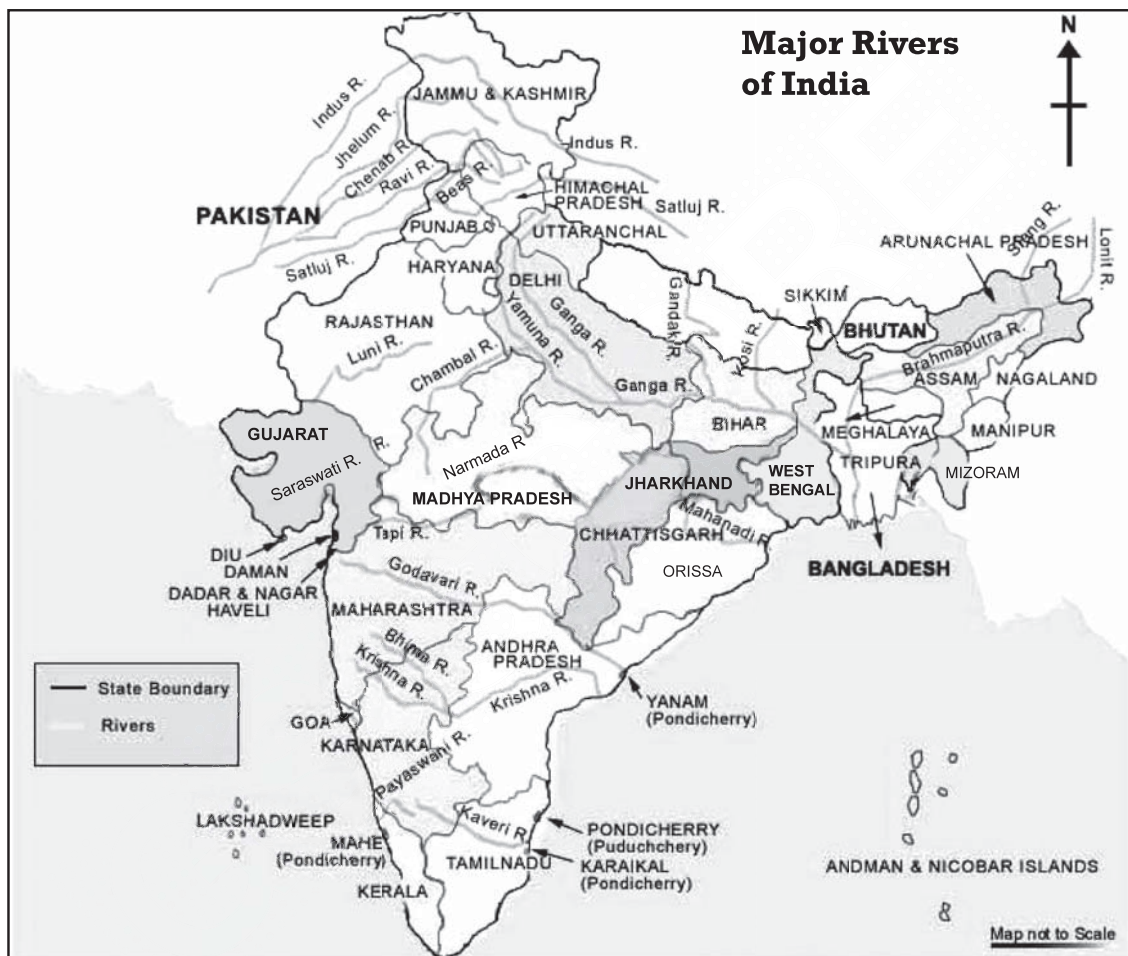
- ▶ The mainland comprises four regions, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula.
- ▶ The mountain wall extends over a distance of about 2,400 km with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km.
- ▶ In the east, between India and Myanmar and India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower.
- ▶ Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga Hills, running almost east-west, join the chain to Mizo and Rakhine Hills running north-south.
- ▶ The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems—the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- ▶ The desert region can be divided into two parts—the 'great desert' and the 'little desert'.
- ▶ The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward.
- ▶ The whole of the Rajasthan-Sind frontier runs through this.
- ▶ The little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to the northern west.
- ▶ The Peninsular Plateau is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by a mass of mountain and hill ranges varying from 460 to 1,220 metres in height. Prominent among these are the Aravali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta .

- ▶ The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet.
- ▶ The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

◉ Geological Structure

- ▶ The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement.
- ▶ The Indo-Ganga plains are a great alluvial tract that separate the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.
- ▶ The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances.

◉ River Systems



- ▶ The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz.,
 - Himalayan rivers,
 - Deccan rivers,
 - Coastal rivers and
 - Rivers of the inland drainage basin.
- ▶ The Himalayan rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year. The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system.
- ▶ The Deccan rivers on the other hand are rain-fed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non perennial. In the Deccan region, most of the major river systems flowing generally in the east fall into Bay of Bengal.

- The major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi. Narmada and Tapi are major west flowing rivers. The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India.
- A few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

◉ Climate/Seasons

- The climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) designates four official seasons:
 - Winter, from December to early April.
 - Summer or pre-monsoon season, lasting from April to June (April to July in north-western India).
 - Monsoon or rainy season, lasting from June to September. The season is dominated by the humid south-west summer monsoon.
 - Post-monsoon season, lasting from October to December. In north-western India, October and November are usually cloudless.
- India's climate is affected by two seasonal winds—the north-east monsoon and the south-west monsoon. The north-east monsoon commonly known as winter monsoon blows from land to sea. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

◉ Flora

- India is rich in flora. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, over 46,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata.
- The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover, comprises 15,000 species.
- India can be divided into eight distinct floral regions, namely, the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, the Malabar and the Andamans.
- The western Himalayan region extends from Kashmir to Kumaon.
- Its temperate zone is rich in forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees. Higher up, forests of deodar, blue pine, spruce and silver fir occur.
- The alpine zone extends from the upper limit of the temperate zone of about 4,750 metres or even higher. The characteristic trees of this zone are high-level silver fir, silver birch and junipers.
- The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch.
- The Indus plain region comprises the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat. It is dry, hot and supports natural vegetation.
- The Ganga plain region covers the area which is alluvial plain and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice.
- The Deccan region comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula and supports vegetation of various kinds from shrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests. The Andaman region abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.
- Owing to destruction of forests for agricultural, industrial and urban development, several Indian plants are facing threat of extinction.

◉ Faunal Resources

- According to world biogeographic classification, India represents two of the major realms (the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts).
- Within only about **2 per cent** of world's total land surface, India is known to have over **7.50 per cent** of the species of animals that the world holds.

◉ Demographic Background

Census: Census 2011 was the 15th census of its kind since 1872.

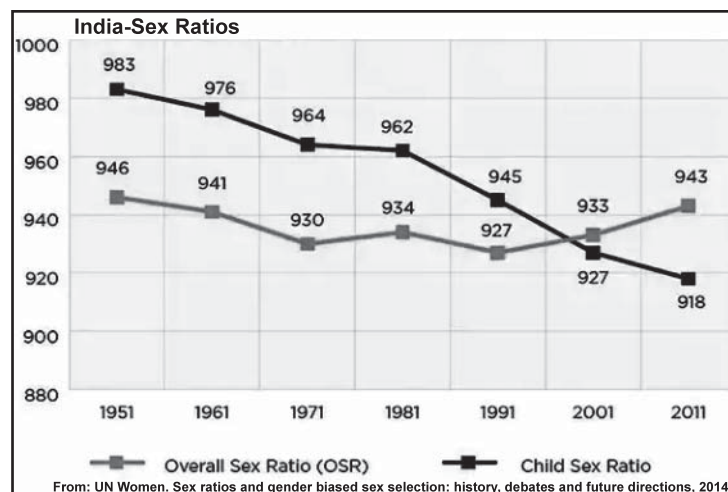
► Population

- India accounts for a meagre 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq.km. Yet, it supports and sustains a whopping per cent of the world population.

► Population Density

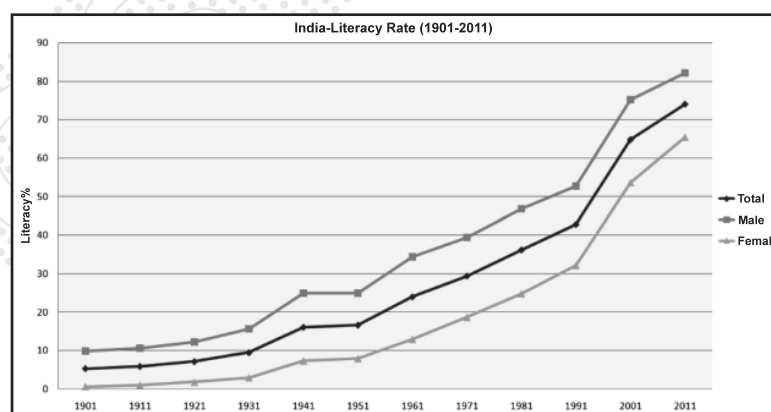
- The population density of India in 2011 was **382 per sq. km**-decadal growth **17.72 per cent**.
- The density of population increased in all states and union territories between 1991 and 2011. Among major states, Bihar is the most thickly populated state with (a population density of) 1,106 persons per sq.km followed by West Bengal 1,028 and Kerala 860.

► Sex Ratio



- Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.
- The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavourable to females.
- The sex ratio from 1901-2011 has registered a 10 point increase at census 2011 over 2001; however, child sex ratio has declined to 919 per thousand male.

► Literacy



- The literacy rate in the country is 73.0 per cent, 80.9 for males and 64.6 for females.
- Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 94 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 per cent ranks last in the country.
- Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates both in case of males (71.2 per cent) and females (51.5 per cent).

2

National Symbols

The Republic of India has several official national symbols. These symbols are intrinsic to the Indian identity and heritage. These are discussed as follows:

◉ National Flag

Features :

- ▶ The National Flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion.
- ▶ The ratio of width of the flag to its length is **2:3**. In the centre of the white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra.
- ▶ Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has **24 spokes**.
- ▶ The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on **July 22, 1947**.
- ▶ The flag is **based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya**.



Constitutional & Statutory Provisions Related to National Flag

- ▶ **Art 51(a)** - To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

Statutes Governing Use of Flag

- ▶ Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950
- ▶ Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971

Flag Code of India, 2002

- ▶ There is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc., except as provided for by the above statutes.
- ▶ **Half-mast:** The flag should be flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning. The decision to do so lies with the President of India, who also decides the period of such mourning.

Significance

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who later became India's first Vice President and second President, clarified the adopted flag and described its significance as follows:

- Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

◉ **National Flower: Indian Lotus**

Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture.

◉ **National Fruit: Mango**

Mango (*Mangifera indica*) originated in India and the country is home to more than 100 varieties of the fruit.

◉ **National River: Ganga**

Ganga is the longest river of India with the most heavily populated river basin in the world. The river is revered by Hindus as the most sacred river on earth.

◉ **National Tree: Indian Banyan**

Indian banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*) roots themselves to form new trees and grow over large areas.

◉ **National Animal: Royal Bengal Tiger**

Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), the largest carnivore is found only in the Indian subcontinent and can be found in most regions of the country.

◉ **National Aquatic Animal: River Dolphin**

Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga River as it can only survive in pure and fresh water.

◉ **National Bird: Indian Peacock**

Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) is designated as the national bird of India. A bird indigenous to the subcontinent, peacock represents the unity of vivid colors and finds references in Indian culture.

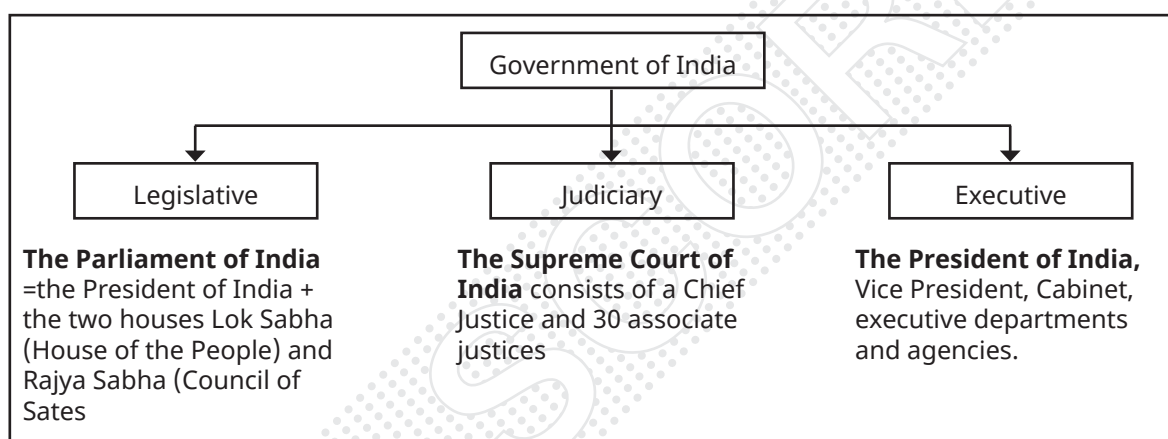
◉ **National Currency: Indian Rupee**

The Indian rupee sign (sign: ₹; code: INR) is the currency symbol for the Indian rupee, the official currency of India. The design is based on the Devanagari letter "₹" (ra) with a double horizontal line at the top. It also resembles the Latin capital letter "R", especially R rotunda (₹). The issuance of the currency is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.

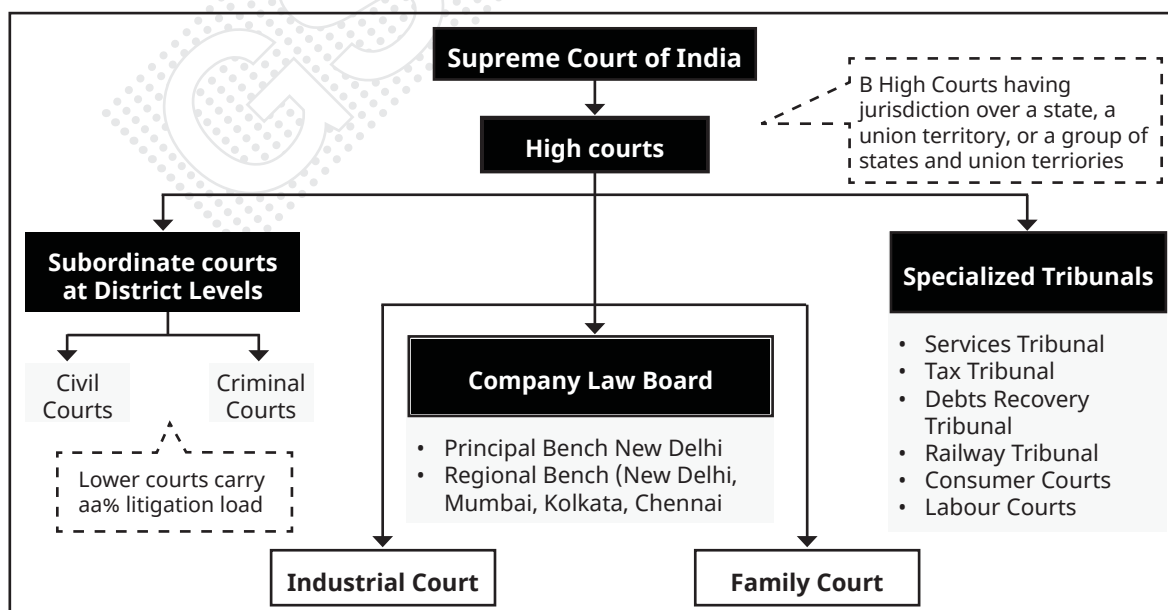
3

Polity

- India, a union of states, is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government.
- The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution, which was adopted by Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 and came into force on January 26, 1950.
- The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with unitary features.



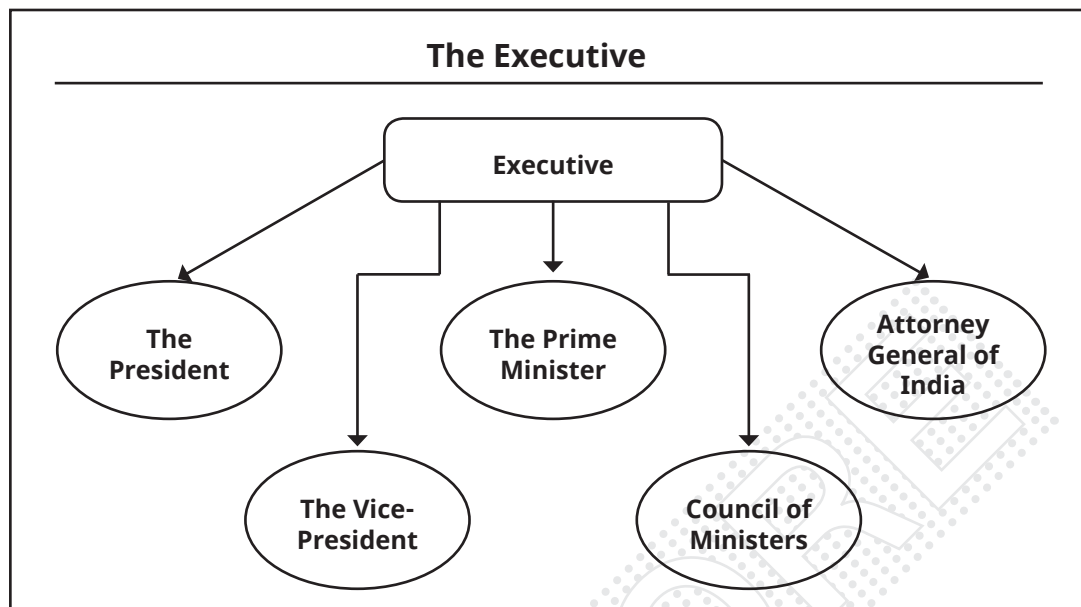
Judiciary:



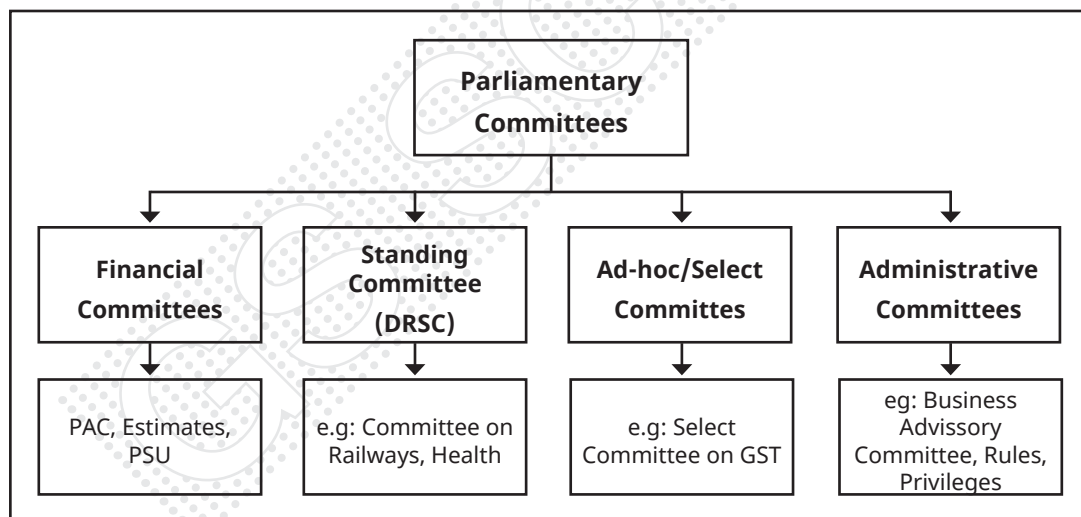
◉ The Union

Executive

- The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.



◉ Parliamentary Committees



- The functions of Parliament are varied in nature. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot make very detailed scrutiny of all legislative and other matters that come up before it. A good deal of Parliamentary business is, therefore, transacted in the committees.
- Both Houses of Parliament have a similar committee structure, with few exceptions. Their appointment, terms of office, functions and procedure of conducting business are also more or less similar and are regulated as per rules made by the two Houses under Article 118(1) of the Constitution.

◉ Government Business in Parliament

- The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with coordinating, planning and arranging government business in both Houses of Parliament. In discharge of this function, he is assisted by two ministers of state.

Consultative Committees

- ▶ Functioning of Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament for various ministries is one of the functions allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.
- ▶ The minimum membership of a Consultative Committee is ten and the maximum membership is thirty.
- ▶ The Consultative Committee stands dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and are re-constituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.

Youth Parliament Competition

- ▶ In order to develop democratic ethos in the younger generation the Ministry conducts Youth Parliament Competitions in various categories of schools and colleges/universities.

◉ All India Whips' Conference

- ▶ The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, organises All India Whips' Conference from time to time with the purpose of establishing suitable links among the whips of various political parties at the centre and the states/union territories who are concerned with the practical working of the legislatures to discuss matters of common interest and to evolve high standards to strengthen the institution of parliamentary democracy.

◉ Administrative Set-up

- ▶ The Government of India (Allocation of Business) rules, 1961 are made by the President of India under Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution for the allocation of business of the Government of India.
- ▶ The ministers departments of the Government are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under these rules.

◉ Cabinet Secretariat

- ▶ The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister.
- ▶ The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- ▶ The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business.

◉ Ministries/Departments of the Government

- ▶ The government consists of a number of ministries/departments, their number and character varying from time to time based on factors such as volume of work, priorities attached to certain subjects, etc.

List of the Ministries/Departments

- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Krishi evam Kisan Kalyan Mantralaya)
 - Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (Krishi, Sahkarita evam Kisan Kalyan Vibhag)
 - Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Krishi Anusandhan aur Shiksha Vibhag)
 - Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Pashupalan, Dairy aur Matsyapalan Vibhag)
- ▶ Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) (Ayurveda, Yoga aur Prakratik Chikitsa, Unani, Siddha aur Homoeopathy) (Ayush Mantralaya)
- ▶ Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Rasayan aur Urvarak Mantralaya)
 - Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals (Rasayan aur Petro-Rasayan Vibhag)
 - Department of Fertilizers (Urvarak Vibhag) (iii) Department of Pharmaceuticals (Aushadh Vibhag)

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (Nagar Vimanana Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Coal (Koyala Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Vanijya aur Udyog Mantralaya)
 - Department of Commerce (Vanijya Vibhag)
 - Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Audyogik Niti aur Samvardhan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Communications (Sanchar Mantralaya)
 - Department of Telecommunications (Doorsanchar Vibhag)
 - Department of Posts (Dak Vibhag)
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Upbhokta Mamie, Khadya aur Sarvajanic Vitaran Mantralaya)
 - Department of Consumer Affairs (Upbhokta Mamle Vibhag)
 - Department of Food and Public Distribution (Khadya aur Sarvajanic Vitaran Vibhag)
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Corporate Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Culture (Sanskriti Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Defence (Raksha Mantralaya)
 - Department of Defence (Raksha Vibhag)
 - Department of Defence Production (Raksha Utpadan Vibhag)
 - Department of Defence Research and Development (Raksha Anusandhan tatha Vikas Vibhag)
 - Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare (Poorva Senani Kalyan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (Uttar Poorvi Kshetra Vikas Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Peya Jal aur Swachhta Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (Prithvi Vigyan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Electroniki aur Soochana Praudyogiki Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Paryavaran, Van aur Jalvayu Parivartan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of External Affairs (Videsh Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Finance (Vitta Mantralaya)
 - Department of Economic Affairs (Arthik Karya Vibhag)
 - Department of Expenditure (Vyaya Vibhag)
 - Department of Revenue (Rajaswa Vibhag)
 - Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) (Nivesh aur Lok Parisampatti Prabandhan Vibhag) (DIPAM)
 - Department of Financial Services (Vittiya Sewayen Vibhag)
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Khadya Prasanskaran Udyog Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Swasthya aur Parivar Kalyan Mantralaya)
 - Department of Health and Family Welfare (Swasthya aur Pariva Kalyan Vibhag)
 - Department of Health Research (Swasthya Anusandhan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Bhari Udyog aur Lok Udyam Mantralaya)
 - Department of Heavy Industries (Bhari Udyog Vibhag)
 - Department of Public Enterprises (Lok Udyam Vibhag)
- Ministry of Home Affairs (Grih Mantralaya)
 - Department of Internal Security (Aantarik Suraksha Vibhag)
 - Department of States (Rajya Vibhag)
 - Department of Official Language (Raj Bhasha Vibhag)

- Department of Home (Grih Vibhag)
- Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs (Jammu tatha Kashmir Vibhag)
- Department of Border Management (Seema Prabandhan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Awasan aur Shahari Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Human Resource Development (Manav Sansadhan Vikas Mantralaya)
 - Department of School Education and Literacy (School Shiksha aur Saksharta Vibhag)
 - Department of Higher Education (Uchchatar Shiksha Vibhag)
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Soochana aur Prasaran Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shram aur Rozgar Mantralaya))
- Ministry of Law and Justice (Vidhi aur Nyaya Mantralaya)
 - Department of Legal Affairs (Vidhi Karya Vibhag)
 - Legislative Department (Vidhayee Vibhag)
 - Department of Justice (Nyaya Vibhag)
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Sukshm, Laghu aur Madhyam Udyam Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Mines (Khan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Minority Affairs (Alpasankhyak Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Naveen aur Navikarniya Oorja Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Panchayati Raj Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Sansadiya Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Karmik, Lok Shikayat tatha Pension Mantralaya)
 - Department of Personnel and Training (Karmik aur Prashikshan Vibhag)
 - Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (Prashasnik Sudhar aur Lok Shikayat Vibhag)
 - Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (Pension aur Pension Bhogi Kalyan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Petroleum aur Prakritik Gas Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Planning (Yojana Mantralya)
- Ministry of Power (Vidyut Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Railways (Rail Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (Sarak Parivahan aur Raj Marg Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Rural Development (Gramin Vikas Mantralaya)
 - Department of Rural Development (Gramin Vikas Vibhag)
 - Department of Land Resources (Bhumi Sansadhan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Science and Technology (Vigyan aur Praudyogiki Mantralaya)
 - Department of Science and Technology (Vigyan aur Praudyogiki Vibhag)
 - Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Vigyan aur Audyogik Anusandhan Vibhag)
 - Department of Bio-technology (Biotechnology Vibhag)
- Ministry of Shipping (Pot Parivahan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Kaushal Vikas aur Udyamita Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya aur Adhikarita Mantralaya)
 - Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya aur Adhikarita Vibhag)
 - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Viklangjan Sashaktikaran Vibhag)
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Sankhyiki aur Karyakram Kiryanvayan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Steel (Ispat Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Textiles (Vastra Mantralaya)

- Ministry of Tourism (Paryatan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Janjatiya Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Jal Sansadhan, Nadi Vikas aur Ganga Sanrakshan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (Mahila aur Bal Vikas Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Yuva Karyakram aur Khel Mantralaya)
 - Department of Youth Affairs (Yuva Karyakaram Vibhag)
 - Department of Sports (Khel Vibhag)
- Department of Atomic Energy (Parmanu Oorja Vibhag)
- Department of Space (Antariksh Vibhag) APEX/INDEPENDENT OFFICE
- Cabinet Secretariat (Mantrimandal Sachivalaya)
- President's Secretariat (Rashtrapati Sachivalaya)
- Prime Minister's Office (Pradhan Mantri Karyalaya)
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

◉ National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (NACWC) is a multilateral international treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- The CWC came into force with effect from 1997.
- The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfill, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention.

◉ Project Monitoring Group

- Project Monitoring Group (PMG), is an institutional mechanism for resolving a variety of issues including fast tracking of approvals for setting up an expeditious commissioning of large Public, Private and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project.
- Project Monitoring Group (PMG) was set up in 2013 under cabinet secretariat.
- PMG is presently functioning under Prime Minister's Office (PMO) since 2015.

◉ Public Grievances

- The Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) was set up in 1988 to entertain grievances from the public after they fail to get satisfactory redress from the ministry/department concerned within a reasonable time. It is thus, an office of the last resort for redress of grievances relating to sectors in its purview.

◉ National Disaster Management Authority

- In 2005, the government enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disasters management in the country.
- NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

◉ Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

- ▶ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating the states in general and those pertaining to central government agencies in particular.

▶ Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

- Government of India instituted 'Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration' to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the central and state governments.

▶ Civil Services Day

- The Government of India celebrates April, 21 every year as 'Civil Services Day' for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work.

▶ National Conference on e-Governance

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with one of the state governments organises the National Conference on e-Governance every year since 1997.
- This conference provides platform for the senior officers of the government including IT secretaries of state governments.
- IT managers of the central government, and resource persons, experts, intellectuals from the industry and academic institutions, etc., to discuss, exchange views and experiences relating to various e-Governance initiatives.

◉ Cooperation with Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management

- ▶ The Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), with its **headquarters at Ottawa, Canada**, is an organization dedicated to strengthening public management and consolidating democracy and good governance in the Commonwealth.
- ▶ It was formed in 1994 as a result of decisions taken at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings in Harare in 1991 and in Cyprus in 1993.
- ▶ The membership enables the Government of India to keep pace with the latest developments in the field of public administration, through participation in various programmes of CAPAM viz., international innovations awards programme, international innovations cascading programme, international meetings, seminars and conferences organized by CAPAM, as well as through various publications, journals and study reports.
- ▶ CAPAM recognizes and promotes good governance through its award programmes given under four categories.

◉ Administrative Reforms Commission

- ▶ The second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was constituted in 2005, as a Commission of Inquiry for preparing a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administrative system.
- ▶ It presented 15 reports for consideration:
 - Right to Information: Master Key to Good Governance;
 - Unlocking Human Capital: Entitlements and Governance - A Case Study;
 - Crisis Management: From Despair to Hope;
 - Ethics in Governance;

- Public Order : Justice for Each ... Peace for All;
- Local Governance;
- Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution - Friction to Fusion;
- Combating Terrorism;
- Social Capital - A Shared Destiny;
- Refurbishing of Personnel Administration - Scaling New Heights;
- Promoting e-Governance - The Smart Way Forward; (xii) Citizen Centric Administration - the Heart of Governance;
- Organizational Structure of Government of India; (xiv) Strengthening Financial Management System;
- State and district Administration. The central government considered 14 out of 15 reports and the decisions on the accepted recommendations of 2nd ARC are at various stages of implementation.

◉ Official Language

- ▶ Article 343 (1) of the Constitution provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. Article 343 (2) also provides for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., upto January 25, 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution.
- ▶ Article 343 (3) empowered the Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after January 25, 1965.

Committees/Samitis

- ▶ The Kendriya Hindi Samiti was constituted in 1967.
- ▶ Chaired by Prime Minister it is the apex policy making body which lays the guidelines for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as official language of the Union.

4

Agriculture

- ▶ Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. 54.6 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (census 2011) and it contributes 17.4 per cent to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2016-17, 2011-12 series). Given the importance of this sector, Government of India took several steps for its sustainable development.

◉ Production

- ▶ The normal spell of rainfall during monsoon 2016 and the various policy initiatives taken by the Government made it possible to achieve a broad-based record foodgrain production in the year 2016-17. As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total production of rice is estimated at a new record of 110.15 million tonnes. Rice production is 3.50 million tonnes higher than the previous record production of 106.65 million tonnes.
- ▶ The wheat production is higher by 6.10 million tonnes as compared to the wheat production of 92.29 million tonnes in 2015-16.
- ▶ Production of coarse cereals is estimated at a new record level of 44.19 million tonnes.
- ▶ It is higher than the previous record production of 43.40 million tonnes achieved during 2010-11 by 0.79 million tonnes and also higher by 5.67 million tonnes as compared to the production of 38.52 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.

◉ National Policy for Farmers

- ▶ Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007. Many of the provisions of the NPF are being implemented by different central government departments and ministries.

◉ Major Programmes

▶ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- The scheme was approved with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a period of 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
- The major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), promote sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

▶ Agriculture Credit

- Government announces annual target for agriculture credit in the budget every year. Agricultural credit flow has shown consistent progress every year. The Department implements the Interest

Subvention Scheme under which interest subvention is provided on short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakh for a period of one year which is made available to farmers at subvented interest rate of 7 per cent per annum and in case of timely repayment, the same gets reduced to 4 per cent per annum.

► Crop Insurance

- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases, weather conditions, Government of India introduced the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). In addition, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was to be withdrawn after implementation of NCIP from rabi 2013-14 was extended further upto 2015-16.
- A new scheme **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** (PMFBY) has been introduced along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2 per cent will be paid by farmers for all kharif crops and 1.5 per cent for all rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5 per cent. Balance premium will be paid by the Government.

● Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

- Commission for 'Agricultural Costs and Prices' (CACP), set up with a view to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure, is mandated to advise on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops.
- CACP submits its recommendations in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

► Minimum Support Prices

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.
- The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, govt. agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.

► Determinants of MSP

- Cost of production (CoP) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops.
- Besides cost, the Commission considers other important factors such as demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water.
- The pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

◉ Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- In India, new records are being established in the agriculture sector. India's foodgrain production for the 2016-17 is estimated at record 275.68 million tonnes, which is over 4 per cent higher than the previous record production achieved during 2013-14.
- In this endeavour, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has played a vital role by way of technology development, demonstration and transfer in India.
- The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the country has taken up number of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other programmes for application of farm technologies in farmers' field.
- Besides, taking up technology assessment, refinement, demonstration and capacity development programmes the other initiatives such as Farmers First, attracting and retaining youth in agriculture (ARYA), climate resilient integrated farming systems (IFS), cluster frontline demonstration (CFLD) of pulses and oilseeds, Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia (CSISA), documentation and registration of farmers' varieties under PPV&FRA, pulses seed hubs, KVK Portal, Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav and awareness creations about mega government schemes, etc., were also implemented to espouse the cause of farming community through technology application with their active participation.

◉ Soil and Water Productivity

- The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) developed NBSS BHOOMI Geo-portal to access various thematic information on major physiographic regions, sub-physiographic regions, agro-ecological regions (1992), agro-ecological regions (2015) and agroecological sub-regions of the country.
- Area/region specific efficient and remunerative crops and cropping sequences were delineated based on soils, landforms, rainfall temperature, length of growing period and irrigability.
- The NBSS&LUP developed an android based mobile application on GIS platform to facilitate web-based decision support system (DSS) for land use planning and dissemination of soil health cards information at village and farm level for Gujarat.

◉ Genetic Resources

- The Geographical Information System (GIS) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) of India was developed as a standalone package by which the users can extract and highlight habitats of selected breeds on the map.

◉ Livestock Improvement

- Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries activities, along with agriculture, continue to be an integral part of human life since the process of civilization started.
- These activities have contributed not only to the food basket and draught animal power but also by maintaining ecological balance. Owing to conducive climate and topography, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors have played prominent socio-economic role in India.
- Livestock production and agriculture are intrinsically linked, each being dependent on the other, and both crucial for overall food security. Livestock sector is an important subsector of the agriculture of Indian economy.
- India has vast resource of livestock and poultry, which play a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of rural masses.

◉ Livestock Production

According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output livestock sector at current prices was about Rs. 5,91,691 crore during 2015-16 which is about 28.5 per cent of the value of output from agricultural and allied sector.

- Per capita availability of egg is around 69 eggs per annum.
- Wool production showed negative growth.

- Milk production has shown an annual growth of 6.37 per cent.
- India is the second largest producer of fish and also second largest producer of fresh water fish in the world.
- Meat production registered a healthy growth at the end of Tenth and Eleventh Five year Plan.

◉ National Livestock Mission

- For sustainable and continuous growth of livestock sector by emulating the success achieved in dairy and poultry sectors, across species and regions, the National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with an approved outlay of Rs. 2,800 crore during XII Plan.
- This Mission is formulated with the objectives of sustainable development of livestock sector, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, improved flow of credit and organisation of livestock farmers/rearers, etc.
- The followings are sub-missions of the National livestock mission:
 - Sub-mission on livestock development.
 - Sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region.
 - Sub-mission on fodder and feed development.
 - Sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension.

◉ Livestock Health

- With improvement in the quality of livestock through cross-breeding programmes, the susceptibility of these livestock to various diseases including exotic diseases has increased. In order to reduce morbidity and mortality, efforts are being made by the state/union territory governments to provide better health care through polyclinics/veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid centers including mobile veterinary dispensaries available in the states. At present, the Drugs Controller General of India regulates the quality of veterinary drugs and biologicals.

◉ Livestock Census

- The first Livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country.
- The 19th Livestock Census was conducted in 2012 in the country in participation with animal husbandry departments of the states/UTs. Breed Survey was also undertaken in 2013 in order to estimate the breedwise number of livestock population on a general principle of 15 per cent sample village across the country.

◉ Fisheries

- Presently, India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China. The total fish production during 2015-16 (provisional) stood at 10.79 million metric tonne (MMT) with a contribution of 7.21 MMT from inland sector and 3.58 MMT from marine sector. The historical scenario of Indian fisheries reveals a paradigm shift from marine dominated fisheries to a scenario where inland fisheries emerged as a major contributor to the overall fish production in the country. Within inland fisheries there is a shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture during the last two and a half decade.

Culture & Tourism

◉ Ministry of Culture

- ▶ The mandate of the Ministry of Culture revolves around the functions like preservation and conservation of ancient cultural heritage and promotion of art and culture both tangible and intangible in the country.
- ▶ It has organized four missions namely National Mission for Manuscripts, National Mission for Monument and Antiquities, National Mission on Libraries, and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission.
- ▶ It also nurtures **Gandhian Heritage** and is responsible for commemoration of important historical events and centenaries of great personalities.
- ▶ In tangible heritage, the Ministry takes care of all the centrally protected monuments of national importance, which is achieved through Archaeological Survey of India. Similarly, the Ministry is also promoting a museum movement in the country and majority of the museums are under its administrative control. The Ministry also promotes regional museums through grants-in-aid.
- ▶ In the field of intangible heritage, the Ministry extends financial support to individuals, group of individuals and cultural organizations engaged in performing visual and literary arts.
- ▶ In knowledge heritage, the Ministry is the custodian of all the major libraries in the country. It also extends grant-in-aid for library development and is also responsible for all policy matters regarding library development.
- ▶ Through National Archives of India, Ministry is responsible for maintenance of all archival records of the country.
- ▶ The Ministry is also involved in protection and promotion of Buddhist and Tibetan Culture and is doing this through various institutions located at Sarnath, Varanasi and Leh.
- ▶ The Ministry is also responsible for implementation of various UNESCO conventions in field of agriculture and for entering to cultural agreements with partnering countries.

◉ Lalit Kala Akademi

- ▶ It is national academy of Arts and government's apex cultural body in the field of visual arts in India. It has been established to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country.
- ▶ It was established on August 5, 1954 at New Delhi.

▶ Working Area

- The Academy has been organizing national exhibition of contemporary Indian art with 15 national awards.
 - ◆ Once in every three years, the Academy also organizes Triennial international exhibition of contemporary art in New Delhi.
 - ◆ The Academy honours eminent artists and art historians every year by electing them as Fellows of the Academy.

- In order to foster contacts with artists from outside, it sponsors exchange of artists with other countries under the various Cultural Exchange Programmes.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi accords recognition to art institutions/associations and extends financial assistance.
- It also gives scholarships to deserving young artists belonging to its regional centres.
- The akademi has also started a regular programme on research and documentation.
- Under art promotional activities Akademi provides studios to artists who work in various disciplines of art like sculpture, ceramics, graphics, paintings etc.

◉ Sangeet Natak Akademi

- Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, is a pioneer in creation of modern India.
- In 1961, the Sangeet Natak Akademi was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

► Working Area

- The festivals of music, dance and drama presented or promoted by the Akademi are held all over India.
- The great masters of the performing arts have been elected as Fellows of the Akademi.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards conferred annually on eminent artists and scholars.
- Financial assistance to artists for their work from the Akademi.
- It has a large archive of audio and video tapes and remains the single most important resource for researchers in the field of performing arts.
- The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of performing arts. In 1959, the Akademi established the National School of Drama and in 1964, the Kathak Kendra). Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy in Imphal, the premier institution in teaching of Manipuri dance and music was established in 1954.
- Being the apex body, the Akademi also advises and assists the Government of India in formulating and implementing policies and projects in the field.

◉ Sahitya Akademi

- Sahitya Akademi is the Indian National Academy of Letters, to promote Indian literature through publications, translations, seminars, workshops, cultural exchange programmes and literary meets organized all over the country.
- The Akademi was founded in March **1954** as an autonomous body fully funded by the Department of Culture.
- It was registered as a Society in 1956 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Akademi has recognized 24 languages.
- It has an office at Shillong for promotion of oral and tribal literature and an Archive of Indian literature in Delhi.
- The three fellowships by Sahitya Akademi are:-
 - Sahitya Akademi Honorary Fellowship
 - Ananda Coomaraswamy
 - Premchand Fellowship
- Every year since its inception in 1954, the Sahitya Akademi awards prizes to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages.
- Certain special projects like the Ancient Indian Literature, Medieval Indian Literature and Modern Indian Literature together.

- It has also launched a new project Encyclopedia of Indian Poetics.
- The Akademi organizes 'Festival of Letters' every year to celebrate Indian writing.
- Sahitya Akademi promotes Tribal and Oral Literature in the country through its Centre for Tribal and Oral Literature in Delhi and North-East Centre for Oral Literature in Imphal.
- To promote literature among youth, the Akademi issues Travel Grants to young writers and publishes the first of the young author under its Navodaya scheme.
- Recently, Sahitya Akademi has launched a **Village Outreach programme**, Gramalok, to promote literature in rural spaces.
- Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellowship for scholars from Asian countries to pursue literary projects and Premchand Fellowship for scholars doing research on Indian literature from SAARC countries are two other prominent Fellowships of the Akademi.

◉ National School of Drama

- The National School of Drama (NSD) - one of the foremost theatre institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959. Later in 1975, it became an autonomous organization.

▶ Objective/Working area of the NSD

- To train students in all aspects of theatre, including theatre history, production, scene design, costume design, lighting, make-up, etc.
- The school has a performing wing, a Repertory Company to establish professional theatre and regular experimental work.
- The NSD has promoted children's theatre. The Theatre-in-Education Company (renamed as Sanskar Rang Toli) was founded in 1989 and has been actively involved in production of plays for children, organizing summer theatre workshops in schools of Delhi, etc.
- The first ever National Theatre Festival christened Bharat Rang Mahotsav was held in 1999.
- The school has a regional research centre at Bengaluru to cater to the needs of the four southern states and Puducherry.

◉ Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) is an autonomous trust under the **Ministry of Culture**. It is a national level academic research centre, encompassing the study and experience of all arts, classical and folk, written and oral, ancient and modern.
- The IGNCA's view of the arts encompasses wide areas such as creative and critical literature, written and oral; the visual arts, architecture, sculpture, painting, graphics, photography and film.
- IGNCA also manages **National Mission for Manuscripts** which has conserved and digitised precious heritage through resource and conservation centres across India.

◉ Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

- The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.
- The centre was set up in May, 1979 as an autonomous organization by the Government of India. With headquarters in New Delhi, it has three regional centres at Udaipur, Hyderabad and Guwahati.
- The broad objectives of CCRT have been to revitalize the education system by creating an understanding and awareness among students about the plurality of the regional cultures of India and integrating this knowledge with education.
- It conducts a variety of training programmes for in-service teachers drawn from all parts of the country.
- This training also stresses on the role of culture in science and technology, housing, agriculture, sports, etc.

- ▶ It creates awareness amongst students and teachers of their role in solving environmental pollution problems and conservation and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage.
- ▶ The CCRT organizes educational tours to monuments, museums, art galleries, craft centres, zoological parks and gardens, camps on conservation of natural and cultural heritage, camps on learning crafts using low cost locally.
- ▶ It also aims to revive and encourage the art and crafts of rural India. It prepares publications to provide an understanding and appreciation of aspects of Indian art and culture.
- ▶ CCRT implements the **Cultural Talent Search Scholarships Scheme which provides scholarships to outstanding children between 10-14 years, studying in recognize schools or to families performing traditional performing Arts or other arts.**
- ▶ **Project Sanskriti** is an initiative of Ministry of Culture in developing/ establishing of interpretation centres in educational institutions in Varanasi.

◉ Zonal Cultural Centres

- ▶ Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) aim to arouse awareness of the local cultures and to show how these merge into zonal identities and eventually into the rich diversity of India's composite culture.
- ▶ Master craftsmen and artisans from various ZCCs participate in Crafts Fair. Documentation of various rare folk and tribal art forms is one of the main thrust areas of the ZCCs.
- ▶ Under the National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP), exchanges of artists, musicologists, performers and scholars between different regions within the country take place.
- ▶ The ZCCs promote craftsmen through Shilpgrams.

The Seven ZCCs with Headquarters and States, they cover are as follows:

Zonal Centres	Head Quarters	Component States
North Central Zone Culture	Allahabad,	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar,
	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Delhi
North Zone Cultural Centre	Patiala,	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,
	Punjab	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab & Union Territory of Chandigarh
West Zone Cultural Centre	Udaipur,	Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Union
	Rajasthan	Territory of Daman, Diu and Dadra, Nagar Haveli
North East Zone Cultural	Dimapur,	Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh,
	Nagaland	Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya
Eastern Zone Cultural Centre	Kolkata,	Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Tripura,
	West Bengal	Manipur, Sikkim, Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Jharkhand
South Zone Cultural Centre	Thanjavur,	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,
	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka, Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry
South Central Zone Cultural	Nagpur,	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka &
	Maharashtra	Andhra Pradesh

- The main objectives of the ZCCs are the preservation, promotion and dissemination of the traditional folk arts and culture of the various States/Union Territories. The ZCCs have been carrying out various activities and programmes at the national, zonal and local levels in accordance with their aims and objectives implemented through various schemes.
- They have been implementing the following schemes to preserve and promote traditional art and culture:
- The Government organizes various cultural programmes through its organizations like Zonal Culture Centres (ZCCs), Akademies etc. to promote Indian culture for all walks of people including youth.
- Under the NCEP, the exchanges of artists, musicologists, performers and scholars between different regions within the country take place. It has been extremely useful in promoting awareness of different tribal/ folks art forms in different parts of country.

◉ Archaeological Survey of India

- It was established in 1861. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.
- Its major activities are: Survey of archaeological remains and excavations; maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments, sites and remains; chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains; architectural survey of monuments; development of epigraphical research and numismatic studies; setting up and re-organization of site museums; expeditions abroad; training in archaeology; publication of technical reports and research works.
- Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, ASI has declared 3,686 sites of National importance. Out of this 21 are inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO. 3 sites namely, **Champaner- Pavagarh Archaeological park in Gujarat, Chtarpati Shivaji Terminus Staion in Mumbai** and the **Brihadeshawara temple complex, Gangaikondacholapuram and Airavatesvara temple complex, Darasuram as an extension of Brihadeswara temple complex, Thanjavur** have been inscribed on World heritage list of UNESCO in 2004.

◉ National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

- It prepares a National Register for Built Heritage, Sites and Antiques and setting up of a state level database on Built Heritage. As per the recommendations of National Productivity Council in its 3rd Party evaluation report, NMMA has been made a division of Archaeological Survey of India.
- As part of the mandate, NMMA has to prepare two national registers, viz., (i) National Register on Built Heritage and Sites and (ii) National Register on Antiquities.

◉ National Mission for Manuscripts

- It was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India's inheritance of knowledge contained in the vast treasure of manuscripts.
- Major activities are: Documentation of manuscripts through survey, preventive and curative conservation, conducting training courses and workshops on conservation, documentation through digitization, research and publication and public outreach programmes.

◉ National Museum

- Works under the Ministry of Culture since 1960.
- **Main activities:** Exhibitions, Reorganization/Modernization of Galleries, Educational Activities and Outreach Programmes, Public Relations, Publications, Photo Documentation, Summer Holiday Programmes.

◉ Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I)

- An.S.I. is an institution of its unique kind anywhere the world. It has been mandated to study the bio-cultural attributes of the Indian populations since its establishment, about 65 years before.
- The activities include collection, preservation, maintenance, documentation and study of ethnographic materials as well as ancient human skeletal remains.

◉ National Archives of India

- ▶ NAI is the custodian of non- current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of the records creators and users at large. It functions as an attached office to Ministry of Culture.
- ▶ It is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993
- ▶ Making public records accessible to various Government agencies and research scholars.
- ▶ Its major activity includes making public records accessible to various government agencies and research scholars.
- ▶ It also renders technical assistance to individuals and institutions in the field of conservation of records.
- ▶ Preservation and maintenance of records and conducting of scientific investigations for the said purpose.

◉ National Library

- ▶ The National Library, Kolkata was established in 1948. It enjoys the status of an institution of national importance.
- ▶ Functions are: (i) Acquisition and conservation of all significant printed material as well as of manuscripts of national importance; (ii) Collection of printed material concerning the country, no matter where it is published; and (iii) Rendering of bibliographical and documentary services of current and retrospective material.

◉ Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- ▶ It was announced in 2015 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ▶ The broad objectives of the initiative are:
 - To celebrate the unity in diversity of our nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our country;
 - To promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all states and union territories through a year-long planned engagement between states;
 - To showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either state for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity;
 - To establish long-term engagements; and
 - To create an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practice and experiences
- ▶ The aim of Buddhist Tibetan Institutions (BTI) is to help preserve, promote and propagate the intangible Buddhist/Tibetan/Himalayan cultural heritage of the country.

◉ Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

- ▶ The objective of the scheme is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas. The scheme was revised in 2011.
- ▶ As per the revised scheme the grant shall be provided for undertaking the following activities:
 - Study and research on cultural heritage;
 - Preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art & crafts and documentation of cultural activities/ events like music, dance, etc.;
 - Dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture;

◉ Other Projects

- ▶ **Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization:** The objective of the scheme to give financial assistance to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan culture and tradition and research in related fields.
- ▶ **Central Institute of Buddhist Studies:** The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh/Ladakh formerly known as School of Buddhist Philosophy was established at the behest of late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1959. The Institute has obtained the status of Deemed University in January, 2016.
- ▶ **Nava Nalanda Mahavihara:** The Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM) was established in 1951 in Nalanda, Bihar by the Government of Bihar. The NNM is an institution of post graduate studies and research in Pali and Buddhism. At present, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Culture and accorded Deemed University status in 2006.
- ▶ **University of Tibetan Studies:** The Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi was established in 1967 with a view to educating the youths of Tibet and Indian students of Himalayan border areas. The Institute was declared as a "Deemed to be University" in 1988.
- ▶ **Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies:** The Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS) has been registered as a Society in 2010 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The area of operation of the Society shall be all over India. The Institute undertakes under graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes in Buddhist and Himalayan studies and may also establish and maintain feeder schools.

▶ 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. The Ministry 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. As a step in this direction, it 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 the programme.

▶ Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- It has a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities. Under the scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

▶ PRASAD Scheme

- Under PRASAD scheme, 25 sites of religious significance have been identified for development namely; Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Dwarka (Gujarat), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Belur (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Hazratbal (Jammu & Kashmir), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Puri (Odisha), Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

► **Swachh Paryatan Mobile App**

- “Swachh Paryatan Mobile App” operated by the Ministry of Tourism for 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments.
- The Ministry of Tourism has launched an initiative for providing pre-loaded Sim Cards to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa. This initiative was launched in 2017 in association with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., (BSNL), wherein BSNL would distribute pre-loaded SIM cards to foreign tourists on e-Visa.
- This initiative is aimed at providing connectivity to foreign tourists to enable them to stay in touch with their family and friends and also help them to contact with the 24x7 multi-lingual toll free helpline of Ministry of Tourism for any assistance and guidance during times of distress / medical emergency, etc.



Basic Economic Data

◉ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

- ▶ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation came into existence as an independent ministry in 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation.
- ▶ The ministry has two wings, one relating to Statistics and the other relating to Programme Implementation.
- ▶ The Statistics Wing re-designated as National Statistics Office (NSO) consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

◉ National Statistical Commission

- ▶ The Government of India through a resolution in 2005 decided to set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC).
- ▶ The NSC was initially constituted in 2006, to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical coordination.

◉ Central Statistics Office

- ▶ As an attached office of the ministry. It coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards.
- ▶ Its activities inter-alia, include compilation of National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/Combined, Human Development Statistics, including Gender Statistics in the states and union territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environment Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.
- ▶ The National Accounts Division (NAD) of the CSO is responsible for preparation of national accounts, which include the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), national income, government/private final consumption expenditure, capital formation and savings along with details of transactions of institutional sectors.

Real Income and Net National Income

- ▶ The per capita real income i.e., per capita net national income at constant (201T-12) prices, as per the provisional estimates for 2017-18 turned out to be X 86,668 as against the first revised estimate of X 82,229 for 2016-17/This indicates growth in per capita real income of about 5.4 per cent during 2017-18).

National Income

- ▶ The growth in real GDP during 2017-18 is estimated at 6.7 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.

Services Sector

- ▶ The share of services in India's Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices (at current prices) increased from 49 per cent in 2011-12 to 53.9 per cent in 2017-18 as per Provisional Estimates (PE). On including construction, this share increases and becomes 61.2 per cent in 2017-18.
- ▶ In 2017-18, growth of the services sector at constant (2011-12) was observed higher than the overall GVA growth of 7T_per cent and 6.5 per cent at constant prices in 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively

Services Trade

- ▶ There has been a negative growth of (-3.2) per cent on net import of services in 2016-17 as compared to (9.1) per cent in 2015-16. In 2016-17, net import of services financed almost 63.3 per cent of the India's trade deficit on net import of goods.

◉ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

- ▶ NSSO in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys, in diverse fields, on all India basis.
- ▶ Primary data is collected regularly through nationwide household surveys on various Socio-Economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act and Enterprise surveys, as a follow up of the Economic Census.
- ▶ Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices; plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the state agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban areal units for drawing samples for Socio-Economic Surveys in urban areas.
- ▶ The NSSO functions with requisite autonomy, in matters relating to data collection, processing and publication/dissemination of results/data based on its surveys, under overall guidance and supervision of National Statistical Commission (NSC) which appoints Working Groups/ Technical Committees comprising both official and non-official members on different subjects for finalization of survey instruments for its surveys and methodologies for the same.

◉ Price Data Collection

- ▶ **Rural Retail Price Collection:** The data collected on rural retail prices are used for compiling the consumer price index (CPI) for agricultural labourers. At present, the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, compiles and publishes the CPI for agricultural labourers.
- ▶ **Consumer Price Index CPI (Urban):** The collection of prices is being done by NSSO. The CPI (U) scheme collects the prices of goods on the basis of three broad segments of the population (viz. affluent, middle and poor).
- ▶ **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** On the request of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries, NSSO is facilitating the Office of the Economic Adviser in price data collection for existing series as well as New Series of WPI. New series has base year - 2011-12.
- ▶ **Consumer Price:** Consumer Price Index in India is published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). Consumer Price Indices (CPI) measure changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for consumption. CPI is a macroeconomic indicator of inflation and used as a tool by central banks for inflation targeting and monitoring price stability, and as deflators in the national accounts. CPI is also used for indexing dearness allowance to employees for the increase in prices.

◉ Indexes

▶ Index of Industrial Production

- IIP is an abstract number or ratio which measures the growth of various sectors in the economy.
- In India, IIP is a representative figure which measures the general level of Industrial activity in the country.

- Being an abstract number, it does not show volume of activity and only shows the magnitude which represents the status of production in the industrial sector for a given period of time as compared to a reference period of time.
- The annual IIP increased by 4.3 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to a growth of 4.6 per cent in 2016-17. During this period electricity sector registered an annual growth of 5.4 per cent as compared to 5.8 per cent of 2.3 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively during 2017-18 as compared to 5.3 per cent and 4.4 per cent growths in 2016-17.

► Annual Survey of Industries

- It is the principal source of industrial statistics in India.
- It provides statistical information to access and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the change in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, generation, transmission, etc., of electricity, gas and water supply and cold storage.
- The ASI extends to the entire country. The survey covers all factories registered under Section 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948. The survey also covers bidi and cigar manufacturing establishments registered under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.
- All the electricity undertakings engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) were covered under ASI up to 1997-98 irrespective of their employment size. Certain services and activities like cold storage, water supply, repair of motor vehicles and of other consumer durables like watches, etc., are covered under the survey.
- Defence establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, restaurants, hotels, cafe and computer services and the technical training institutes are excluded from the purview of the survey.
- The electricity undertakings registered with the CEA are not being covered under ASI with effect from 1998-99. However, captive units not registered with CEA continued to be covered under ASI.

◉ Twenty Point Programme

- The thrust of the programme, restructured in 2006, is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the underprivileged people all over the country. The programme covers various socio-economic aspects like poverty, employment, education, housing, agriculture, drinking water, afforestation and environment protection, energy to rural areas, welfare of weaker sections of the society, etc.
- The primary responsibility of implementation and monitoring of the programme lies with the agencies entrusted with the execution of the programme, which in this case are the state governments/union territory administrations and the Central Nodal Ministries. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the programmes/schemes covered under TPP-2006 on the basis of performance reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations and Central Nodal Ministries. The Ministry has developed a web based Management Information System to expeditiously collect information from the State Governments and the Central Nodal Ministries.

◉ Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

- The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched on 23rd December, 1993. Initially, Ministry of Rural Development was the Nodal Ministry for this scheme. In October, 1994 this scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The Salient Features:

- MPLADS is a Central Plan Scheme fully funded by the Government of India under which funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- The funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable, i.e. the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. At present, the annual entitlement per MP/Constituency is Rs. 5 crore.

- ▶ Under MPLADS, the role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommend works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time period.
- ▶ The elected Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected. Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation, anywhere in the country.
- ▶ There is no limit for works to be executed for the Government. However, for the works meant for trust/society there is a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh for the lifetime of each Trust/Society. An MP can recommend funds only upto Rs. 100 lakh in all in a financial year, from MPLADS funds for works to Trusts/Societies.
- ▶ MPLADS works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone, hailstorm, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, earthquake, drought, tsunami, fire and biological, chemical, radiological hazards, etc.
- ▶ In order to accord special attention to the development of areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), 15 per cent of MPLADS funds are to be utilized for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by ST population.
- ▶ If an elected Member of Parliament finds the need, to contribute MPLADS funds, to a place outside that state/UT or outside the constituency within the State or both, the MP can recommend eligible works, under these Guidelines upto a maximum of Rs. 25 lakh in a financial year. Such a gesture on the part of an MP will promote national unity, harmony, and fraternity among the people, at the grass roots level.
- ▶ MPs may recommend their MPLADS funds to aided educational Institutions which are receiving financial assistance from state government and are recognized by a State/UT/Central Board of Secondary Education in the case of schools and by State/Central university in case of colleges and are not charging commercial fee from students. Such aided educational institutions are eligible for receiving MPLADS funds for all permissible items under the Guidelines with no ceiling.

7

Commerce

- International trade plays a catalytic role in economic transformation of a nation in myriad ways. Greater integration with the global economy ensures higher competitiveness, specialisation in focus sectors, overall improvement of standards, better value and access for consumers, transfer of technical know-how, increase in national income, rising stature at global forums, growth in GDP and rise in employment.
- India enjoys a strong competitive advantage in global markets across a range of sectors including agri-products, plantations, engineering, textiles, leather, services, pharmaceuticals, marine products, gems and jewellery, chemicals and plastics.
- Growth in exports over the past year has been a major driver of India's overall economic performance. In continuation with positive growth exhibited by exports for the last thirteen months, exports during September 2017 showed growth of 25.67 per cent in dollar terms valued at US\$ 28.61 billion as compared to US\$ 22.76 billion during September, 2016.
- The Department of Commerce, Government of India envisions making India a major player in global trade by 2020 and ensuring that India assumes a leadership role in international trade organisations commensurate with its growing importance. Towards this goal, it works closely with stakeholders and provides an enabling framework to help increase India's exports of merchandise and services.
- The Department is entrusted with diverse responsibilities pertaining to promotion of international trade, multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, development and regulation of certain export oriented industries and commodities and more recently, logistics.

◦ Global and Domestic Economic Environment

- The global crisis produced a wide-ranging yet differentiated impact across the globe which includes economic slowdown and contraction in world trade. However, if we go by the latest number from WTO then it points towards healthy prospects for global trade.
- The estimate for growth in world merchandise trade volume in 2017 was raised to 3.6 per cent. The previous estimate for 2017 was 2.4 per cent. For 2017 trade growth is placed within a range from 3.2 per cent to 3.9 per cent, accompanied by global GDP growth of 2.8 per cent at market exchange rates (WTO, 2017).
- For India, trade (Exports + Imports) growth in last four years has remained on the negative side with a slight improvement in 2014, showing a growth of 0.7 per cent. This is despite the fact that India's GDP growth numbers improved to 7.2 per cent in 2014 and further to 7.9 per cent in 2015 but again declined to 7.1 per cent in 2016.
- India registered robust growth of 7.1 per cent in 2016-17 thus becoming the fastest growing major economy in the world. As per the estimates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF, October 2017), the global upswing in economic activity is strengthening.
- Global growth, which in 2016 was the weakest since the global financial crisis at 3.2 per cent, is projected to rise to 3.6 per cent in 2017 and to 3.7 per cent in 2018.
- Growth is projected to rise over this year and next in emerging market and developing economies, supported by improved external factors - a benign global financial environment and a recovery in advanced economies.

- ▶ Growth in China and other parts of emerging Asia remains strong. In advanced economies, the notable 2017 growth pickup is broad based, with stronger activity in the United States and Canada, the euro area, and Japan. It is against this background that the recent Indian growth story appears particularly bright.

Exploring New Export Products

- ▶ Focus on increasing exports of products which have become important in the world trade of late, in recognition of the fact that 70 per cent of India's exports involve products whose share in the total world exports is only 30 per cent.
- ▶ Focus will be on promising product groups like medical devices/ equipment, technical textile, electronic component, project goods, defence and hi-tech products in addition to labour intensive and MSME products like agricultural, marine, carpets, leather, Ayush and health, textiles and readymade garments, handloom, handicrafts, coil, jute products, diamond, gold and jewellery.
- ▶ Focus on agricultural exports for increasing farmers' income is to be augmented. It is a stable and 'open' export policy for the long term. Creating cold chain and transport logistics facilities from the farm to the ports and airports. Promoting organic exports through appropriate policy interventions. Setting up credible and up-to-date organic export certification and accreditation programmes.

◉ India's Trade Scenario

- ▶ Trade Performance during April-September 2017-18

▶ Exports

- Exports recorded a positive growth of 10.84 per cent during April-September 2017-18 over the corresponding period of the previous year in US\$ term. The merchandise exports reached US\$ 146.29 Billion in April-Sep 2017-18 (P).

▶ Imports

- Cumulative value of import during April-September 2017-18 (P) was US\$ 220.55 Billion as against US\$ 175.34 Billion during the corresponding period of the previous year registering a positive growth of 25.79 per cent in US\$ terms.
- Oil import were valued at US\$ 46.51 Billion during Apr-Sep 2017-18 (P) which was 17.65 per cent higher than oil import valued at US\$ 39.53 Billion in the corresponding period of previous year.
- Non-oil imports were valued at US\$ 174.05 Billion during Apr-Sep 2017-18 (P) which was 28.15 per cent higher than non-oil import of US\$ 135.81 Billion in previous year.

▶ Trade Balance

- The Trade deficit in Apr-Sep 2017-18(P) was estimated at US\$ 74.27 Billion which was lower than the deficit of US\$ 43.36 Billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

◉ Exports of Principal Commodities

S.No.	Year	Exports	Growth (%)	Imports	Growth (%)	Trade Balance
1	2006-2007	571,779	25.28	840,506	27.26	-268,727
2.	2007-2008	655,864	14.71	1,012,312	20.44	-356,448
3.	2008-2009	840,755	28.19	1,374,436	35.77	-533,680

4.	2009-10	845,534	0.57	1,363,736	-0.78	-518,202
5.	2010-2011	1,136,964	34.47	1,683,467	23.45	-546,503
6.	2011-2012	1,465,959	28.94	2,345,463	39.32	-879,504
7.	2012-2013	1,634,318	11.48	2,669,162	13.8	-1,034,844
8.	2013-2014	1,905,011	16.56	2,715,434	1.73	-810,423
9.	2014-2015	1,896,348	-0.45	2,737,087	0.8	-840,738
10.	2015-16	1,716,378	-9.49	2,490,298	-9.02	-773.920
11.	April- October 2015-2016	998,212		1,501,291		-503,079
12.	April- October 2016-2017	1,039,797	4.17	1,196,352	-6.99	-356,554

- ▶ Disaggregated data on exports of principal commodities, dollar terms are available for the period Apr-Sep 2017(P) as compared to Apr-Sep 2016.
- ▶ Exports of the top five commodities during the period Apr-Sep 2017-18 (P) registered a share of 32.52 per cent mainly due to significant contribution in the exports of petroleum products; pearl, precious, semi-precious stones; drug formulation biological; gold and other precious metal jewellery and iron and steel.

▶ Imports of Principal Commodities

- Disaggregated data on import of principal commodities, in Dollar terms, available for the period Apr-Sep (2017-18) (P) as compared to Apr-Sep (2016-17).
- Import of the top five commodities during the period Apr-Sep (2017-18) (P) registered a share of 42.48 per cent mainly due to significant import of petroleum crude; pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; gold; telecom instrument and coal, coke and briquettes, etc.

◉ Special Economic Zones

- ▶ India was one of the first in Asia to recognise the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in 1965.
- ▶ To overcome the shortcomings on account of multiplicity of controls and clearances, absence of world-class infrastructure and an unstable fiscal regime and with a view to attract larger foreign investments in India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000.
- ▶ This policy intended to make SEZs an engine for economic growth supported by quality infrastructure complemented by an attractive fiscal package, both at the Centre and the state level, with minimum possible regulations.
- ▶ SEZs in India functioned from 2000 to 2006 under the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy and fiscal incentives were made effective through the provisions of relevant statutes.
- ▶ The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect in 2006, providing simplification of procedures and single window clearance on matters relating to central and state governments. The main objectives of the SEZ Act are: generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities; and Development of infrastructure facilities.

◉ Major Achievements

- ▶ Foreign Trade Policy The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2015-2020 seeks to provide a stable and sustainable policy environment for foreign trade in merchandise and services; link rules, procedures and incentives for exports and imports with other initiatives such as “Make in India”, “Digital India”, “Skill India” and “ease of doing business” to promote the diversification of India’s export basket by helping various sectors of the Indian economy to gain global competitiveness.
- ▶ The Foreign Trade Policy through its various schemes serves the objective of neutralization of duty incidence, encourage technological up gradation and provides promotional measures to boost India’s exports with the objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in order to provide exporters a level playing field. The FTP has been suitably modified to incorporate the relevant GST provisions.

◉ Export from India Schemes

- ▶ The FTP 2015-20 has merged 6 incentive schemes {Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Market Linked Focus Product Scrip (MLFPS), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY), Agri.
- ▶ Infrastructure Incentive Scrip, Incremental Export incentive Scheme} of earlier FTP (FTP 2009-14) into one scheme each for merchandise and service exports. These are Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS).

▶ Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

- MEIS is a major export promotion scheme, that seeks to promote export of notified goods manufactured / produced in India. At the time of introduction on April 1, 2015, MEIS covered 4914 tariff lines at 8 digits.
- Keeping in mind the global economic downturn and the adverse environment faced by exporters, it was expanded to include additional lines, and currently it covers 7914 lines, all with global coverage. The initial envisaged annual revenue foregone of ₹ 18,000 crore was thus enhanced to ₹ 23,500 crore.
- MEIS incentives are available at 2, 3 and 5 per cent of the FOB value of exports. Exporters were initially required to submit landing certificate as a proof of landing of consignment in the destination country for certain tariff lines for which global coverage was not provided.
- Obtaining landing certificate was an avoidable cost and exporters requested doing away with the Landing Certificate.
- Major product groups covered under MEIS are: agricultural products, fruits, flowers, vegetables, tea coffee, spices, value added and packaged products., handicraft, handloom, jute products, textile and garments, pharmaceuticals, surgical, herbals, project goods, auto components, telecom, computer, electrical and electronics products, railway, transport equipment, industrial machinery, IC engines, machine tools, parts, hand tools, pumps of all types, automobiles, two wheelers, bicycles, ships, planes, chemicals, plastics, rubber, ceramic and glass, leather garments, saddlery items, footwear, steel furniture, prefabs, lighters wood , paper, stationary, iron, steel, and base metals, products.

▶ Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)

- SEI, an incentive scheme for eligible service exports, was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) replacing the Served from India Scheme (SFIS).
- SEIS offers reward 3 or 5 per cent of net foreign exchange earned. Only Mode 1 and Mode 2 services are eligible. Covers ‘Service Providers located in India’ instead of ‘Indian Service Providers’, which was the case in the earlier policy. Under the new scheme, the incentive scrips issued are transferable.
- **Export of goods through courier or foreign post offices using e-Commerce:** The new FTP has introduced a scheme to incentivise exports of goods through courier or foreign post office using ecommerce under MEIS. As the regulatory structure of ecommerce export is still evolving, scope of the scheme was kept limited.

- **Advance Authorization (AA) Scheme:** Under this scheme, duty free import of inputs (that are physically incorporated in the export product) are allowed, with minimum 15 per cent value addition.
- Advance Authorization (AA) is issued for inputs in relation to resultant products as per SION or on the basis of self-declaration, as per procedures of FTP. AA normally has a validity period of 12 months for the purpose of imports and a period of 18 months for fulfilment of Export Obligation (EO) from the date of issue. AA is issued either to a manufacturer exporter or merchant exporter tied to a supporting manufacturer (s).
- **Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA) Scheme:** DFIA is issued to allow duty free import of inputs, with a minimum value addition requirement of 20 per cent.
- DFIA shall be exempted only from the payment of basic customs duty and authorization is to be issued on post export basis for products for which SION has been notified. Separate schemes exist for gems and jewellery sector.
- **EPCG Scheme:** Under this scheme import of capital goods at zero customs duty is allowed for technology upgradation and better services to enhance India's export competitiveness.
- Import under EPCG is subject to export obligation equivalent to six times of duty saved in six years. Scheme also allows indigenous sourcing of capital goods with 25 per cent less export obligation.
- **EOU/EHTP/STP and BTP Schemes:** Units undertaking to export their entire production of goods and services may be set up under this scheme for import/ procurement domestically without payment of duties. For details of the scheme and benefits available therein FTP may be required.

◉ **Ease of Doing Business and e-Governance**

- ▶ Reducing number of Documents: Number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports have been reduced to 3 each for export and import. Earlier 7 documents were required for exports and 10 for imports.
- ▶ **Reducing number of Schemes:** The New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) was launched in 2015 with a focus on supporting both merchandise and services exports and improving the 'Ease of Doing Business'. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) consolidated 5 different incentive schemes under the earlier policy for rewarding merchandise exports into a single scheme, namely the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme. The replaced schemes are: Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Market Linked Focus Product Scrip (MLFPS), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna (VKGUY), Agri. Infrastructure Incentive Scrip.
- ▶ PAN of firm is being issued as IEC by the DGFT from 2017. The process of making application and issuance of IEC is online and secure. IEC has also been integrated with the eBIZ portal of DIPP. IEC and EPCG applications have been integrated with the eNivesh portal implemented by PMG set up by the Cabinet Secretariat.
- ▶ Use of electronic bank realization certificate (eBRC) system has been extended. DGFT shares data generated by the electronic bank realization certificate (eBRC) system with 17 agencies. The eBRC system captures details of the foreign exchange received by exporters through the banking channel.
- ▶ The 'Aayat Niryat' forms used for making online application to DGFT, was simplified bringing in clarity in different provisions, and enhancing electronic governance.

▶ **Web Portals**

- DGFT launched a new look website making it more user-friendly and easy to navigate. The website has a large dynamic component whereby the trade community can file applications online for IEC and various other schemes of DGFT.
- The exporters can also see the status of their electronic bank realization certificates in almost real-time. The website is rich in content with all documents related to Foreign Trade Policy along with a responsive online grievance redressal system.
- Indian Trade Portal launched by Department of Commerce displays information useful for export import.

- It contains the trade enquiries uploaded by Indian trade missions, tariff and trade data of India's major trade partners, export market reports, and trade agreements, etc.
- EXIM Dashboard was launched at the commerce.gov.in website. It allows users a graphical understand of India's export and imports at the product, country and port level.

► Facilities for Complaint Resolution

- Contact@DGFT system has been activated at the DGFT website (www.dgft.gov.in) as a single point contact for resolving all foreign trade related issues.
- Exporters/importers use this facility for resolution of foreign trade related issues either directly concerning DGFT (headquarters or regional offices) or concerning other agencies of the central or state governments.
- A reference number is issued for each request so that the status of action taken can be tracked. Effective monitoring arrangements have been made.
- DGFT maintains an active Twitter handle (#DGFTINDIA) with more than 27500 followers. Responses to tweets sent to CIM's account and DGFT handle are managed through the Twitterseva service. Grievances on policy, procedure and implementation issues registered at the Public grievances portal of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances are handled promptly.
- Outreach and Niryat Bandhu Scheme—In the last two years, 50,000 new and prospective exporters have attended the Niryat Bandhu outreach programs through the regional offices of DGFT.
- DGFT conducted outreach activities at 34 clusters, as part of Niryat Bandhu. In addition, an online training programme has been started with the IIFT for first time entrepreneurs.
- Involvement of the states in export promotion—The Council for Trade Development and Promotion was constituted in 2015.
- It ensures a continuous dialogue with state governments and UTs on measures for providing an international trade enabling environment in the states and create a framework for making the states active partners in boosting India's exports.
- The state governments have been requested to develop their export strategy, appoint export commissioners, address infrastructure constraints restricting movement of goods, facilitate refund of VAT/ octroi/state level cess, and address other issues relating to various clearances, etc. and build capacity of new exporters, in order to promote exports. So far, 17 states have prepared their exports strategy.

► Government e-Market (GeM)

- DGSD created a dedicated e-market for different goods and services procured/ sold by government/ PSUs, a technology driven platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various ministries and agencies of the government. The portal was launched in 2016. GeM -a scalable system and being completely online, transparent, and system driven, makes procurement of goods and services, easy, efficient and fast. It covers entire procurement process chain, right from vendor registration, item selection by buyer, supply order generation, and receipt of goods/ services by the consignees (s), to online payment to vendor.

◉ WTO and India

- India is one of the founding members of the World Trade Organization and is fully committed to multilateralism. Currently, negotiations are ongoing in the WTO on Doha Development Agenda, adopted in 2001 which aims to address the concerns of developing countries. The agenda was so designed as to ensure integration of these countries into the global trading system.

◉ Other Issues

► Visa Reforms

- With a view to stimulating economic growth, increasing earnings from the export of services like tourism, medical value travel, travel on account of business thereby making India an attractive

destination for foreign direct and portfolio investment, various measures for liberalization, simplification and rationalization of the visa regime in India have been introduced. Some important changes introduced are: liberalization of the e-Visa scheme, tourist, business, medical and employment visas.; new categories of visas such as Intern Visa and film visa have been introduced; this will give a fillip to tourism, medical value travel and media and entertainment industry.

◉ Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

- ▶ India has signed comprehensive bilateral trade agreements, including trade in services, with the Governments of Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and Malaysia. A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in services and investment was signed with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2014. Among others, the following has been achieved from the existing FTAs in Services-substantive WTO plus commitments obtained from all FTA partners.; commitments made by India are within the existing policy/autonomous regime.; and substantive commitments in Cross Border Supply (Mode 1); computer and related services and business services obtained.

◉ Trade-Related Infrastructure

▶ Launch of Trade Infrastructure for Export Sector (TIES)

- Assistance to states for developing export infrastructure and allied activities (ASIDE): Department of Commerce has worked with states to fill infrastructure gaps through ASIDE. Therefore, a new scheme was formulated and launched in 2017 for strengthening of export infrastructure namely; TIES. TIES would be implemented from 2017-18 onwards and would focus on filling the gaps in terms of provision of export infrastructure and would support projects with direct linkage to exports such as: trade facilitation centres; common facility centre; technology upgradation; and testing and certification Labs, etc.
- Central/state government agencies or their joint ventures having majority stake are eligible for financial assistance up to 50 per cent of the total equity of the project under this scheme. PPP projects are also eligible.

8

Communication & Information Technology

◉ Communication & Information Technology

- ▶ Communication and information technology in the country are handled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Communication.
- ▶ The former promotes e-Governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance while the latter looks after the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications.

◉ Posts

- ▶ The modern postal system was set up by Lord Clive in 1766 which was further developed by Warren Hastings in 1774. These were regulated through an Act of 1837 on a uniform basis to unite all the post offices into one all-India Service.
- ▶ Post Office Act of 1854 reformed the postal system when the first postage stamp valid across the country was issued at an affordable and uniform rate of postage, fixed by weight and not by distance. For the first time the common man could use postal facility, which was enjoyed only by heads of states and state officials.
- ▶ The present statute is the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Mail order services were introduced in 1877, while money order services in 1880, Post Office Savings Bank in 1882, and by 1884 all Government employees were covered by the Postal Life Insurance (PLI).

▶ Organization Overview

- The Department of Posts comes under the Ministry of Communications. The Postal Service Board is the apex management body of the department.
- In addition to post offices, basic postal facilities are also offered through franchisee outlets and Panchayat Sanchar SevaKendras.
- Franchisee outlets are opened in urban and rural areas where it is not possible to open a regular post office.
- These Kendras are opened at Gram Panchayat Headquarters.

▶ Financial Services Provided by Posts

- Department of Posts is operating Small Savings Schemes on behalf of Ministry of Finance, which frames and modifies rules relating to these schemes and pays remuneration to the Department of Posts.
- The post office savings bank operates savings accounts, Recurring Deposit (RD), Time Deposit (TD), Monthly Income Scheme (MIS), Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), KisanVikasPatra (KVP), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS) and SukanyaSamridhi Account.

► Facilities provided

- The Core Banking Solution is a part of India Post IT modernization project and aims to bring in various IT solutions with required IT infrastructure in post offices. The project aims to implement core banking in all Departmental Post Offices for small savings schemes.
- **Retailing of Mutual Funds:** It extends the reach of the capital market and provides the common man easy access to market based investment options with Mutual Fund products of UTI MF only.
- **International Money Transfer Service:** It is result of the collaboration of Department of Posts with Western Union Financial Services and Money Gram International.
- **National Pension Scheme:** National Pension Scheme, earlier known as New Pension System (NPS), for common citizens was introduced by government in 2009. India Post is a point of presence for the national pension system. Subscribers (any Indian citizen) in the age group of 18 to 55 can join NPS and contribute till the age of 60. These pension contributions are invested in various schemes of different pension fund managers appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
 - ♦ **Social Security Scheme:** Jan Suraksha Schemes like the PradhanMantriSurakshaBimaYojana (PMSBY) and PradhanMantriJeevanJyotiBimaYojana (PMJJBY) were launched in 2015 in all CBS post offices for all post office savings account holders. Department of Posts has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Insurance Company (NIC) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for PMSBY and PMJJBY respectively. Atal Pension Yojna (APY) was launched in all CBS head post offices from 2015.
- **India Post Payments Bank:** Reserve Bank of India launched its differential banking policy for more focused banking, to boost financial inclusion and promote convenience of digital banking.

► Services provided:

- IPPB will offer demand deposits such as savings and current accounts up to a balance of Rs. 1 lakh, digitally enabled payments and remittance services of all kinds between entities and individuals.
- Provide access to third-party financial services such as insurance, mutual funds, pension, credit products, forex, and more, in partnership with insurance companies, mutual fund houses, pension providers, banks, international money transfer organizations, etc.
- Issuance of ATM/ Debit Cards. Payments banks, however, cannot issue credit cards.
- Payments banks will be permitted to handle cross border remittance transactions in the nature of personal payments or remittances on the current account.

◉ Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance:

- PLI was introduced in 1884, as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and later extended to the employees of telegraph department in 1888.
- It now covers employees of central and state governments, central and state public sector undertakings, universities, government aided educational institutions, nationalized banks and local bodies.
- PLI also extends the facility of insurance to defence services and para-military forces.

◉ Philately

- Philately is the hobby of collecting stamps as well as the study of postal history and other related items. It is a mode of commemorating, celebrating and promoting national heritage, culture, events and eminent personalities.
- A postage stamp plays a great role as an ambassador, a brand image of the postal administration concerned and a statement of sovereignty of nation.
- In keeping with their dual character as a 'Token of Postage' and as 'Cultural Ambassador', there are two categories of stamps, viz., definitive and commemorative postage stamps.
- The definitive postage stamps are meant for day-to-day use as a token of payment of postage on mail articles. These incorporate less complicated design inputs, entailing minimum expenditure in their manufacture, and are printed in large quantities, over longer periods.

- ▶ On the other hand, the commemorative postage stamps are designed and printed with greater aesthetic inputs. These are manufactured in limited quantities and generate great interest among philatelists and collectors.

◉ Information Technology

- ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) deals with policy matters relating to information technology, electronics, internet (other than licensing of ISPs) and cyber security.
- ▶ The aim is to promote e-governance for empowering citizens, promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT & ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance, adopting a multi-pronged approach that includes development of human resources, promoting R&D and innovation, enhancing efficiency through digital services and ensuring a secure cyber space.
- ▶ Digital India Programme has the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- ▶ The programme has three vision areas namely, digital infrastructure as utility for every citizen, governance and services on demand and digital empowerment of citizens by bridging the digital divide in the country.
- ▶ The Nine Pillars of growth, viz., broadband highways, universal access to mobile connectivity, public internet access programme, e-governance-reforming government through technology, e-Kranti electronic delivery of services, information for all, electronics manufacturing, IT for jobs and early harvest programmes, are being promoted under Digital India Programme.
- ▶ IT Act 2000 provides legal recognition to the transaction carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies. It directs the establishment of Cyber Appellate Tribunal.
- ▶ In order that various benefits and subsidies reach the targeted beneficiaries, the Government has made all efforts to leverage the Aadhaar platform.
- ▶ A statutory backing will help to ensure that benefits of various subsidies and programmes go to the truly deserving.
- ▶ The Digital India programme initiatives and the programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology could be placed into eight broad action areas.
- ▶ The first related to digital identity and Aadhaar enabled services and payments, second to transforming the quality of governance through e-governance and third to promotion of digital payments.
- ▶ Promoting electronics manufacturing, promotion of IT services and creation of IT infrastructure constitute the next set of programme initiatives.
- ▶ The forgoing programmes are complemented by initiatives in R&D, human resource development including digital inclusion and cyber security.

◉ Digital Identity

- ▶ Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable.
- ▶ Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and also required to ensure the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

▶ Some of Major initiatives:

- **Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB):** A payment can be made to a person's bank account via his/her Aadhaar number, provided it is linked to his/her Aadhaar number. Government of India transfers benefits and subsidies directly to the beneficiaries' bank account through APB.
- **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS):** AEPS is the platform in which a person can do basic banking transactions including withdrawal, deposit cash, fund transfer, etc. from his/her bank account at Micro-ATMs using biometric authentication. Bank is chosen by resident as it is a resident present transaction.

- **Aadhaar Pay:** It is merchant version of AEPS. The Application works on a low cost android phone with single finger biometric device. It enables merchant to take cashless payment from his customers. It was launched in 2017.
- **Pay to Aadhaar:** It is a facility available on UPI platform integrated to BHIM app. It enables Person-to-Person (P2P) remittance using Aadhaar number of the recipient as financial address. The receiving Aadhaar number should be linked with his/her Aadhaar number.

◉ e-Governance

- ▶ With the advent of Digital India as an apex programme various new policy initiatives have been taken up by MeitY such as eKranti, policy on adoption of open source software in e-governance systems, email policy, policy on use of IT resources, policy on collaborative application development by opening the source code of government applications, application development and re-engineering guidelines for cloud ready applications and e-governance competency framework.
- ▶ Major schemes such as e-districts, common service centres and state wide area network (SWAN) have also been working in this direction.
- ▶ **Adoption of Open Source Software:** It encourages the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in government organizations. Accordingly, government organizations, while implementing e-governance applications and systems, are to ensure compliance of this policy and decide by comparing both OSS and Closed Source Software (CSS) options with respect to capability, strategic control, scalability, security, life-time costs and support requirements.
- ▶ **Collaborative Application Development by Opening the Source Code of Government Applications:** This policy aims to increase the pace of e-governance application development and rapid roll out/implementation by adopting an open-source code, for high quality e-governance applications. It also intends to encourage innovative e-governance applications and solutions through collaborative development.
- ▶ **e-Governance Competency Framework (e-GCF):** Its tool-kit contains a set of end-user knowledge areas required for government employees. The objective of the framework is to strengthen the capacity building scheme to identify and define competencies, through a competency-based system which is required for different job roles under e-governance.

▶ Other Initiatives

- In order to transform the quality of services and to provide integrated services the “eKranti” initiative aims to utilize emerging technologies such as cloud and mobile platform and focus on integration of services.
- The principle of this programme is ‘transformation’ and not translation, and to provide integrated services and not individual services.
- Another important initiative pertains to ‘JeevanPraman’ is of providing an Aadhaar based digital life certificate for pensioners.
- A ‘Digital Locker system’ has also been envisaged to serve as a platform to enable citizens to securely share their documents with service providers who can directly access them electronically. ‘e-Sign’ framework has been released, which would allow citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.
- **National Scholarship Portal:** It has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries.
- The process includes student registration, application, approval and disbursement.
- In order to integrate the delivery of government services (across various departments), an initiative called Mobile Seva has been launched.
- A portal called ‘Vikaspedia’ to provide information on health, education, agriculture, energy, social welfare and e-Governance has been developed in more than 15 languages with more languages being added.
- **e-Sampark Database:** is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees.

- **e-Taal:** is a web portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects.
- It receives transaction statistics from web based applications periodically on near real time basis.
- e-Taal presents quick analysis of transaction counts in tabular and graphical form to give quick view of transactions done by various e-governance projects.
- **Aadhaar-Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBS):** In order to bring in efficiency in the Government, an Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System was implemented by MeitY.
- **e-Payment Framework:** All payments and receipts to be in electronic mode. The portal payonline.gov.in envisaged as common platform for making physical payments online.
- **e-Hospital - OPD Registration Framework (ORF)** is an initiative to facilitate the patients to take online OPD appointments with government hospitals. This framework also covers patient care, laboratory services and medical record management.
- **e-Districts:** It is one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under e-Kranti, with the MeitY, as the nodal Ministry, to be implemented by state government or their designated agencies. This MMP aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services, at district and sub-district level, those are not part of any other MMP.
- **GI Cloud:** In order to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, the government has embarked upon an ambitious and important initiative - "GI Cloud" which has been coined as "MeghRaj". The focus of this initiative is to evolve a strategy and implement various components including governance mechanism to ensure proliferation of Cloud in government. Formulation of the Cloud Policy is one of the primary steps that will facilitate large scale adoption of cloud by government.
- A new educational channel "**DigiShala**" for creating awareness regarding various forms of electronic payment to citizens was launched in 2016. DigiShala is now also available on Dish TV in addition to DD Free Dish. The DigiShala is an education and non-commercial TV channel on DD Free Dish.
- **National Policy on Universal Electronic Accessibility** (2013) was formulated to break the barriers faced by differently abled persons by ensuring easy accessibility of electronics and ICT.
- Electronics and ICT can mitigate the barriers faced by differently abled persons as well as help them to participate independently in day-to-day life.
- The National Policy on Electronic Accessibility recognizes the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disabilities and to facilitate equal access to Electronics and ICT. It recognizes the diversity of differently abled persons and provides for their specific needs.
- **PradhanMantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan:** The Government has approved a scheme titled "PradhanMantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan" (PMGDISHA) to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 2019.

◉ Cyber Security

- ▶ Millions of people in the country (both in rural and urban areas) rely on the services and information available in cyber space. As the quantity and value of electronic information has increased, so too have the business models and efforts of criminals and other adversaries who have embraced cyber space as a more convenient and profitable way of carrying out their activities anonymously. Hence, security of cyber space has become an important part of the national agenda.
- ▶ Considering its vital importance, a National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 was put in place. It is aimed at building a secure and resilient cyber space for citizens, businesses and government, by way of actions to protect information and information infrastructure in cyber space, build capabilities to prevent and respond to cyber threats, reduce vulnerabilities and minimize damage from cyber incidents through a combination of institutional structures, people, processes, technology and cooperation.

▶ Organizations related to cyber Security

- **Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre**
 - ◆ CERT-In is implementing this for detection of compromised systems in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users to prevent further malware infections.

- **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**

- ◆ National Informatics Centre (NIC) is a premier IT organization of the country under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ◆ It was established in **1976**.
- ◆ NIC services include Certifying Authority, Video-Conferencing, NIC e-MAIL (NICeMail) and SMS services across the country.
- ◆ **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** has been set up to connect institutions/ organizations carrying out research.
- ◆ **Open Technology Centre (OTC)** has been set up as a nodal agency for Open Technology related activities in e-Governance applications managed by NIC/NeGP and promotes the use and adoption of Open Source tools/software.
- ◆ It has established and maintains state data centers and other infrastructure related to NeGP.

- **Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)**

- ◆ The IT Act promotes the use of Digital Signatures for e-Governance and e-Commerce through legal recognition to electronic records and treats digital signatures at par with hand written signatures.
- ◆ The CCA licenses Certifying Authorities (CA) to issue Digital Signature Certificates under the IT Act and also exercises supervision over the activities of these Certifying Authorities.
- ◆ The CCA certifies Public Keys of the CAs, lays down standards to be maintained by the CAs and performs other functions.
- ◆ These are being used in applications such as Real Time Cross settlement System & EFT of the RBI, e-mail, electronic funds transfer.

► **Cyber Appellate Tribunal**

- The first and the only Cyber Court in the country has been established by the Central Government in accordance with the provisions contained under Section 48(1) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Provision has been made in the amended IT Act, 2009 for the Tribunal to comprise a Chairperson and many other members, as the Central Government may notify/appoint.

► **C-DAC**

- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

C-DAC is pursuing activities in the following thematic areas:

- High Performance Computing (HPC), Grid Computing and Cloud computing.
- Multilingual Computing and Heritage Computing.
- Professional Electronics including VLSI and Embedded Systems.
- Software Technologies including FOSS.
- Cyber Security and Cyber Forensics.
- Health Informatics.
- Education and Training.

Some applications developed by C-DAC:

- One of the significant achievements of the past year was upgradation of the compute power of **PARAM Yuva** system from 54 TF/s to 529 TF/s.
- In the area of Cloud Computing, C-DAC launched its cloud platform, **Meghdoot** 1.0 during the Technology Conclave at Hyderabad in October, 2012.

- In the area of Professional Electronics, C-DAC completed the development of **WiTrac (Wireless Traffic Controller)**.
 - Several electronic devices and associated solutions were also built for **smart buildings**. These include LED Luminaire, **Human Occupancy Prediction System and Indoor Air Quality Monitoring System**.
 - In the area of Software Technology, release of a new version of BOSS Linux operating system and its wider deployment were carried out.
 - Several e-Governance applications and frameworks including e-Praman with Andhaar, etc.
 - In Health Informatics area, C-DAC carried out larger deployment of C-DAC tele medicine solutions. C-DAC also initiated the development of health care services on mobile devices, m-Health and m-Swasthya are two such solutions. Wider deployment of e-Vision and e-Nose systems was carried out during the year.
 - C-DAC is also involved in carrying out various activities in the **north-east** region through various Government supported initiatives.
- ▶ **National e-Governance Division:** It was established as amalgamation of experts from the private sector and the Government for discharging the key tasks including programme management and technical support of various components of the Digital India Programme.
 - ▶ **National Internet Exchange of India:** NIXI is a not for profit organization set up under Companies Act, 1956 for peering of ISPs among themselves and routing the domestic traffic.
 - ▶ **CERT-In:** CERT-In is a functional organisation of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India. CERT-In has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security: (i) Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber security incidents; (ii) Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents; (iii) Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents; and (iv) Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.
 - ▶ **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research:** SAMEER was set up in 1984 as an autonomous laboratory at Mumbai with a broad mandate to undertake R&D work in microwave engineering and electromagnetic engineering technology. It is an offshoot of the special microwave products unit (SMPU) set up in 1977 at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. It works in high end technology areas of RF/microwaves and allied disciplines. It undertakes design, development and delivery of hardware to meet stringent specifications of user agencies in its core areas of expertise including high power RF amplifiers, communication systems, atmospheric radar instrumentation, linear accelerators, RF/microwave/millimetre wave subsystems and systems, photonics, etc.
 - ▶ **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology:** Scientific Society of the MeitY, which is actively engaged in capacity building and skill development in the areas of Information Technology (IT).
 - ▶ **Software Technology Parks of India:** Autonomous society under MeitY, meant for promotion of software exports by acting as 'single-window' in providing services to the software exporters.
 - ▶ **Media Lab Asia:** To bring the benefits of ICT to the common man, such as ICT for healthcare, education, livelihood and empowerment of disabled.

◉ Telecommunication

- ▶ Communication sector has assumed the position of an essential infrastructure for socio-economic development in an increasingly knowledge-intensive world.
- ▶ The reach of telecom services to all regions of the country has become an integral part of an innovative and technologically-driven society. As a result of sustainable measures taken by the government over the years, the Indian Telecom Sector has grown exponentially and has become the second largest network in the world, next only to China.
- ▶ Department of Telecommunication (DOT) is committed to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development. The Department is working towards the objective of maximizing public good by making available affordable, reliable and secure voice and data services.

- **Tele-density:** The total number of telephone connections increased from 1059.33 million from April, 2016 to 1194.99 million at the end of March, 2017.
- **Bharat Net:** For the deeper digital penetration in rural areas, the government has taken up Bharat Net, in mission mode to link each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats through broadband optical fibre network.

◉ Phases of the Project

- The first phase envisages providing one lakh gram panchayats with broadband connectivity by laying underground optic fibre cable (OFC) lines have been achieved.
- The second phase will provide connectivity to all 2,50,500 gram panchayats in the country using an optimal mix of underground fiber, fiber over power lines, radio and satellite media. It is to be completed by March 2019.
- For success in phase-2, which will also involve laying of OFC over electricity poles, the participation of states will be important. This is a new element of the BharatNet strategy as the mode of connectivity by aerial OFC has several advantages, including lower cost, speedier implementation, easy maintenance and utilization of existing power line infrastructure.
- The last mile connectivity to citizens was proposed to be provided creating Wi-Fi hotspots in gram panchayats.
- In the third phase from 2019 to 2023, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fiber between districts and blocks, with ring topology to provide redundancy would be created.

◉ Organizations related to Telecommunication

- **Department of Telecommunication C-DOT:** C-DOT, an autonomous body, is DoT's R&D arm. The organisation is committed to providing a wide range of cost-effective, indigenously developed and state-of-the-art total telecom solutions. C-DOT has grown to the level of a national centre for R&D in communication technology in many areas like Satellite communications, IN, ATM, DWDM, NMS, wireless broadband, GPON, NGN and mobile cellular systems. C-DOT is also entrusted with the projects of national importance, like central monitoring system for telecom security and secure network for strategic applications.
- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), fully owned by Government of India, formed in October 2000, provides telecom services across the length and breadth of the country excluding Delhi and Mumbai. BSNL is providing all types of telecom services namely telephone services on landline, WLL and GSM mobile, broadband, internet, leased circuits and long distance telecom services. Rural telephony is one of its focus areas. BSNL also pays special emphasis on development of telecommunication facilities in North-Eastern region and in tribal areas as well as in the LWE affected areas.
- **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited:** Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), set up in 1986, is a Navratna PSU and provides telecommunication facilities in India's key metros - Delhi and Mumbai. MTNL is the principal provider of fixed-line telecommunication service in these two metropolitan cities, and for GSM mobile services in four peripheral towns of Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Ghaziabad along with Delhi city and the areas falling under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, New Mumbai Corporation and Thane Municipal Corporation along with Mumbai city, also come under the jurisdiction of the company.
- **ITI Limited:** ITI Limited was established in 1948, to supply telecom equipments to the then telecom service provider, DoT. ITI started its operations in Bangalore in 1948, which were further extended to other areas by setting up manufacturing plants at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir; Naini, Rae Bareilly and Mankapur in Uttar Pradesh; and Palakkad in Kerala.
- **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited:** Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) was set-up in 1978 with the main objective to provide world class technology in all fields of telecommunications and information technology to excel in its operations in overseas and in the domestic markets by developing proper marketing strategies, to acquire state of the art technology on a continuing basis and to maintain leadership. It has diversified into cyber parks, intelligent buildings, cyber and smart cities and upgradation of legacy networks by focusing on broadband multimedia

convergent service networks, entering new areas of IT and IT-enabled services. It is also developing telecom and IT-training infrastructure abroad.

- **Bharat Broadband Network Limited:** Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), was incorporated in 2012 under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for execution of the BharatNet for connecting 2.50 lakh (approximately) Gram Panchayats (GPs).

◉ Digital India

- It aims to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, implemented in phases till 2018, by DeitY. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of Government's services electronically; a Unique ID and e-Pramaan.
- The source of funding is through budgetary provisions.

► Scope of Digital India:

- To prepare India for a knowledge future;
- On being transformative that is to realize IT (Indian Talent)+ IT (Information Technology) =IT (India Tomorrow);
- Making technology central to enabling change; and
- On being an Umbrella Programme covering many departments.

► Initiatives under the Digital India Programme

- **Legal Information and Management Based System** is an easy to access, web-based tool for comprehensive, regulatory and proactive monitoring of court cases.
- **NDSAP (National Data Sharing and Accessibility Programme)** is to facilitate the access to Government of India owned shareable data and information.
- **e-Office:** The main objective of e-office is to improve efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of government responses.

9

Defence

- The persisting salience of trans-national terrorism remains a primary security challenge, exacerbated by the interplay between states and non-state actors often used as proxies to spread extremist ideologies and foment violence. Large parts of West Asia, Afghanistan and Africa are afflicted by deep instability and violence, posing a rising threat to the stability of wider Asia and Europe.
- The re-emergence of territorial disputes, including in the maritime domain, has sharpened differences between states and could lead to militaristic approaches and challenges to norms of international law as well as standards of international behaviour. The rise of nationalism, including in key Western nations, and continued challenges to democratic structures and processes in several countries, could limit the efficacy of efforts for dialogue and reconciliation within and among societies. The revolution of rising aspirations coupled with weak economic growth as well as a variety of environmental and social crises, place additional burdens on state structures that are often unable to cope. Such instances of state failure, including in India's immediate neighbourhood, are a distinct feature of the current scenario, with immediate and often serious security implications.
- The situation in India's immediate South Asian neighbourhood remains difficult, with the overall security and political context in most neighbouring states continuing to remain volatile. The growing recognition of the need to take a united view against cross-border terrorism, leading to the cancellation of the SAARC Summit and calls for holding the meeting in an atmosphere free of terrorism, was a notable development. Efforts to provide a fresh impetus to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), such as through the BRICS BIMSTEC Outreach Summit and sub-regional efforts such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) could provide alternative structures to enhance cooperation and promote economic development. India's continued economic rise, and the ability of some states in South Asia to maintain reasonable economic growth rates as well as improvements in their social development indicators, is another positive dimension that augurs well for longer-term stability in the region.
- In Afghanistan, the Afghan National Security Forces took over the security responsibility and are facing a daunting challenge of fighting insurgents with reduced international combat support.
- The political situation in Pakistan continues to remain fragile with a severe deficit of inclusive and balanced economic development. Pakistan also continues to relentlessly expand its military forces, especially nuclear and missile capabilities. The country is torn by ethno-regional conflicts, with the zone of conflict expanding from the tribal areas on Pakistan-Afghan border to the hinterland. The military has made efforts to improve the security situation in the country; more measures need to be taken against jihadi and terror outfits that target Pakistan's neighbours. Support to such group persists despite ongoing efforts by the international community, including India, to list the head of the terrorist group JEM, Masood Azhar, as an international terrorist. Such outfits continued to be encouraged to infiltrate into India under the cover of massive cross-LoC and cross-border firing in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas throughout the year. Pakistan based terrorists attacked military bases in India, triggering an appropriate response by Indian armed forces.
- Developments in the IOR region in the past one year have increased security challenges for India. In order to address these, India has taken proactive measures to enhance the peace and stability in the region. India actively participated in arrangements like the ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia) and the SOMS (States of Malacca and Singapore) mechanism for maritime safety. India also took an active role in fighting piracy, both to our west and east.

- India has undertaken a wide range of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, from major evacuation in Yemen to supply of drinking water to the Maldives and providing relief supplies by air to Fiji and Sri Lanka.
- India's interests in Central Asia are based on its geostrategic location, presence of abundant energy and natural resources as well as age-old historical and cultural ties. The region continues to be targeted by radical terrorist groups that seek to undermine the secular regimes. The International North South Trade Corridor which India, Iran and Russia are working to develop could enable viable trade and economic linkages with the region. India is also a stake holder in the TAPI pipeline as well as other initiatives such as digital links to foster connectivity.
- The security situation in West Asia remains in flux, with growing sectarian rivalries as well as inter-state competition for influence in the context of a depressed economic scenario due to continuing low oil prices. The internal situation in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya remained volatile and violent. Though the situation has slowly started to turn against the various insurgent and terrorist groups, the regimes in power continue to be vulnerable. India has key stakes in this region which accounts for 66 per cent of our energy requirements and is home to over eight million Indians. Apart from economic considerations, the region also assumes importance due to the rise in fundamentalist terrorist groups such as ISIS that seek to spread their influence across the world including India.
- Enhancing safety and security of the country, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during natural and man-made disasters, modernisation of the Armed Forces and supporting indigenisation and manufacturing of defence equipment through the 'Make-in-India' initiative have been the main features of the Ministry of Defence.
- The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir despite a lot of challenges has been brought under control. Relentless operations by the army both, along the Line of Control and in the hinterland have thwarted the designs of giving a fillip to the proxy war being waged against India.
- Army along with C APF and JKP continues to put in pressure to bring back normalcy to the Kashmir Valley. Intelligence based operations were launched along Indo-Myanmar border to maintain peace in the region and to effectively neutralise the terrorists. Indian Army continued with the people friendly operations to help the locals.
- Second edition of 'A1 Nagah' the joint exercise between the Indian and Oman Armies was held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Both armies shared valuable combat expertise on countering terrorist operations in an international environment.
- Surya Kiran-XI' was held wherein, infantry battalion of Indian Army and Durga Bahsh Battalion of Nepalese Army participate.
- It formally incorporated issues related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and helped enhance defence co-operation and military relations between the two countries.
- Twelfth edition of Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' was held at Vairengte.
- As part of the Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training, exercise 'Yudh Abhyas-2017' was conducted in USA. The theme of the exercise was to build and develop military relations and interoperability for conducting counter terrorism regional security operations and peace keeping operations under UN Charter.
- The fifth Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2017' was conducted in Pune. The exercise focused on counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain.
- First ever tri service exercise 'Indra' between India and Russia was conducted in Russia.

◦ Ministry of Defence and its Departments

- The principal task of the Ministry is to frame policy directions on defence and security related matters and communicate them for implementation to the Services Headquarters, Inter-Service Organisations, Production Establishments and Research and Development Organisations.

The principal functions of the departments are as follows:

- **The Department of Defence** deals with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and three Services and various Inter Service Organizations. It is also responsible for the Defence Budget, establishment matters, defence policy, matters relating to Parliament, defence co-operation with foreign countries and co-ordination of all defence related activities.

- **The Department of Defence Production** is headed by a Secretary and deals with matters pertaining to defence production, indigenization of imported stores, equipment and spares, planning and control of departmental production units of the Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- **The Department of Defence Research and Development** is headed by a Secretary, who is the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister. Its function is to advise the Government on scientific aspects of military equipment and logistics and the formulation of research, design and development plans for equipment required by the Services.
- **The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare** is headed by a Secretary and deals with all resettlement, welfare and pension matters of Ex-Servicemen.
- The principal functions of the Departments include: dealing with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and three Services and various Inter Service Organisations.
- It is also responsible for the Defence Budget, establishment matters, defence policy, matters relating to Parliament, defence co-operation with foreign countries and co-ordination of all defence related activities.
- Department of Defence Production deals with matters pertaining to defence production, indigenisation of imported stores, equipment and spares, planning and-control of departmental production units of the ordnance factory board
- Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).; the Department of Defence Research and Development advises the government on scientific aspects of military equipment and logistics and the formulation of research, design and development plans for equipment required by the Services.

◉ Army

- Global and regional geo-political and geo-strategic issues affect and shape India's security environment.
- The Indian Army plays a pivotal role in the nation's security construct.
- The Indian Army remains resiliently committed in braving the harsh terrain and weather on a daily basis along the national frontiers, to protect the territorial integrity of the nation.
- The Indian Army is at the forefront in combating the internal security challenges in conjunction with other security agencies.
- The Indian Army is also exploiting its core competencies in training the CAPFs and state police forces towards enhancing their operational employment in combating Left Wing Extremism.
- The Indian Army also contributes to sand dunes, soil and water conservation.
- Indian Army is one of the largest troop contributors to UN missions with presence in seven of the current 15 UN missions. It has enhanced its presence by deploying an additional hospital in Juba, South Sudan and conversion of one Infantry Battalion to Rapid Deployment Battalion. India has also conducted major UN Peacekeeping Courses for senior mission leaders, female military officers and selected African partners and has emerged as a leading trainer.
- Modernisation of the Infantry is being progressed based on five sub system, i.e. lethality, survivability, mobility, situational awareness and sustainability.

◉ Navy

- The *raison d'être* of navies is to safeguard the nation's use of seas for its legitimate sovereign purpose, whilst concurrently guarding against inimical use of the sea by others. The full range of operations in which the naval forces may be involved is vast, ranging from high intensity war fighting at one end and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations at the other end. This broad continuum of operations can be broken down into distinct roles at each demanding a specific approach to the conduct of operations. Through the discharge of roles, the Indian Navy (IN) acts as the prime enabler and guarantor of the country's maritime sovereignty and myriad use of sea activities. Accordingly, the main roles that IN undertakes are - military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign.
- **Military Role:** The primary military objective of the IN is to deter any military adventurism against the country, including intervention in India's affairs and subversive strategies against the national interests and the ability to inflict a crushing defeat on the adversary in the event of hostilities.

- ▶ The ways and means of deterrence by the IN include conventional deterrence by both denial and punishment, by maintaining a robust military capability and posture to convince potential aggressors of high costs and limited gains from any aggression or intervention against India's national interests.
- ▶ **Diplomatic Role:** Over the past years, India's strategic and security interests in the northern IOR and surrounding areas from the Strait of Malacca to the Gulf of Aden have grown. As a responsible nation and benign maritime neighbour, enforcement of international laws, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the IOR would continue to remain at the forefront of our international commitments. Towards this end, the IN is being increasingly called upon to address issues pertaining to security and stability in the region. The IN, by virtue of its capability, strategic positioning and presence in the IOR, has been a catalyst for peace and stability in the region.
- ▶ **Constabulary Role:** As part of its 'Constabulary Role', the IN is involved in operations like anti-poaching, anti-smuggling, coastal surveillance and anti-piracy. There are several occasions when the Indian Navy has rendered aid to civil authorities - be it natural calamities like cyclones in the states of Gujarat, Odisha or Andhra Pradesh; floods in Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Chennai, Gujarat and Odisha, diving assistance during accidents, search and rescue on the high seas or providing relief to quake hit areas. The IN has also provided assistance during the bridge collapse incident on Savitri river near Mahad (Maharashtra), evacuation of tourists from Havelock and Neil Islands, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The IN has been regularly contributing to HADR operations in the IOR.

▶ Indian Coast Guard (1977-78)

- Under Coast Guard Act, 1978. It undertakes the assigned tasks during peace time and to supplement the efforts of Indian Navy during war. The duties are safety and protection of artificial islands and offshore terminals, installations and devices in maritime zones; protection & assistance to fishermen at sea while in distress; preservation and protection of marine environment; assistance to customs & other authorities in anti-smuggling operations. It has been entrusted the:
 - ◆ Offshore security coordination authority;
 - ◆ National maritime search and rescue coordinating authority;
 - ◆ Lead intelligence agency for coastal and sea border; and
 - ◆ Coastal security in territorial waters.

◉ Air Force

- ▶ IAF has always encouraged development of indigenous defence production capability and capacities.
- ▶ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has always encouraged development of indigenous defence production capability and capacities. Its quest for operating indigenously built platform and supporting self-reliance has resulted in significant progress on various systems in the IAF.

◉ Make in India

- ▶ The focus is on "Make in India" to give impetus to indigenous development and manufacturing, including participation of private sector in defence manufacturing, including fighters, transport aircraft, helicopters, combat support assets and air defence network. IAF's recently acquired airborne assets have been effectively utilised in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief missions, most noticeably in J&K, Nepal and Yemen.
- ▶ Three Flight Cadets - Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh created history by becoming the first women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream after passing out from the IAF Academy, Dundigal in Telangana. They have been trained on Pilatus PC-7 Mk II and Kiran aircraft. Presently, they are undergoing training on Hawk Mk-132 Advance Jet Aircraft.
- ▶ Light Combat Aircraft, Akash Missile, Advance Light Helicopters (ALH) have already been inducted, thus giving impetus to indigenisation.
- ▶ Modernisation plan is being pursued to beef up the defence manufacturing base and the eco system. IAF has already identified series of defence equipment that can be manufactured under 'Make' category.

- MoD has been striving to include the private sector in production of defence equipment, various projects under 'Strategic Partner' model will give impetus to 'Make in India' initiative. This will not only generate employment, enhance skill level but also assist in harnessing key technologies for growth of aerospace sector in the country.

◉ Commissioned Ranks

- The following are the commissioned ranks in the three Services; each rank is shown opposite its equivalent in the other Service:

Army	Navy	Air Force
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

◉ Digital India Initiative

- IAF has established pan IAF captive 3 G WCDMA Mobile Network AFCEL
- The network has been fully operational with voice call and data services.
- In-house initiatives have also seen development of the apps like: Instant Messaging App (AFCHAT)

◉ National Cadet Corps

- Under the NCC Act, 1948 to provide the youth of the country opportunities for all round development with a sense of commitment, dedication, self-discipline and moral values, so that they become useful citizens and can take their place in all walks of life in the service of the nation. The motto of NCC is 'Unity and Discipline'. The total sanctioned strength of NCC cadets is 15 lakh.

◉ Sainik Schools

- The Sainik Schools were established as a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. These are under the overall governance of Sainik Schools Society.
- The objectives of Sainik Schools include:
 - Bringing quality public school education within the reach of the common man.
 - All round development of a child's personality and to remove regional imbalance in the officer's cadre of the Armed Forces.

◉ Training Institutions

- College of Defence Management, Telangana
- National Defence College, New Delhi

- ▶ **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Tamil Nadu**
- ▶ **National Defence Academy, Pune**
- ▶ **Indian Military Academy, Dehradun**
- ▶ **College of Military Engineering, Pune**

◉ Defence Undertakings

- ▶ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** is a Navratna Company and a premier aeronautical complex of South Asia. HAL's expertise encompasses design, production, repair, overhaul and upgrade of aircrafts, helicopters, aero-engines, accessories, avionics & systems.
- ▶ **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, is a Navratna PSU, ranks 69th among the top 100 companies worldwide in defence revenues with core competencies in areas of radars and fire control systems, weapon systems, sonars, communication.
- ▶ **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.** is a leading shipyard, has expertise of building a wide array of vessels, from world class Frigates to Fast Interceptor Boats.
- ▶ **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**, is capable of designing and building high technology and sophisticated ships to meet the crucial maritime security needs of the country.
- ▶ **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL)**, is located on the east coast of the country and is nation's premium shipbuilding and ship/submarine repair organisation.
- ▶ **Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL)**, is the Mini Ratna company and is India's premier shipyard, specialised in construction of warships of various sizes and classes, submarines, other technologically advanced commercial vessels and offshore platforms/drilling rigs.
- ▶ **BEML Limited** established in 1964, is a Mini Ratna Category-I multi-location, multi product engaged in design, manufacturing, marketing and after-sales service of a wide range of equipment to three distinct business segments, i.e., Defence, Mining and Construction, and Rail and Metro.

◉ Different Organizations

- ▶ **Ordnance Factories:** The Ordnance Factory Board has 39 factories with two more at Nalanda and Korwa. Ordnance Factories are divided into five operating groups: (i) ammunition and explosives, (ii) weapons, vehicles and equipments, (iii) materials and components, (iv) armoured vehicles, and (v) clothing and equipments, each headed by Additional DGOF.
- ▶ **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA):** It is an Inter-Service Organisation under the Department of Defence Production responsible for quality assurance of all defence equipment and stores for the Army and Navy (excluding Naval Armaments) as well as common use items for the Air Force.
- ▶ **Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance:**
 - The **Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance** is an organisation under the Department of Defence Production that is responsible for quality assurance and final acceptance of military aircraft, accessories and other aeronautical stores for military aviation.
 - Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) is the quality assurance (QA) regulatory authority for military aviation stores for IAF, army aviation, naval aviation and Indian Coast Guard.
 - It provides QA coverage to military aircraft, helicopter, associated accessories, air armaments, unmanned aerial Vehicles (UAV), missiles, etc.
 - DGAQA also plays vital role in technical evaluation, field trials, pre-dispatch inspection (PDI) during foreign procurement of military aviation stores.
- ▶ **Directorate of Standardisation:**
 - The Directorate is primarily mandated to promote indigenization in defence sector through various enabling policies viz-'Make in India' initiative, liberalization of FDI Policy / Industrial licensing policy, providing level playing field to private sector and giving preference to procurement from indigenous route. The Directorate is responsible to maintain and update the 'Make in India portal on Defence website.

- The primary objective is to establish commonality in equipment and components among the three services so that the overall inventory of the Defence Services is reduced to the minimum.
- **Directorate of Planning and Coordination:** The Directorate of Planning & Coordination was set up in 1964 with the primary objective of preparing overall plans for the production of defence equipments in the country. The directorate functions as an attached office of the Department of Defence Production (DDP). It primarily deals with capital acquisition of various weapon systems and platforms of the armed forces of India, viz., Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard.
- **Defence Exhibition Organisation:** The main function of Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO) is to organise and co-ordinate defence exhibitions in India and abroad, primarily with a view to promote the export potential of defence oriented products and services, developed and manufactured by the defence industry.
- **The National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding:** It was set-up as an autonomous society for India's futuristic shipbuilding programmes. This nerve centre will be responsible to collate and consolidate existing capabilities, create new capabilities and cover the gaps that exist.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):** It is the research and development arm to advise and assist the Defence Services on scientific problems and to undertake research in areas related to Defence. The mandate has been widened to support national cyber security architecture which includes testing capabilities, security solutions, networking systems and cyber defence tools.
- **The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare:** It formulates various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the country.

► Director General of Resettlement:

- It has the main thrust on resettlement, rehabilitation and welfare of ESM. DGR is entrusted with the responsibility of preparing retiring/retired service personnel for a second career.
- It (DGR) is a Tri-Service organization which looks after various aspects of resettlement and offers multifarious avenues of Employment, Self Employment and Training to Officers, JCOs/OR and their equivalents in other Services as well as widows and dependents.
- Nearly 60,000 Armed Forces personnel retire or are released from active service every year, most of them being in the comparatively younger age bracket of 35 to 45 years and need a second career to support their families. These personnel constitute a valuable, disciplined, welltrained, dedicated and talented pool available for nation building.

► Kendriya Sainik Board

- Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) Sectt is the apex body of Government of India responsible for implementing government policies for welfare of war-widows/ disabled soldiers, Ex-Servicemen and their dependents.

► Training Programmes

- DGR is entrusted with the responsibility of preparing retiring/retired service personnel for a second career. These resettlement courses are selected with a focus on employability of ESM in Society. (i) Officers' Training, (ii) ESM Training.

◉ Employment Opportunities

- The Central Government has provided for the following reservation for ESM for vacancies in the posts to be filled by direct recruitment: (a) 10 per cent in Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent in Group 'D' posts.
- The Government has designated Directorate General Resettlement as Nodal agency for the monitoring implementation of reservation policy for ESM. Half yearly report for the period ending June 30, 2015 has been compiled based on data received from various organisations.

- ▶ Substantial employment for ESM can be generated in the Private/Corporate sector. In order to generate awareness and urge these sectors to employ ESM, a National Corporate Conclave was conducted by DGR in August 2014 where the competence of the ESM were presented to Corporate Heads and the Raksha Mantri urged them to open the employment opportunities for ESM.

◉ **Schemes for Self Employment**

- ▶ Coal Transportation Schemes and Tipper Attachment
- ▶ Company Owned Company Operated Retail Outlets
- ▶ Gopaljee Dairy and Fresh Farm
- ▶ Management of CNG Stations by ESM in NCR
- ▶ Allotment of Army Surplus Class V 'B' Vehicles
- ▶ Oil Product Agencies Scheme

10

Education

◉ Education

- ▶ Education plays important role in Human resources development. It also plays a significant and remedial role in balancing the socio-economic fabric of the country.
- ▶ Citizens of India are most valuable resource. 1.35 billion-strong nation needs the nurture and care in the form of basic education to achieve a better quality of life. This can be achieved by building strong foundations in education.
- ▶ Good quality education is the foundation of new discoveries, new knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship that trigger growth and prosperity of the individual as well as that of a nation.
- ▶ For this, we need to make our curriculum and pedagogy relevant to the needs of our society and economy and nurture qualities of problem solving and creative thinking, learning-by-doing, greater engagement with the live context, and confident self-expression from a young age.
- ▶ To lay emphasis on the educational development of students of weaker sections of the society, a number of innovative initiatives have been taken by the ministry such as:
 - Setting up of national monitoring committee on minorities;
 - Setting up of national monitoring committee for education of SCs, STs and persons with disabilities;
 - Student support initiatives such as National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir, Scheme of Interest Subsidy on educational loans;
 - Regulations on prevention of discrimination and establishment of ombudsman; and
 - Development of an anti-ragging web portal.
- ◉ Currently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development works through two departments: Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education.

◉ Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- ▶ **Article 21-A** of the Constitution of India and its consequent legislation, **the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** became operative in the country in 2010.
- ▶ The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.
- ▶ All States and UTs have notified their State RTE Rules. The centrally sponsored scheme of SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) supports states and UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act.
- ▶ Its interventions include, inter alia, opening of new schools, construction of schools and additional classrooms, constructing toilets and drinking water facilities, provisioning for teachers, in-service training for teachers and academic resource support, free textbooks and uniforms, support for improving learning achievement levels, research, evaluation and monitoring.

◉ Programme Interventions:

► Universal Access:

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented since 2001 for universalization of elementary education. It achieved progress in universal access and equity.

- **New Schools:** Progress in achieving the goal of universal access under SSA has been consistent over the years.
- **Special Training for mainstreaming out-of-school children:** The RTE Act makes a specific provision for Special Training for age-appropriate admission for out-of-school children.
- **Residential facilities:** SSA has a provision for residential facilities in sparsely populated or hilly and densely forested areas with difficult geographical terrains and in densely populated urban areas.
- **Transportation or Escort facilities:** These facilities are available for children in remote habitations with sparse populations or in urban areas where availability of land is a problem or children belonging to extremely deprived groups or children with special needs.
- **Uniforms:** SSA provides two sets of uniform to all girls, SC, ST children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children.

► Bridging Gender Gaps in Elementary Education:

- **Girls Education:** RTE-SSA provides a clear thrust and special focus on education for girls and children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections.
- **Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV):** KGBV are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC, Muslim communities and BPL girls.
- **Removal of Gender Bias:** Most of the states have incorporated the gender sensitization in their regular School Management Committee (SMC) training modules to deal with issues such as enrolment, retention and completion of education of girls.
- **Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education:** Department of School Education and Literacy has prepared a Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education in the country on its website.
 - ◆ The tool, which has been developed with the support of UNICEF, will help identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalized groups, on specific gender related education indicators.
 - ◆ In order to plan and execute educational interventions, the purpose of the Gender Atlas is to help identify and ensure equitable education with a focus on vulnerable girls, including girls with disabilities.
- **Separate Girls' Toilets:** Under SSA, the requirement of school infrastructure facilities including toilets and drinking water are worked out by the state based on need at school/village/block and district level. All new schools sanctioned under SSA are composite schools with facilities for boys and girls.

► Inclusive Education

- **SCs/STs and Muslims:** Enrolment of SC children has gone up. Enrolment of ST children has marginally gone down. Enrolment of Muslim children has grown up.
- **Children with Special Needs:** RTE-SSA seeks to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education.
 - ◆ The main components of SSA interventions for children with special needs include identification, functional and formal assessment, appropriate educational placement, preparation of individualized educational plan, provision of aids and appliances, teacher training, resource support, removal of architectural barriers, monitoring and evaluation and a special focus on girls with special needs.

- ◆ **Textbooks for Children:** All children are provided free textbooks up to class VIII. In 2016-17 provision was made for providing text books to 8.38 crore children.

► Sub-Programmes under SSA

- **The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB):** For classes I and II. It is focusing on foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and mathematics.
- **The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA):** Aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics and technology by observation, experimentation, inference drawing and model building, through both inside and outside classroom activities. Schools have been adopted for mentoring by institutions of higher education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's.
- **Vidyanjali:** Launched to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country. The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.
- **ShaGun portal: An initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA:** MHRD has developed this web portal called ShaGun (from the words Shaala and Gunvatta).

◉ Teacher Training

- **Availability of Teachers:** To meet the shortage of teachers in elementary schools, 19.49 lakh additional teacher posts have been sanctioned under SSA up to 2016-17.
- **In-service Teacher Training:** To upgrade skills of teachers, SSA provides for annual in-service training up to 20 days for all teachers. Apart from this induction training for 30 days is given to freshly trained recruits.
- **Training for Headmasters:** In order to orient the teachers in managerial skills the heads of the schools are provided training for 10 days in academic financial and human resource management.
- **Distance Education Programmes for Teachers:** Capacity building of institutions and personnel at the national, state, district and sub-district levels is being facilitated with assistance of IGNOU and other teacher education institutions in different states.

◉ Academic Support System

- **Academic Support Structures:** Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) have been set up across the country as resource centers in each block and cluster, to provide decentralized academic support, training and supervision to teachers and schools.
- **School and Teacher Grants:** SSA also provides annual teacher grants of Rs. 500 to all teachers for developing contextual teaching aids. For new schools, onetime 'Teaching Learning Equipment' grant a Rs. 20,000 per new primary school and Rs. 50,000 per new upper primary school is provided for school equipment and setting up expenses.
- **Computer Aided Learning:** Under SSA, grant up to Rs. 50 lakh is available to each district for strengthening computer aided learning in schools to support enhancement of children's learning.
- **Learning Enhancement Programmes:** 2 per cent of the total SSA outlay for each district has been made available for 'Learning Enhancement Programmes' that aims specifically at improving the quality of learning processes and learning outcomes.
- **Improving student learning outcomes:** The impact of various quality interventions of SSA are reflected in the enhancement of children's learning levels. Being a major thrust area, NCERT launched a programme to measure the achievement level of all children studying in classes 3, 5 and 8. Improving student learning outcomes has been the key component of SSA.

◉ Infrastructure

- RTE-SSA provides flexibility to states in the execution of civil works. Neither designs nor unit costs are centrally prescribed.

- ▶ States are free to evolve building designs based on local site conditions and develop cost estimates based on the State Schedule of Rates notified by the state governments. School infrastructure provisions, however, is not a standalone activity.
- ▶ The design and quality of school infrastructure has a significant impact on enrolment, attendance and retention of children in schools.
- ▶ Thus 'civil works' under SSA are undertaken to provide all weather building as per provision of RTE Act. RTE-SSA encourages participation by the local community in all civil work activities in order to instil a sense of ownership in them.
- ▶ RTE-SSA also supports repair of old school buildings, provision of school buildings in respect of building less, dilapidated schools and retrofitting of school buildings to make them hazard resistant.

School Management Committees and Community Participation

- ▶ SSA has always acknowledged the importance of 'community ownership' pertaining to effective functioning of government schools.
- ▶ As per norms it has been made mandatory for the schools to constitute School Management Committees (SMC) wherein the parents/guardians of students studying in the respective school are the members.

Monitoring Institutes

- ▶ Institutions, including university departments of education, social science and institutes of national stature have been assigned the work of periodic monitoring of SSA implementation in states and UTs.
- ▶ In large states more than one institute has been assigned the task of monitoring. These Monitoring Institutes (MIs) are required to make field visits and report on progress of SSA at the ground level every six months.
- ▶ This cycle is repeated every two years. SSA programme modifies the terms of reference of the Monitoring Institutes as and when required.

Admissions under Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act

- ▶ Section 12(1) (c) mandates all private unaided schools and special category schools to reserve a minimum of 25 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections.
- ▶ Under the SSA, the Government of India will reimburse the state expenditure towards 25 per cent admissions to private unaided schools, based on per child cost norms notified by the state government, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20 per cent of the size of the SSA annual work plan and budget.

◉ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

- ▶ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality.
- ▶ The schemes envisages to enhance the enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, with an aim to ensure GER of 100 per cent and universal retention by 2020.
- ▶ The other objectives include improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, etc.

◉ Shaala Siddhi:

- ▶ School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal was launched in 2015. It aims to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and facilitate them to make professional judgments for improvement.
- ▶ The programme's objective is to establish an agreed set of standards and benchmarks for each school, by focussing on key performance domains and their core standards.

◉ **ShalaDarpan:**

- ▶ The “ShaalaDarpan Project” to cover all the Kendriya Vidyalayas was launched in June, 2015. The objective of this project is to provide services based on school management systems to students, parents and communities.

◉ **GIS Mapping:**

- ▶ To ensure universal access to schools including secondary schools within a reasonable distance of any habitation and without any discrimination, the geographic coordinates of school being uploaded on the school GIS Web enabled platform.
- ▶ National Achievement Survey for Class X:
- ▶ The National Achievement Survey for Class X was undertaken for the first time by MHRD. The survey investigates student achievement in five subjects: English, mathematics, social science, science and modern Indian language.
- ▶ The test has been administered in 33 states and union territories after a scientific and robust process of sample design, test development and translation, with rigorous adherence to technical procedures.

◉ **Kala Utsav:**

- ▶ Kala Utsav is an initiative of MHRD to promote Arts (Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts and Crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at secondary stage in the country, and it is also a platform to bring arts to the centre stage in an inclusive environment.

◉ **Focus on Science and Maths:**

- ▶ Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan launched in 2015: Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, training of 1.04 lakh science and maths teachers, math and science kit, excursion trip to science centres and museum for students, special teaching on science and maths, science exhibition at district level, teaching of Vedic maths, etc., has been included under RMSA.

◉ **Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education**

- ▶ The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education were revised in 2014 with a view to align it with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) into which the NVEQF has been assimilated.
- ▶ The scheme has been subsumed under Integrated Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. The specific objectives of the scheme are to enhance the employability of youth through demand driven competency based, modular vocational courses; to fill the gap between educated and employable; and to reduce the dropout rate at the secondary level and decrease the pressure on academic higher education.

◉ **Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage**

- ▶ The Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) was launched in 2009-10 replacing the earlier scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).
- ▶ It provides assistance for the inclusive education of the disabled children in classes IX-XII. The aim of the scheme is to enable all students with disabilities, after completing eight years of elementary schooling, to pursue further four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment.

◉ **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education**

▶ **Strengthening Teacher Education**

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education was initiated in 1987 pursuant to the formulation of the National Policy of Education, 1986.

- The scheme was revised for the 12th Five Year Plan. It aims to establish DIETs in all districts created up to 2011, thereby increasing their numbers from existing 571 to 646; strengthen existing 106 to 122 Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and up-grade existing government secondary teacher education institutions into CTEs; strengthen existing 32 to 39 Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs); up-grade Department of Education in Universities as IASEs; and establish Block Institutes of teacher education (BITEs) in identified SC/ST/ minority concentration districts.

► **Quality in Teacher Education**

- **Creation of Separate Cadre:** 17-states/ UTs have created separate cadre for teacher educators under the TE-Scheme. States have also been asked to strengthen the cadre of teacher educators in their respective states/UTs.
- **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, 2014- Norms and Standards:** The NCTE was established with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system, and for matters connected therewith.
- **Re-organizing/Restructuring of SCERT and Cadre Restructuring for Teacher Educators:** Under the CSS-Teacher Education 09 states in the country have re-organized/ restructured their SCERT in 2016.

◉ **New Activities/Initiatives under CSSTE Scheme**

- **India Teacher Education Portal (Prashikshak):** the Department of School Education and Literacy launched 'India Teacher Education Portal (Prashikshak)' in 2016. This portal is helpful in monitoring of Teachers Education Institutions and in providing comprehensive information to prospective students and teachers to select the right institute as per choice.

◉ **Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas**

- Government is implementing the scheme for providing quality education in Madarsas (SPQEM) for the children of minorities.
- The objectives of the Scheme are: encourage Madarsas and Maktabas to introduce formal subjects i.e. science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English by means of providing financial assistance; children studying in Madarsas and Maktabas attain academic proficiency for class I-XII.
- The Scheme provides assistance for: appointment of teachers for teaching science, mathematics, social studies, languages, computer application and science.
- Training will be arranged in groups for Madarsas teachers appointed under the scheme by SCERTs/ DIETs/BRCs. Madarsas with respect to whom expenditure on account of honorarium of the teachers is met by the state government will not be eligible for salary component under the scheme.

◉ **Infrastructure Development for Minority Institutes**

- The Scheme facilitates education of minorities by strengthening school infrastructure in minority institutions. The scheme covers the entire country. It will fund infrastructure development of private aided/unaided minority elementary/secondary/senior secondary schools to the extent of 75 per cent and subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs per school.
- Organizations that are recognised by central or state government shall be eligible to apply, should have been functioning for at least last 3 years and have substantial enrolment of children from minorities. The scheme is implemented through the state governments and all requests for financial assistance are entertained by the state government in the prescribed application form.

◉ **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme**

- The Centrally Sponsored 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)' was launched in 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary and higher secondary stage up to class XII.

- One lakh scholarships of Rs. 6,000/- per annum (Rs. 500/- per month) per student are awarded to selected students every year for class IX and their continuation up to class XII in a state government, government-aided and local body schools.
- There is quota of scholarships for different states/UTs. Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than ₹1,50,000/- are eligible to avail the scholarships.
- There is reservation as per the state government norms. The selection of students for the scholarships is made through an examination conducted by the state governments.
- Scholarships are disbursed directly by electronic transfer into the bank accounts of students on quarterly basis following DBT mode.

◉ National Scheme of Incentive to Girls

- The centrally sponsored 'National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)' was launched in 2008 with the objective to establish an enabling environment to reduce the drop outs and to promote the enrolment of girl children belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools.
- According to the scheme, a sum of ₹ 3,000/- is deposited in the name of the unmarried eligible girls as fixed deposit on enrolment in class IX, who are entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon on passing XI Class and attaining 18 years of age .
- The scheme covers:
 - all girls belonging to SC/ST communities, who pass VIII and
 - all girls who pass VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they belong to SC/ST) and enrol in class IX in a state government, Government-aided and local body schools.

◉ Implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer

- The Government launched Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme/system from 2013 under which 25 schemes across eight ministries/departments were selected for implementation of DBT system in 43 pilot districts of 16 States/UTs.
- It envisages direct transfer of funds to beneficiary account through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB).
- From 2015, DBT Scheme was been extended in the entire country. Two scholarship schemes of the Department of School Education and Literacy, viz. National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) and National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE) are covered under DBT.
- A National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has been made operational for on-line submission of proposals/ list of beneficiaries by the state governments for National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) and National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE).

◉ Adult Education

- At the time of independence, 86 per cent of India's population was illiterate and as such the main focus of adult education had been on its very bottom tier, i.e. imparting of 'Basic literacy'.
- For accomplishment of this objective, a series of programmes had been introduced since the First Plan period, the most prominent, being the National Literacy Mission (NLM), launched in 1988 for the adults in the age group of 15+.
- The programme of National Literacy Mission was re-vamped in 2009 in alignment with new paradigms of lifelong learning as Saakshar Bharat.
- The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) is the operating and implementing organization at national level for all the activities envisaged in Adult Education and Skill Development.

◉ National Award to Teachers

- ▶ Instituted in 1958: It is given away by the President of India on 5th September (Teacher's Day) every year to give public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.
- ▶ From the award year 2001, 'Special Awards' have been instituted for teachers promoting inclusive education in schools and the education of children with disabilities in regular schools.
- ▶ The total number of 'Special Awards' are 43. 'Special Awards' are conferred on the teachers of following categories: Teachers with disabilities working in mainstream schools, special teacher or work for Inclusive Education.

◉ Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

- ▶ The Scheme of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVS) (Central Schools) was approved in 1962 by the Govt. of India on the recommendations of the Second Central Pay Commission to provide uninterrupted education to the wards of transferable Central Government employees.
- ▶ The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) in 1965.
- ▶ The primary aim of the Sangathan is to provide, establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the Central Schools (Kendriya Vidyalayas) located all over India and abroad.
- ▶ The Government of India wholly finances the Sangathan.

◉ Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

- ▶ The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisaged setting up of pace setting residential Navodaya schools with an aim of providing excellence coupled with equity and social justice.
- ▶ Consequent to this, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti was registered as a Society, under the Society Registration Act, of 1860, with the objective to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas to provide good quality modern education - including a strong component of inculcation of values, awareness of the environment, adventure activities and physical education - to the talented children predominantly from the rural areas without regard to their family's socio-economic condition.

◉ National Council of Educational Research and Training

- ▶ NCERT provides academic and technical supports for qualitative improvement of school education.
- ▶ It was established on September 1, 1961 as an apex national body to lead qualitative changes in school education.
- ▶ It has been playing an advisory role guiding Central and State Governments in formulating Policies, Acts and government programmes.
- ▶ It is a unique institution in India, conducting researches, preparing skilled educational professionals and developing curriculum and curricular materials.

◉ National Bal Bhavan

- ▶ National Bal Bhavan (NBB), established in 1956, is an autonomous institution funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ▶ National Bal Bhavan aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment, create and perform according to their age, aptitude and ability.

◉ Central Board of Secondary Education

- ▶ It is a Board of Education for public and private schools, under the Union Government. Central Board of Secondary Education has asked all schools affiliated to follow only NCERT curriculum.

◉ National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

- ▶ It an “Open School” to cater to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners up to pre-degree level.
- ▶ It was started as a project with in-built flexibilities by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in 1979. In July 2002, the Ministry of Human Resource Development amended the nomenclature of the organisation from the National Open School to the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) with a mission to provide relevant continuing education at school stage, up to pre-degree level through Open Learning system to prioritized client groups as an alternative to formal system, in pursuance of the normative national policy documents and in response to the need assessments of the people, and through it to make its share of contribution: to universalisation of education; to greater equity and justice in society, and to the evolution of a learning society.

◉ Mid Day Meal Scheme

- ▶ The Scheme covers children of Classes I-VIII studying in government, government aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- ▶ It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.
- ▶ Apart from promoting access and retention, the Mid Day Meal Scheme has also contributed to social and gender equity. It has helped in preventing classroom hunger, promoting school participation and fostering social equality and enhancing gender equality.

▶ Norms for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

- Calorific Value of Mid-Day Meals: The cooked mid day meal consists of 100 grams of wheat/rice, 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oil/fat and provides 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of protein at primary stage. For upper primary stage children, it consists of 150 grams of wheat/rice, 30 grams of pulses, 75 grams of vegetables and 7.5 gram of oil/fat and provides 700 calories of energy and 20 grams of protein.
- The Department issued notification for enrolment of cent per cent students in all schools. The use of Aadhaar identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplify the government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency. Enrolment of children under Aadhaar would enable to eliminate the proxy enrolment and provide the benefits of Mid Day Meal Scheme to the deserving children in a seamless manner.

▶ Tithi Bhojan

- “TithiBhojan” is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the Mid Day Meal Programme being followed in Gujarat.
- In order to bring in greater community participation, local communities are encouraged to celebrate important family events viz., birth of a child, success in exam, inauguration of new house, etc. by contributing to the mid day meal served in the local schools.
- It is voluntarily served by the community/family among school children in several forms like sweets and namkeen along with regular MDM, full meals, supplementary nutritive items like sprouted beans, contribution in kind such as cooking ware, utensils, dinner sets or glasses for drinking water.
- The concept has been adopted by different States with local nomenclatures like ‘SampritiBhojan’ in Assam, ‘Dham’ in Himachal Pradesh, ‘SnehBhojan’ in Maharashtra, ‘ShalegagiNaavuNeevu’ in Karnataka, ‘Anna Dhanam’ in Puducherry, ‘PritiBhoj’ in Punjab and ‘UtsavBhoj’ in Rajasthan.

▶ Implementation of Automated Monitoring System

- The Department of School Education and Literacy has put in place an automated system of data collection for real time monitoring of MDMS.
- Such data is being captured from schools with no cost to school Head Master and Teachers. Under the automated monitoring system, states/UTs are setting up a suitable system of data collection (i.e. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/SMS/mobile application/web Application) from schools on a daily basis and using it for purpose of monitoring and timely follow-up action.

► Cent per cent Aadhaar Enrolment of Children

- The Department issued notification for enrolment of cent per cent students in all schools.
- The use of Aadhaar identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplify the government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency.
- Enrolment of children under Aadhaar would enable to eliminate the proxy enrolment and provide the benefits of Mid Day Meal Scheme to the deserving children in a seamless manner.

► Mid-Day Meal Rules

- The Mid Day Meal Rules, (MDM) 2015 have been notified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- All the states/UTs have been advised to disseminate and enforce the MDM Rules 2015 in all eligible schools.
- The salient features of Mid Day Meal Rules include:
 - ◆ strengthen quality by making testing of food samples mandatory;
 - ◆ enhanced role of School Management Committees in Supervision of MDM in school;
 - ◆ supply of foodgrains at NFSA rates of ₹ 3 per kg for rice and ₹ 2 per kg for wheat instead of BPL rates of ₹ 5.65 and ₹ 4.15 per kg respectively;
 - ◆ food security allowance to be paid by the state government, if MDM is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of foodgrains, cooking cost, fuel or absence of cook-cum-helper or any other reason.

► Testing of Food Samples

- The Mid Day Meal Guidelines for engagement of accredited labs by the state/ UT governments are put in place for testing of the meals served in the schools.

► Social Audit

- "Social audit" means the process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of a programme or scheme.
- The social audit was conducted by Society for Social Audit Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) in two districts viz., Khammam and Chittoor of undivided Andhra Pradesh during 2012-13.
- Encouraged by the outcome of the Social Audit in Andhra Pradesh, the Department had issued detailed guidelines in 2014 for conducting of social audit under Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- So far 13 states viz., Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu have completed the conduct of social audit.

● Higher and Technical Education

- There has been phenomenal growth of higher education in India since independence. There were only 20 universities and 500 colleges at the time of independence.
- These number have increased by 38 times (i.e., 760) in the case of the Universities and 77 times (i.e. 38,498) in the case of Colleges.
- Similarly, there has been tremendous growth in the enrolment also. Moreover, the statistical overview of the higher education system clearly shows that there has been phenomenal growth in institutions (universities, colleges, technical institutions) as well as in intake, enrolment etc.

► National Institutional Ranking Framework

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions was launched to meet a felt need for a framework that would enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions on the basis of a set of objective parameters

and a transparent process.

- Developed by a team of experts in education and heads of institutions, the portal and the framework is presently available for engineering and management institutions.

► Impacting Research Innovation and Technology

- To identify the needs of the country in terms of its research and technology requirements, ten goal posts have been identified and research groups are being set up to formulate time-bound plans of action for each.
- Leading academic institutions like IITs and ISC have been identified to set the process in motion.

► Regulator Review

- Lots of private institutions have come up in higher education sector with the growing trend of commercialization.
- They sometimes are not maintaining the laid down standards. UGC's entire functioning continues to be oriented more towards grant giving rather than regulation and enforcement of minimum standards.
- A UGC Review Committee was constituted in 2014. A similar committee was constituted for the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- The Committee is to conduct a review of the present status of AICTE and suggest restructuring and reorganizing of AICTE for attaining even better performance to meet the desired objectives.

► Bachelor of Vocational Studies

- The UGC has introduced the scheme for B.Voc degree with multiple exits at diploma/ advanced diploma under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). The objectives are:
 - ◆ To enhance the employability of youth;
 - ◆ To maintain their competitiveness through provisions of multi-entry multi-exit learning opportunities and vertical mobility;
 - ◆ To fill the gap between educated and employable; and
 - ◆ To reduce the dropout rate at the secondary level.
 - ◆ Currently, 2035 schools across 25 states are implementing the scheme.

► Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth

- A credit framework Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY) is now in place which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education system.

► Education Sector Skill Council:

- Education Sector Skill Council was constituted in 2014, to consider job roles other than academic faculties and teacher qualifications.
- The functions of the SSC, include setting up of Labour Market Information System (LMIS) to assist planning and delivery of training, Identification of skill development needs and preparing a catalogue of skill types, develop skill development plan and maintain skill inventory developing skill competency standards and qualifications.

► Yukti – Yogya Kalakriti ki takneek

- Yukti aims at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.
- It aims at introducing appropriate designs and technology for innovation and pedagogical methods for introducing skills for upgradation.

► **SAKSHAM - Scholarship for Differently-Abled Children**

- Scheme of AICTE aims at providing encouragement and support to differently-abled children to pursue technical education.
- Scholarships amounting to Rs. 5 crore per annum as tuition fees and incidentals are to be provided to needy and meritorious students for pursuing technical education at AICTE approved institution.
- This is to help them to achieve their college goals, despite learning issues, environmental challenges or medical bills.

► **IshanUday for Students of North East Region**

- The UGC has launched a special scholarship scheme for students of north east region, IshanUday from the academic session 2014-15.
- The Scheme envisages grant of 10,000 scholarships to students from the region whose parental income is below Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum and would be provided scholarship ranging from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 5,000 per month for studying at under graduate level in colleges/universities of the country.

► **IshanVikas - Academic Exposure for North Eastern Students**

- The programme has been launched with a plan to bring selected college and school students from the north eastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods for academic exposure.

► **Women Leader**

- Women appointed as chairpersons, board of governors of apex technical education institutes and in National Institutes of Technology (NITs).
- For the first time in the history of IITs, two women scientists were nominated on the IIT council.

► **Pragati**

- Pragati (Scholarship for Girl Students) - Pragati is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls participation in technical education.
- Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process.

► **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child**

- The dropout ratio at various levels of education for girls is much higher than that of boys.
- Keeping Swami Vivekananda's ideas of women education and to promote girls education, UGC has introduced the Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child for research in social sciences with an aim to compensate direct costs of higher education especially for such girls who happen to be the only girl child in their family.

► **Know Your College**

- Know Your College is a portal developed for helping a prospective student make a valued judgment for selection of college providing the necessary information about the college.
- Details like collaborations, mobile education, vocational education, community colleges, use of ICT, model curriculum, and a research portal are available.
- Details about facilities for specially-abled, facilities for girls, placement facilities and entrepreneurship details are also available.
- Students can lodge online grievances on the portal for redressal. This application allows a student either in the country or outside to submit an online grievance.

► Campus Connect

- The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT for teaching and learning processes.
- The Mission has two major components: (a) content generation, (b) providing connectivity

► National e-Library

- The National Digital Library of India is envisaged as a National knowledge asset which will provide ubiquitous digital knowledge source.
- It will support and enhance education, research and innovation catering to the needs of all types of learner groups over the country.
- Developing and providing efficient access to quality e-content addressed to various learners with different backgrounds, expectations and languages.

► Swayam: Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds

- Swayam is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform with a comprehensive academic structure.
- The integrated platform will offer courses covering engineering, humanities and social sciences etc., to be used by learners at large.

► Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)

- GIAN aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.

► Research Parks

- The objective of the Research Parks is to create a knowledge and innovation ecosystem through collaboration between industry and academia to enable, encourage and develop cutting edge technology and innovation that exceeds the global standard.

► Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations and Training

- Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations and Training (GANIT) Week in the schools affiliated to CBSE was organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan and to actively promote interest of students in mathematics.

◉ Copyright

- Acquisition of copyright is automatic and it does not require any formality. Copyright comes into existence as soon as a work is created and no formality is required to be completed for acquiring it.
- The Copyright Office was established in 1958. It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education. It is headed by the Registrar of Copyright, who has quasi-judicial powers in handling cases relating to copyright. The main function of the Copyright Office is to undertake registration of copyright.
- The Copyright Board also determines and fixes rate of royalties for statutory licences for cover versions and broadcasting of literary and musical works and sound recordings.
- It also hears cases in other miscellaneous matters instituted before it under the Copyright Act, 1957.
- The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 provides for a three member permanent Copyright Board consisting of a Chairman and two other members.

11

Energy

- Energy is an essential input for economic development and improving the quality of life. Development of conventional forms of energy for meeting the growing energy needs of society at a reasonable cost is the responsibility of the government.

Power

- The *Ministry of Power* is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country.
- The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the Central Sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations {National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)}.
- The Power Grid is responsible for all the existing and future transmission projects in the Central Sector and also for the formation of the National Power Grid.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) are responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively.
- Three statutory bodies, i.e., the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- Programmes of *rural electrification* are provided financial assistance by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
- The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provide term-finance to projects in the power sector.
- The autonomous bodies (societies), namely Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the National Power Training Institute (NPTI) are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- A Power Trading Corporation has also been incorporated primarily to support the Mega Power Projects in private sector by acting as a single entity to enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Power Generation:

- Power generation during 2016-17 was 1,160 BU comprising 994 BU thermal, 122 BU hydro, 37 BU from nuclear and 5 BU imports from Bhutan.

Ultra Mega Power Projects:

- The Government of India through Ministry of Power launched the initiative of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), of 4,000 MW.
- Super thermal power projects in November 2005 with the objective to develop large capacity power projects in India. Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has been appointed as the Nodal Agency to facilitate the development of these projects.

► Integrated Power Development Scheme:

- In order to provide impetus to strengthening of power distribution sector in urban area, Ministry of Power, Government of India launched “Integrated Power Development Scheme” (IPDS) in 2014.

► Mega Power Policy:

- Mega power policy was introduced in 1995. The aim of this policy was to derive economies of scale by setting up large size power plants especially in the private sector at pithead and transmitting power to distant regions, which are deficit in power.

► Automatic Approval for FDI:

- Automatic approval (RBI route) for cent per cent foreign equity is permitted in generation (except atomic energy), transmission and distribution and trading in power sector without any upper ceiling on the quantum of investment.
- Government of India has also allowed the FDI up to 49 per cent in power exchanges registered under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Market) Regulations, 2010, under the automatic route.

◉ Schemes

- **Saubhagya – Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana:** **Aim :** Achieve universal household electrification in India by March 2019. Scope of the scheme: (1) electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas on a payment of Rs.500. (2) providing Solar Photo Voltaic based system in remote villages. (3) providing electricity connections to un-electrified households in Urban Areas.
- **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana:** Objectives: (a) To separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders for judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas; (b) Strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas; and (c) Metering in rural areas.
- **Development of National Grid:** National power grid in the country is being developed in a phased manner. All five regional grids, namely northern region, western region, eastern region, north-eastern region and southern region have been inter-connected in synchronous mode and total transfer capacity of inter-regional links in June, 2017 is about 75,050 MW.
- **National Electricity Fund Scheme:** Under NEF scheme, interest subsidy would be provided on loans taken by private and public power utilities in distribution sector for non-Rajiv Gandhi GraminVidyutikaranYojana (RGGVY) and non-Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) projects now subsumed under DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) respectively.
- **UDAY—Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana:** UDAY Scheme was launched in 2015 for a sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country, through targeted interventions in the form of lower interest costs, reduction of cost of power, increased revenues and improved operational efficiencies. UDAY is *voluntary scheme* for participation and 26 states and 1 union territory have joined the scheme. The scheme is being monitored by an inter-ministerial committee and a state level committee.

◉ Energy Efficiency

- Government of India has undertaken a two pronged approach to cater to the increasing energy demand of the country while ensuring minimum increase in CO₂ emissions.
- On one hand, at the generation side, efforts are being made to move towards cleaner technologies, and on the demand side, thrust is given towards efficient use of energy by taking various initiatives under Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) established under Energy Conservation Act, 2001 launched number of programmes such as mandating standards and labels for energy consuming equipment and appliances, prescribing an energy conservation building code for commercial buildings, demand

side management programmes for agricultural pumpsets, municipalities among others, energy consumption norms for energy intensive industries, promotion of energy efficiency in small and medium enterprises, fiscal instruments for promoting energy efficiency and outreach activities.

◉ Petroleum and Natural Gas

- ▶ **Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas** – Crude Oil Production for 2017-18 was at 35.68 MMT (marginal decline of 0.9% from 2016-17). Natural Gas production was at 32.649 billion cubic Metre (BCM) for 2017-18 (increase of 2.35 % from 2016-17).
- ▶ **Refining Capacity** – India is second largest refiner in Asia after China. India's refining capacity has increased to 247.57 MMTPA in April 2018
- ▶ **Import of Crude Oil** – Crude Oil Import (2017-18) = 220.43 MMT & Crude Oil Import (2016-17) = 213.93 MMT
- ▶ **Import and Export of Petroleum Products** - Import of Petroleum Products (2017-18) = 35.89 MMT, a decline of 1.09% in quantity from previous year. Export of Petroleum Products (2017-18) = 66.76 MMT, an increase of 1.91% in quantity terms from previous year.

◉ Initiatives for Energy Security

- ▶ India's energy security is primarily about ensuring continuous availability of commercial energy at competitive prices to support its economic growth and meet the lifeline energy needs of households with safe, clean and affordable forms of energy. Keeping in view the vast and ever increasing energy requirements of the economy, several initiatives have been taken for increasing production and exploitation of all domestic petroleum resources.
- ▶ Some initiatives are:
 - **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy:**
 - ◆ Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) is a policy adopted by Government of India on 10.03.2016 indicating the new contractual and fiscal model for award of hydrocarbon acreages towards exploration and production (E&P). HELP is applicable for all future contracts to be awarded.
 - ◆ **Key Features:**
 - ▶ There will be a uniform licensing system which will cover all hydrocarbons, i.e. oil, gas, coal bed methane etc. under a single license and policy framework.
 - ▶ Contracts will be based on "biddable revenue sharing". Bidders will be required to quote revenue share in their bids and this will be a key parameter for selecting the winning bid. They will quote a different share at two levels of revenue called "lower revenue point" and "higher revenue point". Revenue share for intermediate points will be calculated by linear interpolation. The bidder giving the highest net present value of revenue share to the Government, as per transparent methodology, will get the maximum marks under this parameter.
 - ▶ An Open Acreage Licensing Policy will be implemented whereby a bidder may apply to the Government seeking exploration of any block not already covered by exploration. The Government will examine the Expression of Interest and justification. If it is suitable for award, Govt. will call for competitive bids after obtaining necessary environmental and other clearances. This will enable a faster coverage of the available geographical area.
 - ▶ A concessional royalty regime will be implemented for deep water and ultra-deep water areas. These areas shall not have any royalty for the first seven years, and thereafter shall have a concessional royalty of 5% (in deep water areas) and 2% (in ultra-deep water areas).
 - ▶ In shallow water areas, the royalty rates shall be reduced from 10% to 7.5%.
 - ▶ The contractor will have freedom for pricing and marketing of gas produced in the domestic market on arms length basis. To safeguard the Government revenue, the Government's share of profit will be calculated based on the higher of prevailing international crude price or actual price.
 - ▶ The **Government launched a scheme 'PAHAL' for direct transfer of LPG subsidy to consumers** all over the country from 2015. This is the largest direct cash transfer scheme in the world as recognized by Guinness Book of World Records. Under this scheme, LPG is being sold to consumers at the market rate while the subsidy is directly credited to their bank accounts as per entitlement. Objective of

scheme is to ensure that the subsidy on LPG reach the intended beneficiaries. The Government also launched 'Give-It-Up' Campaign. Under it, well-off LPG consumers have been asked to voluntarily give up LPG subsidy. Against each 'Give-It-Up' consumer, one security deposit-free connection is given to a BPL family (Give Back Scheme).

- ▶ In a bid to ensure universal coverage of clean cooking gas in the country, the Government launched **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**. Under PMUY, 5 crore LPG connections were to be provided to BPL families with a support of Rs. 1,600 per connection by 2018-19. PMUY aims at empowering millions of poor women who are forced to inhale unhealthy emissions from burning coal, wood and other unclean fuels while cooking. LPG connections provided under the scheme are being seen as a great tool of empowerment, apart from being able to bring obvious health benefits.
- ▶ Under the **New Domestic Gas Pricing Policy**, a transparent new gas pricing formula linked to global market was made effective from 2014. Marketing and pricing freedom was provided for gas produced from geologically difficult, high risk/ high cost areas with a provision of ceiling price based on landed cost of alternate fuels.

◉ Organizations

- ▶ **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), engaged in exploration and production of crude oil, natural gas and value added products was incorporated in 1993.
- ▶ **ONGC Videsh Limited:** ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), is engaged in exploration and production of oil and gas outside India. OVL was incorporated as Hydrocarbons India Limited in 1965 to perform international exploration and production business. The company was rechristened as ONGC Videsh Limited from 1989.
- ▶ **Oil India Limited:** It is engaged in the business of exploration, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas. In 1959, Oil India Private Limited was incorporated to expand and develop the newly discovered oil fields of Naharkatiya and Moran in Assam. In 1961, it became a joint venture company between the Indian Government and Burmah Oil Company Limited, UK. In 1981, OIL India Pvt. Ltd. became a wholly-owned Government of India enterprise. In-country operational areas are spread over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman and Rajasthan. OIL has presence in nine countries, viz., Venezuela, Libya, Gabon, Iran, Nigeria, Yemen, Sudan, Timor Leste and Egypt, pursuing various activities.
- ▶ **Gas Authority of India Limited:** Starting as a natural gas transmission company, it is today an integrated energy company in the natural gas value chain with global footprints.
- ▶ **Indian Oil Corporation Limited:** Indian Oil Corporation (Indian Oil) is India's flagship national oil company with business interests encompassing the entire hydrocarbon value chain from refining, pipeline transportation and marketing of petroleum products to exploration and production of crude oil and gas, marketing of natural gas, petrochemicals, renewable energy and now into nuclear energy.
- ▶ **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is a mega Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) with 'Navratna' status. It has two refineries; one in Mumbai (west coast) having a capacity of 6.5 MMTPA and the other in Visakhapatnam (east coast) with a capacity of 8.3 MMTPA. These refineries are producing a wide variety of petroleum products-fuels, lubricants and speciality products.
- ▶ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an integrated oil company, in the downstream sector, engaged in refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products. It has also diversified into production and marketing of petrochemical feedstock. BPCL has refineries at Mumbai and Kochi with a combined refining capacity of 21.5 MMTPA.
- ▶ **Pricing of Petroleum Products:** The Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) or cost plus pricing for petroleum products which was introduced in 1976 was abolished from 2002, consequent to the de-regulation of the oil sector in India. The Government notified that pricing of all petroleum products except PDS kerosene and domestic LPG; would be market determined. In June 2006, based on the recommendations of the **Rangarajan Committee**, the Government changed the pricing mechanism for petrol and diesel from import parity to trade parity (trade parity being the weighted average of import parity and export parity prices in the ratio of 80:20) while the pricing of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG continues on import parity basis.

◉ Coal

The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has the overall responsibility of determining policies and strategies in respect of exploration and development of coal and lignite reserves, sanctioning of important projects of high value and for deciding all related issues.

- ▶ **Coal Reserves:** 308 Billion tonnes of coal reserves have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India.
- ▶ The reserves have been found mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.
- ▶ **Lignite Reserves:** The Lignite Reserves in the country have been estimated at around 44.59 billion tonnes by the Geological Survey of India.
- ▶ The major deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Puducherry.
- ▶ **Coal Production:** The overall production of coal for 2016-17 was projected at 724.71 MT. During the period April to December 2016, the actual production was 453 MT compared to 445 MT during corresponding period of 2015-16, showing a growth of 1.7 per cent.
- ▶ **Coal India Limited:** Coal India Limited (CIL) is a 'MahaRatna' company under the Ministry of Coal, with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal. CIL with its headquarters at Kolkata is the apex body in coal industry under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal. Coal India is a holding company with seven wholly owned coal producing subsidiary companies and one mine planning and Consultancy Company.
- ▶ It encompasses the whole gamut of identification of coal reserves, detailed exploration followed by design and implementation and optimising operations for coal extraction in its mines.
- ▶ **Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited:** Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) was registered as a company in November 1956. The mining operations in Mine-I were formally inaugurated in 1957. Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been conferred with 'Navratna' status since 2011.

◉ New and Renewable Energy

- ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal ministry at the federal level for all matters relating to new and renewable energy. The ministry has been facilitating the implementation of broad spectrum programmes including harnessing renewable power, renewable energy to rural areas for lighting, cooking and motive power, use of renewable energy in urban, industrial and commercial applications and development of alternate fuels and applications.

Drivers for Development

- ▶ At present around 69.5 per cent of India's power generation capacity is based on coal. Despite increase in installed capacity by more than 113 times in 65 years, India is still not in a position to meet its peak electricity demand as well as energy requirement.
- ▶ The peak power deficit during financial year 2001-02 was approximately 9,252 MW, however, at the end of Financial Year 2014-15, the peak power deficit decreased to the order of 2.4 per cent.
- ▶ India has taken a voluntary commitment of reducing emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.
- ▶ In the recently concluded 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Paris, France, India committed to achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Renewable Energy Potential:

- ▶ India has an estimated renewable energy potential of about 900 GW from commercially exploitable sources viz.:
 - Wind - 102 GW,
 - Small hydro - 20 GW;

- Bio-energy - 25 GW; and
- Solar power - 750 GW.
- ▶ Over 1.2 million households are using solar energy to meet their lighting energy needs and almost similar numbers of the households meet their cooking energy needs from biogas plants.
- ▶ The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), formerly known as Centre for Wind Energy Technology, has developed the *Wind Atlas of India*. NIWE also collects data from Solar Radiation Resource Assessment stations to assess and quantify solar radiation availability and develop Solar Atlas of the country.
- ▶ National Institute of Solar Energy has assessed the State wise solar potential.

National Solar Mission:

- ▶ Under National Solar Mission, the target for setting up solar capacity increased from 20 GW to 100 GW by 2021-22.
- ▶ To facilitate such a massive target, the Prime Minister's Office has been pushing various Ministries to initiate supporting interventions, like:
 - Incorporating changes in land use regulations and tenancy laws to facilitate aggregation and leasing of land by farmers/ developers for solar projects.
 - Identification of large chunks of land for solar projects.
 - Identification of large government complexes/ buildings for rooftop projects.
 - Clear survey of wastelands and identification of transmission/ road infrastructure using satellite technology for locating solar parks.
 - Development of power transmission network/ Green Energy Corridor.
 - Setting up of exclusive parks for domestic manufacturing of solar PV modules.
 - Provision of roof top solar and 10 percent renewable energy as mandatory reform under the new scheme of Ministry of Urban Development.
 - Amendments in building bye-laws for mandatory provision of roof top solar for new construction or higher FAR.
 - Considering infrastructure status for solar projects; raising tax free solar bonds; providing long tenor loans; making roof top solar a part of housing loan by banks/ NHB and extending IIFCL credit facility to such projects by the Department of Financial Services.
 - Suitable amendments to the Electricity Act for strong enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and for providing Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO).
 - Incorporating measures in Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) for encouraging distribution companies and making net-metering compulsory.
- ▶ 26 SPV projects of aggregate 330 MW capacity have been commissioned. Thus, 523 MW solar PV projects and 202.5 MW solar thermal power projects have been commissioned under the bundling scheme. Under the 100 SPV power plants, 78 projects were selected to set up 98 MW capacity projects from 12 states.

▶ Renewable Energy for Rural Applications:

- **National Biogas and Manure Management Programme:** A central sector scheme to provide biogas plants to households for clean cooking fuel and organic manure for raising farm yield. The NBMMP was implemented during 2017-18
- **National Solar Mission:** 26 Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) projects of aggregate 330 MW capacity have been commissioned.
- Under the National Biomass Cookstoves Initiative, several pilot projects have been taken up for deployment of improved biomass cookstoves for demonstration among domestic and large sized community cooking in Anganwadis, mid-day meal schemes in schools, tribal hostels etc.
- Projects taken up under *UnnatChulhaAbhiyan* are now eligible for carbon credits under the CDM mechanism with SardarSwaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy (SSS-NIRE), an autonomous institute of MNRE, located at Jalandhar, Punjab has been designated as Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME).

► Solar Cities Programme:

- Under Development of Solar Cities Programme, the Ministry assists municipal corporations and urban local bodies in preparation of a Master Plan for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy supply in the city.
- Objectives of the Solar City programme:
 - ◆ To enable and empower Urban Local Governments to address energy challenges at City - level.
 - ◆ To provide a framework and support to prepare a Master Plan including assessment of current energy situation, future demand and action plans.
 - ◆ To build capacity in the Urban Local Bodies and create awareness among all sections of civil society.
 - ◆ To involve various stakeholders in the planning process.
 - ◆ To oversee the implementation of sustainable energy options through public - private partnerships.

12

Environment

◉ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- ▶ It is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies, programmes and related schemes.
- ▶ The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the:
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
 - International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); and
 - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
- ▶ The Ministry also coordinates with multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional bodies such as Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

◉ Environment Related Institutions and Organizations

▶ Botanical Survey of India

- Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is the apex research organization under MoEF&CC, for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources.
- It was established in 1890.
- Functional base of BSI was further expanded to include various new areas such as inventorying of endemic, rare and threatened plant species; evolving conservation strategies; studies on ecosystems and protected areas etc.

▶ Red Data Book:

- Internationally IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) prepares a Red Data List/ Red Data Book which categorises species and plants according to the degree of threat/extinction.

▶ Zoological Survey of India

- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a premier research institution under the Ministry.
- It has completed 100 years of service.
- Headquarters at Kolkata and 16 Regional centres are located at different parts of the country.

▶ ENVIS (Environmental Information System)

- Environmental Information System (ENVIS) was set up in 1983 as a plan programme as a comprehensive network in environmental information collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination to varying users, which include decision-makers, researchers, academicians, policy planners and research scientists, etc.

- ▶ The focus of ENVIS since inception has been on providing environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers, etc. all over the country.
- ▶ A large number of nodes, known as ENVIS Centres, have been established in the network to cover the broad subject areas of environment with a Focal Point in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

▶ Forest Survey of India

- Forest Survey of India (FSI), a national level organization under the Ministry is engaged in the assessment of the country's forest resources on a regular interval.
- Established in 1981, the Forest Survey of India succeeded the "Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources" (PISFR), a project initiated in 1965 by Government of India with the sponsorship of FAO and UNDP.
- **Forest Survey of India is involved in the following:**
 - ◆ **Forest Cover Mapping**
 - FSI is involved in forest cover assessment of the country on **biennial basis and publishes 'India State of Forest Report'**.
 - Forest and Tree Cover of the country has increased by 8,021 sq km (1%) as compared to assessment of 2015. The very dense forest has increased by 1.36% as compared to last assessment.
 - Successful agro-forestry practices, better conservation of forests, improvement of scrub areas to forest areas, increase in mangrove cover, conservation and protection activities have also led to increase in the forest and tree cover.
 - Top 5 states where maximum forest cover has increased are Andhra Pradesh (2,141 sqkms), Karnataka (1,101 sqkms), Kerala (1,043 sqkms), Odisha (885 sqkms) and Telangana (565 sqkms).
 - Top 5 states where forest cover has decreased are Mizoram (531 sq km), Nagaland (450 sq km), Arunachal Pradesh (190 sq km), Tripura (164 sq km) and Meghalaya (116 sq km).
 - ◆ **Forests Inventory**
 - Inventory of forests and Trees Outside Forests (TOF) is the second major activity of FSI.
 - The country has been divided into 14 physiographic zones.
 - In the recent past, TOF resources have gained importance because of their increasing role in meeting the needs of wood based industries and society.
 - The outcome of the TOF inventory is estimation of growing stock in TOF areas, estimation of production of wood from TOF and tree cover.

▶ Wildlife Institute of India

- It was established in 1986 in Dehradun as an autonomous institute of the Ministry.
- Its primary mandates are to:
 - ◆ Carry out scientific and applied research on various issues of wildlife and biodiversity conservation,
 - ◆ Develop wildlife and biodiversity conservation,
 - ◆ Develop wildlife science as a discipline through academic activities,
 - ◆ Build capacity in the field of wildlife management and conservation planning, and
 - ◆ Provide technical inputs to MoEFCC and other international organizations.

▶ National Green Tribunal

- It was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010. It is a statutory body.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

- The Tribunal is mandated to make an endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing.
- NGT has five places of sitting, i.e. the Principal Bench in Delhi and Zonal Benches in Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal and Chennai. Apart from this, the Tribunal holds three circuit Benches at Shimla, Shillong and Jodhpur.

► International Tropical Timber Organization

- The International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) was negotiated under United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) auspices to provide an effective framework for cooperation and consultation among countries producing and consuming tropical timber promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber and the improvement of structural conditions in the tropical timber market; promote and support research and development to improve forest management and wood utilization.
- The ITTA, 1983 established the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) whose headquarter is at Yokohama, Japan.
- India is a founder member (producer country category).

► International Network of Bamboo and Rattan

- The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1997.
- INBAR is dedicated to improving the social, economic, and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan.
- INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and non-for-profit sectors in over 50 countries.
- India is its member.

◉ Biodiversity Conservation

► Convention on Biodiversity

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- The key objectives of CBD convention are:
 - ◆ Conservation of biological diversity.
 - ◆ Sustainable use of its components.
 - ◆ Fair and equitable use of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.
- India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 to give effect to the provision of this Convention.
- India also prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008.
- **The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS)** adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

► Biodiversity Policy and Law

- The Government of India in collaboration with the Norwegian Government has established a "Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)" in the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai.
- Objective is to develop professional expertise in biodiversity policies and laws and develop capacity building.

► Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 came into force in 2003. The Act extends to the whole of India. The objectives of the Act are conservation, sustainable utilization and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.
- The Act is being implemented through three-tiered institutional structures (NBA at National level, State biodiversity Boards at state level, and Biodiversity Management Committees at local level).

► Biosphere Reserve

- The idea of 'Biosphere Reserves' was initiated by UNESCO in 1973-74 under its Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
- The MAB, launched in 1970 by UNESCO, is a broad based ecological programme aimed to develop within the natural and social sciences a basis for the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the relationship between man and the environment, to predict the consequences of today's actions on tomorrow's world and thereby to increase man's ability to manage efficiently the natural resources of the biosphere.
- The **Indian National Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee** identifies and recommends potential sites for designation as Biosphere Reserves, following the UNESCO's guidelines and criteria.
- There are 18 designated Biosphere Reserves (BRs).
- Out of 18 Biosphere Reserves, 10 Biosphere Reserves have been included in the world Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.
- **10 Biosphere Reserves in MAB Network are:**
 - ◆ Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Nandadevi Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Nokrek Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Panchmari Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Similipal Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve
 - ◆ Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve
- **Biodiversity Conservation Scheme Relating to Biosafety:** The main objective is implementation of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

● Forest Conservation

- **All India Coordinated Project on Capacity Building in Taxonomy (AICOPTAX):** Launched in 1999. The prime objectives include survey, collection and maintenance of collections of taxonomic groups, associated research etc.
- **Assistance to Botanic Gardens:** The scheme on Assistance to Botanic Gardens was initiated in 1992 to augment facilities for ex-situ conservation of rare, endangered threatened and endemic plants.
- **Forest Conservation Division:** The mandate of the Forest Conservation Division is to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes through effective implementation of the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**.
- The proposals seeking prior approval of the central government for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes are examined at different levels as per procedure defined under the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 including the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) or the State Advisory Committee (SAC).
- The Ministry takes decision on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes, stipulating appropriate mitigative measures.

- ▶ **Forest Management:** The intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) aims at strengthening forest protection machinery of the state/UT governments and provides support for area-specific forest management interventions.
- ▶ **National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board:** In order to promote afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country, the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) was set up in 1992.
- ▶ **National Afforestation Programme Scheme:** National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is a major afforestation scheme of the NAEB in the Government of India. The programme is now implemented through a three tier system of State Forests Development Agency (SFDA) at the state level, Forest Development Agency (FDAs) at the district/forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level.
- ▶ **Eco-Development Forces Scheme:** Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme was established in 1980s as a scheme being **implemented through Ministry of Defence** for ecological restoration of terrains, rendered difficult either due to severe degradation or remote location or difficult law and order situation.
- ▶ It is based on twin objectives of ecological regeneration in difficult areas, and promotion of meaningful employment to ex-servicemen.
- ▶ **National Mission for Green India:** The National Mission for a Green India (GIM), one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change aims at protecting and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover to counter the perils of climate change.
- ▶ **National Nature Camping Programme:** National Nature Camping Programme is an initiative of the Ministry in environment education which is aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding and empathy of children with and for the environment.

◉ Some Environment Related Institutions

- ▶ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, (ICFRE), an apex body in the national forestry research system, has been undertaking the holistic development of forestry research, education and extension covering all aspects of forestry.
- ▶ Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy was constituted in 1987 by upgrading and renaming the erstwhile Indian Forest College, established in 1938. The **Academy imparts professional training to the Indian Forest Services (IFS) Probationers** and has been accorded the status of "Staff College" for imparting mid-career training for officers of the Indian Forest Service (IFS).

◉ GLOBE

- ▶ Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) is a hands-on international environmental science and education programme that brings students, teachers and scientists together to study the global environment.
- ▶ MoEFCC and US Government signed an agreement in 2000 to implement the Globe programme in India.
- ▶ Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.
- ▶ **Ecologically Sensitive Area:** Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspot. It is a ESA. The concept of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) provides a mechanism to conserve biological diversity of an area while allowing for sustainable development to take place.
- ▶ **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**, an autonomous organization under the Ministry.
- ▶ Government of India had set up five regional offices of the MoEF&CC at Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow and Shillong with a headquarters unit at New Delhi.

◉ Wildlife Conservation

▶ Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats

- The protected area network of the country comprises 733 protected areas:
 - ◆ National Parks
 - ◆ Wildlife Sanctuaries

- ◆ Conservation Reserves
- ◆ Community Reserves
- ◆ Biosphere Reserves

► Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory multi-disciplinary body.
- Established to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
- The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur.
- It is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals; to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank etc.
- It also assists foreign authorities and international organization.
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was constituted in 2007.

► Central Zoo Authority

- The Central Zoo Authority with its headquarters in New Delhi was established in 1992 under the provisions of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It is mandated to oversee the functioning of zoos in the country with the view to enhance their role in conservation.
- The main objective of the Central Zoo Authority is to enforce minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in the Indian zoos and to control the mushrooming of ill-conceived, ill planned zoos, to monitor and evaluate the existing zoos and to suggest ways and means for the improvement of zoos in the country so that they can be transferred into potent centers for ex-situ conservation of endangered wild fauna.

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Management:** The management of the human wildlife conflict (HWC) essentially is a part of wildlife management, which is with the **state government**.

► Project Elephant

- Project Elephant (PE) was launched by the Government of India in 1991-92 as a centrally sponsored scheme with the objectives:
 - ◆ To protect elephants,
 - ◆ Their habitat and corridors;
 - ◆ To address issues of man-animal conflict; and
 - ◆ Welfare of domesticated elephants.

► Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger was launched in 1973.
- The objective was to ensure maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.
- Tiger Reserves are established under the Project Tiger.

◉ Institutions related to Animal Welfare

► Animal Welfare Board of India:

- General Animal Welfare covers the welfare of individual animals, mainly domesticated, and also wild animals in captivity, through Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

- AWBI is a statutory body established with headquarters at Chennai.
- Its basic mandate is to advise the government on animal welfare issues, and create awareness in animal welfare and to implement the regular schemes of AWBI and also the central sector schemes for the welfare of animals.

► **National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW):**

- The National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW) was set up as a subordinate office of the MoEF&CC.
 - The objective of NIAW is to impart training and education in animal welfare on a diversified basis comprising, among other things, animal management, their behaviour and ethics.
 - The aim is to create an enabling environment for fulfillment of the statutory requirements as laid down in the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
 - The mandate of NIAW covers the need to improve animal welfare through education, research and public outreach.
- **Free Mobile Animal Clinic:** The Animal Welfare Board is providing free, on the spot veterinary treatment to sick and injured animals belonging to poor people through its Mobile Animal Clinic (MAC) programme.

◉ **Environmental Impact Assessment**

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage of planning.

◉ **Measures for Pollution Control**

► **Abatement of Pollution and Related Schemes**

- The scheme of Assistance for Abatement of Pollution is a part of a centrally sponsored umbrella scheme of 'Pollution Abatement'.
- The scheme of assistance for pollution abatement comprises of sub-components to grants-in-aid-general; grants for creation of capital assets; environment health cell (EHC) and trade and environment (PL) including north eastern region grants-in-aid-general and north eastern region grants for creation of capital assets.
- Under this Scheme the Grants are provided to the state pollution control boards/UT pollution control committees, environment departments of states/UTs, central/state research Institutes, and other government agencies/organizations with the aim of strengthening their technical capabilities.

► **Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants**

- A centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken by the Government for enabling small scale industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing common effluent treatment plants to cover all the states in the country.

► **Recognition of Environmental Laboratories**

- Under the provisions of **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** the central government recognizes environmental laboratories to carry out the functions entrusted to an environmental laboratory.
- Twenty seven (27) **private laboratories** and three (03) **government laboratories are there (both private and government)**.

► **Initiative Related to Pollution Control**

- **National Water Quality Monitoring Programme:** Central Pollution Control Board in association with state pollution control boards has established a water quality monitoring network.

- Real Time Water Quality Monitoring System (RTWQMS) On River Ganga and Yamuna.
- **National Air Quality Index:** National Air Quality Index (AQI) has been launched for monitoring the quality of air in major urban centres across the country on a real-time basis and enhancing public awareness for taking mitigative action. The Index is centred around chief pollutants like: Particulate Matter, Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, ammonia, Lead and Carbon Monoxide. The unit of measurement is microgram (or milligram in the case of CO) per cubic meter.
- **Categorization of Industrial Sectors:** CPCB has finalized the criteria for classifying industries into – Red, Orange, Green and White category. The classification is based on pollution potential will help bring uniformity for its adoption by SPCBs.
- **Control of Pollution in Ganga** - CPCB has prepared segmental action plan for restoration of water quality of River Ganga which is based on dividing the **entire River Ganga into 4 segments** and for each segment, action points have been evolved for implementation.

► Noise Pollution

- Protocol for National Ambient Noise monitoring Network Programme has been prepared. These steps taken to reduce noise pollution are advisories for noise monitoring on the occasion of Diwali; prohibition of use of fireworks between 10.00 p.m and 06.00 a.m etc.

► Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plans

- This concept arose to make co-operative movement for pollution control. Main Objective – to reduce the treatment cost borne by an individual member while protecting the environment. Wastewater treatment and water conservation are the prime objectives of the CETP.
- It is a centrally sponsored Scheme. Salient features are: (a) the central subsidy enhanced from 25% to 50% of the project cost.(b) All three levels of treatment (primary, secondary and tertiary) are to be covered for assistance. (c) a Special Purpose Vehicle will manage the CETP.

◉ Waste Management

► Hazardous Substance Management

- The Hazardous Substances Management Division (HSMD) is the nodal point within the Ministry for management of solid waste including hazardous substances and chemical emergencies.
- Division also administers the **Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991** and rules framed thereunder.
- The activities of the Division are carried out under three main thrust areas viz., hazardous waste management solid waste management and chemical safety.

► Chemical Safety

- To ensure chemical safety, the Ministry notified sets of Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 - Chemicals Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996.
- The main objectives of the MISHC rules are to:
 - ◆ Prevent major accidents arising from industrial activities; and
 - ◆ Limit the effects of such accidents.
- The rules endeavour to achieve these objectives by having a quantity-based approach.

► Hazardous Waste Management

- Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling &Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 were notified **under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- The Rules lay down procedure towards this process by providing provisions for authorization of hazardous waste generating and units using hazardous waste.
- Important provision on regulation of import/export of hazardous waste in pursuance to our obligation under the **Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous waste and its disposal.**
- India is party to the Convention.

► e-Waste Management

- The e-waste rules apply to e-waste generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronics namely television sets (including LCD & LED), refrigerators, washing machines and air-conditioners.
- These rules empower the concerned state agencies to control, supervise and regulate relevant activities connected with e-waste management such as collection, segregation, dismantling and recycling.
- Producers are required to set up collection systems and meet the cost involved in the environmentally sound management of e-waste generated from the 'end of life' of their own products.

► Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

- The Ministry revised the rules for management of solid waste in the municipal areas after 16 years.
- The new rules are now applicable beyond municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations, census towns, notified industrial townships, areas under the control of Indian Railways, airports, airbase, port and harbour, defence establishments, special economic zones, state and central government organizations, places of pilgrimage, religious and historical importance.
- **The segregation of waste at source has been mandated.**
- Responsibilities of generators have been fixed for segregation of waste in to **three streams, wet (biodegradable), dry (plastic, paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.)**
- The Rules provide ways for integration of waste pickers/rag pickers.

► Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- The Rules provide for:
 - ◆ Increase in minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns.
 - ◆ First time cover and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheets being used for packaging and wrapping commodities to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste.
 - ◆ Revamped pricing mechanisms for plastic carry bags by introducing plastic waste management fee to be paid by retailers/street vendors willing to provide carry bags as pre-registration charge.
 - ◆ Ways and means to promote gainful utilization of plastic waste such as energy recovery, in road construction, etc.
 - ◆ Introducing user charge and spot fines by local authority.
- The Ministry for the first time notified the separate set of rules for management of construction and demolition waste in the country as **Construction and Demolition Management Rules, 2016**.
- Under the rules, every waste generator has been made responsible for collection, segregation of concrete, soil and others and storage of construction and demolition waste generated separately, deposit at collection centre so made by the local body or handover it to the authorised processing facilities, ensure that there is no littering or deposition so as to prevent obstruction to the traffic or the public or drains.

► Fly Ash Utilization Policy

- Fly ash earlier considered to be "hazardous industrial waste" material, is now considered to be useful and saleable commodity.
- The objectives of this notification are to protect environment, conserve the top soil, prevent dumping of fly ash from thermal power stations on land and to promote utilization of ash in the manufacture of building materials and construction activity.

◉ International Conventions

► Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland.
- The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.
- Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes” based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as “other wastes” (household waste and incinerator ash).

► Rotterdam Convention

- The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004.
- India acceded to the convention a year later.
- The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- There are 47 chemicals listed in Annex III to this Convention, which include 33 pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals.

► Stockholm Convention

- The Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs.
- The Convention sought initially 12 chemicals, for restriction or elimination of the production and release. Now, the Convention covers 23 chemicals.
- The Convention came into force in 2004.
- India ratified the Convention in 2006.
- As per Article 7 of the Convention, Parties to the Convention were required to develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP) to demonstrate how their obligations to the Convention would be implemented and NIP has been developed through Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change serves as the focal point for GEF and Stockholm Convention.
- Designated national authorities are in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

► Minamata Convention on Mercury

- In February 2009, the Governing Council of UNEP adopted Decision 25/5 on the development of a global legally binding instrument on mercury.
- At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, was formally adopted.

◉ Water Resource Conservation

► National River Conservation Plan

- The river conservation programme was initiated with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985.

- The Ganga Action Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995.
- The objective of NRCP is to improve the water quality of rivers, which are major water sources in the country, through implementation of pollution abatement works in various towns along identified polluted stretches of rivers on cost sharing basis between the central and state governments.

► Conservation of Lakes

- National Lake Conservation Programme objective is to restore and conserve the urban and semi-urban lakes of the country degraded due to waste water discharge into the lake and other unique freshwater eco systems, through an integrated ecosystem approach.
- So far under National Lake Conservation Programme/NPCA, a total of 46 projects for conservation of 63 lakes.
- Major projects presently under implementation include.
 - ◆ Dal lake in Jammu & Kashmir,
 - ◆ Shivpuri and Sindh Sagar lakes in Madhya Pradesh,
 - ◆ Twin lakes at Mokokchung in Nagaland (NE region),
 - ◆ Annasagar, Pushkar and Pichola lakes in Rajasthan,
 - ◆ Ramgarh Tal and Laxmital in Uttar Pradesh.

► Conservation of Wetlands

- Wetlands are lifeline for a very large number of people and an important source of fresh water to mankind. They provide a host of ecosystem services to humanity, in addition to being host to rich biodiversity.
- Major pressures on wetlands include:
 - ◆ Fragmentation of hydrological regimes,
 - ◆ Siltation from degraded catchments,
 - ◆ Pollution,
 - ◆ Spread of invasive species, and
 - ◆ Over-harvesting of resources.
- To control degradation and conserve wetlands, the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) was initiated in 1987 and financial assistance is being provided to the state governments for implementing action plans for conservation and management of identified wetlands.
- National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) have been merged into a new scheme called the 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems' (NPCA).
- The principal objectives of the new scheme will be holistic conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands for achieving desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and the ecosystem, through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach with a common regulatory framework. The scheme would contribute to reduction of pollution loads and improvement in goods and services provided by these water bodies to stakeholders.
- The new scheme will have conservation and management of lakes and wetlands in the country within its scope, to include inventory and information system on lakes and wetlands national level directive on criteria for lakes and wetlands, regulatory framework, capacity building at state government and local body levels, evaluation etc.

► Ramsar Convention

- As a commitment for conserving potential wetlands, India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
- As per this Convention, India is committed for international cooperation and to take national action for conservation and wise use of Wetlands.
- At present there are 26 Ramsar sites in India.

► **26 RAMSAR SITES**

Sl. No.	Wetland name	State
1.	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh
2.	DeeporBeel	Assam
3.	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	Gujarat
4.	Chandertal Wetland	Gujarat
5.	Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh
6.	Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh
7.	Hokera Wetland	Jammu & Kashmir
8.	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	Jammu & Kashmir
9.	Tsomoriri	Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Wular Lake	Jammu & Kashmir
11.	Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala
12.	Sasthamkotta Lake	Kerala
13.	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	Kerala
14.	Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Loktak Lake	Manipur
16.	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Orissa
17.	Chilika Lake	Orissa
18.	Harike Lake	Punjab
19.	Kanjli	Punjab
20.	Ropar	Punjab
21.	Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan
22.	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan
23.	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
24.	RudrasagarLakeTripura	Tamil Nadu
25.	Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch)	Uttar Pradesh
26.	East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal

► **The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010**

- To implement the objectives of the convention, a regulatory mechanism was put in place through Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December, 2010.
- Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has also been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010.

► The Montreux Record

- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

► World Wetland Day

- Celebrated on 2nd February.
- The World Wetland Day-2017 with the **theme 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'** was celebrated in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh at **Bhoj Wetlands**, Bhopal, one of the 26 Ramsar Sites that India has designated under the Ramsar Convention.

◉ Climate Change

- The earth's climate has always changed and evolved. Some of these changes have been due to natural causes but other can be attributed to human activities such as deforestation, emissions from industry and transport etc. which have led to accumulation of gases and aerosols in the atmosphere.
- These gases are known as Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) because they trap heat and raise air temperatures near the ground, acting like a greenhouse on the surface of the planet.

► National and State Action Plans on Climate Change

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is being implemented through the nodal ministries in specific sectors/areas.
- The core of the implementation of the Action plan are constituted by the following eight missions, that will be responsible for achieving the broad goals of adaptation and mitigation, as applicable.
 - ◆ **National Solar Mission:** The NAPCC aims to promote the development and use of solar energy for power generation and other uses with the ultimate objective of making solar energy competitive with fossil-based energy options. The plan includes: Specific goals for increasing use of solar thermal technologies in urban areas, industry, and commercial establishments; a goal of increasing production of photo-voltaic to 1,000 MW/year; and a goal of deploying at least 1000 MW of solar thermal power generation. Other objectives include the establishment of a solar research centre, increased international collaboration on technology development, strengthening of domestic manufacturing capacity, and increased government funding and international support.
 - ◆ **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency:** The plan recommends: Mandating specific energy consumption decreases in large energy-consuming industries, with a system for companies to trade energy-savings certificates; Energy incentives, including reduced taxes on energy-efficient appliances; and Financing for public-private partnerships to reduce energy consumption through demand-side management programs in the municipal, buildings and agricultural sectors.
 - ◆ **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat:** To promote energy efficiency as a core component of urban planning, the plan calls for: Extending the existing Energy Conservation Building Code; A greater emphasis on urban waste management and recycling, including power production from waste; Strengthening the enforcement of automotive fuel economy standards and using pricing measures to encourage the purchase of efficient vehicles; and Incentives for the use of public transportation.
 - ◆ **National Water Mission:** With water scarcity projected to worsen as a result of climate change, the plan sets a goal of a 20% improvement in water use efficiency through pricing and other measures.
 - ◆ **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem:** The plan aims to conserve biodiversity, forest cover, and other ecological values in the Himalayan region, where glaciers that are a major source of India's water supply are projected to recede as a result of global warming.

- ◆ **National Mission for a “Green India”:** Goals include the afforestation of 6 million hectares of degraded forest lands and expanding forest cover from 23% to 33% of India’s territory.
- ◆ **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture:** The plan aims to support climate adaptation in agriculture through the development of climate-resilient crops, expansion of weather insurance mechanisms, and agricultural practices.
- ◆ **National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change:** To gain a better understanding of climate science, impacts and challenges, the plan envisions a new Climate Science Research Fund, improved climate modeling, and increased international collaboration. It also encourages private sector initiatives to develop adaptation and mitigation technologies through venture capital funds.

► National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

- National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a central sector scheme with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE)**.
- The overall aim of the fund is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under on-going activities through the schemes of state and central government, that reduce the adverse impact of climate change facing communities, sectors and states.

► Climate Change Action Programme

- Ministry is implementing a scheme titled ‘Climate Change Action Programme’ since January, 2014, with an objective to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country, putting in place appropriate institutional framework for scientific and policy initiatives and implementation of climate change related actions in the context of sustainable development.
- It also deals with understanding of the role of black carbon in climate change through monitoring and assessment of the impacts of Black Carbon using modelling techniques.

► Paris Agreement

- India ratified the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in 2016. The action plan for implementation of Paris Agreement and its components is being developed.
- The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and – for the first time – brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. As such, it charts a new course in the global climate effort.
- The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.

► Ozone Layer Protection

- About 90 per cent of ozone formed lies between 10 and 50 kilometres above the earth’s surface, called the Stratosphere.
- The ozone found in the part of the atmosphere is called the ozone layer.
- Ozone layer absorbs all the harmful UV-B radiations.
- The UV-B radiation has the potential to cause:
 - ◆ Skin cancer
 - ◆ Eye cataract

- ◆ Suppress body's immune system
- ◆ Decrease crop yield
- This led to adoption of **Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985** and the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** in 1987. The mandate of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).
- India is a party to Vienna convention.
- The MoEF&CC has set up the Ozone Cell as a National Ozone Unit (NOU) to render necessary services for effective and timely implementation of the protocol and its ODS phase-out programme in India.

◉ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- ▶ Land degradation and desertification gets reflected in many of the national policies:
 - National Water Policy, 2012.
 - National Forest Policy, 1988.
 - National Agricultural Policy, 2000.
 - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - National Environmental Policy, 2006.
 - National Policy for Farmers, 2007.
 - National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)-2007 which have enabling provisions for addressing these problems.
- ▶ India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994.
- ▶ MoEF&CC is the nodal Ministry in the government of India for the UNCCD.
- ▶ Desertification cell is the nodal point within MoEF&CC to co-ordinate all issues pertaining to the convention.

◉ International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

- ▶ International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (IC&SD) Division of the Ministry coordinates matters related to international environmental cooperation and sustainable development including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ▶ The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform our world:
 - GOAL 1: No Poverty
 - GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
 - GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - GOAL 4: Quality Education
 - GOAL 5: Gender Equality
 - GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
 - GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
 - GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
 - GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

◉ **United Nations Environment Programme**

- ▶ India is a member of UNEP and provides annual financial contribution of USD 100,000 to UNEP Environment Fund.
- ▶ The Environment Fund is the main source of funding for the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work and Medium Term Strategy.
- ▶ It enables UNEP to deliver in an efficient, effective, balanced and flexible manner as it leverages Member States' investments into pooled resources to ensure the positive impact of environmental initiatives across national boundaries and specific thematic issues.
- ▶ Multi-year commitments, adequate resources and timely payments into the Environment Fund facilitate the successful delivery of the approved Medium Term Strategy and Programmes.

◉ **Global Environment Facility**

- ▶ India is a founder member of Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- ▶ Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits which are also identified national priorities.
- ▶ The GEF mandate is decided as per the guidance provided by the Conference of the parties of the multilateral environmental conventions namely:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),
 - Stockholm Convention on PoPs, and
 - Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- ▶ The GEF grants are available under five focal areas namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals and waste.

13

Finance

◉ Ministry of Finance

- ▶ It is responsible for administration of finances of the Government.
- ▶ This Ministry consists of five departments, namely,
 - Economic Affairs;
 - Expenditure;
 - Revenue;
 - Investment and Public Asset Management; and
 - Financial Services.

◉ Department of Economic Affairs

- ▶ The Department, inter alia, monitors current economic trends and advises the Government on all matters having bearing on internal and external aspects of economic management including, prices, credit, fiscal and monetary policy and investment regulations.
- ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) is divided into fourteen functional Divisions, some of them are:
 - Aid, Accounts and Audit Division;
 - Budget Division;
 - Coin and Currency Division;
 - Financial Sector Reforms and Legislation Division; and
 - Investment Division.
- ▶ The Department of Economic Affairs is also responsible for preparation and presentation of Union Budget to the Parliament and the Budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations.
- ▶ The Directorate of Currency has the administrative control of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), a wholly owned Government of India Corporation that manages Government of India Mints, Currency Presses, Security Presses and Security Paper Mill.
- ▶ In addition, formulating and executing policies and programmes relating to designs/security feature of bank notes and coins and issue of commemorative coins.

◉ Annual Budget

- ▶ The Union Budget of India (including the Rail Budget) is presented each year on the first working day of February by the Finance Minister of India in Parliament.
- ▶ The Annual Financial Statement shows the receipts and payments of Government under the three parts in which Government accounts are kept: (i) Consolidated Fund, (ii) Contingency Fund and (iii) Public Account.

- **Consolidated Fund:** All expenditure of Government is incurred from the Consolidated Fund and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorisation from Parliament.
 - **Public Account:** Transactions relating to provident funds, small savings collections and other deposits, etc. are kept in the Public Account. Parliamentary authorisation for such payments from the Public Account is, therefore, not required.
 - **Contingency Fund:** In a few cases, a part of the revenue of Government is set apart in separate funds for expenditure on specific objects like road development, primary education including midday meal scheme, etc. These amounts are withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund with the approval of Parliament and kept in the Public Account for expenditure on the specific objects.
- Under the Constitution, Budget has to distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. Government Budget, therefore, comprises (i) Revenue Budget; and (ii) Capital Budget.
- The Demands for Grants are presented to the Lok Sabha along with the Annual Financial Statement.

► Finance Bill

- At the time of presentation of the Annual Financial Statement before Parliament, a Finance Bill is also presented in fulfillment of the requirement of Article 110(1)(a) of the Constitution, detailing the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of taxes proposed in the Budget. A Finance Bill is a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution.

► Appropriation Bill

- After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill. Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament.

► Sources of Revenue

- The main sources of Union Tax revenue are:
 - ◆ Customs duties,
 - ◆ Union excise duties,
 - ◆ Service tax,
 - ◆ Corporate and
 - ◆ Income Taxes,
- Non-Tax revenues largely comprise of:
 - ◆ Interest receipts,
 - ◆ Dividends/profits,
 - ◆ Fines and miscellaneous receipts collected in the exercise of sovereign functions,
 - ◆ Regulatory charges and license fees, and
 - ◆ User charges for publicly provided goods and services.

► Public Debt and Other Liabilities

- Public Debt of India is classified into three categories of Union Government liabilities into:
 - ◆ Internal debt,
 - ◆ External debt, and
 - ◆ Other liabilities.
- Internal debt for Government of India largely consists of fixed tenure and fixed rate government papers (dated securities and treasury bills) which are issued through auctions.
- External debt represents loans received from foreign governments and multilateral institutions.

- At present, the Government of India does not borrow in the international capital markets.
- “Other” liabilities category, not a part of public debt, includes other interest bearing obligations of the government, such as post office saving deposits, deposits under small savings schemes, loans raised through post office cash certificates, provident funds and certain other deposits.
- The Reserve Bank manages the public debt of the Central and the State Governments and also acts as a banker to them under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

► Reforms in Budget 2018-19

- The Budget- 2018-19 contained major reforms, prominent among them are: ‘Operation Green’ to address the price fluctuations in potato, tomato and onion; creation of two new funds of ₹ 10,000 crore for fisheries and animal husbandry; re-structuring of National Bamboo Mission; higher targets for Ujjwala, Saubhagya and Swachh Mission for free LPG connections, electricity and toilets; outlay on health, education and social protection increased; Eklavya Residential School for tribal students by 2022; fiscal deficit pegged at 3.5 per cent for 2018-19; development of ten prominent sites as iconic tourist destinations; increase in deduction limit for health insurance premium.
- From the Budget 2017-18 itself new reforms were firmed up for the first time. It contained three major reforms. First, the presentation of the Budget was advanced to 1st February to enable the Parliament to avoid a Vote on Account and pass a single Appropriation Bill for 2017-18, before the close of the current financial year. This enabled the ministries and departments to operationalise all schemes and projects, including the new schemes, right from the commencement of the next financial year. They would be able to fully utilise the available working season before the onset of the monsoon.
- Second, the merger of the Railways Budget with the General Budget was a historic step. The colonial practice prevalent since 1924 was discontinued. This decision brought the Railways to the centre stage of Government’s fiscal policy and facilitated multi modal transport planning between railways, highways and inland waterways. The functional autonomy of Railways will, however, continue.
- Third, the Plan and non-Plan classification of expenditure has been done away with. This will give a holistic view of allocations for sectors and ministries and would facilitate optimal allocation of resources.

► Data Related to Economic Status

- Economic Growth and Demand: India recorded a growth of 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, highest among the major economies in the world, despite the sluggish global economic situation.
- On the demand side, India’s growth has been mainly consumption-driven.
- The Government has taken a number of measures to control inflation. The steps taken, inter alia, include: (i) increased allocation for price stabilization fund in the budget 2017-18 to check volatility of prices of essential commodities, in particular of pulses; (ii) approved creation of a dynamic buffer of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses for appropriate market intervention; (iii) states/UTs empowered to impose stock limits in respect of pulses, onion, edible oils and edible oil seeds under the Essential Commodities Act; and (iv) announced higher Minimum Support Prices so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.

► Social Sector Programmes

- The **Seven flagship programmes** continue to receive highest priority, viz.:
 - ◆ SarvaShikshaAbhiyan;
 - ◆ Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
 - ◆ National Health Mission;
 - ◆ Integrated Child Development Services;
 - ◆ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan;
 - ◆ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and
 - ◆ 100 Smart Cities.

► Direct Benefit Transfer

- The mandate of DBT was universalized and extended to cover all central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes that have any component of cash benefit transfer to individual beneficiaries.
- Further, the scope of DBT has been further expanded to include in kind transfers to beneficiaries as well as transfers/honorariums given to various enablers of Government schemes like ASHA, Aanganwadi workers, etc., and not limited to cash transfers to beneficiaries only.

► Economic growth

- India recorded a growth of 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, highest among the major economies in the world, despite the sluggish global economic situation. The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) for the economy was 7.1 per cent in 2016-17/)

► Public Debt

- **Public debt includes:**
 - ◆ internal debt comprising borrowings inside the country like market loans, compensations and other bonds, treasury bills issued to finance state governments, commercial banks and other parties as well as non-negotiable non-interest bearing rupee securities issued to the international financial institutions; and
 - ◆ external debt comprising loans from foreign countries, international financial institutions, etc. The "other liabilities" include outstanding against the various small saving schemes, provident funds, securities issued to the oil marketing companies, fertilizer companies and Food Corporation of India, reserve funds and deposits and other items.

◉ Prices and Inflation

- Inflation based on Consumer Price Index (Combined). It averaged 4.5 per cent in 2016-17 and averaged 3.4 per cent in 2017-18 (April-Jan).

► Measures to control Inflation

- increased allocation for price stabilization fund to check volatility of prices of essential commodities, in particular of pulses;
- approved creation of a dynamic buffer of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses for appropriate market intervention;
- states/UTs empowered to impose stock limits in respect of pulses, onion, edible oils and edible oil seeds under the Essential Commodities Act and
- Announced higher Minimum Support Prices so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.

◉ Climate Change Finance

- India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016.
- India's comprehensive NDC target is:
 - To lower the emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels;
 - To increase the share of non-fossil fuels based power generation capacity to 40 per cent of installed electric power capacity by 2030; and
 - To create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5-3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- Provision of finance is embedded in UNFCCC and has also been mentioned in the Paris Agreement for addressing the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries.

► Green Climate Fund

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a multilateral fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change.
- GCF launched its initial resource mobilization in 2014, and mobilized resources worth USD 10.3 billion.
- So far, 43 projects have been approved by the Board of the GCF.
- India also has one project approved by the Board with NABARD on “Ground water recharge and Solar Micro Irrigation to ensure food security and enhance resilience in vulnerable tribal areas of Odisha” from 16th GCF Board meeting.

◉ Foreign Exchange Reserves

- India's foreign exchange reserves comprise:
 - Foreign currency assets (FCAs),
 - Gold,
 - SDRs, and
- Reserve tranche position (RTP) in the IMF.
- Foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 421.7 billion by February 2018, showing an increase of US\$ 16.5 billion over the level of US\$ 370 billion at end of March 2017.
- Currently our country's foreign exchange reserves are at a comfortable position to cushion the exchange rate volatility from any international macroeconomic uncertainty.

◉ External Debt

- The external debt management policy of the government emphasizes monitoring of long and short-term debt, raising sovereign loans on concessional terms with longer maturities, regulating external commercial borrowings through various restrictions and rationalizing interest rates on Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits. As a result, external debt has remained within manageable limits.

◉ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- The Code aims to promote entrepreneurship, availability credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner and for maximization of value of the assets of such persons and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It proposes a framework to ensure: early detection of stress in a business; initiation of the insolvency resolution process by debtor, financial creditor or operational creditor; liquidation of unviable businesses; and avoiding destruction of value of failed business.

◉ Financial Stability and Development Council

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.
- The Council, inter-alia, monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues, including issues relating to financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- The FSDC Secretariat in Department of Economic Affairs provides secretarial support to the council.

◉ Financial Stability Board

- Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions for addressing vulnerabilities and developing and implementing strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies

in the interest of financial stability. India is an active member of the FSB having three seats in its Plenary.

◉ Infrastructure Financing

- ▶ Government has launched the following to mobilize the long term investment in infrastructure in the country:
 - **Bank Finance:** Banks continue to be major source of financing infrastructure. RBI has been modifying guidelines for advances to infrastructure including 5/25 scheme, take out financing. 5:25 scheme allows banks to extend long-term loans of 20-25 years to match the cash flow of projects, while refinancing them every five or seven years.
 - **Institutional Finance:** The Government has also set up India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) with the specific mandate to play a catalytic role in the Infrastructure sector by providing long-term debt for financing infrastructure projects. IIFCL funds viable infrastructure projects through long term debt, refinance to banks and financial institutions for loans granted by them, with tenure exceeding 10 years or any other mode approved by the government.
 - **Infrastructure Debt Funds:** Government of India has conceptualized Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs) to accelerate and enhance the flow of long term debt into infrastructure projects to help in the migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.
 - **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)/Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs):** These are trust based structures that maximize returns through efficient tax pass-through and improved governance structures. Guidelines/Regulations for InvIT and REIT were notified by SEBI in 2014.

◉ Public Private Partnerships

- ▶ The central coordination of PPPs is provided by the PPP Cell within the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), under the Ministry of Finance.
- ▶ The PPP Cell is responsible for all matters relating to PPPs, including policies, guidelines, schemes, and capacity building initiatives.
- ▶ The PPP Cell also acts as the Secretariat for Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee and Empowered Institution (EI)/ Empowered Committee (EC) for the projects posed for financial support through DEA's Scheme for financial support to PPPs in infrastructure Viability Grant Fund (VGF).

◉ International Bodies

▶ G-20

- The G20 was formed in 1999, as a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in recognition of the fact that there was a major shift in the global economic weight from the advanced economies to emerging market economies.
- The gradually declining role of G8 as world's economic coordinator and the increasing clout of EMEs in global deliberations on economic governance resulted in G20 replacing G8 in 1999.
- However, G20 rose into true prominence in 2008 when it was elevated from a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to that of the G20 Heads of Nations in order to effectively respond to the global financial crisis of 2007-2010.

▶ BRICS

- The New Development Bank, established by the BRICS nations in 2015.
- The framework of swap lines, conceived as a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) with a corpus of USD 100 billion, stands operationalised in case any member nation requires short-term liquidity support.

▶ United Nations Development Programme

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest channel for development cooperation in the UN System.
- The overall mission of the UNDP is to assist the programme countries through capacity development in Sustainable Human Development (SHD) with priority on poverty alleviation, gender equity, women empowerment and environmental protection.
- All assistance provided by the UNDP is grant assistance.
- The UNDP derives its funds from voluntary contributions from various donor countries.

► South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), in existence since 1985 (founded in Dhaka), is a regional organisation that aims to promote economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation in South Asia.
- Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The Framework for Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC countries was formulated with intention to provide a line of funding for short-term foreign exchange requirements.
- **SAARC Development Fund (SDF)**
 - ◆ SDF was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
 - ◆ SDF is implementing many SAARC projects and programmes.
 - ◆ Project funding in SDF is to be taken up under three windows (Social, Economic and Infrastructure).
- **SARTTAC - South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Centre**
 - ◆ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and International Monetary Fund for setting up of South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC) in India by the International Monetary Fund in 2016.
 - ◆ SARTTAC will serve six member countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

◉ Bilateral Cooperation

- Department of Economic Affairs deals with Bilateral Development Assistance from G-8 countries, namely USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada and Russian Federation as well as the European Union.

► India-UK Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme

- The United Kingdom (UK) has been providing development assistance to India since 1958. Development assistance from UK is received mainly for achieving the SDG's in the areas of health, education, administrative reforms, slum development etc. The assistance from the UK, through its Department for International Development (DFID), flows to mutually agreed government projects and programmes in the form of financial and technical assistance. Presently, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are the three focus states of DFID.

► Credit to Developing Countries

- Lines of Credit (LoC) form an important component of India's diplomatic strategy and have been very useful in generating goodwill and building long term partnerships. The scheme also attempts to promote India's strategic political and economic interest abroad by positioning it as an emerging economic power, investor country and partner for developing countries.

► European Investment Bank

- The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union's financing institution which was

established in 1958 under the Treaty of Rome (1957) to provide financing for capital investment.

- The members of the EIB are the Member States of the European Union, who have all subscribed to the Bank's capital.
- Outside the European Union, EIB financing operations are conducted principally from the Bank's own resources but also, under mandate, from Union or Member States' budgetary resources.
- Under these arrangements, the EIB's funds are utilized to finance investments in countries signatory to Co-operation Agreements with the EU.

► International Monetary Fund

- India is a founder member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was established to promote a cooperative and stable global monetary framework.
- At present, 188 nations are members of the IMF.
- The Board of Governors of the IMF consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor from each member country.
- For India, the Finance Minister is the ex-officio Governor on the Board of Governors of the IMF.
- There are three other countries in India's constituency at the IMF, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.
- Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's Alternate Governor.

► International Finance Corporation

- International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, focuses exclusively on investing in the private sector in developing countries.
- Established in 1956, IFC has 184 members.
- India is founding member of IFC. IFC is an important development partner for India with its operations of financing and advising the private sector in the country.
- India represents IFC's largest portfolio exposure globally.

► Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016 to foster sustainable economic development, create productive assets and improve infrastructure in Asia through financing of infrastructure projects.
- India is one of the founding Members and the second largest shareholder.
- India along with 20 other countries signed the Inter Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing the AIIB in Beijing.

► International Fund for Agricultural Development

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was set up in 1977 as the 13th specialized agency of the United Nations.
- It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

► Global Environment Facility

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) operates as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.
- GEF provides grants to eligible countries in its five focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste.
- It also serves as financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Minamata

Convention on Mercury and supports implementation of the Protocol in countries with economies in transition for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MP).

► Asian Development Bank

- India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which was established in 1966.
- ADB has 67 members (including 48 regional and 19 non-regional members), with its headquarters at Manila, Philippines.
- India is holding 6.331 per cent of shares.
- The Bank is engaged in promoting economic and social progress of its developing member countries (DMCs) in the Asia Pacific Region.
- The main instruments that it uses to do this are making loans and equity investments, providing technical assistance for the preparation and execution of development projects and programmes and other advisory services, guarantees, grants and policy dialogues. India borrows from ADB within overall external debt management policy pursued by the Government which focuses on raising funds on concessional terms from less expensive sources with longer maturities. India started borrowing from ADB in 1986.

◉ Currency and Coinage

► Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited

- Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is the only PSU under the Department of Economic Affairs. It was formed after corporatisation of nine units, i.e. four mints, four presses (two currency note presses and two security presses) and one paper mill which were earlier functioning under the Ministry
- The Company supplies currency/bank notes and coins to RBI, Non-Judicial Stamp Papers to various state governments; postal stationery and stamps to postal department; passports, visa stickers and other travel documents to Ministry of External Affairs.

► New Denomination of Banknotes

- New denomination banknote of ₹ 2,000/- has been introduced with the approval of the Government on the size, theme, colour and design. This helped in faster remonetisation of the system, subsequent to cancellation of legal tender of Specified banknotes.
- Cancellation of Legal Tender
- The legal tender character of banknotes in the denominations of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 in circulation i.e., 'Specified Bank Notes'(SBN) was cancelled with effect from the expiry of the 8th November, 2016 to curb the problem of black money, FICN and various other subversive activities. Replacing high denomination notes required large scale exercise involving 1.3 lakh Bank branches, 1.5 post offices branches, 1 lakh banking correspondents and 2.2 lakh ATMS.

► Department of Expenditure

- The Department of Expenditure is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances.
- **It is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission**, monitoring of audit comments/observations, preparation of central government accounts.
- It further assists central ministries/ departments in controlling the costs and prices of public services, reviewing system and procedure to optimize outputs and outcomes of public expenditure.
- **Controller General of Accounts:** The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.

- **National Institute of Financial Management:** The National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) was set up in 1993 as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act, to impart training to officers recruited by the Union Public Service Commission through the annual Civil Service Examinations and allocated to the various services responsible for managing senior and top management posts dealing with accounts and finance in the Government of India and to develop as a Centre of Excellence in the areas of financial management and related disciplines, not only in India but also in Asia.
- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:** National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was created with the aim to attract equity investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.

► Institute of Government Accounts and Finance

- The Institute of Government Accounts & Finance (INGAF) is the training arm of the Controller General of Accounts. It was set up in February, 1992 to train personnel in specific areas of accounting, administrative matters and financial management.

◉ Digitization Initiatives

► Public Financial Management System

- Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is a web-based online software application designed, developed, owned and implemented by the CGA with the aim to provide a sound public financial management system by establishing a comprehensive payment, receipt and accounting network.
- It has been aimed to achieve: (i) "Just in time" transfer of funds; and (ii) complete tracking of realization of funds from its release to its credit into the bank account of intended beneficiaries.
- Integration with financial IT systems of various state governments is one key objective of PFMS which will facilitate complete tracking of funds transferred for scheme implementation and provide more holistic view of finances available for welfare programmes.

► Launch of Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP)

- In order to ensure faster realization of government revenue, other than direct and indirect tax receipts, an online system has been developed whereby ministries/departments can facilitate accepting receipts from various government agencies/PSUs etc. including for the general public electronically.

◉ E-GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

► Permanent Account Number (PAN)

- PAN is a 10 digit alpha-numeric number allotted by the Income Tax Department to taxpayers and to the persons who apply for it under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- PAN enables the department to link all transactions of the "person" with the department.
- The transactions linked through PAN include tax payments, TDS/TCS credits, returns of income/wealth, specified transactions, correspondence, and so on.
- PAN, thus, acts as an identifier for the "person" with the Income tax department.

► One Person One PAN

- The Income Tax Act permits one person to have only one PAN. To avoid issuance of duplicate PAN, the data is checked for duplication by using the software having phonetic matching algorithm.

- In order to leverage the biometric data collected through Aadhaar enrolment it was decided to include Aadhaar Card as a valid Proof of Identity (PoI), Proof of Date of Birth (PDoB) and Proof of Address (PoA) document for allotment of PAN under Income Tax Rules, 1962.
- In order to further strengthen the de-duplication process the PAN database is being seeded with Aadhaar number for Individuals and Company Identification Number (CIN) for Corporate Entities.

► Integration with e-Biz portal of DIPP

- e-Biz programme is a mission mode project of **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to facilitate the investors by providing Single Window clearance like licensing, environment and land clearances, approvals from various ministries and departments for start-up businesses.

► ePAN Card

- All new applicants and card reprint requests are now being provided option of receiving digitally signed ePAN card on the lines of eAadhaar letter through email. The initiative has reduced the time of transmission of PAN card through post.

► Unification of Grievance Redressal Systems- e-Nivaran

- e-Nivaran aims to fast track taxpayer's grievance redressal, ensuring early resolution by integrating all the online and physical grievances received by the department and keeping track of it until it reaches its logical conclusion.

► Aayakar Sewa Kendra

- AayakarSewa Kendra (ASK) is the single window system for implementation of Citizen's Charter of the Income Tax Department and a mechanism for achieving excellence in public service delivery.

◉ Department of Revenue

- The Department of Revenue exercises control in respect of revenue matters relating to Direct and Indirect Union taxes **through two statutory boards namely, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).**
- The Department is also entrusted with the administration and enforcement of regulatory measures provided in the enactments concerning Central Sales tax, Stamp duties and other relevant fiscal statutes.
- Control over production and disposal of opium and its products is vested in this Department.

◉ Goods and Services Tax

- GST was implemented in the country in July, 2017.
- Subsuming of various central indirect taxes and levies such as central excise duty, additional excise duties, excise duty levied under the medicinal and toilet preparations (excise duties) Act, 1955, Service Tax, Additional Customs Duty commonly known as Countervailing Duty, Special Additional Duty of Customs, and Central Surcharges and Cesses so far as they relate to the supply of goods and services.
- Coverage of all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, for the levy of goods and services tax.
- In case of petroleum and petroleum products, it has been provided that these goods shall not be subject to the levy till a date notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
- Compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax for a period which may extend to five years.

◉ Central Board of Direct Taxes

► Direct Taxes

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), created by the Central Boards of Revenue Act 1963, is the apex body entrusted with the responsibility of administering direct tax laws in India.
- It is the cadre controlling authority for the Income Tax Department (ITD).
- With modern information technology as a key driver, the CBDT has implemented a comprehensive computerization programme in the Income Tax Department.
- The programme is aimed to establish a taxpayer friendly regime, increase the tax-base, improve supervision and generate more revenue for the Government. The endeavour is to promote voluntary compliance by taxpayers and create a non-intrusive and non-adversarial tax administration.

► Revenue collection

- Revenue collection from direct taxes has been growing consistently. As a result of improved tax administration and better tax compliance, direct tax collection has been showing a positive trend over a period of time.
- The number of tax payers has increased significantly over the last five years.

► Central Board of Excise and Customs

- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) deals with formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties and Service Tax, prevention of smuggling and evasion of duties and all administrative matters relating to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax formations.
- The main objectives of CBEC are to collect indirect tax revenues, improve tax payer services, to improve compliance for fair trade and enforcement of border controls and promote efficiency and transparency and develop human resources for such purposes.
- The CBEC consists of a Chairman and 6 members.

◉ New Initiatives

► Integration with MCA Portal

- PAN and TAN processes have been integrated with the process of registration of new companies using a Common Application Form SPICe (INC 32) at MCA portal.
- PAN is being printed on Certificate of Incorporation of new companies along with CIN through this process.

► Paperless Application using DSC and eSignature

- An online paperless procedure for application of PAN using Digital Signature Certificate and Aadhaar based eSignature has been launched at websites of both service providers M/s NSDL and M/s UTIITSL.

► Paperless Application using Aadhar based eKYC

- Another paperless procedure for allotment of PAN using Aadhaar data and photograph of applicant has been launched. The process is termed as eKYC process where demographic details and photograph of the applicant are populated directly from Aadhaar database by applicant through an authentication process. The applicant signs the application using Aadhaar based eSignature. The process is entirely paperless and without need for any attachments resulting in faster allotment of PAN.

► Common Service Centres

- The initiative has resulted in outreach of PAN services at village level.

► **Electronic filling of Income Tax Returns**

- e-Filing of Income tax returns was introduced for the first time in 2006-07 for corporates. This facility is free of cost to taxpayers. e-returns now account for nearly 98 per cent of total returns filed with the Department.

► **IT enablement of Business Processes**

- Technology also has an important role in re-engineering business process within the tax administration to empower employees in delivering outcomes in a consistent and efficient manner. Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) was conceptualized with development of new application for computerization of all internal processes of Income Tax Department.

► **National Website of Income Tax Department <http://incometaxindia.gov.in>**

- A major initiative to enhance taxpayer services was launched by the Income tax Department in 2014 with the unveiling of the new national website (www.incometaxindia.gov.in). The same was revamped in 2015 and services incorporated keeping in mind feedback received from various users, trade associations and other stakeholders. The website with New Layout as made available for the users and tax payers in 2015.

◉ **Central Board of Excise and Custom**

- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) deals with formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties and Service Tax, prevention of smuggling and evasion of duties and all administrative matters relating to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax formations. The main objectives of CBEC are to collect indirect tax revenues, improve tax payer services, to improve compliance for fair trade and enforcement of border controls and promote efficiency and transparency and develop human resources for such purposes. The CBEC consists of a Chairman and 6 members.

► **Customs New Initiatives**

- **ICEGATE:** The e-commerce web portal, Indian Customs EDI Gateway (ICEGATE), is the single point of interaction between ICES and Partners in the Customs community and provides such services as registration, e-filing, e-payment, document status and helpdesk as well as data exchange between customs and various regulatory and licensing authorities and facilitation of compliant trade (with concomitant reduction in transaction costs and cargo dwell time) and targeting of non-compliant or risky transactions is achieved through the risk management system.
- **SWIFT:** In 2016, CBEC launched single window interface for facilitating trade (SWIFT) at all customs EDI locations with six major participating government agencies (PGAs), as a single point interface for clearance of imported goods. SWIFT enables importers to file common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' which compiles the information requirements of customs, FSSAI, plant quarantine, animal quarantine, drug controller, wild life control bureau and textile committee and replaces nine separate forms earlier required by these agencies.

◉ **Directorate of Enforcement**

- At present, the **Directorate of Enforcement enforces two laws, viz., the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** apart from looking after the residual work initiated under FERA.
- The Act also provides for initiating investigations for tracing and immobilizing tainted property arising out of transactions having cross border implications.

◉ **Financial Intelligence Unit - India**

- Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND) is the central national agency for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspected financial transactions.

- ▶ FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in 2004 for coordinating and strengthening collection and sharing of financial intelligence through an effective national, regional and global network to combat money laundering, related crimes and terrorist financing.
- ▶ **It is an independent body reporting to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.**
- ▶ **For administrative purposes, FIU-IND is under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.**
- ▶ **FIU-IND does not investigate cases.**

◉ Narcotics Control

- ▶ The Narcotics Control Division administers the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (61 of 1985), which prohibits, except for medical and scientific purposes, the manufacture, production, possession, sale, purchase, transport, warehouse, use, consumption, import inter-State, export inter-State, import into India, export from India or transshipment of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

◉ Department of Financial Services

- ▶ The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), Legislative matters, international banking relations.
- ▶ The Department also administers the financial inclusion programme of the government, social security schemes and other targeted schemes aimed at facilitating flow of credit, matters relating to insurance sector and performance of public sector insurance companies, administration of various Insurance Acts. Matters relating to Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and matters relating to pension reforms including the New Pension System (NPS), legislative and other issues regarding the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PERDA), etc.

◉ Insurance

- ▶ Insurance being an integral part of the financial sector, plays a significant role in India's economy. The public sector insurance companies operating in the sector are: 1. Life Insurance Corporation; 2. National Insurance Company Limited; 3. Oriental Insurance Company Limited; 4. United India Insurance Company Limited; 5. New India Assurance Company Limited; 6. General Insurance Corporation of India Limited and 7. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited.

▶ Reforms in the Insurance Sector

- The insurance sector was opened for private participation with the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- One of the key reforms undertaken in this sector is the passing of Insurance Law (Amendment) Act, 2015 which paved the way for major reform related* amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938, the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999. The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015 seamlessly replaced the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014. The amendment Act removed archaic and redundant provisions in the legislations and incorporated certain provisions to provide Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) with the flexibility to discharge its functions more effectively and efficiently. It also provided for enhancement of the foreign investment cap in an Indian insurance company from 26 per cent to an explicitly composite limit of 49 per cent with the safeguard of Indian ownership and control.

◉ Schemes Initiated by the Government

► Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana

- Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC of India. It provides an assured return of 8 per cent annum payable monthly for 10 years.
- The differential return i.e., the difference between return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8 per cent would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on annual basis.

► Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana

- For the benefit of the weaker sections of the society, Government of India floated a highly subsidized insurance scheme, viz., AamAadmiBimaYojana (AABY) which is administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India.
- Under this social security scheme for below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizens are covered under 48 identified occupations.

► Atal Pension Yojana

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May, 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.
- The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account.

► Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

- PMJJBY is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of two lakhs rupees for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

► Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

- The PradhanMantriSurakshaBimaYojana (PMSBY) is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.
- Under the said scheme, risk coverage available will be Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and Rs. 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.

► Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojana

- With a view to increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion and with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across the country, a National Mission on financial inclusion named as (PMJDY) was announced in 2014.
- **Objectives of PMJDY include:**
 - ◆ Universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance.
 - ◆ To cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh.

► National Pension System

- With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the National Pension System (NPS) was introduced.

- It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004 and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from May 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis.
- The NPS provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another, subject to certain regulatory restrictions.
- The facility for seamless portability is designed to enable subscribers to maintain a single pension account (**Permanent Retirement Account Number - PRAN**) throughout the saving period.

► **Swavalamban Scheme**

- To encourage the workers in the unorganized sector to save voluntarily for their old age, an initiative called Swavalamban Scheme was launched in 2010.

► **PradhanMantri Mudra Yojana**

- Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA), is a refinance institution set-up by the Government of India for development of micro units by extending funding support to encourage entrepreneurship in India, mostly from non-corporate small business sector.
- Under the guidelines of PradhanMantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), MUDRA has launched three innovative products namely Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun, which signifies the stage of growth and funding needs of the micro units or entrepreneur.
- MUDRA shall refinance through state level institutions, NBFCs, MFIs, Regional Rural Banks, Nationalized Banks, Private Banks and other intermediaries.
- Any Indian citizen who is involved in income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading and service sector and whose credit need is less than Rs. 10 lakh can approach either banks, MFIs, financial institutions or NBFC for availing of MUDRA loans under PMMY.
- It has been since decided to extend funding support under PMMY for activities allied to agriculture also.

◉ **Skill Development**

- Skilled labour force is essential to meet the diversified demands of a growing economy and to tap the benefits of demographic dividend.
- As per the India Skill Report, 2016, the present demographic advantage is predicted to last only till 2040.
- To meet the skill requirements of the economy, the Government imparts short term skill training through PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) and long term training largely through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- Model Skill Centres are being set up in every district of the country while ensuring coverage of all the Parliamentary constituencies under PradhanMantriKaushal Kendra Scheme.

◉ **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management**

- The Department of Disinvestment was set up as a separate Department in 1999 and was later renamed as Ministry of Disinvestment in 2001.
- From 2004, the Department of Disinvestment is one of the departments under the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Disinvestment has been renamed as Department of investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) from 2016.
- The mandate of the Department includes all matters related to management of Central Government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Undertakings.

► **Disinvestment Policy**

- The salient features of the policy include:
 - ◆ Public sector undertakings are the wealth of the Nation and to ensure this wealth rests in the hands of the people, promote public ownership of CPSEs;

- ◆ While pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings; and
- ◆ Strategic disinvestment by way of sale of substantial portion of Government shareholding in identified CPSEs upto 50 per cent or more, alongwith transfer of management control.

► **National Investment Fund**

- Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in 2005 into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

GS SCORE

14

Corporate Affairs

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is primarily concerned with administration of the Companies Act 2013, the Companies Act 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and other allied Acts and rules and regulations framed there-under mainly for regulating the functioning of the corporate sector.
- Besides, it exercise supervision over the three professional bodies, namely, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) which are constituted under three separate Acts of the Parliament for proper and orderly growth of the professions concerned.

◦ Ease of doing business

- ▶ The Ministry has prescribed a Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Companies (SPICe) along with e-MOA (Electronic-Memorandum of Association) and e-AoA (Electronic-Articles of Association) which eliminates the requirement of Physically signing the Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Articles of Association (AoA) by the applicant and helps entrepreneurs to start business in India, without much hassles.
- ▶ The fee for filing the incorporation form has been reduced.
- ▶ The integrated form (INC-29) has been replaced with SPICs Form.
- ▶ Electronic integration of MCA21 System with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for issue of PAN and first TAN to an incorporated company using the Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically (SPICe) has been undertaken.
- ▶ Stakeholders now submit applications for PAN and TAN at the time of submitting applications for incorporation.
- ▶ SPICe is a more versatile form and leverages on digital technology by eliminating the need for hard copies of physically signed documents being attached to an e-form.
- ▶ The requirement for obtaining certificate of commencement of business and requirement for minimum paid up share capital for all companies have been done away with under Companies Act, 2013. The efforts of the government have paid dividends.
- ▶ According to the Doing Business Report (DBR) of the World Bank, India has jumped 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to 77 among 190 countries.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) administers the following Acts of the Central Government:

- ▶ Companies Act, 2013;
- ▶ Companies Act, 1956;
- ▶ Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008;
- ▶ The Competition Act, 2002 as amended by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2009;
- ▶ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016;
- ▶ The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949;
- ▶ The Cost and Works Accounts Act, 1959;

- ▶ The Company Secretaries Act, 1980;
- ▶ Societies Registration Act, 1860 and Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (in Centrally administered areas); and
- ▶ Companies (Donations to National Funds) Act, 1951.

◉ **Companies Act, 2013**

- ▶ The Companies Act, 2013, provides the corporate sector an opportunity for self-regulation, while mandating greater transparency and enhanced disclosures for improved compliance.
- ▶ The Companies Act, 2013 seeks to bring corporate governance and regulatory practices in India at par with global best practices.
- ▶ The corporate sector has been given more flexibility in regulating its own affairs, subject to full disclosure and accountability of its actions, while minimising Government interference.
- ▶ The Act provides more opportunities for new entrepreneurs and enables wide application of information technology in the conduct of affairs by corporates.

◉ **Key Features of the Companies Act, 2013**

▶ **Business Friendly Corporate Regulations/Pro-Business Initiatives:**

- Provision of self-regulation with disclosures/transparency instead of 'Government approval based regime'.
- Automation of corporate records/meetings - statutory recognition to: (i) maintenance of documents by companies in electronic form, (ii) 'video-conferencing' as a mode of conducting Board meetings etc.
- Faster mergers and acquisitions including short form of mergers and cross border mergers.
- Summary liquidation: For companies having net assets of Rs. 1 crore or less, Official Liquidators (OLs) are empowered with adjudicatory powers.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been constituted.
- Concept of 'dormant companies' introduced (companies not engaged in business for two consecutive years can be declared as dormant).
- Concept of One Person Company (OPC) introduced.

▶ **Good Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility:**

- Concept of Independent Directors (IDs) included as a statutory requirement under Section 149 (4).
- Provision for constitution of several committees of the Board (Audit Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee, Stakeholders Relationship Committee and CSR Committee).
- Woman Director for prescribed class of companies.
- Mandatory provision for constitution of CSR Committee and formulation of CSR Policy, with mandatory disclosure, for prescribed class of companies.

▶ **Enhancing Accountability of Management:**

- The term 'Officer in Default' has been reviewed to make it more relevant.
- Terms 'Key Managerial Personnel' (KMP) and 'Promoter' defined to affix responsibility on key functionaries of the company.
- Duties of Directors defined, including to shareholders, employees, the community and environment.
- Cap on number of Directorships: 20 companies, of which 10 can be public companies.

▶ **Strengthened Enforcement:**

- The Central Government to have powers to order investigation, suo-motu, in public interest.
- Statutory recognition of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- Search and seizure of documents, during investigation, without an order from a Magistrate.
- Freezing of assets or disgorgement of illegal gains of company under investigation.

► **Audit Accountability:**

- Recognition of accounting and auditing standards.
- Stricter disqualification norms for auditors.
- Auditor not to perform specified non-audit services.
- Tenure or rotation of auditors prescribed.
- Internal audit for bigger companies.
- Substantial civil and criminal liability for an auditor in case of non-compliance.
- Tribunal empowered to direct a change of auditor in case of a fraud detected.
- Cost records and cost audit for prescribed class of companies.
- Secretarial audit for prescribed class of companies.
- National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to be constituted.
- Protection of minority shareholders.
- Exit option provided, if there is dissent to change in object clause, or during compromises, etc.
- Valuation mandated during compromise, arrangements, etc.
- Effect of merger on minority shareholding to be disclosed.
- Listed companies to have one Director representing small shareholders.

► **Investor Protection:**

- Stringent norms for acceptance of deposits from the public.
- Strengthened role of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).
- No time bar on claims of dividends from IEPF.
- Class Action Suits recognized.
- Enhanced powers to tribunal for protection of minority rights.

◉ **The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015**

- The Companies Act, 2013 was amended through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 to facilitate business and address certain immediate concerns raised by stakeholders.
- These amendments along with the relevant rules have been notified and they provide exemptions under various provisions of the Act to: (i) private companies, (ii) government companies, (iii) Section 8 companies, and (iv) Nidhis.

◉ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**

- The Code has been framed with the objective to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner.

► **Salient Features:**

- The Code highlights insolvency processes for individuals, companies and partnership firms. It may be noted that, under IBC debtor and creditor both can start 'recovery' proceedings against each other.

- Companies have to complete the entire insolvency exercise within 180 days under IBC. The deadline may be extended if the creditors do not raise objections on the extension.
- For smaller companies including startups with an annual turnover of Rs. 1 crore the whole exercise of insolvency must be completed in 90 days and the deadline can be extended by 45 days.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India has been appointed as a regulator and it can oversee these proceedings. IBBI has 10 members; from Finance Ministry and Law Ministry the Reserve Bank of India.
- IBC permits hiring services of licensed professionals who have total control over assets of debtor while the proceedings are going on at a tribunal.
- Two tribunals have been authorised to resolve insolvency issues and pronounce their judgement on them. One is National Company Law Tribunal for companies and the other Debt Recovery Tribunal for individuals.
- The vision of the new law is to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. Some business ventures will always fail, but they will be handled rapidly and swiftly. Entrepreneurs and lenders will be able to move on, instead of being bogged down with decisions taken in the past.

► Recent Amendments

- The Amendments aim to keep-out such persons who have wilfully defaulted, are associated with non-performing assets, or are habitually non-compliant and, therefore, are likely to be a risk to successful resolution of insolvency of a company.
- In addition to putting in place restrictions for such persons to participate in the resolution or liquidation process, the Amendment also provides such check by specifying that the Committee of Creditors ensure the viability and feasibility of the resolution plan before approving it.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has also been given additional powers.
- Along with other steps towards improving compliances, actions against defaulting companies to prevent misuse of corporate structures for diversion of funds, reforms in the banking sector, weeding-out of unscrupulous elements from the resolution process is part of ongoing reforms initiated by the Government.
- These would help strengthen the formal economy and encourage honest businesses and budding entrepreneurs to work in a trustworthy, predictable regulatory environment.

► National Company Law and Appellate Tribunal

- The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was done in 2016. These bodies have been constituted for faster resolution of corporate disputes and reducing the multiplicity of agencies thereby promoting 'ease of doing business' in the country.
- With the constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Company Law Board (CLB) stands dissolved and cases pending with CLB were transferred to NCLT.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and SICA Repeal Act, 2003 have also been put in place in 2016. With this, the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction have been dissolved and Benches of NCLT have been designated to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority of Adjudicating Authority conferred by or under part II of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- Central Government has also notified provision for transfer of proceedings relating to arbitration, compromise, arrangements and reconstruction to the benches of NCLT.
- The applications pending before High Courts on winding up shall continue to be dealt by the respective High Courts and fresh applications are required to be filed before NCLT.
- The Benches of NCLT are being established in a phased manner taking into account the availability of physical infrastructure, members and other supporting staff, etc.
- NCLAT is having its headquarters at New Delhi.

◉ Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act

- ▶ In India, about 95 per cent of industrial units are micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The corporate form does not appear to be widely prevalent amongst MSMEs.
- ▶ The reason behind this was high compliance cost under the Companies Act, 1956 which deterred the MSMEs from adopting the corporate form.
- ▶ The functioning of a proprietorship or a partnership firm is too opaque, making assessment of credit-worthiness by bankers difficult, and therefore, the MSME sector is at a comparative disadvantage vis-a-vis corporate bodies in accessing loan/credit facilities from banks and other financial institutions. To overcome this problem, the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act was enacted in 2008.
- ▶ LLP is a form of business entity, which allows individual partners to be protected from the joint and several liabilities of partners in a partnership firm.
- ▶ The liability of partners incurred in the normal course of business does not extend to the personal assets of the partners.
- ▶ It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.

◉ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- ▶ CSR is referred as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare and to promote positive social and environmental change.

▶ Legal mandate of CSR

- Under Companies Act, 2013 any company with a
 - ◆ net worth of the company to be Rs 500 crore or more or
 - ◆ turnover of the company to be Rs 1000 crore or more or
 - ◆ net profit of the company to be Rs 5 crore or more.
- Company has to spend at least 2% of last 3 years average net profits on CSR activities as specified in Schedule VII and as amended from time to time. The rules came into effect from 1 April 2014.

◉ MCA21-e-Governance project

- ▶ The Ministry operated an end-to-end e-governance project called MCA21 for end to end service delivery comprising Company and Limited liability partnership (LLP) registration, incorporation, registry and other compliance related services.
- ▶ The project was started in March, 2006 on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model with the vision was "to introduce a service-oriented approach in the design and delivery of Government services".
- ▶ The project was undertaken on a Mission Mode to bring about a service centric approach in the delivery of public services and administration of the Companies and LLP Act, and it specifically focuses on:
 - speedy incorporation of companies and LLPs, and
 - providing Ease of Doing Business).
- ▶ With the help of e-services, the MCA21 System provides to the stakeholders a convenient, easy to use and secure access and delivers all MCA services with improved speed and certainty.
- ▶ It has brought about transparency, speed and efficiency in the functioning of the Ministry.

◉ Key Institutions related to Ministry of Corporate Affairs

▶ Serious Fraud Investigation Office

- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature. It takes up

investigation of complex frauds, having inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary ramifications, substantial involvement of public interest to be judged by size of either monetary appropriation or the number of persons affected and the possibility of investigations leading to, or contributing towards a clear improvement in systems, laws or procedures.

- The Companies Act, 2013 has enlarged the scope of SFIO to a statutory recognition and SFIO has been vested with police power in their investigation.

► Indian Corporate Law Service

- Indian Corporate Law Service Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the Cadre Controlling Authority of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS). The erstwhile Indian Company Law Service was rechristened in November, 2008 as the Indian Corporate Law Service.
- The training of ICLS officers inculcates skills to enforce Corporate Law efficiently including incorporation, regulation, investor protection and implementation of corporate governance in the country.

► Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

- The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a registered society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to serve as a 'Holistic Think-Tank', and a 'Capacity Building, Service Delivery Institution' to help corporate growth, reforms through synergized knowledge management, partnerships and problem solving in a one-stop-shop mode.
- The institute fulfils the training needs of the officers of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), and other officials working for the ministry through its network of various schools/centres.

► Competition Commission

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of eliminating practices having an adverse effect on competition, promoting and sustaining competition, protecting the interest of consumers and ensuring freedom of trade in India.

15

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer affairs

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution is a ministry of two departments-The department of Food and Public Distribution and the Department of Consumer Affair. Department of Consumer Affair is constituted as a separate department in 1997.
- The department has been entrusted with the following work: the essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980; regulation of packaged commodities; training in legal metrology; consumer cooperative etc.
- The primary objective of the Department of Food and Public Distribution is
 - ▶ to ensure food security for the country through:
 - ▶ efficient procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP),
 - ▶ storage and distribution of food grains ensuring availability of food grains,
 - ▶ sugar and edible oils through appropriate policy instruments;
 - ▶ including maintenance of buffer stocks of food grains;
 - ▶ making food grains accessible at reasonable prices,
 - ▶ especially to the weaker and vulnerable sections of society under a Targeted Public Distribution System.
- **Consumer Affairs**
 - ▶ The mandate of the department of consumer Affair (DCA) is consumer advocacy. Translating this mandate into action entails: enabling consumers to make informed choices; ensuring fair, equitable and consistent outcomes for consumers; and facilitating timely and effective consumer grievance redress.
 - ▶ **Consumer Welfare Fund**
 - The Central excise revenues not refundable to the manufacturers would be credited “Tire Consumer Welfare Fund was created in 1992 with the objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of the consumer, create consumer awareness and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in rural areas
 - ▶ **Consumer Protection Act**
 - A key milestone in consumer advocacy in the country was the enactment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986. This Act provided the legislative framework to better protect the interests of the consumer by creating a formal but quasi-judicial dispute resolution mechanism exclusively for consumers. This progressive legislation established the three tier quasi-judicial consumer dispute redress machinery at the national, state and district levels aimed at providing simple, speedy and affordable redress to consumers.
 - ▶ **Bureau of Indian Standards**
 - A new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016 came into force from 2017. The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the national Standards Body of India. It has enabling provisions for the Government to ‘bring under compulsory certification regime any goods or

article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in' the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.

◉ Procurement of Food Grains

- ▶ Food Corporation of India (FCI), with the help of state government agencies, procures wheat, paddy and coarse grains in various states in order to provide price support to the farmers.
- ▶ Before each Rabi/Kharif crop season, central government announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which takes into consideration the cost of various agricultural inputs and the reasonable margin for the farmers for their produce.

◉ National Food Security

- ▶ In order to further strengthen the commitment to food security of the people, Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which came into force from 2013.
 - The Act aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
 - The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to a rights based one.
 - The Act provides for coverage of up to 75 per cent of the rural population and up to 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
 - This coverage for receiving highly subsidized food grains is under two categories—households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the remaining households as priority households.
 - The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the district and state levels. Separate provisions have also been made for ensuring transparency and accountability.
 - ◆ AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security of the poorest of the poor, and covers 2.5 crore households.
 - ◆ Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains per households per month, @ Rs. 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively.
 - ◆ Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices.

▶ Targeted Public Distribution System:

- In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, in consonance with the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the Department notified the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015.
- To share the initiatives and best practices as well as the latest development and achievements, the Department has launched the quarterly newsletter namely 'Khadya Suraksha'.

◉ Integrated management of PDS(IM-PDS)

- ▶ A new Central sector scheme integrated management PDF is to be implemented during 5 year financial year 2018 to 19 in 2019-20 for establishing Public Distribution system Network (PDSN) to intern alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries and portability.
- ▶ The scheme will be strengthened better targeting of food subsidy and help the beneficiaries to lift food grains from the FPSs and their choice.
- ▶ Those who do not possess Aadhar are to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by giving the name,address,and mobile number with ration card number and other details with their fair price shop owners or through the web portal provided for the purpose by the state/UT governments.

- ▶ The Department has also issued instruction state and UT government with direction that the case of failure of biometric authentication using network connectivity, linkage issue due to poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons, the beneficiary is to provide subtitles foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy on the basis of physical production of Aadhar Card by him/her in place of biometric authentication.
- ▶ Further, it has been clarified that no one should be denied foodgrains or deleted from the ration card database only on the ground of non position of other

◉ Other Welfare Schemes

▶ Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

- It is implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The scheme covers students of primary and upper primary classes in the government schools/ schools aided by government and the schools run by local bodies.
- Food grains are supplied free of cost @ 100 grams for primary stage and @ 150 grams for upper primary stage per child per school day where cooked/processed hot meal is being served or 3 kgs per student per month raw foodgrains are distributed.
- During 2018-19, 12.12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains comprising 10.25 lakh tonnes of rice and 1.87 lakh tonnes of wheat were allocated under the scheme.

▶ Wheat Based Nutrition Programme:

- This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The foodgrains allotted under it are utilized by the States/UTs under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme for providing nutritious/energy food to children in the age group of 0-6 years and expectant/lactating women.

▶ Scheme for Adolescent Girls:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development administers the scheme at the central level. However, food grains for the scheme are allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at BPL rates to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The SABLA scheme was launched in 2010 by merging two schemes namely, Nutrition Programme and Adolescent Girls (NPAG) and Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) into a single scheme.
- The scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls of 11-18 years by improvement of their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills useful to them.
- It also aims at equipping the girls on family welfare, health hygiene, etc. and guiding them on existing public services. The requirement of food grains under the scheme for nutrition is @ 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

▶ Supply of Foodgrains for SC/ST/OBC Hostels:

- This scheme was introduced in 1994. The residents of the hostels having 2/3rd students belonging to SC/ST/OBC are eligible to get 15 kg foodgrains per resident per month.
- Allocations of foodgrains under the scheme are made by the Department of Food and Public Distribution based on the requests received from the State/UT governments.

▶ Annapurna Scheme:

- This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), are provided 10 kgs. of foodgrains per person per month free of cost under the scheme.

► Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic):

- In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and for meeting the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), the FCI sells excess stocks of wheat and rice from the Central Pool at pre-determined prices in the open market from time to time under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) through e-tender to enhance the supply especially during the lean season especially in the deficit regions.

◉ Storage of Foodgrains

► Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority

- For the growth and development of warehousing sector, to bring reforms in the agricultural marketing and to increase credit flow in the farm sector, the government introduced a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country by enacting the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 which is in place since 2010.
- The government constituted the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in 2010 for implementation of the provisions of the Act.
- The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses helps the farmers in seeking loan from banks.
- It helps in overcoming the situation of distress sale of agricultural commodities by the farmers during peak harvest season.
- The Authority has notified 123 agricultural commodities.

◉ Post-Harvest Management of Food grains

► Quality Standard for Food grains:

- The government exercises due control over the quality of foodgrains procured for the central pool.
- The Quality Control Cells of the Ministry at New Delhi.

► Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute:

- Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur and its field stations at Ludhiana (Punjab) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) are engaged in the Training and Applied Research and Development (R&D) work relating to grain storage management.

◉ Sugar

► Sugar Production

- India is the largest consumer and the second largest producer of sugar in the world. The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2017-18 is estimated to be about 322.00 lakh MT.

► Sugarcane Pricing Policy:

- With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 in 2009, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' for 2009-10 and subsequent sugar seasons.
- The cane price announced by the central government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after consulting the state governments and associations of sugar industry.
- The amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for fixation of FRP of sugarcane having regard to the following factors:-

- Cost of production of sugarcane;
- Return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
- Availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;
- Price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers;
- Recovery of sugar from sugarcane;
- The realization made from sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse and press mud or their imputed value; and
- Reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.

► **Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme:**

- Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses.
- In years of surplus production of sugarcane, when prices are depressed, the sugar industry is unable to make timely payment of cane price to farmers.
- The ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve blending of Ethanol with motor spirit with a view to reducing pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers.
- The procedure of procurement of ethanol under the EBP has been simplified to streamline the entire ethanol supply chain and remunerative ex-depot price of ethanol has been fixed.
- To facilitate achieving of new blending targets, a "grid" which networks distilleries to OMC depots and details quantities to be supplied has been worked out.

► **Sugar Development Fund:**

- Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess was collected as excise duty on all sugar produced and sold by any factory within the country which has now been abolished through Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017. The cess so collected provided funds for SDF through budgetary process.

◉ **Edible Oils**

- The efficient management of edible oils in the country involves steps to ensure sufficient availability of edible oils to the consumer at reasonable rates. As per the third Advance Estimates for 2017-18 (Nov.-Oct.), estimated oilseeds production is about Rs. 306.38 lakh tonnes as compared to Rs. 312.76 lakh tonnes during the previous year.

► **Ban on Export of Edible Oils:**

- Exports of edible oils has been banned from March 2008 with certain exemptions i.e., coconut oil from all Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) ports and through notified Land Customs Stations (LCS), castor oil, organic edible oils and certain oils produced from minor forest produce.
- Further, export of edible oil has been permitted in branded consumer packs of upto 5 kg subject to Minimum Export Price of USD 900 per tonnes which was reduced from USD 1100 per tonnes in 2015.

◉ **International Cooperation**

- India is associated with a number of international agencies working in the field of food related matters. These include World Food Programme (WFP), SAARC Food Bank, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Grains Council (IGC) and International Sugar Organisation (ISO), etc.

► SAARC Food Bank:

- In pursuance of the decision taken in the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries have signed the agreement to establish the SAARC Food Bank.
- The Food Bank will supplement national efforts to provide food security to the people of the region.
- As per this agreement, SAARC Food Bank is to have a reserve of foodgrains to be maintained by each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as assessed share of the country.

► Food and Agricultural Organisation and Committee on World Food Security:

- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is one of the largest specialized agencies in the UN System founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standard of living by improving agricultural productivity and living conditions of rural population.
- The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food. India is a member of both FAO and CFS.

► International Grains Council:

- India is a member of the International Grains Council (IGC), an inter-governmental forum of exporting and importing countries for cooperation in wheat and coarse grain matters which was previously known as International Wheat Council upto 1995.

◉ Food Processing Industries

► Contribution of Food Processing Sector:

- ◆ Over the years agricultural production in India has consistently recorded higher output. India ranks number one in the world in the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas and mangoes.
- ◆ Further, India ranks second in the world in the production of rice, wheat and several other vegetables and fruits. Abundant supply of raw materials, increase in demand for food products and incentives offered by the Government has impacted food processing sector positively.

► FDI in Food Processing Sector:

- 100 per cent FDI is permitted under the automatic route in food processing industries manufacturing sector. FDI is allowed through approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India.

► Centrally Sponsored Scheme: National Mission on Food Processing

- The Ministry had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 12th Plan in 2012.
- Five ongoing Central Sector Schemes of 11th Plan and four new schemes were merged in the Mission. The CSS-NMFP was implemented through states/UTs.
- However, the CSS-NMFP was de-linked from the central support in 2015 in pursuant to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. Consequently, all nine schemes of the Mission stand discontinued.
- Government of India approved a new Central Sector Scheme – Kisan Sampada Yojana.

◉ National Institute of Food Processing Technology

- ▶ The Ministry upgraded IIFPT, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to a national level institute in 2008. IIFPT is running B.Tech., M.Tech. and Ph.D courses and undertaking R&D projects in the area of food processing.
- ▶ Under the scheme, funds will be provided to IIFPT for creation of infrastructure facilities including purchase of additional land (22.7 acres) for expanding campus and creation of academic and administrative infrastructure like machine fabrication and testing centre, sport complex, auditorium, opening training cum incubation centres and residential units, etc.
- ▶ To enable the institute to expand its activities, the North East States (include Sikkim). To meet the ever expanding need of food processing sector in the country, an allocation of Rs. 75 crore has been made during the period of scheme.





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