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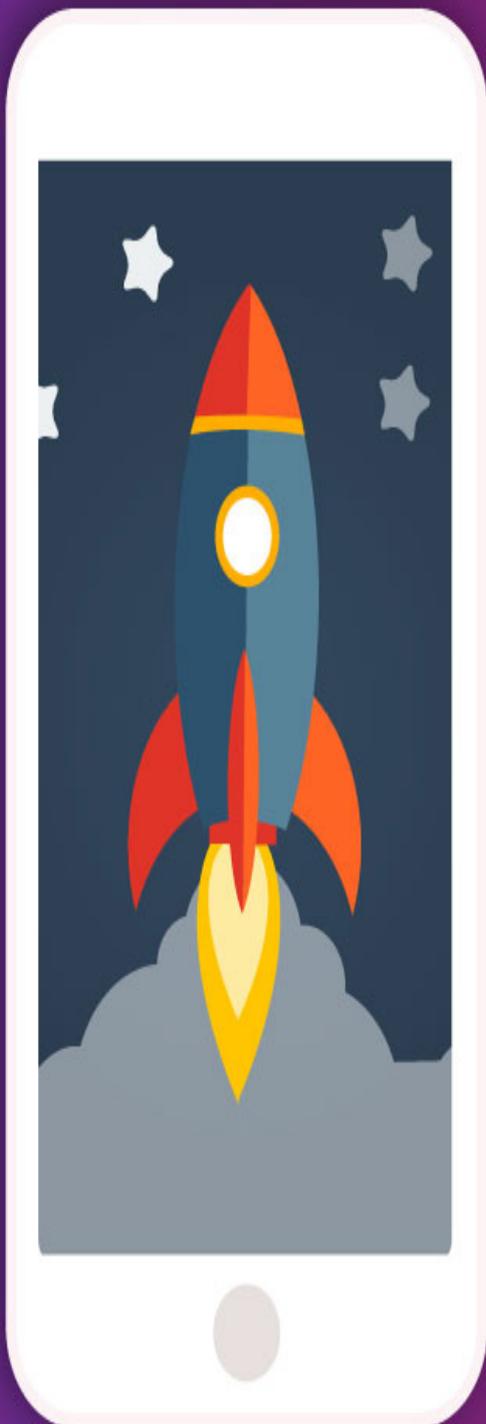
A Gist of
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1. LAND AND THE PEOPLE

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.

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 28 states and nine 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 high altitudes of the Himalayas allow travel only through a few passes, notably the Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi valley, north-east of Darjeeling and Shipki La in the Satluj valley, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur). 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. Between the great and the little deserts lies a zone of absolutely sterile country, consisting of rocky land, cut up by limestone ridges.

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 Peninsula is flanked on the one side by the Eastern Ghats where average elevation is about 610 metres and on the other by the Western Ghats where it is generally from 915 to 1,220 metres, rising in places to over 2,440 metres. The Eastern coastal area is broader than its western counterpart.

The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement.

The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances. Highly metamorphosed rocks of the earliest periods, dating back as far as 380 crore years, occur in this area; the rest being covered by the Gondwana formations, lava flows belonging to the Deccan Trap formation and younger sediments.

River Systems

The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz., (i) Himalayan rivers, (ii) Deccan rivers, (iii) Coastal rivers and (iv) Rivers of the inland drainage basin.

The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system. The Indus, which is one of the great rivers of the world, rises near Mansarovar in Tibet and flows through India and thereafter through Pakistan and finally falls into the Arabian sea near Karachi. Its important tributaries flowing in Indian territory are the Sutlej (originating in Tibet), the Beas, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Jhelum. The Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna is another important system of which the principal sub-basins are those of Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda, which join at Dev Prayag to form the Ganga. It traverses through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Below Rajmahal Hills, the Bhagirathi, which used to be the main course in the past, takes off, while the Padma continues eastward and enters Bangladesh. The Yamuna, the Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi, the Mahananda and the Sone are the important tributaries of the Ganga. Rivers Chambal and Betwa are the important sub-tributaries, which join the Yamuna before it meets the Ganga. The Padma and the Brahmaputra join at Bangladesh and continue to flow as the Padma or Ganga. The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet, where it is known as Tsangpo and runs a long distance till it crosses over into India in Arunachal Pradesh under the name of Dihang. Near Passighat, the Debang and Lohit join the river Brahmaputra and the combined river runs all along the Assam valley. It crosses into Bangladesh downstream of Dhubri.

The principal tributaries of Brahmaputra in India are the Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya and the Manas. The Brahmaputra in Bangladesh fed by Teesta, etc. finally falls into the Ganga. The Barak river, the head stream of Meghna, rises in the hills in Manipur. The important tributaries of the river are Makkhu, Trang, Tuivai, Jiri, Sonai, Rukni, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Langachini, Maduva and Jatinga. Barak continues in Bangladesh till the combined Ganga-Brahmaputra join it near Bhairab Bazar.

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 Tapti 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. Next to it is the Krishna basin in the region and the Mahanadi is another large basin of the region. The basin of the Narmada in the uplands of the Deccan, flowing to the Arabian Sea and of the Cauvery in the south, falling into the Bay of Bengal are about the same size, though with different character and shape.

There are numerous coastal rivers, which are comparatively small. While only handful of such rivers drain into the sea near the delta of east coast, there are as many as 600 such rivers on the west coast.

A few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. They drain into salt lakes and get lost in sand with no outlet to sea. Besides these, there are the desert rivers which flow for some

distance and are lost in the desert. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

The entire country has been divided into 20 river basins/group of river basins comprising 12 major basins and eight composite river basins. The 12 major river basins are : (1) Indus, (2) Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, (3) Godavari, (4) Krishna, (5) Cauvery, (6) Mahanadi, (7) Pennar, (8) Brahmani-Baitarani, (9) Sabarmati, (10) Mahi, (11) Narmada and (12) Tapti. Each of these basins has a drainage area exceeding 20,000 sq. km.

Climate/Seasons

The Himalayan states, being more temperate, experience two additional seasons: autumn and spring. Traditionally, Indians note six seasons, each about two months long. These are the spring, summer, monsoon, early autumn, late autumn and winter

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 whereas south-west monsoon known as summer monsoon blows from sea to land after crossing the Indian ocean, the Arabian sea and the Bay of Bengal. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

Flora

India is rich in flora. Available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. India can be divided into eight distinct floristic 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 eastern Himalayan region extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjeeling, Kurseong and the adjacent tracts. The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch. Many conifers, junipers and dwarf willows also grow here. The Assam region comprises the Brahmaputra and the Surma valleys with evergreen forests, occasional thick clumps of bamboos and tall grasses. 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. Only small areas support forests of widely differing types. 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 Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. Besides being rich in forest vegetation, this region produces important commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and cashewnut. The Andaman region abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests. The Himalayan region extending from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh through Sikkim, Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Deccan Peninsula is rich in endemic flora, with a large number of plants which are not found elsewhere.

The flora of the country is being studied by BSI and its nine circle/field offices located all over the country along with certain universities and research institutions.

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). The Wildlife Institute of India has proposed a modified classification which divides the country into ten biogeographic regions: Trans- Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North-East India, Islands and Coasts. With 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. It is estimated that about two times that number of species still remain to be discovered in India alone.

Demographic Background

Census

Census 2011 was the 15th census of its kind since 1872. Reference Date was 0.00 hour of March 1, 2011. In snow bound areas, the Population Enumeration was conducted from September 11 to 30, 2010. The Final Population data was released on April 30, 2013.

Population

The population of India as on March 1, 2011 stood at 1,210.9 million (623.2 million males and 587.6 million females). 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. As recorded at each decennial census from 1901 the population has grown steadily except for a decrease during 1911-21.

Population Density

It is defined as the number of persons per sq. km. The population density of India in 2011 was 382 per sq. km-decadal growth 17.72 per cent. 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 is defined as the number of females per thousand. The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavourable to females. It was 972 at the beginning of the twentieth century and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941. 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

For the purpose of census 2011, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. The results of 2011 census reveal that there has been an increase in literacy in the country. 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. Kerala also occupies the top spot in the country both in male literacy with 96.1 per cent and female literacy with 92.1 per cent. On the contrary, 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

National Flag

THE National Flag shall be a tricolour panel made up of three rectangular panels or sub-panels of equal width. The colour of the top panel shall be India saffron (kesari) and that of the bottom panel India green. The middle panel shall be white, bearing at its centre the design of Ashoka Chakra in navy blue colour with 24 equally spaced spokes. The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape. The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2. The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.

Apart from non-statutory instructions issued by the government from time to time, display of the National Flag is governed by the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. The Flag Code of India, 2002 is an attempt to bring together all such laws, conventions, practices and instructions for the guidance of all concerned.

The Flag Code of India, 2002 effective from January 26, 2002 superseded the 'Flag Code-India' as it existed then. As per the provisions of the 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 to the extent provided in the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 and any other law enacted on the subject.

State Emblem

The State Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath. The profile of the Lion Capital showing three lions mounted on the abacus with a Dharma Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a galloping horse on the left, and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left was adopted as the State Emblem of India on January 26, 1950. The bell-shaped lotus was omitted. The motto "Satyameva Jayate"—Truth alone Triumphs—written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital is part of the State Emblem of India.

In the State Emblem lies the official seal of the Government of India. Its use is regulated by the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 and The State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 [read with State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Amendment Rules, 2010].

National Anthem

The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bangla by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950. It was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem.

The playing time of the full version of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds. A short version consisting of the first and last lines of the National Anthem (playing time approximately 20 seconds) is also played on certain occasions.

National Song

The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

National Calendar

The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes : (i) Gazette of India, (ii) news broadcast by All India Radio, (iii) calendars issued by the Government of India and (iv) Government communications addressed to the public.

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.

3. POLITY

The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with unitary features. The President of India is the constitutional head of executive of the union. Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to aid and advise the President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. The real executive power thus vests in the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Similarly, in states, the Governor is the head of executive, but it is the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head in whom real executive power vests. The Council of Ministers of a state is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.

Union and its Territory

India comprises 28 states and nine union territories.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the two union territories - one to be eponymously called Jammu and Kashmir, and the other Ladakh. The introduction of the bill was preceded by a presidential order under Article 370 of the Indian constitution that revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and mandating, inter alia, that all the provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

Citizenship

The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the whole of India. Every person who was at the commencement of the Constitution (January 26, 1950) domiciled in the territory of India and: (a) who was born in India; or (b) either of whose parents were born in India; or (c) who has been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years became a citizen of India. The Citizenship Act, 1955, deals with matters relating to acquisition, determination and termination of Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

Citizenship (Amendment) Act

The Citizenship Act was amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. The amended Act makes foreign illegal migrants of six religious communities i.e., Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship. It is applicable to those who have taken shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution in their countries and have entered into India on or before December 31, 2014. On acquiring citizenship, such migrants shall be deemed to be Indian citizens from the date of their entry into India and all legal proceedings regarding their status as illegal migrants or their citizenship will be closed. The Third Schedule to the Act has been amended to make applicants belonging to the said communities from the three countries eligible for citizenship by naturalisation, if they can establish their residency in India for five years instead of the previous requirement of eleven years.

The provisions of the Act, however, do not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the areas where 'The Inner Line Permit' is applicable including the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Fundamental Rights

The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justifiable. Articles 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights. These are: (i) Right to equality including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and equality of opportunity in matters of employment; (ii) Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association or union, movement, residence, and right to practice any profession or occupation (some of these rights are subject to security of the state, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality); (iii) Right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and traffic in human beings; (iv) Right to freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion; (v) Right of any section of citizens to conserve their culture, language or script and right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice; and (vi) Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

Fundamental Duties

By the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated. Article 51 'A' contained in Part IV A of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties.

Directive Principles of State Policy

The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justifiable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country' and it is the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws. These have been contained in Part IV from Articles 36 to 51 of the Constitution.

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.

President

The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. To secure uniformity among states inter se as well as parity between the states, as a whole, and the Union, suitable weightage is given to each vote. The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha. His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election. His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 61 of the Constitution. He may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice-President, resign his office.

Vice-President

The Vice-President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. He must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and eligible for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha. His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election. His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 67(b).

The Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and acts as President when the latter is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause or till the election of a new President (to be held within six months when a vacancy is caused by death, resignation or removal or otherwise of President). While so acting, he ceases to perform the function of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Council of Ministers

There is a Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, to aid and advise the President in exercise of his functions. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President who also appoints other ministers on the advice of Prime Minister. The Council is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

Legislature

Legislature of the Union which is called Parliament, consists of the President and two Houses, known as Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and House of the People (Lok Sabha). Each House has to meet within six months of its previous sitting. A joint sitting of two Houses can be held in certain cases.

Rajya Sabha

Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect; members representing states are elected by the elected members of Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and those representing union territories are chosen in such a manner as Parliament may by law prescribe. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.

Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is now 552 (530 members to represent the states, 20 members to represent the union territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian community to be nominated by the President, if, in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. The

Lok Sabha at present consists of 543 members. Of these, 530 members are directly elected from the states and 13 from union territories. Following the 84th amendment to the Constitution in 2001, the total number of existing seats as allocated to various states in the Lok Sabha on the basis of the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026.

Qualification for Membership of Parliament

In order to be chosen a member of Parliament, a person must be a citizen of India and not less than 30 years of age in the case of Rajya Sabha and not less than 25 years of age in the case of Lok Sabha. Additional qualifications may be prescribed by Parliament by law.

Functions and Powers of Parliament

The Parliament in India has the cardinal functions of legislation, overseeing of administration, passing of the budget, ventilation of public grievances and discussing various subjects like development plans, national policies and international relations. All legislation requires consent of both the Houses of Parliament. In the case of money bills, however, the 'will' of the Lok Sabha prevails. Delegated legislation is also subject to review and control by Parliament. Besides the power to legislate, the Constitution vests in Parliament the power to initiate amendment of the Constitution.

Parliamentary Committees

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.

Broadly, Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees. The former are elected or appointed every year or periodically and their work goes on, more or less, on a continuous basis. The latter are appointed on an ad hoc basis as need arises and they cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them.

Standing Committees: Among the Standing Committees, the three Financial Committees—Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings—constitute a distinct group as they keep an unremitting vigil over Government expenditure and performance.

The Estimates Committee examines whether the money is well laid out within limits of the policy implied in the estimates and suggests the form in which estimates shall be presented to the Parliament. The Public Accounts Committee scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of Government and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The Committee on Public Undertakings examines reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, if any. It also examines whether public undertakings are being run efficiently.

Besides these three financial committees, the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha recommended setting-up of 17 Department Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). In July, 2004, rules were amended to provide for the constitution of seven more such committees, thus raising the number of DRSCs from 17 to 24.

Ad hoc Committees: Such committees may be broadly classified under two heads: (a) committees which are constituted from time to time, either by the two Houses on a motion adopted in that behalf or by Speaker/Chairman to inquire into and report on specific subjects,

and (b) Select or Joint Committees on Bills which are appointed to consider and report on a particular bill.

Leaders of Opposition in Parliament

The Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha are accorded statutory recognition. Salary and other suitable facilities are extended to them through a separate legislation.

Government Business in Parliament

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with coordinating, planning and arranging government business in both Houses of Parliament..

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.

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. The 'Youth Parliament Scheme' was first introduced in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi in 1966-67. . Subsequently, a separate scheme of Youth Parliament for Kendriya Vidyalayas at the national level was launched in 1988. In 1997-98, two new Youth Parliament Schemes at the national level, one for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and the other for universities/colleges were launched.

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. Seventeen All India Whips' Conferences have been organized so far since 1952.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs sponsors Government Goodwill Delegation of Members of Parliament to other countries and receives similar delegations of parliamentarians under the exchange programme from other countries through the Ministry of External Affairs.

Comptroller and Auditor General

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the President. The procedure and the grounds for his removal from office are the same as for a Supreme Court judge. He is not eligible for further office under the union or a state government after he ceases to hold his office.

The accounts of the Union and of the states shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe. The reports of the India relating to the accounts of the union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament. The reports of the CAG of India relating to the accounts of a state shall be

submitted to the Governor of the state, who shall cause them to be laid before the legislature of the state.

The duties, powers and conditions of service of the CAG have been specified by the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

Attorney-General

The Attorney-General for India is appointed by the President of India. Any person qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed for the post. The duties of the Attorney-General is to give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President, and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force

Solicitor General of India

The Solicitor General of India is the government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. The Solicitor General of India is the secondary law officer of the country, assists the Attorney-General. However, unlike the post of Attorney-General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General.

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 ministries/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.

The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in ministries/departments of the government by ensuring adherence to these rules.

National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (NACWC) is a multi-lateral 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 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, Netherlands is the 'treaty organisation' for the CWC. The OPCW bagging the Nobel Peace Prize of 2013 is in recognition of the Convention as a very effective Disarmament Treaty.

The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India to fulfil, 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. In 2000, Chemical Weapons Convention Act was passed by the Parliament which came into force in 2005. India is one of the four non-elected Members of the Executive Committee (consisting of 41 members from all over the world) of the OPCW.

Public Grievances

The Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat 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. Grievance can be lodged with DPG through post, email or by lodging the complaint online on the portal. The cases received offline are entered in the system and, thereafter, all cases are handled using PGRAMS application.

DPG has been progressively computerizing its operations since the early years. The Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (PGRAMS), an exclusive automation programme for DPG was adopted in 1999. The PGRAMS is integrated with Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System, 'CPGRAMS', the operating system for Public Grievances Portal covering all the ministries/departments of Government of India.

National Disaster Management Authority

The Government of India, in recognition of the importance of Disaster Management as a national priority, set up a high-powered committee in 1999 and a National Committee after the Gujarat earthquake. The Tenth Five-Year Plan document also had, for the first time, a detailed chapter on Disaster Management. The Twelfth Finance Commission was also mandated to review the financial arrangements for disaster management.

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 disaster management in the country.

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 to 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. It rewards the outstanding and exemplary performance of civil servants. Since its beginning in 2007 till 2015, 67 awards were conferred in three categories, individual, group, organization.

Civil Services Day

The Government of India celebrates April, 21 every year as 'Civil Services Day'. The first such function was held in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on April 21, 2006. On the occasion, the Prime Minister conferred "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration". This date coincides with the date when the first Home Minister of Independent India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressing the first batch of Indian Administrative Services officers at Metcalf House, New Delhi. It is organised by DARPG annually in New Delhi.

National Conference on e-Governance

DARPG along with the Ministry of Electronics and information Technology, in association with one of the state governments, organizes the National Conference on e-Governance every year since 1997.

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) aims at assessing the states, UTs and central ministries on the depth and efficiency of e-Governance service delivery. This framework is envisaged to be used to assess and benchmark the adoption of such services across the country. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) brings out the UN e-Government Survey every two years which provides an analysis of progress in using e-Government. India stood at 118 in 2014 which improved to 107 in 2016 and 96 in 2018, out of 193 member countries.

e-Office Project

e-Office is one of the important Mission Mode Projects for implementing the Digital India Plan. The DAR & PG is the administrative ministry for ensuring e-office implementation.

Redressal Public Grievances

DARPG is responsible for issuing policy guidelines and coordination and monitoring of issues regarding redress of public grievances for the central government. In accordance with the federal principle of governance, the grievances relating to states are forwarded to concerned state government for appropriate action. A mobile app was launched in 2015 which was for android based mobile through which people could lodge and track their public grievance. This has been further developed to make it more user friendly and has now been integrated with the Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG).

The Department also coordinates the Citizen Charter and Information and Facilitation Counters (IFCs) initiative of the government of India.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) explored the possibility of sharing and exchanging administrative experiences, the Department signed bilateral MOUs with Britain, France, Malaysia, Portugal, Singapore and China and trilateral MoU with South Africa and Brazil (under IBSA).

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 . The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India became an institutional member of CAPAM in 1997.

Department of Personnel and Training

The role of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) can be conceptually divided into two parts. In its large nodal role, it acts as the formulator of policy and the watch-dog of the government ensuring that certain accepted standards and norms, as laid down by it, are followed by all ministries/departments, in the recruitment, regulation of service conditions, posting/transfers, deputation of personnel as well as other related issues. At a more immediate level, the DoPT has the direct responsibility of being the cadre controlling authority for the IAS and the three secretariat services in the Central Secretariat. The Department also operates the Central Staffing Scheme under which suitable officers from All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services are selected and then placed in posts at the level of Deputy Secretary/Director and Joint Secretary, on the basis of tenure deputation.

Recruitment Agencies

The two organizations through which the Department ensures recruitment of personnel for the government are the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). The former is responsible for conducting examinations for appointment to the higher civil services and civil posts; including recruitment to the All India Services. The SSC is responsible for making recruitment to subordinate staff such as Assistants, Stenographers etc.

Some of the initiatives taken by the DoPT include:

- (a) Discontinuation of interview for Gr. 'B' and 'C' posts
- (b) Switching from OMR Based Exam to Computer
- (c) Single Registration and Two Tier System of Examination
- (d) Self-Certification for Appointment
- (e) Accelerated filling up of Divyaangjan Vacancies
- (f) Benefit of Reservation to ex-Servicemen
- (g) Citizen Centricity in Administration
- (h) Placement of Senior Appointment
- (i) Anti Corruption Strategies
- (j) Intensive Review for Premature Retirement

Right to Information

The Right to Information Act, 2005 empowers the citizens, promotes transparency and accountability in the working of the government, combat corruption and make the democracy work for people in real sense.

One has to simply make a request to the Public Information Officer of the office indicating the information sought and the address at which the information is required. If the applicant does not get the information within 30 days or the applicant is not satisfied with the reply given to him, he can make an appeal within 30 days to the appellate authority appointed by the authority who is an officer superior to the Public Information Officer. The appellate authority has to decide the appeal within 30 days of the receipt of appeal. If the applicant is not satisfied even with the decision of the appellate authority, he can file a second appeal with the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be within 90 days.

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.

Department of Official Language was set up in 1975 as an independent department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since then, this Department has been making efforts for accelerating the progressive use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union.

Official Language Policy

The features of official language policy are: i) all manuals, codes and other procedural literature relating to central government offices are required to be prepared both in Hindi and English. All forms, headings of registers, name plates, notice boards and various items of stationery, etc. are also required to be in Hindi and English; ii) officers should ensure that documents specified in Section 3 (3) of the Act are issued both in Hindi and English; and iii) the administrative head of each central government office should ensure that the provisions of the Act, the rules and directions issued under Rule 12 shall be properly complied with, and suitable and effective check-points shall be devised for this purpose.

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. The Committee of Parliament on official language was constituted in 1976 to periodically review the progress in the use of Hindi as the official language of the Union and to submit a report to the President.

Award Schemes

The Department has Rajbhasha Keerti Puraskar Yojana for awarding the outstanding achievements in the implementation of Official Language Policy of the Union. Under the Rajbhasha Gaurav Hindi Book Writing Scheme, cash awards, shields and certificates are awarded to the working/retired employees of the central government, banks, financial institutions, universities, training institutions and autonomous bodies of the central government for writing original books in Hindi

Inter-State Council

The provision for setting up an Inter-State Council is mentioned in Article 263 of the Constitution. In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations, the Inter-State Council was set up in 1990. The Inter-State Council (ISC) is a recommendatory body and has been assigned the duties of investigating and discussing such subjects, in which some or all of the states or the union territories and one or more of the states have a common interest.

The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Council. Chief Ministers of all the states and union territories having legislative assemblies, administrators of union territories not having legislative assemblies, governors of states under President's rule and six ministers of cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers, nominated by the Chairman of the Council, are members of the Council.

Zonal Council

Five zonal councils viz., Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council and Southern Zonal Council were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 with the objectives of bringing out national integration; arresting the growth of acute state consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies

The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of all the zonal councils. The Office of the Vice-Chairman is held by the Chief Minister of the Member State of the respective zonal council by annual rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time. Two other ministers of each member state are also members of each Zonal Council. The Chief Secretary of the Member State function as the Secretary of respective Zonal Council by annual rotation.

The States

The system of government in states closely resembles that of the Union.

Executive Governor

A state executive consists of Governor and Council of Ministers with Chief Minister as its head. The Governor of a state is appointed by the President for a term of five years office. Only Indian citizens above 35 years of age are eligible for appointment to this office. Executive power of the state is vested in Governor.

The Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as head, aids and advises Governor in exercise of his functions except in so far as he is by or under the Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion. In respect of Nagaland, the Governor has special responsibility under Article 371 A. Similarly, in respect of Arunachal Pradesh, the Governor has special responsibility under Article 371. These are, however, temporary provisions. If the President, on receipt of a report from Governor or otherwise is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for Governor to have special responsibility with respect to law and order, he may so direct by an order.

The Sixth Schedule vests additional discretionary powers in Governors of Mizoram and Tripura in almost all their functions (except approving regulations for levy of taxes and money lending by non-tribals by district councils) since December, 1998. In Sikkim, the Governor has been given special responsibility for peace and social and economic advancement of different sections of population.

Council of Ministers

The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor who also appoints other ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.

Legislature

For every state, there is a legislature which consists of Governor and one House or, two Houses as the case may be. In Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, there are two Houses known as Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly..

Legislative Council

Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) of a state comprises not more than one-third of total number of members in Legislative Assembly of the state and in no case less than 40 members (Legislative Council of Jammu and Kashmir has 36 members vide Section 50 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir). About one-third of members of the Council are elected by members of Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are not its members, one-third by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state, one-twelfth by electorate consisting of persons who have been, for at least three years, engaged in teaching in educational institutions within the state not lower in standard than secondary school and a further one-twelfth by registered graduates of more than three years standing. Remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service. Legislative Councils are not subject to dissolution but one-third of their members retire every second year.

Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of a state consists of not more than 500 and not less than 60 members (Legislative Assembly of Sikkim has 32 members vide Article 371 F of the Constitution) chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the state.

Powers and Functions

State legislature has exclusive powers over subjects enumerated in List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and concurrent powers over those enumerated in List III. Financial powers of legislature include authorization of all expenditure, taxation and borrowing by the state government. Legislative Assembly alone has power to originate money bills.

Reservation of Bills

The Governor of a state may reserve any bill for the consideration of the President. Bills relating to subjects like compulsory acquisition of property, measures affecting powers and position of High Courts and imposition of taxes on storage, distribution and sale of water or electricity in inter-state river or river valley development projects should necessarily be so reserved. No bills seeking to impose restrictions on inter-state trade can be introduced in a State legislature without previous sanction of the President.

Control over Executive

State legislatures, apart from exercising the usual power of financial control, use all normal parliamentary devices like questions, discussions, debates, adjournments and no-confidence motions and resolutions to keep a watch over day-to-day work of the executive.

Union Territories

Union territories are administrated by the President acting to such extent, as he thinks fit, through an administrator appointed by him. Administrators of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are designated as Lieutenant Governors. The Governor of Punjab is concurrently the administrator of Chandigarh.

Local Government

Municipalities

In order to provide for a common framework for urban local bodies and help to strengthen the functioning of the bodies as effective democratic units of self-government, Parliament

enacted the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 (known as Nagarpalika Act) relating to municipalities in 1992. It came into effect in 1993. A new Part IX-A relating to the municipalities added to provide for among other things, constitution of three types of municipalities, i.e., Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Municipal Corporation for large urban areas, fixed duration of municipalities, appointment of State Election Commission, appointment of State Finance Commission and constitution of metropolitan and district planning committees. All state/union territories administrations have set-up their State Election Commissions and Finance Commissions.

Panchayats

Article 40 of the Constitution which enshrines the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that the state shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.

A new Part IX relating to the panchayats was inserted in the Constitution to provide for among other things, Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages; constitution of panchayats at village and other level or levels; direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village and intermediate level, if any, and to the offices of Chairpersons of panchayats at such levels; reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their population for membership of panchayats and office of Chairpersons in panchayats at each level; reservation of not less than one-third of the seats for women; fixing tenure of five years for panchayats and holding elections within a period of six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat.

Election Commission

The Election Commission of India (ECI) was constituted in 1950 with its headquarters at New Delhi. It is a permanent independent constitutional body vested with the powers and responsibility of superintendence, direction and control of the entire process of conduct of elections to Parliament and to legislatures of the states and the union territories and elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under the Constitution.

The Election Commission decides the election schedules for the conduct of elections—both general elections and bye-elections. It prepares, maintains and periodically updates the electoral rolls, supervises the nomination of candidates, registers political parties, monitors the election campaign, including funding and expenditure of candidates. It also facilitates the coverage of the election process by the media, carries out the voter education and awareness measures, organizes the polling stations/booths where voting takes place, and oversees the counting of votes and the declaration of results. It conducts polling through EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and recently, on pilot basis, introduced VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail). The Election Commission has also provided for compulsory identification at the time of voting by means of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) and distribution of photo slip close to polls.

Elections are conducted according to the constitutional provisions, supplemented by laws made by Parliament. The major laws are the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952; the Representation of the People Act, 1950; and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. All political parties are required to get themselves registered with the Election Commission. Based on performance criteria laid down in the Elections Symbols (reservation

& allotment) Order 1968, the Commission grants recognition to political parties as national or state parties. It also decides disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

At the state level, the election work is supervised, subject to overall control of the Commission, by the Chief Electoral Officer of the state, who is appointed by the Commission by selection from amongst senior civil servants of the state government. Field administration at the district and sub-divisional levels in India is run by the District Magistrates (Deputy Commissioners/Collectors), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tehsildars, etc.

Election Commission of India launched the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), an advanced resource centre of learning, research, training and extension for electoral democracy and election management. The Institute presently functions from New Delhi. Courses are conducted in the Institute for ECI's field officials and also for participants from abroad.

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 for the year 2016-17 (at current prices).

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is one of the three constituent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the other two being Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) and Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

National Policy for Farmers

Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPFs) in 2007. Many of the provisions of the NPF are being operationalised through various schemes and programmes which are being implemented by different central government departments and ministries

Major Programmes

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

The scheme has been approved with an outlay of ₹ 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 (Per drop, More crop), promote sustainable water conservation practices etc. The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Per Drop More Crop component being administered by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

Crop Insurance

A new scheme "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was implemented from kharif 2016 along with restructured pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS).

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 advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops. These include seven cereal crops (paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley), five pulse crops (gram, tur, moong, urad and lentil), seven oilseeds (groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean, rapeseed mustard, safflower, nigerseed and sesamum), copra (dried coconut), cotton, raw jute and sugarcane. 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.

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 nonagricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water. Thus, pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE). Formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on July 16, 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. With its headquarters at New Delhi, the ICAR is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences.

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.

Livestock

Improvement of indigenous cattle breeds through selection project was conceptualized for the genetic improvement of Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal cattle in their home tracts. Under network project of buffalo improvement Nli-Ravi, Bhadawari and Swamp breed centres are functioning as conservation and improvement units whereas Jaffarabadi, Pandarpuri and Surti breed centres are concentrating on field progeny testing and maintaining the elite herd for bull production and a breedable herd of 567. All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on goat improvement covered 13 tribal villages and contributed for a better livelihood security for tribal people.

Crop Management

Enhancing crop yield per unit water use through improved agro-techniques involving sprinklers in summer green gram indicated higher stability in Samrat over IPM 205-7. Sprinkler irrigation resulted in less water use (26.3 per cent) with higher water productivity (43.2 per cent) and net return (28.4) over flood irrigation.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

India has vast resource of livestock and poultry, which play a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of rural masses. There are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats and about 10.3 million pigs as per 19th livestock census in the country.

Livestock Production

According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output livestock sector at current prices was about ₹ 5,91,691 crore during 2015-16 which is about 28.5 per cent of the value of output from agricultural and allied sector. At constant prices the value of output from livestock is about 29 per cent of the value of the output from total agriculture and allied sector. India continues to be the largest producer of milk in the world.

Milk Production

Milk production during 2016-17 and 2017-18 was 165.4 million tonnes and 176.3 million tonnes respectively showing an annual growth of 6.62 per cent. The per capita availability of milk was around 375 grams per day in 2017-18.

Egg Production

Currently the total poultry population is 729.21 million (as per 19th Livestock Census) and egg production was around 88.14 billion during 2016-17. The per capita availability (2017-18) was around 74 eggs per annum.

Wool Production

Wool production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 46.05 million kgs and increased to 48.1 million kgs in 2014-15 but declined to 43.5 million kgs in 2016-17. The production has shown negative growth during 2017-18.

Meat Production

The meat production registered a healthy growth from 2.3 million tonnes at the end of Tenth Five Year Plan (2006-07) to 5.5 million tonnes at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12). Meat production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 5.95 million tonnes which further increased to 7.7 million tonnes in 2017-18.

Fisheries Production

The country has vast potential for fisheries in view of long coastline of about 8,118 kms apart from the inland water resources. During 2017-18, India exported ₹ 13,77,244 tonnes fish and fisheries products worth ₹ 45,106.89 crore.

National Livestock Mission

National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with an approved outlay of ₹ 2,800 crore during XII Plan with the following sub-missions: (i) sub-mission on livestock development; (ii) sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region; (iii) sub-mission on fodder and feed development; and (iv) sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension.

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. It is the only source, which gives disaggregated information on various species of farm animals and poultry birds. The 20th Livestock Census was conducted in 2019 in the country in participation with animal husbandry departments of the states/UTs. It indicates that the livestock population in the country increased by 4.6 per cent to 536 million from 512.06 million in 2012.

Indian Fisheries

Presently India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world. Fisheries is a sunrise sector. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China. The total fish production during 2017-18 (provisional) stood at 12.61 million metric tonne (MMT) with a contribution of 8.92 MMT from inland sector and 3.69 MMT from marine sector.

Within inland fisheries there is a shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture during the last two and a half decade. Freshwater aquaculture with a share of 34 per cent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has increased to about 80 per cent in recent years. It has emerged as a major fish producing system. Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA) was set up in various districts for delivering a package of technologies, practices, training and extension and for providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries. Mariculture in the country over the years was confined largely to bivalve molluscs viz., mussels, edible oysters and pearl oysters, and to some extent seaweeds. With a thrust on development of technologies pertaining to sea cage farming during last decade, developmental plans with both forward and back ward linkages are envisaged to allow these activities to become significant contributors to production of seafood in the country.

5. CULTURE AND TOURISM

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. The Ministry has two attached, six subordinate offices and thirty five autonomous organisations, which are fully funded by the Government. There are seven zonal cultural centres working mainly on folk and traditional arts of different zones. There are also four missions namely National Mission for Manuscripts, National Mission for Monument and Antiquities, National Mission on Libraries, and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission

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. Similarly, the Ministry through its organizations, is engaged in recognizing excellence in the field of art and culture by way of awards given by institutions like Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi. The National School of Drama is involved in promoting a vibrant

theatre movement of contemporary relevance in the context of our traditions and cultural diversity.

The Ministry is also responsible for the implementation of various UNESCO conventions in the field of culture and for entering into Cultural Exchange Agreements with partnering countries. India has Cultural Agreements with 107 countries and agreements relating to Cultural Exchange Programmes have been signed with 69 countries.

Achievements

Mumbai gets World Heritage Building

In a landmark achievement, India's nomination of the 'Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai' has been inscribed on the World Heritage list of the UNESCO. With this, Mumbai becomes the second city in the country after Ahmedabad to figure in the list. India now has in all 37 World Heritage inscriptions with 29 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed sites.

International Kala Mela

The first ever international Kala Mela was held in New Delhi in February 2018; with its aim to promote the spirit of unity in diversity and the relevance of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Seva Bhoj Yojana

The Ministry of Culture launched a new scheme, namely, Seva Bhoj Yojana in 2018. The scheme envisages to reimburse the central government share of Central Goods and Services Tax and Integrated Goods and Services Tax so as to lessen the financial burden of religious / charitable institutions who provide food /prasad I langar (community kitchen) / bhandara, free of cost without any discrimination to public/devotees.

550th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Guru Nanak

Government of India commemorated the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak at national as well as international level in befitting manner. A number of religious activities figured in the yearlong celebrations which concluded in 2019. The Sikh Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee, Amritsar is the knowledge partner of the central government.

Kabir Mahotsav

The 500th death anniversary of 15th century poet-saint Kabir was held in June 2018 in Maghar, Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Artists and artisans from all over the country with several cultural performances set the tone of spiritualism through folk music and dance along with musical and theatrical performances.

Lalit Kala Akademi

Lalit Kala Akademi, the National Academy of Art, was set up in 1954. Lalit Kala Akademi is the government's apex cultural body in the field of visual arts in India. It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture. It organises events like The National Exhibition of Art and the International Triennale - India.

The Akademi's sincere commitment to the development of art is evident through the strong national and international programmes organized by the headquarters in New Delhi and by the Centres situated at Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Garhi (New Delhi) and sub centres at Shimla and Patna. Another major art promotional activity of the Akademi is to provide studios to artists who work in various disciplines of art, such as sculpture, graphics,

ceramics and paintings. In Delhi, the Akademi administers the Garhi Artists' Studios where approximately 200 artists work regularly.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

In 1945, the Asiatic Society of Bengal submitted a proposal for the creation of a National Cultural Trust consisting of three academies. It led to the creation of three national academies after Independence. The national Academy named Sangeet Natak Akademi, was the first of these entities to be established by a resolution of the Ministry of Education. In 1961, the Sangeet Natak Akademi was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (as amended in 1957).

The Akademi works towards building up a unified structure of support for the practice of music, dance and drama in India encompassing traditional and modern forms, and urban as well as rural environments. The great masters of the performing arts have been elected as Fellows of the Akademi. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are conferred annually on eminent artists and scholars

The Akademi has a large archive of audio and video tapes. The Akademi maintains a reference library consisting of books in English, Hindi and some regional languages. The Akademi's publication unit publishes literature on relevant subjects on a small scale.

The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of the performing arts. The Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA) in Imphal, the premier institution in the teaching of Manipuri dance and music, established in 1954, is the first of these institutions. In 1959, the Akademi established the National School of Drama and the Asian Theatre Institute; and in 1964, the Kathak Kendra, both being based in Delhi. The Akademi's other projects of national importance are in Kutiyattam theatre of Kerala, commenced in 1991. Kutiyattam was recognized by UNESCO as a masterpiece of oral and intangible heritage of humanity in 2001. The project on Chhau dance of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal began in 1994. The project support to Sattriya music, dance, theatre and allied arts of Assam was started in 2002.

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, totally financed by Department of Culture. The training course at NSD is of three years duration. The eligible applicants for admission to the course are screened through two stages.

Since 1998, the School has organized National Theatre Festival for Children christened 'Jashne Bachpan' every year. The first ever National Theatre Festival christened was held from March 18 to April 14, 1999 to commemorate the 50th year of India's Independence has been made an annual feature.

A short-term teaching and training programme titled 'Extension Programme' was started in 1978, under which, the school organizes workshops in collaboration with the local theatre groups/artists and these programmes are invariably held in the local languages. The School has a Regional Research Centre at Bengaluru to cater to the theatrical needs of the four southern states and Puducherry.

Sahitya Akademi

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters promotes literature in 24 languages of India recognized by it. It organizes programmes, confers Awards and Fellowships on writers in Indian languages and publishes books throughout the year and in 24 recognized languages. Over the past six decades, the Akademi has published over 7000 books in 24 languages

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. The Akademi also confers Fellowships on eminent Indian writers and foreign scholars who have served Indian literature.

The Akademi also organizes cultural exchange programmes with different countries and sends and receives several writers' delegations every year besides taking part in literary festivals and book fairs abroad.

Sahitya Akademi Library in New Delhi is one of the very few multilingual libraries which cater solely to literature. With a rich collection of books on literature and literary traditions in 24 recognized Indian languages, this library is one of its kind. In addition to this library, Sahitya Akademi has libraries in its regional offices in Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is a national level academic research centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts, classical and folk, written and oral, ancient and modern. Located in the heart of New Delhi, IGNCA is an autonomous trust under the Ministry of Culture.

The IGNCA has six functional units – Kalanidhi, the multi-form library; Kalakosa, devoted mainly to the study and publication of fundamental texts in Indian languages; Janapada Sampada, the division engaged in lifestyle studies; Kaladarsana; the executive unit which transforms researches and studies emanating from the IGNCA into visible forms through exhibition; Cultural Informatics Lab, which applies technology tools for cultural preservation and propagation; and Sutradhara, the administrative section that acts as a spine supporting and coordinating all the activities.

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. CCRT was set up in 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.

CCRT implements the Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme, which provides scholarships to outstanding children in the age group of 10 to 14 years, studying either in recognized schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing or other arts to develop their talent in various cultural fields particularly in rare art forms. The scholarships continue till the age of 20 years or the first year of a University degree. The Scheme for 'Award of Scholarships to Young Artistes (SYA) in Different Cultural Fields' is implemented under which maximum 400 scholarships are provided in the age group of 18 to 25 years in the field of Indian classical music, classical dances, light classical music, theatre, Visual Arts, Folk/ Traditional and Indigenous Arts.

Project Sanskriti is an initiative of Ministry of Culture in developing/ establishing of interpretation centres in educational institutions in Varanasi. CCRT has also instituted Teachers' Award to selected teachers for their outstanding work in education and culture

Zonal Cultural Centres

The seven Zonal Centres were established under this scheme during 1985-86 at Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Dimapur and Nagpur. The participation of states in more than one Zonal Cultural Centre according to their cultural linkage is a special feature of the composition of the Zonal Centres. Master craftsmen and artisans from various ZCCs participate in craft fairs. 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

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The broad objectives of the initiative are:- (i) to celebrate the unity in diversity of our nation; (ii) 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; (iii) to showcase the rich heritage and culture,; (iv) to establish long-term engagements; (v) to create an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences.

Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

The aim of Buddhist Tibetan Institutions (BTI) is to help preserve, promote and propagate the intangible of Buddhist/Tibetan/Himalayan cultural heritage of the country.

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. The scheme was revised in 2011. In the revised scheme new activities like IT upgradation, transport facilities, construction of classrooms, school buildings and training centres, audio-visual recording/documentation of traditional materials have also been included.

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.

Central 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.

Archaeological Survey of India

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture. The major activities of the Archaeological Survey of India 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, the ASI has declared 3,686 monuments/sites to be of national importance in the country which includes twenty one properties that are inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO. Three sites, namely, Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park in Gujarat, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) Station in Mumbai and the Brihadisvara temple complex, Gangaikondacholapuram and the Airavatesvara temple complex, Darasuram as an extension to the Brihadisvara temple complex. Thanjavur (now commonly called as the Great Living Chola Temples) have been inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 2004. Nomination dossiers for the Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai have been sent to the World Heritage Centre for inscription on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Search, study and preservation of cultural heritage lying submerged in inland or territorial waters are among the principal functions of the Underwater Archaeology Wing. It carries out exploration and excavation in Arabian Sea as well as in Bay of Bengal. The Science Branch of the Survey with its headquarters at Dehradun and field laboratories in different parts of the country carries out chemical preservation of monuments, antiquities, manuscripts, paintings, etc.

The Horticulture Branch of the ASI maintains gardens in about 287 centrally protected monuments/sites located in different parts of the country.

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007 with the objective to prepare a National database on Built Heritage and Sites (BH&S) and antiquities. 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

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) 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.

National Gallery of Modern Art

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi was founded in 1954 to promote and develop contemporary Indian Art. It houses 17,858 works of art, representing about 1,748 contemporary Indian artists. The collection has been built up mainly by purchase and also by gift.

Indian Museum

The history of the origin and the growth of the Indian Museum is one of the remarkable events towards the development of heritage and culture of India. Sir William Jones as one of the profoundest scholars devoted his life to the service of India founded Asiatic Society in 1784. The present building of the Indian Museum was completed in 1875. The Museum which was founded on 1814 at the cradle of the Asiatic Society thus grew into the largest institution of its kind of the country portraying the legacy and pride of the nation.

National Council of Science Museums

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, is the largest network of science centres/museums in the world functioning under a single administrative control. NCSM is the implementing agency for the Science City Scheme for developing new science centres in the country of national, regional and district level.

The concept of 'Museum on Wheels' was introduced in India in 1965 when Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) programme started as Mobile Science Museum (MSM) at Ramkrishna Mission School, Kolkata. Today, a fleet of 23 MSE buses, attached to different science centres of NCSM, travel through the parts of rural India and take the message of science and technology to the rural populace. Last year, this programme has been added in Limca Book of Records for Largest and longest running Informal Science Education Programme in India.

Victoria Memorial Hall

The Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata (VMH), was founded principally through the efforts of Viceroy Lord Curzon, in 1921 as a period museum in memory of Queen Victoria with particular emphasis on Indo-British history. The VMH was declared an institution of national importance by the Government of India Act of 1935.

It has been widely hailed as the finest specimen of Indo-British architecture in India, and called the 'Taj of the Raj.' It bagged the award of Lonely Planet 'Top Choice' and 'Fodor's Choice' top ratings. In 2015 it was also named as the 'Cleanest Monument in India,' for which it bagged the India Today Safaigiri Award.

National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology

It is an autonomous organization, fully funded by the Ministry of Culture, established and declared as a Deemed University in 1989. This is the only Museum University in India and is presently functioning at the first floor of National Museum, New Delhi. The Director General, National Museum is the ex-officio Vice-Chancellor of this University.

National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property

National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC) was established in 1976, as a subordinate office of the Department of Culture and is recognized by the Department of Science and Technology as a scientific institution of the Government of India. NRLC with its headquarters at Lucknow, has full fledged Training Institute campus at Jankipuram, Lucknow and a regional centre - Regional Conservation Laboratory at Mysore set up for catering to conservation needs of south India.

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture

The Institute was conceived in 1936 as one of the permanent memorials to Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) on the occasion of his first birth centenary. It was formally established in 1938 as a branch centre of the Ramakrishna Mission founded by Swami .

Anthropological Survey of India

The Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I.) is an institution one 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. Over the years, the Survey has generated information from grass-root level through sustained research by its head office, Kolkata, seven regional centres (Port Blair, Shillong, Nagpur, Mysore, Dehradun, Udaipur, Kolkata), one sub-regional centre (Jagadapur), three field stations Sagar, Ranchi, Visakhapatnam and camp office (New Delhi).

National Archives of India

The National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of the records creators and the users at large. It is the biggest repository of the non-current records in south east Asia. National Archives of India functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture entrusted with the preservation of the documentary heritage of the nation. It is also the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993 and public records. It has one regional office at Bhopal and three records centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Puducherry.

Libraries

National Library

The National Library, Kolkata was originally known as the Imperial Library and was founded in 1891. After independence the name of the Library was changed to National Library. It enjoys the status of an institution of national importance

Central Secretariat Library

The Central Secretariat Library (CSL) originally known as Imperial Secretariat Library, Kolkata was established in 1891. Since 1969 the library has been housed at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi with a collection of over seven lakh documents mainly on social sciences and humanities. The collection of Area Studies Division is unique in which books have been arranged according to geographical area.

CSL has digitized the Government of India gazette, committee and commission reports and has also developed the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) system for its collection.

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

The Nehru Memorial and Museum and Library comprises a Museum on the life and times of Jawaharlal Nehru; the research and publication division; a library that has a pre-eminent

position among the social science libraries in the country; the oral history division; the manuscripts division; the centre for contemporary studies; the planetarium; and the Nehru learning centre for children and youth.

The planetarium, the only one in Delhi region, is visited by thousands including school children, college students, teachers, and general public for first-hand knowledge on astronomy and space technology.

National Mission on Libraries

National Mission on Libraries has been set up by Ministry of Culture, in 2012 in pursuance of National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of libraries and information science sector.

Its components are: creation of National Virtual Library of India; setting up of NML model libraries; quantitative and qualitative survey of libraries; capacity building.

Performing Arts

The Ministry of Culture administers the following schemes:-

Performing Arts Grants Scheme

This is the flagship scheme of the Ministry in the field of performing arts. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children's theatre and for all genres of performing arts activities. Under Repertory Grant, financial assistance in favour of a maximum of 1 Guru/Director and 25 Shisyas/Artistes may be provided to a cultural organization for a complete financial year.

Scheme for Cultural Organizations with National Presence

To promote and support cultural organizations with national presence involved in promotion of art and culture throughout the country, this grant is given to such organizations which has a properly constituted managing body, registered in India having an all India character with national presence in its operation, adequate working strength and have spent ₹ 1 crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities. The quantum of grant under this scheme is ₹ 1 crore to 5 crore

Scheme of Building Grants

The objective of the scheme is to support voluntary cultural organizations and government-aided cultural organizations to augment their efforts to create cultural space viz, auditorium, appropriately equipped training, rehearsal and performance spaces for artistes etc. and also for purchase of equipment.

Tagore Cultural Complexes Scheme

Tagore Cultural Complexes (TCC) is a revived and revamped version of erstwhile Multi Purpose Cultural Complexes Scheme. It was renamed on the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for the setting up of new cultural complexes of varying scales as also for modernization, renovation and upgradation of existing Tagore auditoria etc., that were built in 1960s and 1970s in various parts of the country to mark Tagore's Birth Centenary.

Scheme of Pension to Artistes

Under this Scheme, financial assistance is granted to indigent artistes and traditional scholars who have made significant contribution to art and letters and in their fields, etc., and their income (including income of the spouse) must not exceed ₹ 4,000/- per month and also their age should not be less than 60 years (This does not apply in the case of dependents).

Production Grant Scheme

The Scheme covers all 'not-for-profit' organizations, NGOs, societies, trusts, universities and individual for supporting the seminars, conference, research, workshops, festivals, exhibitions, symposia, production of dance, drama-theatre, music etc., and small research projects on different aspects of Indian culture.

Tagore National Fellowship Scheme

The Scheme was introduced in order to invigorate and revitalise the various institutions under the Ministry and other identified cultural institutions in the country, by encouraging scholars/academicians to affiliate themselves with these institutions to work on projects of mutual interest. It is open to both Indian nationals and foreign citizens. The proportion of foreigners will not normally exceed one-third of the total fellowships awarded in a year. Tagore fellows are paid an honorarium ₹ 80,000/- p.m. plus contingencies and Tagore Scholars are paid ₹ 50,000/- p.m. as honorarium plus contingencies.

Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission

In April, 2006, Government of India, constituted a Gandhi Heritage Sites Panel with eminent Gandhians. Based on the recommendation of the Panel the 'Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission' with a fixed term of 5 years was created in 2013 with a total budget outlay of ₹ 42 crores. The period of Mission has been extended till March, 2020.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti was formed in 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti, as an autonomous body, and is functioning under the financial support from the Ministry of Culture. The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson and it has a nominated body of senior Gandhians and representatives of various government departments to guide it in its activities. It has two campuses:

Gandhi Smriti is the place where Mahatma Gandhi lived the last 144 days of his life, and where the epic life of Gandhiji ended on January 30, 1948. The Martyrs Column, the spot where the Mahatma fell to an assassin's bullets stands as the embodiment of all the sufferings and sacrifices that characterised the long struggle of India's Freedom. At present the Centre provides a comprehensive exhibition on Gandhi, conference halls, camping facilities for major national and international meets, a library, hostel for scholars-in-residence, children's corner, photo unit and a publications division.

Tourism

The Ministry of tourism has the main objective of increasing and facilitating tourism in India. Augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, etc., are some of the responsibilities of the Ministry.

The Ministry has recently launched the 'Adopt A Heritage' project. Heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become

‘Monument Mitras’ for developing amenities and facilities at these sites under this programme.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2018 were 10.56 million (prov.) with a growth of 5.2 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

‘Special Tourism Zones’

Creation of ‘Special Tourism Zones’ anchored on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) is in partnership with the states. Ministry of Tourism has formulated the guidelines for implementation of the new scheme in consultation with the state governments and private sector and is in the process of completing other formalities before launching the scheme.

Foreign Exchange Earnings

Foreign Exchange Earnings through Tourism (FEEs) during 2017 was ₹ 1,80,379 crore with a growth of 17 per cent over same period of previous year.

e -Visa facility

Facilitative visa regime is a pre-requisite for increasing inbound tourism. The Ministry of Tourism takes the initiative of pursuance with Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs for achieving the same. As in December 2018, e-visa facility has been extended to the nationals of 167 countries under sub-categories, i.e.—‘e-Tourist visa’, ‘e-Business visa’, ‘e-Medical visa’, ‘e-Medical Attendant visa’ and ‘e-Conference visa’.

National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board

A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been set up to work as an umbrella organisation to govern and promote medical tourism in India.

Task Force on Adventure Tourism

For development and promotion of adventure tourism, a task force on Adventure Tourism was formed in 2016 to resolve the issues related to adventure tourism which includes safety and security of tourists.

Hospitality Education

As of now, there are 42 institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs), comprising 21 Central IHMs and 21 state IHMs, and 10 Food Craft Institutes (FCIs), which have come up with the support of the Ministry. These institutes were set up as autonomous societies with the specific mandate to impart hospitality education / conduct training in hospitality skills.

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) is an autonomous body under the Ministry with its headquarters at Gwalior. Its centres are at Bhubaneswar, Nellore, Noida and Goa. IITTM is a pioneer in the field of travel and tourism education and training. It provides specialized training and education for tourism and travel industry.

Indian Culinary Institute

The Ministry of Tourism has set up the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The first of its kind in India, the Institute has commenced its academic session from August, 2016. The Ministry is also expanding the ICI, by opening its northern chapter at Noida.

Incredible India

The Ministry, as part of its ongoing promotional activities, releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets under the Incredible India brand line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India to increase foreign tourist arrivals and domestic visits within the country.

An International Advertisement Campaign in electronic and digital media for 2016- 17 was launched globally. To begin with the Ministry has launched its campaign on leading television Channels including CNN, BBC, Discovery and TLC , Euro News, History, CNBC, Travel Channel, CBS (USA), Tabi (Japan) and RMC (France) as well as on Google.

The Ministry of Tourism organizes Bharat Parv as part of the Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations with the objective to promote national integrity and to showcase cultural and culinary diversity to the people of our nation.

North East

The North East region of India is being promoted by the Ministry through several media campaigns. The Ministry in partnership with the Discovery Channel has produced documentary series ‘Go North East’ on the eight states of the region. For creation of tourism infrastructure, the Ministry of Tourism has two major plan schemes viz. Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive for development of tourism infrastructure in the country including historical places and heritage cities.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Swadesh Darshan scheme is about developing 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 it 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), Srisailam (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 has been also made available for Windows Phones and iPhone. This mobile app is being monitored by the Project Monitoring Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission in Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry 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.

6. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

THE Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) 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). The Programme Implementation Wing has three divisions, namely : (i) twenty point programme, (ii) infrastructure and project monitoring, and (iii) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Besides these three wings, there is National Statistical Commission (NSC) created through a resolution of Government of India and one autonomous institute, viz., Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) declared as an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament.

National Statistical Commission

The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005. The setting up of the NSC followed the decision of the Cabinet to accept the recommendation of the Rangarajan Commission, which reviewed the Indian Statistical System in 2001. It has one part-time Chairperson and four part-time members, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields. Besides, Secretary, Planning Commission is an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary to the Commission. He is also the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO), an attached office of the Ministry, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards

The CSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation started releasing state/UT-wise as well as All India Consumer Price Indices (CPI) separately for rural, urban and combined (rural plus urban) for the purpose of temporal price comparison with effect from January, 2011 with 2010 as the base year. Accordingly, the annual inflation rates, based on these indices were made available since January, 2012. CSO revised the base year of CPI from 2010-2012 and revised series was launched in 2015. The back series for the revised series of CPI was also made available for the users. All these information may be accessed from the website of this Ministry.

Annual Survey of Industries

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India. The ASI extends to the entire country. It covers all factories registered under Sections 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, where the manufacturing process is defined under Section 2 (k) of the said Act. Details 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, not registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are also covered under ASI.

However defence establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, departmental units such as railway workshops, government mints, sanitary, water supply, gas storage, etc., are excluded from the purview of the survey

Index of Industrial Production

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by CSO every month in the form of Quick Estimates with a time-lag of 6 weeks as per the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) norms of IMF. The base year of all-India IIP was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the new series was launched in 2017. Apart from breakup of the index in three sectors, viz., mining, manufacturing and electricity, the estimates are also simultaneously released as per use-based classification viz., primary goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure construction goods and consumer durables and consumer non-durables. The Quick Estimates are subsequently revised as first Revision after one month from release on receipt of updated production data from the 14 source agencies.

National Sample Survey Office

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in the 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. 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

Consumer Price Index (Urban): Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for urban areas measure the changes over time in general level of retail prices of goods and services for the purpose of consumption relevant to the urban population of the country. The price collection of CPI (U) was initiated from 2008 by the Field Operations Division of NASSO on behalf of CSO, Price Statistics Division. The current base year for CPI (U) is 2012=100.

Wholesale Price Index (Outgoing): Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is used as an important measure of inflation in India. Fiscal and monetary policy changes are greatly influenced by changes in WPI.

Twenty Point Programme

The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) initiated since 1975 was restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006. The thrust of the Programme restructured in 2006 is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the under-privileged people all over the country.

The Programme originally consisted of 20 points and 66 items being monitored individually by central nodal ministries concerned. Out of the 66 items, 25 were for monthly monitoring, while the rest were to be monitored on annual basis by this Ministry.

Since 2014 the data collection is done on quarterly basis and the monthly monitoring has been changed to quarterly monitoring. At present, out of the remaining 65 items, 19 items are being monitored on quarterly basis. The monitoring mechanism for TPP-2006 has also been widened by including block level monitoring in addition to the existing central, state and district level monitoring.

Monitoring Mechanism

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 has developed a web based Management Information System to expeditiously collect information from the state governments and the central nodal ministries.

Monitoring and Impact Assessment

The Ministry has so far undertaken two impact assessment studies. The first study relates to impact of MGNREGA in three selected districts of north--eastern states and the second study was on rehabilitation of disabled persons under Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) in Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal

Infrastructure Monitoring

This Ministry monitors the performance of the eleven key infrastructure sectors viz., power, coal, steel, cement, fertilizers, petroleum, road, railways, shipping and ports, civil aviation and telecommunications. The performance of these sectors is analysed with reference to the present targets for the month and for the cumulative period and the achievements during the corresponding month and cumulative period of the last year. Infrastructure performance is regularly reported through the monthly review report on infrastructure performance.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in 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 objective of MPLAD Scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasizes on creation of durable community assets in the areas of national priorities, viz., drinking water facility; education; electricity facility; health and family welfare; irrigation facility; non-conventional energy sources; railways, roads, pathways and bridges; sanitation and public health, etc., based on the locally felt needs.

The salient features of the Scheme include:

- a) The Scheme is fully funded by the Government of India in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- b) The funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable. At present, the annual entitlement per MP/ constituency is ₹ 5 crore.
- c) Under it, 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 within the stipulated time period.

d) 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 Parliament can recommend works for implementation, anywhere in the country.

e) MPLADS works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities.

f) 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.

g) If an elected Member of Parliament finds the need, to contribute these 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 ₹ 25 lakh in a financial year. Such a gesture will promote national unity, harmony, and fraternity among the people, at the grass roots level.

h) The MP can spend a maximum of ₹ 20 lakh per year for giving assistance to Differently Abled Citizens for purchase of tri-cycles (including motorized tri-cycles), battery operated motorized wheel chair and artificial limbs; and aids for visually and hearing impaired.

7. COMMERCE

THE Department of Commerce comes under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The basic role of the Department is to accelerated growth of international trade. The Department formulates, implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade. Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, and development and regulation of certain export oriented industries and commodities.

Exports

India's merchandise exports recorded a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.09 per cent from April March 2009-10 to April-March 2018-19 (QE). Merchandise exports reached a new peak of US\$ 331.02 billion during April-March 2018-19 (QE) surpassing the earlier high of US\$ 314 achieved in 2013-14 registering a positive growth of 9.06 per cent over previous year.

Imports

Cumulative value of imports during April-March 2018-19 (QE) was US\$ 507.44 billion as against US\$ 465.58 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year registering a positive growth of 8.99 per cent in US\$ terms.

Trade Balance

The Trade deficit in Apr-Mar 2018-19 (QE) was estimated at US\$ 176.42 billion which was higher than the deficit of US\$ 162.05 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Global Perspective

Compared to the projections of world output growth given by International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report in October 2018, the recent reports in January and April, 2019 have revised the global growth downward for the years 2019 and 2020.

As per WEO, April, 2019, global economy is projected to grow at 3.3 per cent and 3.69 per cent in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Growth across emerging market and developing economies is projected to stabilize slightly below 5 per cent. An escalation of trade tensions between two global giants—USA and China may put pressure on global trade recovery.

A further escalation of trade tensions and the associated increases in policy uncertainty could further weaken growth. Beyond 2020, global growth is set to plateau at about 3.6 per cent over the medium term, sustained by the increase in the relative size of economies, such as those of China and India, which are projected to have robust growth by comparison to slower-growing advanced and emerging market economies (even though Chinese growth will eventually moderate) (WEO, April 2019).

Global Trade Situation

WTO economists expect merchandise trade volume growth to fall to 2.6 per cent in 2019—down from 3.0 per cent in 2018.

As per the current rankings for the year 2018, India is the 19th largest exporter (with a share of 1.7 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 2.6 per cent) of merchandise trade in the world. China is the top ranked exporter and America is the first largest importer of merchandise trade in the world. In Commercial Services, India is the 8th largest exporter (with a share of 3.5 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 3.2 per cent). USA is the top exporter as well as the top importer of commercial services trade in the world.

Foreign Trade

The Five-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services.

The Foreign Trade Policy Statement is the first comprehensive statement on the government priorities in the foreign trade sector. Through the FTP Statement the overall thinking on external sector have been articulated, first it spells out the government strategy for addressing some of the structural and institutional institutes which are relevant for improving the performance of foreign trade. Secondly, it states the ways in which the government would make trade and economic integration agreement with trade partners and would work better for Indian enterprises.

Merchandise Exports

The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the. Under the Scheme exporters were eligible for Duty Credit Scrips at the rate either 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, 10 and 20 per cent of FOB value of exports realized for exports made in 2018-19, based on the HS Code of the exported product. These scrips are transferable and can be used to pay certain central duties/taxes including customs duties. The Scheme covers exports of more than 8000 tariff lines.

Ease of Doing Business

The online e-com module to grant MEIS benefit without any manual intervention under a system authenticated mechanism for most HS Codes of the MEIS schedule was launched and has been running successfully since 2018. A new Risk Management System has been developed to scrutinize cases under MEIS based on HS Codes rather than random selection and is under implementation by the field offices of DGFT.

Services Exports

Under the Service Exports from India Scheme/(SEIS) there are rewards on net foreign exchange earnings, to service providers of notified services who are providing service from India to the rest of the world, in the form of duty credit scrips which are transferable and can be used to pay certain central duties/taxes including customs duties

Advance Authorization Scheme

Advance Authorization Scheme allows duty free import of inputs, along with fuel, oil, catalyst, etc., required for manufacturing the export product. Inputs are allowed either as per Standard Input Output Norms (SION) or on adhoc norms basis under actual user condition. Norms are fixed by Technical Committee or Norms Committee. This facility is available for physical exports (also including supplies to SEZ units and SEZ Developers) and deemed exports including intermediate supplies.

Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG)

The Scheme allows import under of capital goods at zero customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade. Keeping in line with liberalization and globalization and the overall objective of increasing of exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of “facilitator”. This Directorate, with headquarters at New Delhi, is responsible for formulating and implementing the Foreign Trade Policy with the main objective of promoting India’s exports.

Web Portals

DGFT has launched an updated website making it more user friendly and easy to navigate. This website has a large dynamic component whereby the trade community can file applications online for IEC and various other schemes. Indian Trade Portal launched by the Department displays information useful for exports and imports

Capacity Building

Skilling new entrepreneurs for exports is an important priority. In the last two years, over 50,000 entrepreneurs have been trained under the Niryat Bandhu programme implemented by DGFT, thus complementing the Startup India and Skill India initiatives. Institutional set up under the Department like – Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Indian Institute of Packaging, Indian Institute of Plantation, Export Promotion Councils, Centres of Excellence, Plantation Research Institutes, etc., – are being leveraged for capacity building, export promotion, research and analysis and long term policy formulation.

Centre for Research in International Trade

Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT) is set up to fill the gap and will also help in forming enduring coalitions with a large number of developing countries which may have convergence of interests with India and could potentially become India's allies on various trade issues at the global level. CRIT will have 5 centres namely Centre for Trade and Investment law, Centre for Regional Trade, Centre for Training, Centre for Trade Promotion and Centre for WTO Studies. The Council for Trade Development and Promotion was constituted in July 2015. It would ensure a continuous dialogue with state governments and UT's 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.

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. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000.

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.

Government e- Market

Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) 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 and became fully functional by October, 2016. DGS&D was wound up in October, 2017. Government Marketplace (GeM) - a scalable system and being completely online, transparent, and system driven, makes procurement of goods and services, easy, efficient and fast. GeM 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.

Trade Facilitation

National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) was set up following ratification by India of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Four working groups have been set up to focus on (i) infrastructure, (ii) legal issues, (iii) outreach and (iv) time release study. Further, the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) drawn out in consultation with the stakeholders, identifying 76 trade facilitation measures with implementation timelines of which 51 are TFA-plus activities.

State-of-Art Trade Analytics

A state-of-art trade analytics has been put in place in Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for data based policy actions. This initiative envisages processing trade information from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and other national and international data bases related to India's key export markets and identifying specific actions.

Anti-Dumping

The role of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) under the Department is to provide the level playing field to the country's domestic industry from the foreign exporters so that they are able to compete effectively in the domestic market. This measure is taken under the WTO agreement and comes under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and Rules made thereunder. The Department has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for its functions and activities. These SOPs are codified in Quality Manual and procedures.

8. COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Communications and information technology in the country are handled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Communications. The Ministry of Electronics and Technology promotes e-governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries.

Posts

The Department of Posts comes under the Ministry of Communications. The Postal Service Board, the apex management body of the department, comprises the Chairman and six Members. The six Members of the Board hold portfolios of personnel, operations, technology, postal life insurance, banking and HRD and planning. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor to the department is a permanent invitee to the Board. The Chairman of Postal Services Board is also the Secretary of the Department of Posts. Director General and Additional Director General of the Department also participate in the Board's meetings.

Financial Services

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. Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) has a customer base. Savings bank facility is provided through a network of 1.54 lakh post offices across the country. 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), kisan vikas patra (KVP), senior citizens savings scheme (SCSS) and sukanya samridhi account.

International Money Transfer Service

International money transfer service is a quick and easy way of transferring personal remittances from abroad to beneficiaries in India. As a result of the collaboration of Department of Posts, Government of India with Western Union Financial Services a state-of-the-art international money transfer service is available through the post offices in the country.

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 Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (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.

Core Banking Solution & installation of ATMs

The Core Banking Solution (CBS) is part of the India Post IT Modernization project that aims to bring in various IT solutions with the required infrastructure to the post offices. The project aims to implement Core Banking Solution in all the Departmental Post Offices for Small Savings Schemes during current Plan period. The project will bring in facilities of “any time any where banking”. ATM and Internet Banking facilities.

Sukanya Samridhi Account

Sukanya Samridhi Account, a new Small Savings Scheme for the welfare of girl child, was launched in 2015. Under the scheme, a legal/natural guardian can open only one account in the name of one girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children up to 10 years from date of birth of the girl child.

India Post Payments Bank

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was set up in 2016 with a mandate to build most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the. IPPB got incorporated as a Public Limited Company with 100 per cent GOI equity under Department of Posts. IPPB has rolled all the 650 branches and 1.36 lakhs access points. Thus, IPPB has become the biggest bank of the country in terms of physical.

Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) products primarily aim at savings whereas IPPB primarily focuses on encouraging digital payments and remittance. POSB has savings schemes such as SB, TD, MIS, PPF, SSY, etc., whereas IPPB offers Savings Accounts & Current Accounts (CASA), Remittance and Bill Payment Services, Merchant Services and Third-Party Products. With the introduction of IPPB, Post Office Savings Account (POSA) accounts can be linked to an IPPB account.

Sukanya Samridhi Account

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Postal Life Insurance

Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced on 1st February 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. Life cover through Postal Life Insurance has been extended to employees of scheduled commercial banks, credit co-operative societies, joint ventures having a minimum 10 per cent stake of central/state govt/PSUs/banks etc.,

universities/educational institutions affiliated to University Grants Commission/Central Board of Secondary Education/All India Council of Technical Education/Medical Council of India. Benefits of PLI are now available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)

Rural Postal Life Insurance

Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) was started in 1995. The prime objective of the scheme is to provide insurance cover to the rural public in general and to benefit weaker sections and women workers of rural areas in particular and also to spread insurance awareness among the rural population.

New and Value Added Services

Speed Post

It is the flagship product of Department of Posts and the market leader in the domestic express industry with monthly volumes of more than 3 crore articles. Speed post articles can be tracked online by using a 13 digit speed post article number through the India Post website or by sending an SMS.

In order to extend passport services on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage Department of Posts and Ministry of External Affairs have mutually agreed for leveraging the network of post office as Passport Seva Kendras for benefit of citizens.

Logistics Post

Logistics Post was started to provide distribution solutions to the corporate customers and it has created a niche market in providing express logistics services with a large network in the country. There is no upper weight limit for Logistics Post consignment and the minimum chargeable weight is 50 kg if consignments are sent through surface. In case Logistics Post consignments are sent by air, minimum chargeable weight is 25 kg.

Business Posts

Department of Posts introduced 'Business Post' service in 1996 to offer a comprehensive solution to corporate/government organizations/PSUs and other corporate houses for their pre-mailing requirements. Besides bringing in additional revenue, this activity is meeting the need of corporate and bulk mail customers. Business Post services are available in Business Postal Centres at various major post offices across the country. The services include home/office collection, insertion, sealing, addressing, franking, special handling, etc.

Media Post

India Post offers a unique media concept to help the Indian corporate and the government organizations reach potential customers through Media Post. No other medium can match the sheer expanse of India Post in terms of volume and reach. Media Post offers a range of advertising mediums such as letter boxes, postal stationery, postal premises, etc.

Direct Post

With the increasing commercial activity in the country, the need for direct advertising of products and services by the business organizations is growing. Direct Mail, which can be defined as printed matter usually carrying a sales message or announcement designed to elicit

a response from a carefully selected consumer or business market is the most potent medium for direct advertising.

Direct Post is the un-addressed component of Direct Mail in India, and would comprise un-addressed postal articles like letters, cards, brochures, questionnaires, pamphlets, samples, promotional items like CDs/floppies and cassettes etc., coupons, posters, mailers or any other form of printed communication that is not prohibited by the Indian Post Office Act 1898 or Indian Post Office Rules 1933.

Retail Post

Post Office is being developed as a one-stop shop to provide a range of utility services to the customers providing convenience and affordability at their door steps.

Gangajal through Post Offices

India Post has put in place arrangements for supply and distribution of ‘Gangajal’ sourced from Rishikesh and Gangotri, through post offices across the country from 2016.

Post Shoppe

The Department of Posts in its endeavour to facilitate customers with pleasant shopping experience has evolved a concept of ‘Post Shoppe’. The ‘Post Shoppe’ is a convenient store format, located in the premises of important post offices, which essentially keeps wide range of collectable philatelic items such as stamps, first day covers, frames, albums and also ‘My Stamp’ corner where one can get stamps with own photograph.

Sovereign Gold Bond

Department is actively engaged in the premier scheme—Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) introduced in 2015-16 by Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI. The objective of the scheme is to popularize ‘Paper Gold’ among masses and to reach out to the small investors at the grassroot level.

Electronic Indian Postal Order (e-IPO)

Based on the proposal received from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), India Post agreed to facilitate acceptance of RTI fees from Indian citizens abroad through e-IPO on ePost Office web portal.

Initially this facility was launched in 2013 only for Indian citizens abroad across the globe to seek information from the Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) under the RTI Act, 2005. Later on, the facility was extended to 176 Indian Missions abroad. EIPO facility was further extended to Indian citizens living in India in 2014 to facilitate them to pay RTI fee online.

e-Post Office

e-Post Office is an e-commerce portal of the Department of Posts which provides selected postal facility through the internet. Customers can buy philatelic stamps and pay PLI/RPLI premium online using credit/debit card through this portal.

e-Post

e-Post is an unregistered hybrid mail provided for both retail as well as corporate customers providing electronic transmission of messages which may include text messages, scanned

images, pictures and their delivery in hard copies at the destination through postman/delivery staff.

International Relations

India is a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) since 1876. This organization of 192 member countries aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations among other countries. India, an elected member of the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the UPU is the co-chair of Committee (Supply Chain Integration), and member of the Quality of Service Fund, Board of Trustees (QSF BoT) which works for development of the postal sector in the developing countries.

India is also a member of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) along with 31 other member countries.

Mail Network Optimization Project

Mail Network Optimization Project (MNOP) was undertaken by the Department with the objective of consolidation and optimization of its Mail Network with a view to improve quality of mail operations by streamlining core mail operations. The project covers Speed Post, International Mail, First class mail and second class mail.

Postman Mobile App

An android based Mobile Application named Postman Mobile App (PMA) designed and developed in-house by the Department at the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology, (CEPT) Mysuru.

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 personalities.

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.

A Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) advises the Government of India on the annual programme for issue of commemorative stamps. It is an important forum for citizen-government interface where persons who have achieved eminence in various fields can contribute to the process of identifying and highlighting issues or events, institutions, personalities and themes whose commemoration through postage stamps would help elevate the image of India in the global arena.

My Stamps

My Stamps are personalized sheets of postage stamps of India Post. Personalization is achieved by printing a thumb nail photograph image of the customer and logos of institutions,

or images of artwork, heritage buildings, famous tourist places, historical cities, wildlife, other animals and birds, etc., alongside the selected commemorative postage stamp.

Personalized My Stamp

Personalized My Stamp is a personalized sheet of postage stamps. Alongside these personalized theme stamps, the customers may opt for printing of their own, parents, family, etc., pictures to be printed.

Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Twenty-five postal administrations across the world released stamps to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Printing of Innovative Stamps

A set of seven Circular Commemorative Postage Stamps was issued to mark the commencement of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. For the first time in the history of independent India, circular stamps were issued. In a first, a uniquely designed miniature sheet was issued on Hockey World Cup held at Bhubaneswar, other than the usual rectangular and square shaped miniature sheets.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

A philately scholarship scheme called Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana was introduced in 2017-18 to promote philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress. Under this scheme, 920 scholarships are awarded throughout the country to students from Classes VI, VII, VIII and IX every year.

Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Competition

A nationwide letter writing competition—Dhai Akhar was introduced in 2017-18 to encourage and promote letter writing.

Training Activities

Department of Posts has framed the Postal Training Policy, 2012 in conformity with the National Training Policy, 2012 of Government of India. The key objective of this Policy is 'Training for All'. Training programmes are available at the entry level (induction training) and there are three Mid-career Training Programmes at specific intervals for all cadres/categories of staff.

The Department has well established training infrastructure. The following training institutes take care of training needs of the Department: Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA) at Ghaziabad is the apex training institute of the Department recognized by the DoP&T as a Central Training Institute for higher managerial cadres.

India Post Help Centre “1924”

In wake of the initiatives taken up by the Government to bring transparency and accountability, Department of Posts has established “India Post Call Centre” with interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at Varanasi on June 1, 2018.

Digital Life Certificate

Jeevan Pramaan/Digital Life Certificate (DLC) is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners for submitting their Life Certificates digitally, which was introduced in 2015 as a Digital India Initiative of Government of India. In this service, all life certificates submitted manually by the pensioners are now being submitted digitally by using Aadhar number. These Jeevan Pramaan Centres are functioning in all the 810 Head Post Offices across the country.

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.

With the unveiling of the Digital India programme the role of MeitY has enhanced. The overarching vision of the programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

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. The programme is coordinated by this Ministry with the ministries and departments in the central and state governments partnering it in their respective domain areas.

MeitY functions around the ambit of two major Acts. The Information Technology Act, 2000 which 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 which involves the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the government agencies. It also directs the establishment of Cyber Appellate Tribunal. This Act was amended through the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 which substituted the word “digital signature” with “electronic signature” with major changes in various sections along with insertion of other sections.

To ensure that various benefits and subsidies reach the targeted beneficiaries, the Government made all efforts to leverage the Aadhaar platform. The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 provides for good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for this is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India, to individuals residing in India through assigning of a unique identity number to such individuals. It covers everything from the enrolment for Aadhaar number, authentication to establishment of UIDAI which has now become a statutory organization.

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.

Aadhaar Enabled Payments : (i) 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. (ii) 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; (iii) Aadhaar Pay: It is merchant version of AEPS. The Application works on a low cost android phone with single finger bio-metric device. It enables merchant to take cashless payment from his customers. It was launched in 2017; (iv) Pay to Aadhaar: It is a facility available on UPI platform integrated in 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. This was also launched in 2017.

Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software: It encourages the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in government organisations. Accordingly government organisations, while implementing e-governance applications and systems, are to ensure compliance of this

Policy on 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

National Scholarship Portal 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

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 are being added.

MyGov.in is an innovative platform launched to ensure citizens' engagement in decision making by the Government so that the ultimate goal of 'Good Governance' for building India is achieved.

MeitY has developed Rapid Assessment System (RAS) for continuous feedback for e-services delivered by Government of India and state governments.

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. 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.

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.

Common Services Centre: This scheme aims at providing ICT enabled front-end service delivery outlets, across rural India covering six lakh villages. These internet enabled centres allow doorstep access to citizens, private and social services for skill development, education, digital literacy, health and financial services. New services namely banking, insurance and pension under Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojna have made CSCs very vibrant. Digital Sakshartha Abhiyan (DISHA) for undertaking digital literacy has enabled active citizen participation through CSCs.

State Wide Area Network (SWAN): SWAN has been identified as an element of the core infrastructure for supporting the e-governance initiatives and the MeitY has earmarked a significant outlay for supporting this activity.

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".

National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG) provides GIS based services to government ministries/departments. NCoG is currently involved in rolling out select GIS based decision support system for various organizations.

Promotion of Digital Transactions

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.

e-Pramaan

MeitY has conceptualized and is implementing the e-Pramaan framework for e-Authentication for public services. The objective is to electronically deliver the government services to its intended recipients in a secure manner. MeitY has made e-Pramaan available for public usage with the help of C-DAC, Mumbai.

Online e-Sign (e-Hastakshar)

One of the initiatives taken under Digital India Programme is to provide non-repudiable authentication of applicant's identity through a facility called 'e-Sign'. This facility is an online digital signature service. e-Sign was formally launched in 2015. It is an online electronic signature service, which can be integrated with service delivery applications via an Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate an e-Sign user to digitally sign a document.

State Data Centre

State Data Centre (SDC) is one of the three core infrastructure components under the NeGP. Under the scheme, data centres to be established in all the states/UTs to consolidate services, applications and infrastructure in order to provide efficient electronic delivery of Government to Government (G2G), Government to Citizen (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) services.

e-Sangam

National Service Delivery Gateway (NSDG) It is a middleware infrastructure, being implemented by C-DAC Mumbai, acting as a standard based routing and message switch, which provides seamless interoperability and exchange of data across heterogeneous applications of geographically dispersed departments. e-Sangam also includes the National Services Directory.

National Knowledge Network

National Knowledge Network (NKN) was established in 2010. The objective of the NKN is to interconnect all institutions of higher learning and research with a high speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research.

NKN is the largest network of its kind in the world and is currently perceived as a leading research and education network (REN) globally. NKN is the only network globally, that carries research and evaluation, Internet and e-Governance traffic as three independent verticals under one umbrella.

Mobile Seva Platform

MeitY has initiated a massive countrywide initiative on mobile governance, being implemented by C-DAC Mumbai, to provide government services to the people through mobile phones/devices. As a part of this initiative, the Framework for Mobile Governance was notified in 2012. Mobile Seva enables the integration of the mobile platform with the common e-Governance infrastructure consisting of SDCs, SWANs and SSDG/NSDG.

UMANG

Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) has been developed and launched in 2017 as a single mobile platform to deliver major government services. UMANG's core platform is integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS), etc. Citizens can access pan India government services from the central government, state governments, local bodies and their agencies. It supports 12 Indian languages, in addition to English and has been hosted on cloud.

Digital Locker

Digital Locker is a platform for issuance and verification of documents and certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents. Indian residents, who sign up for a DigiLocker account, get a dedicated cloud storage space. Organisations that are registered with Digital Locker can push electronic copies of documents directly into citizens' lockers. Citizens can also upload scanned copies of their legacy documents in their accounts. These legacy documents can be electronically signed using the eSign facility.

Open Government Data

The Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India (<https://data.gov.in>) has been set-up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in compliance with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP).

PRAGATI

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) As a part of Digital India programme, e-Governance Reforming Government through Technology, was launched in 2015. This video conferencing facility brings the secretaries to government of India and the chief secretaries of the states on single platform on every fourth Wednesday of the month,

through which Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues in major projects and programmes with the concerned central and state officials.

Digitize India Platform

Digitize India Platform (DIP) is an initiative of the Government of India under the Digital India Programme to provide digitization services for scanned document images or physical documents for any organisation. This platform was launched in 2015 under Digital India.

e-Way Bill

e-Way Bill Application, provides a self-service platform to tax payers and transporters to generate single e-Way Bill for movement of goods from one place to another, as per GST Rules. The e-Way Bill system was rolled out all over the country.

Cyber Security

Considering its vital importance, a National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 was put in place. National Cyber Co-ordination Centre (NCCC) is being set-up with an aim to generate cyber security situational awareness to anticipate and prepare for cyber-attacks. NCCC will aggregate cyber threat related information from various identified sources in the country for near real time threat assessment and situational.

Cyber Swachhta Kendra: Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has launched a Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). This centre is providing detection of malicious programmes and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.

Unique Identification Authority of India

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was established in 2009, as an attached office to the Planning Commission now an attached office of Ministry of Electronics and IT. The potential of Aadhaar can be realized through its use of the infrastructure as an ID proof and as a unique key by various state departments, central ministries, PSUs, and private sector entities to provide service delivery to residents in an integrated fashion.

Controller of Certifying Authorities

Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) are issued by Certifying Authorities (CA) who have been licensed by the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA). The Office of CCA empanels licensed CAs for offering eSign Services for which the legal framework and guidelines are already in place. So far, three of the eight licensed CAs have been empanelled for providing eSign Service. These eSign Service Providers (ESP) are expected to facilitate digital signing for Aadhaar holders only on the basis of their eKYC from UIDAI.

Cyber Appellate Tribunal

In accordance with the provision contained under Section 48(1) of the IT Act 2000, the Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (CRAT) was established in 2006.

Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology

Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) was set up as a registered scientific society in 1990 under the Department of Electronics (now Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) as a unique concept for development of viable technologies in the area of materials mainly for electronics. C-MET is operating through its laboratories situated at Pune, Hyderabad and Thrissur.

Education and Research Network

Education and Research Network (ERNET): India is an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry. In addition to providing connectivity, ERNET has been meeting the needs of academic and research institutions by providing IT consultancy, project management and training.

National e-Governance Division

To meet ever growing demand of e-governance across the nation, National e-Governance Division (NeGD) was established as amalgamation of experts from the private sector and the government. NeGD has been playing a pivotal role in discharging the key tasks including programme management and technical support of various components of the Digital India Programme.

National Informatics Centre

National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a “prime builder” of e-government/e-governance applications up to the grassroot level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development. NIC, through its ICT network, “NICNET”, has institutional linkages with all the ministries/departments of the central and state government/s.

Standardization, Testing and Quality Certification

Standardization, Testing, Quality and Certification (STQC) Directorate is an attached office of this Ministry providing quality assurance services in the area of electronics and information technology (IT) through countrywide network of laboratories and centre(s).

National Internet Exchange

NIXI is a not for profit organization set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 under Companies Act, 2013) for peering of ISPs among themselves and routing the domestic traffic within the country. NIXI is performing the following three activities: (i) internet exchanges; (ii) IN registry and internationalized domain names (IDNs); (iii) National Internet Registry (NIR).

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) a scientific society of the MeitY, is actively engaged in capacity building and skill development in Information Technology (IT); electronics; communication technologies; hardware; cyber law; cyber security; IPR; GIS; cloud computing; ESDM; e-waste; IoT; e-governance and related verticals.

Software Technology Parks

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was set up in 1991 as an autonomous society under the MeitY. STPI’s main objective has been the promotion of software exports from the country. It acts as single-window in providing services to the software exporters. STPI is responsible for implementation of the Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme and the Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) scheme.

Media Lab Asia

Media Lab Asia has been promoted by this Ministry as a not-for-profit company. The functional activity includes application areas such as ICT for healthcare, education, livelihood and empowerment of disabled.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is a functional organisation of the Ministry, which 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.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has emerged as a premier R&D organization in IT&E (Information Technologies and Electronics) in the country working on strengthening national technological capabilities in the context of global developments in the field and responding to change in the market in selected foundation areas.

Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research

It is an offshoot of the special microwave products unit (SMPU) set up in 1977 at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. SAMEER, Mumbai was setup in 1984.

National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated

National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) was set up by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1995 as its extended arm for providing total ICT solutions to the central and state government departments and organizations.

Telecommunications

The Telecom Sector in India has witnessed all round growth over the last few years. The government has ensured fair competition among service being available to consumer at affordable prices. Further it has made concerted efforts at encouraging telecom equipment manufacture. The deregulation of Foreign Direct Investment norms has led to an increase in FDI in the sector. India is currently the world's second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.18 billion. India's mobile economy is growing rapidly and currently constitutes more than 98 per cent of all telephone subscriptions. The mobile industry is expected to create a total economics value of ₹14 trillion (US\$217.37 billion) by 2020.

Tele-density

Tele-density, which denotes the number of telephones per 100 populations, is an important indicator of telecom penetration. Overall tele-density in the country was 90.10 per cent at the end of March 2019. The rural tele-density was 57.50 per cent while that in urban areas it was 159.66 per cent. Amongst the service areas, Himachal Pradesh (146.37 per cent) had the highest tele-density. On the other hand, tele-density is comparatively low in service areas such as Bihar (59.95 per cent. Amongst the metros, Delhi tops in tele-density with 238.57 per cent.

Research and Development

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 solution. C-DOT has grown to the level of a national centre for R&D in communication technology in many areas.

DoT has the following PSUs under its administrative control: (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); (c) ITI Limited; (d) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL); (e) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL); (f) Hemisphere Properties India Limited (HPIL).

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. Rural telephony is one of its focus 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. MTNL is providing triple play services i.e., voice, high speed internet and IPTV on its broadband network.

Bharat Broadband Network Limited

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

Scope of Digital India

The overall scope of this programme is: (a) to prepare India for a knowledge future; (b) on being transformative that is to realize IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow); (c) making technology central to enabling change; and (d) on being an Umbrella Programme-covering many departments.

National Data Sharing and Accessibility Programme

The objective of this policy is to facilitate the access to government owned shareable data and information in both human readable and machine readable forms through a network all over the country in a proactive updatable manner.

9. DEFENSE

THE Government of India is responsible for ensuring the defence of the country and every part thereof. This responsibility is discharged through the Ministry of Defence (MoD) which provides the policy framework and where-withal to the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibilities towards this. MoD was created after independence under a Cabinet Minister. Each Service was placed under its own Commander-in-Chief. In 1955, the Commanders-in-Chief were renamed as the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff. The Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) is the head of the Ministry of Defence. A post of Chief of Defence Staff was created in 2019

India's Foreign Policy and Defence Strategy

Guided by the principles of strategic autonomy and mutually beneficial cooperation, India continues to address the wide spectrum of conventional and non-conventional security challenges by pursuing constructive engagement with partner countries at the bilateral, regional and global levels. India had contributed actively, with partners, to the success of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process and continues to engage with partners in the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

Regional Security Environment

The regional cooperation in the area of regional security has progressed significantly under Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The 4th BIMSTEC Summit, held in Kathmandu in 2018, was instrumental in giving regional cooperation a significant push. The Kathmandu Declaration provides vision and leaders' directions for intensifying regional cooperation in key areas of security and counter terrorism.

India launched an Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram in 2018. The IFC-IOR is a major initiative to put in place a mechanism for MDA and to ensure situational awareness of the maritime activities in the region.

India continues to play a role in training and supporting capacity building of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) as a part of larger developmental cooperation assistance.

After the terrorist attacks in 2016, Government of Bangladesh has effectively curbed the activities of the radical groups. India and Bangladesh continued to undertake efforts to bolster the defence cooperation, which includes operationalising the US\$ 500 million Defence LOG extended to Bangladesh by India.

India's security concerns are closely linked with the neighbouring littoral nations in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) including Maldives. Engagement between the defence forces of both the nations have enhanced over the years. India continues to assist Maldives National Defence Forces in their capability and capacity building. Bilateral exercises between the Army (Ekuverin), Navy (Ekatha) and Coast Guard (Dosti) of the two countries take place on an annual basis.

Since formation of a new government in Nepal in 2018, three reciprocal visits, at the Heads of Government level, have added a new vigour to India- Nepal bilateral relations. The 13th edition of IndiaNepal Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran' was held in 2018. Indian defence agencies are working in close coordination with Myanmar Defence forces to address the problem of insurgent groups along the India-Myanmar border.

The political situation in Pakistan continues to remain challenging with a severe deficit of inclusive and balanced economic development. India's response, amongst other measures, included a successful pre-emptive nonmilitary anti-terror aerial strike on the largest training camp of JeM at Balakot in Pakistan. India's position is that Pakistan takes credible and irreversible steps to stop supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from territories under its control.

The country's new Indian Ocean Policy was articulated by Prime Minister during his visit to Mauritius in March 2015. The policy, encapsulated in SAGAR (meaning ocean) which stands for "Security and Growth for All in the Region", includes deepening economic and security cooperation with our friends in the region. To the east, the Malacca Strait and South China Sea connect India to the Pacific and to most of its major partners -ASEAN, Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Americas and the Pacific countries.

West Asia has always remained important for India. Our people-to-people connect with the region is enormous and can be gauged by the fact that it is home to nearly nine million Indians who remit about 60 per cent (US\$ 39 billion) of the total of approximately US\$ 62 billion foreign remittances. Over half of our energy requirements are also met from this region. India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence. Europe is facing internal and external foreign policy challenges. It is yet to find solutions to the major issues at hand like BREXIT. Indian engagement with some of the major European nations has picked up momentum.

Indo-US partnership is on a positive trajectory with India being designated 'Major Defence Partner' in National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA-17) and has been upgraded to Strategic Authorisation Act-1 Status (STA-1) equating India at par with the closest allies of US.

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) was raised in 2001 based on the recommendations of Group of Ministers to review Higher Defence Management. Under the aegis of Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, the organisation has been working towards achievement of synergy amongst the Services. HQIDS is headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman COSC(CISC) who enjoys a status equivalent to that of a Vice Chief of a Service HQ. The organization has representation from all three Services, MEA, DRDO, DoD and Def (Finance).

Army

Indian Army is poised for major modernization in the next few years. With its extensive range of equipment spanning a vast technological spread, it is a key entity in facilitating the 'Make in India' pursuit, a success. Efforts to equip the soldier with modern, state-of-the-art, modular, light weight personal weapons and systems are being made in a big way. Architectures for providing capabilities of cyber warfare, space warfare and special operations have been bolstered with modern equipment and technology driven systems. The Indian Army is pursuing technological infusion into war fighting through a well-articulated long term perspective planning process.

Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

Despite operational and internal security commitments, the Indian Army has been significantly contributing to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions and is the second largest troops contributor in various UN missions. Currently, four UN Peace Keeping missions' contingents of India are deployed around the world. Since 1950, Indian Army has participated in 51 UN missions out of the total of 71 UN missions, across the globe. India has a well-established training institute in 'Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping' in Delhi, which was established in 2000, training both personnel from India and abroad on UN peacekeeping. Seven international courses are conducted for international participants to include, UN Military Observers Course, UN Female Military Officers Course and UN Contingent Commanders Course.

Operation Sadbhavna

The Army undertakes a unique human initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism. Operation Sadbhavna has provided succour to a large section of population. Launched in an extremely challenging operation environment, the Operation is a part of the Counter Terrorist strategy to wrest the initiative and re-integrate the 'Awaam' with the national mainstream.

Navy

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. Since there are no physical barriers at sea, security of these areas and assets are inherently vulnerable to sea-borne threats, and enhancing their security is a prime objective of the IN in the military role. The IN has also been designated as the agency responsible for overall Maritime Security including Coastal Security and Offshore Security.

Anti-Piracy Operations

A large percentage of India's trade, including oil and fertilisers, pass through the Gulf of Aden (GoA). The safety and unhindered continuity of maritime trade, on this route, is a primarily national concern as it directly impacts our economy. To protect Indian-flagged ships and Indian citizens employed in sea-faring duties, Indian Navy (IN) commenced anti-piracy patrols in the GoA from 2008. In addition to escorting Indian flagged vessels, ships of other flags have also been escorted by IN ships.

Free Patrol

In 2018, IN shifted from the 'Escort Cycle' concept, to a concept of 'Free Patrol'. The 'Free Patrol' in the GoA provided greater flexibility to the IN ship to respond to developing situations for anti-piracy mission. In addition, it also facilitated participation in UN World Food Programme information sharing mechanism with other participating and undertake capacity/capability building initiatives in Somalia in coordination with MoD/MEA.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations

A Tropical depression Berguitta crossed Mauritius in 2018. INS Sarvekshak handed over Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) material to the Government of Mauritius. IN ship Airavat was deployed for transshipment of humanitarian aid to Chittagong, Bangladesh. The Andaman and Nicobar Command was requested by civil administration for evacuation of tourists from Shaheed Dweep.

Op Madad

'Op Madad' was conducted to provide SAR and relief assistance in the flood affected areas of Kerala.

Cyclones Titli, Gaja, Phethai, Fani

IN provided HADR and SAR assistance including air dropping of food packets and of relief material at various locations, in coordination with the administrations of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Air Force

Its quest for operating indigenously built platform and supporting self-reliance has resulted in significant progress on various systems in the IAF. The Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016 assigned highest preference to 'Make' and Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed and Developed Manufacturer (IDDM)) categories. LCA Mk-1A, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), AWACS (India) and High Frequency Radio set are some of the cases being progressed through the IDDM route.

Make in India

IAF is also closely coordinating with DRDO for development of various types of state-of-art-weapons. 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.

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..

Women Empowerment

Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh created history in 2016 by becoming the first women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream. These women pilots, now Flying Officers. A second batch of women cadets also have been selected in fighter stream.

Indian Coast Guard

Indian Coast Guard was constituted in 1977 with following charter of duties: (a) safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals and installations; (b) protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress; (c) preserve and protect maritime environment and to prevent and control marine pollution; (d) assisting Customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations; (e) safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data; (f) enforcing the provisions of various enactments in the maritime zones.

The Indian Coast Guard has also been given many additional responsibilities. The major among them are: (a) coastal security in territorial waters; (b) enforcement, monitoring and surveillance of deep sea fishing; (c) search and rescue for merchant ships; (d) marine oil-spill response measures; (e) lead intelligence agency for coastal and sea borders, etc.

Training of Tri-Services

National Defence College

The National Defence College is a premier training institution of the Ministry of Defence which has established a name for itself as a centre of excellence on matters pertaining to National Security and Strategic Studies. Selected Armed forces officers of the rank of Brigadier/equivalent from Indian and Foreign Armed Forces and Civil Services officers of equivalent status of director and above are nominated for training at the college. The officers undergo an eleven months.

College of Defence Management

The College of Defence Management (CDM) is the only tri-service training institution in the country which imparts defence management education to senior officers of the three services, para military forces, officers of the Ministry of Defence and international participants at the conceptual, directional and the functional levels.

Defence Services Staff College

Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) is an Armed Forces Training Institute (AFTI), which conducts staff course for the selected officers of the three services and also the officers from the central civil services. In addition, defence officers from friendly foreign countries also subscribe to the Staff Course conducted by the college. The officers passing out from DSSC are awarded Master of Science (MSc) in Defence and Strategic Studies from Chennai University.

National Defence Academy

National Defence Academy (NDA) is a premier tri-service institution which trains cadets of all three services before inducting them into their respective pre-commissioning training academies. Intake to NDA is organised through UPSC examination which is conducted twice in a year in the month of April and September. Applicants are required to be XII Standard pass and in the age bracket of 16 ½ to 19 ½ years at the time of joining. After three years course at NDA, cadets are awarded with BA/ BSc Degree. On conclusion of this training the cadets proceed to their respective Service Academies for further service specific training before being commissioned as officers in the Armed Forces.

Indian Military Academy

Founded in 1932, Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun aims at the fullest development of intellectual, moral and physical qualities of persons joining the Army as officers. The various modes of entry into IMA are: (a) on graduation from NDA.; (b) on graduation from Army Cadet College, which is a wing of the IMA itself.; (c) direct entry graduate cadets, who qualify the Union Public Service Commission Exam and get through the Service Selection Board.; (d) for Technical Graduate's Course (TGC).; (e) under university entry scheme (UES) for engineering college students in Final/ Pre-Final year of studies. The IMA also imparts training to Gentlemen Cadets from friendly countries.

Officers Training Academy

Established in 1963, the Officers Training School (OTS) was re-designated as Officers Training Academy (OTA) from 1988 on completion of 25 years of its existence. Its main task is to train Gentlemen Cadets for grant of Emergency Commission and train cadets for Short Service Commission. With the entry of women officers in the Army since 1992, around 100 lady officers now get commissioned from OTA every year.

National Cadet Corps

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was established in 1948 as an Indian military cadet corps. It is a tri-services organisation open to school and college students. The motto of NCC is 'Unity and Discipline'. The total sanctioned strength of NCC cadets is 15 lakh.

NCC has been introduced as an additional/elective subject in Class X and XII. This would make NCC more attractive and cadets would be able to score credit points in their academic results.

Sainik Schools

The Sainik Schools were established as a joint venture of the central and state government. These are under the overall governance of Sainik Schools Society. At present, there are 26 Sainik Schools located in various parts of the country. 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.

Rashtriya Military Schools

There are five Rashtriya Military Schools in the country at Belgaum and Bengaluru in Karnataka, Chail in Himachal Pradesh and Ajmer and Dholpur in Rajasthan. These schools are CBSE affiliated fully residential public schools which function under the aegis of Ministry of Defence. Boys are admitted in class VI and IX based on the results of Common Entrance Test. 70 per cent seats are reserved for wards to JCOs/ORs of Army, Navy and Air Force (including ex-servicemen) and balance 30 per cent for wards of officers of Army, Navy and Air Force (including retired officers) and wards of civilians. A total of 50 seats are reserved for wards of service personnel killed in action. 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent seats are reserved for SC and ST respectively in all categories.

Rashtriya Indian Military College

Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) was established in 1922 with the objective of providing necessary preliminary training for boys of Indian birth or domicile, wishing to become officers in the Armed Forces of India. The institution now serves as a feeder institute to the National Defence Academy. Selection for RIMC is through an All India Entrance Examination comprising a written examination and viva voce. Seats for different States are reserved based on population. The college admits boys in class VIII. 25 cadets are admitted in each term twice a year (January and July) on the basis of All India Entrance Examination without any reservation.

College of Military Engineering

The College of Military Engineering at Pune is a premier technical institution conducting training for personnel of the Corps of Engineers, other Arms and Services, Navy, Air Force, Para Military Forces, Police and Civilians, besides, personnel from friendly foreign countries. CME is affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for the award of B.Tech and M. Tech degrees. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also recognizes the graduate and post-graduate courses run by the CME.

Ordnance Factories

The Indian Ordnance Factories organisation - a family of 41 ordnance factories under the aegis of its corporate headquarters Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata - possesses the unique distinction of over 200 year experience in defence production.

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) is working on a number of R&D projects, to provide state-of-the-art battlefield equipment and ammunition to the Services.

Defence Undertakings

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), established in 1940, is a premier aeronautical Company of Asia. HAL, a Navratna DPSU. HAL's maintenance support to Indian Army and to Coast Guard is 100 per cent of their fleet and in respect of Indian Air Force and Indian Navy it is 75 per cent and 61 per cent. HAL has

positioned itself as a comprehensive solution provider to the Indian Defence Services for aviation requirements that include trainer, fighter, transport aircraft and light helicopters.

Bharat Electronics Limited: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) a Navaratna PSU, was established in 1954. BEL has nine manufacturing units across India.

BEML Limited: Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), incorporated in 1964, is a Mini-Ratna (Category-I) Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of. BEML operates in three business segments-mining and construction, defence and aerospace, rail and metro and international business division for export activities.

Bharat Dynamics Limited: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated in 1970 under the Ministry of Defence. A pioneer in the manufacture of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM), today, BDL has evolved as a conglomerate manufacturing ATGMs of latest generations.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited: The Company was taken over by the Government of India in 1960 with the aim of building indigenous warships. MDL has built and delivered various types of warships like destroyers, frigates, missile corvettes, missile boats and submarines besides commercial vessels and rigs/platforms for ONGC.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated as a Defence PSU in 1960. Apart from shipbuilding and ship repair, GRSE has also diversified into engineering business with product profile of diesel engines, various deck machinery and pre-fabricated steel bridges. The Shipyard has modernized its diesel engine plant recently and has tied up with MTU Germany to indigenize manufacturing of marine engines.

Goa Shipyard Limited: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is a Mini Ratna Group - I status company and is capable of indigenously designing and building high technology and sophisticated ships to meet the crucial maritime security needs of the country. It has also successfully ventured into building Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) Interceptor boats.

Hindustan Shipyard Ltd: Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) was set up originally in 1941 by Seth Walchand Herachand to promote indigenous shipbuilding industry. The shipyard was transferred to Ministry of Defence in 2010. HSL has been entrusted for undertaking construction of various vessels including patrol vessels, repair of submarine, etc.

Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd: Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) was set up in the early 1970s' initially to manufacture critical materials required in the strategic sectors of India's defence industry. MIDHANI manufactures superalloys, titanium alloys, special steels, magnetic alloys in various forms. As part of its CSR activity, it also manufactures bio medical implants for the needy patients.

Directorate General of Quality Assurance: Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is responsible for quality assurance of all defence stores and equipments, both indigenous as well as imported for the army, navy (excluding Naval Armaments) and common user items for the air force procured from ordnance factories, public sector undertakings and private sector.

Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance:

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.

Directorate of Standardization

The Directorate of Standardisation (DoS) came into existence in 1962 to contain proliferation of defence inventory of the three services and to reduce it to optimum level by establishing commonality in equipment/components.

Directorate of Planning and Coordination

The Directorate of Planning and Coordination, an attached office of Department of Defence Production, was established in 1964. The Directorate is responsible to maintain and update the 'Make in India' portal on Defence website. It strives to foster international cooperation in defence sector and boost export of defence equipment to other countries. It also plays a significant role in streamlining of Defence Procurement Procedure (DDP). The Directorate is also playing a key role in the ongoing modernisation of Shipyards.

International Exhibitions in India

To provide a platform for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities, DEO organizes two biennial International exhibitions in India, namely, Aero India and Defexpo India. While Aero India is dedicated to aerospace and aviation industry, focus of Defexpo India is on land and naval systems.

International Exhibitions Abroad

With a view to provide an impetus to export potential to Indian Defence Industry, DEO organizes "India Pavilion" in major defence international exhibitions abroad to develop market for defence products being manufactured by them.

National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding

National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding (NIRDESH) was set up at Kozhikode, Kerala with the objective of achieving self-reliance in shipbuilding.

Research and Development

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence. It was created in 1958 by merging the units of Defence Science Organisation with the then existing Technical Development Establishments of the three Services. DRDO's mandate is to provide assessment and advise on scientific aspects of weapons, platforms and surveillance sensors; to carry out research and to develop cutting-edge technologies leading to production of state-of-the-art sensors, weapon systems, platforms and allied equipment for our Defence Services.

DRDO is headed by the Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri who is also the Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Director General RandD (DGRandD).

Human Resources

To keep the organisation young and energetic and also to fill deficiencies created on account of retirement and superannuation, scientists are being inducted every year as required by the laboratories.

The DRDO ensures training to all cadres of personnel through training institutes, like DIAT, Pune (for technical courses); ITM, Mussoorie (for techno-managerial programmes) and Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur (for technical, administrative and allied cadre). A Targeted Training Centre has been set up at Dr Raja Ramanna Complex, Bangalore for DRDO scientists. Continuing Education Programme (CEP) are also part of DRDO annual training schedule.

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) formulates various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the country.

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, ESM and their dependents.

Directorate General of Resettlement

Directorate General of Resettlement (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. DGR is entrusted with the responsibility of preparing retiring/retired service personnel for a second career.

Implementation of Reservation: The Government has designated Directorate General Resettlement as Nodal agency for the monitoring implementation of reservation policy for ESM.

Jobs in the Corporate/Private Sector: 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. DGR has signed a MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) towards this end.

Healthcare

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme: Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched in 2003. It aims to provide quality healthcare to Ex-Servicemen (ESM) and their dependents through a network of ECHS Polyclinics, Service medical facilities and civil empanelled/ Government hospitals spread across the country. The Scheme has been structured on the lines of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and is financed by the Government of India. Endeavour is to ensure cashless treatment by utilising the empanelled hospitals for the veterans and their dependents.

ECHS Polyclinics are designed to provide both ‘Out Patient Care’ and ‘In Patient Care’.

Central Organisation: At the apex level is the Central Organisation, ECHS located in Delhi, which functions under the Chiefs of Staff Committee through the Adjutant General in the Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army)

10. 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 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports states and UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act.

Programme Interventions of SSA

I. Universal Access: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme is being implemented since 2001 for universalization of elementary education.

- (a) New primary and upper primary schools within a radius of 3 km.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Transportation or Escort facilities for children in remote habitations with sparse populations or in urban areas where availability of land is a.

II. Bridging Gender Gaps in Elementary Education

- (a) Special Training interventions are also largely focused on girls and disadvantaged groups, because it is this category of children who are most deprived of opportunities to pursue their education.
- (b) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV): KGBV are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC Muslim communities and BPL girls. KGBVs are set up in educational backward blocks where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to their security of girls. KGBVs provide for a minimum reservation of 75 per cent seats for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minorities and 25 per cent to girls from families that live below the poverty line.
- (c) 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
- (d) 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.
- (e) All new schools sanctioned under SSA are composite schools with facilities like toilets for boys and girls.

III. Inclusive Education

(a) SCs/STs and Muslims

Enrolment of SC children has gone up from 19.06 per cent in 2010-11 to 19.8 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is more than their share in population at 16.60 per cent (as per Census 2011). Enrolment of ST children has marginally gone down from 10.70 per cent in 2010-11 to 10.35 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is more than their share of population at 8.60 per cent (as per census 2011). Enrolment of Muslim children has grown up from 12.50 per cent in 2010-11 to 13.8 per cent in 2015-16 at elementary level which is slightly less than their share in population (14.2 per cent as per Census 2011).

(b) Children with Special Needs

The main components of SSA interventions for such children 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.

(c) 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. Concomitantly workbooks and worksheets are being provided by several states.

IV. Sub-Programmes under SSA

(a) The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB), a sub-programme of the SSA, in classes I and II is focusing on foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and mathematics.

(b) The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA), also under the SSA, aims to motivate and engage children of the age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics and technology by observation, experimentation. Schools have been adopted for mentoring by institutions of higher education like IIT's, IISER's and NIT's.

(c) Vidyanjali, another sub-programme under SSA, was with the aim to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.

(d) ShaGun portal - an Initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA: MHRD has developed a web portal called ShaGun. ShaGun will help monitor progress by assessing performance of states and UTs on key parameters.. ShaGun, which has been coined from the words 'Shala' meaning schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality, has been developed with a twin track approach.

V. Teacher Training

(a) Availability of Teachers: After RTE it is mandatory that only those people may be appointed as teachers who are able to clear TET. CBSE has conducted eleven rounds of Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs).

(b) In-service Teacher Training: To upgrade skills of teachers, SSA provides for annual in-service training up to 20 days for all teachers. Support of ₹ 6,000 per teacher per year is

provided for two years to untrained teachers, already employed for the NCTE recognized training programme.

(c) Training of 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.

(d) 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.

VI. Academic Support System

(a) Academic Support Structures: Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) have been set up across the country.

(b) School and Teacher Grants: SSA also provides annual teacher grants of ₹ 500 to all teachers for developing contextual teaching aids. DIETs and BRCs hold regular workshop and training.

(c) Computer aided learning: Under SSA, grant up to ₹ 50 lakh is available to each district for strengthening computer aided learning in schools to support enhancement of children's learning.

(d) Learning Enhancement Programmes: 2 per cent of the total SSA outlay for each district has been made available for 'Learning Enhancement Programmes'.

(e) Improving student learning outcomes: Being a major thrust area, NCERT launched a programme to measure the achievement level of all children studying in classes III, V and VIII.

VII. Infrastructure

States are free to evolve building designs based on local site conditions and develop cost estimates. Thus 'civil works' under SSA are undertaken to provide all weather building as per provision of RTE Act. It also supports repair of old school buildings.

VIII. School Management Committees and Community Participation

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.

IX. Monitoring Institutes

In large states more than one institute has been assigned the task of monitoring. These monitoring institutes 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.

X. 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.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009 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.

Some of the significant initiatives, under RMSA for improving quality of education are as:-

(i) Shaala Siddhi: School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal was launched in 2015. Developed by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), it aims to enable schools to evaluate their.

(ii) Shala Darpan: The ‘Shaala Darpan Project’ to cover all the 1099 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.

(iii) GIS Mapping : The geographic coordinates of school along with the school information available in UDISE is being uploaded on the school GIS Web enabled platform.

(iv) 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.

(v) Kala Utsav: Kala Utsav is an initiative of this Ministry to promote arts (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent.

(vi) Focus on Science and Maths: Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, launched in 2015, 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., were included.

(vii) National Award For Teachers using ICT For Innovation In Education.

Samagra Shiksha

The Department of School Education & Literacy launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19. It envisages ‘school’ as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

National Achievement Survey

National Achievement Survey (NAS) assessed the learning levels of the students in classes 3, 5, 8 and 10; initially the district report cards were released and later the state learning reports were made available on the website for classes 3, 5 and 8 in May, 2018 and for Class 10 in November, 2018, The following two are the links to the State Learning

e-Pathshala

NCERT books are available free in digital version on e-Pathshala app.

Pariksha Pe Charcha

Prime Minister’s Interaction Programme with school and college students “Pariksha Pe Charcha” was held in 2018. It was a ‘Town Hall’ event which was unique in itself.

Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

The Centrally sponsored scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education was 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 maintain their competitiveness through provisions of multi-entry multi-exit learning opportunities and vertical mobility/ interchange ability in qualifications.

Construction and Running of Girls' Hostel

The main objective of the hostel component of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan RMSA is to improve access and to retain the girl child in secondary and higher secondary classes (IX-XII). The girl students in the age group of 14-18 years studying in classes IX- to XII belonging to SC, ST, OBC, minority community and BPL families form the target group of the Scheme.

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 was subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. It provides assistance for the inclusive education of the disabled children in classes IX-XII.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education

(A) 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.

(B) Quality in Teacher Education

Creation of Separate Cadre: 17-states/ UTs have created separate cadre for teacher educators under the TE- Scheme.

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, 2014- Norms and Standards: The NCTE was established with a view to achieving planned and coordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country.

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.

Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas

Ministry of Human Resource Development, lays emphasis on providing equal opportunities to minorities as far as access to education is concerned. For this purpose, 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; Madarsas/Maktabas/Dar-ul-Uloom can opt to become accredited study centres with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for which proper

assistance will be provided; children above 14 years in Madarsas/Maktabas/Dar-ul-Uloom are given opportunities to attain vocation training; strengthening of Madarsas Board for Monitoring and Awareness of SPQEM.

Infrastructure Development for Minority Institutes

It is to 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 ₹ 50 lakhs per school.

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..

National Scheme of Incentive to Girls

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 class XI and attaining 18 years of age. The scheme covers (i) all girls belonging to SC/ST communities, who pass VIII and (ii) 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.

Adult Education

At the time of independence, 86 per cent of India's population was illiterate. National Literacy Mission (NLM) was launched in 1988 for the adults in the age group of 15+. The programme of National Literacy Mission was revamped in 2009 in alignment with new paradigms of lifelong learning as Saakshar Bharat. Considerable progress has been made in raising the Literacy rate of the.

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. During the 12th Five Year Plan, NLMA has been striving to raise the literacy rate to 80 per cent and to reduce the gender gap to less than 10 per cent.

National Award to Teachers

Instituted in 1958, the National Award to Teachers (NAT) 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. Altogether there are 378 awards out of which 23 are reserved for Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic teachers. Each state/union territory/ organization has an earmarked quota based on the number of teachers.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

The Scheme of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVS) (Central Schools) was approved in 1962 to provide uninterrupted education to the wards of transferrable central government employees. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act in 1965. The Government of India wholly finances the Sangathan.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisaged setting up of 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. The opening of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya is based on the proposal from the concerned state/ UT governments offering about 30 acres of suitable land, free of cost. The state government has also to provide sufficient temporary building and other infrastructures.

National Council of Educational Research and Training

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) provides academic and technical supports for qualitative improvement of school education. The NCERT was established in 1961 as an apex national body to lead qualitative changes in school education.

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

The Central Board of Secondary Education 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

The NIOS provides opportunities to interested learners by making available the following courses/programmes of study through open and distance learning (ODL) mode: Open Basic Education (OBE) programme for 14+ years age group, adolescents and adults at A, B and C levels that are equivalent to classes III, V and VIII of the formal school system consists of: secondary education course, senior secondary education course, vocational education courses/programmes, life enrichment programmes.

At the secondary and senior secondary levels, NIOS provides flexibility in the choice of subjects/courses, pace of learning, and transfer of credits from CBSE, some board of school education and state open schools to enable learner's continuation.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/ maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Norms for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

(i) 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 proteins.

“Tithi Bhojan” is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the Mid-Day Meal Programme being followed in Gujarat.

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. 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.

Higher and Technical Education

National Institutional Ranking Framework

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF): 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

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).

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.

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.

SAKSHAM - a Scholarship for Differently-Abled Children

SAKSHAM - Scholarship Scheme for differently-abled children aims at providing encouragement and support to differently-abled children to pursue technical education. Scholarships amounting to ₹ 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.

Ishan Uday-for Students of North East Region

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

Ishan Vikas - 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.

Pragati

Pragati (scholarship for girl students) - is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls participation in technical education. Salient features of the scheme include: number of scholarships per annum: ₹ 4,000 'One Girl' per family, where the family income is less than ₹ 6 lakh per annum

Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child

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.

Know Your College

Know Your College is a portal developed for helping a prospective student make a valued judgement for selection of college providing the necessary information about the college.

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 along with provision for access devices to the institutions and learners.

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.

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.

Global Initiative for Academic Network

Global Initiative for Academic Network (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.

Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations and Training

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

Copyright

As provided under Section 13 of the Copyright Act, 1957, copyright subsists in the following classes or works: (a) original literary, software, musical, and artistic works; (b) cinematographic films; and (c) sound recording. The Copyright Office also registers changes in the particulars of copyright entered in the Register of Copyrights in accordance with Rule 70 of the Copyright Rules, 2013. Section 47 of the Act also provides for inspection of the Register of Copyrights or taking certified copies of the extracts against payment of the prescribed fee.

There is a quasi-judicial body Copyright Board which was constituted in 1958 and had been functioning on a part-time basis. The jurisdiction of the Copyright Board extends to the whole of the country. The Board is entrusted with the task of adjudication of disputes pertaining to copyright registration and assignment of copyright, rectification of registration, grant of compulsory licences in respect of works withheld from public, unpublished Indian works, for benefit of physically disabled persons, production and publication of translations and works for certain specified purposes. 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 Act. The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 provides for a three member permanent Copyright Board

11. ENERGY

Power

The Ministry of Power is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country. In all technical matters, the Ministry of Power is assisted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the Central Sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz., the 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.

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 (NTPI) 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

The total electricity generation including generation from a renewable sources during 2018-19 was 1,376.096 BU as against 1,308.146 BU during the last year, registering a growth of 5.2 per cent.

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

Government of India launched a new scheme namely Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) with the following 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; (c) metering in rural areas (feeders, distribution transformers and consumers).

Saubhagya—Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

To achieve universal household electrification in the country by March, 2019, Government launched Saubhagya scheme with total cost of ₹ 16,320 crore including gross budgetary support of ₹ 12,320 crore during the entire implementation period. The scope of the Scheme includes: providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas. APL households will get electricity connections on payment of ₹ 500 (which is payable in 10 installment in the electricity bill); providing Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective; and providing electricity connections to all remaining economically poor un-electricied households in urban areas.

Integrated Power Development Scheme

In order to provide impetus to strengthening of power distribution sector in urban area, Ministry of Power, launched Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in 2014 with following components: (i) strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network in urban areas; (ii) metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers in urban areas; (iii) IT enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network.

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.

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, northeastern 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.

The updated version of Energy Conservation Building code (ECBC) was launched 2017. The scope of ECBC 2017 includes norms and standards for building design, including norms and standards for building design, including the envelope, lighting, heating, air-conditioning and electrical systems. It sets minimum energy standard for new commercial building having connected load of 100 KW and above or contract demand of 120 KW and above.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

In order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

The eligible families are identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census list and in case, name is not found in SECC list, from seven categories i.e., beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin), beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, SC/ST households, most backward classes, forest dwellers, tea/ex-tea garden tribes and residents of islands/river islands subject to fulfilling other terms and conditions of the Scheme.

PAHAL

Government, as a measure of Good Governance introduced well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL. This initiative was aimed at rationalizing subsidies based on approach to cut subsidy leakages, but not subsidies per se. PAHAL has entered into Guinness book of World Record being largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.

India surpassed Russia to become the 3rd largest energy consumer in the world after China and USA during 2015. Oil and gas accounted for around 35 per cent share in India's energy consumption. In fact, India surpassed Japan to become 3rd largest oil consumer in the world after US and China during 2015.

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas

The crude oil production for 2017-18 was at 35.68 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against production of 36.01 MMT in 2016-17, showing a marginal decline of about 0.9 per cent, Natural gas production during 2017-18 at 32.649 billion cubic meters (BCM) registered 2.35 per cent increase over production of 31.8970 BCM in 2016-17. The projected crude oil production in 2018-19 is 37.01 MMT. Crude oil production during April-December 2018 was at 25.94 MMT.

Refining Capacity

India, which is second largest refiner in Asia after China, is emerging as a refinery hub with refining capacity exceeding demand.

Import of Crude Oil

Import of crude oil during 2017-18 was 220.43 MMT valued at ₹ 5,65,951 crore as against import of 213.93 MMT valued at ₹ 4,70,159 crore in 2016-17 which marked an increase of 3.04 per cent in quantity terms and 20.37 per cent in value terms as compared to the import of crude oil during 2016-17.

Imports and Exports of Petroleum Products

During April to November 2018, imports of petroleum products were at 21.25 MMT valued at ₹ 75,160 crore which showed decline of 11.24 per cent in quantity terms and 37.33 per cent increase in value. During April to November 2018, exports of petroleum products were 41.69 MMT valued at ₹ 1,92,154 crore which shows a decline of 6.04 per cent and increase of 36.39 per cent.

Sahaj

Sahaj was a digital initiative launched by oil marketing companies for release of LPG connection with online payment and issuance of 'e-SV on pan India basis.

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 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.

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) and the other in Visakhapatnam (east coast). HPCL has state-of-art information technology infrastructure to support its core business. The data centre is located at Hitech city in Hyderabad.

Gas Authority of India Limited

The setting up of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), formerly known as Gas Authority of India Limited in 1984 heralded a new era of natural gas in the country. Further, to strengthen position as India's premier integrated gas company, GAIL has set up LNG import infrastructure.

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.

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.

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 under Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to government's decision to transform the statutory commission into a Public Limited Company, through an Act of Parliament [Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal, Act, 1993)].

ONGC Videsh Limited

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), is engaged in exploration and production of oil and gas outside India. It has participated either directly or through its wholly owned subsidiaries/joint venture companies in 30 projects in 15. There are five projects where hydrocarbons have been discovered and are at various stages of development.

Bharat Petro Resources Ltd

Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL), formed in 2006, is a wholly owned subsidiary and Exploration and Production (E&P) arm of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). While BPCL is engaged in the midstream and downstream segment in India, BPRL carries out upstream activities both in India and overseas.

Oil India Limited

Oil India Limited (OIL), a Government of India enterprise, is engaged in the business of exploration, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas. In 1981, OIL India Pvt. Ltd. became a wholly-owned Government of India enterprise.

New and Renewable Energy

At present around 69.5 per cent of India's power generation capacity is based on coal. In addition, there is an increasing dependence on imported oil, which is leading to imports of around 33 per cent of India's total energy needs. Despite increase in installed capacity by more than 113 times, India is still not in a position to meet its peak electricity demand as well as energy requirement.

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 (at 80 metre mast height); small hydro - 20 GW; bioenergy - 25 GW; and 750 GW solar power, assuming 3% wasteland is made available. The Ministry had taken up a new initiative in 2014 for implementation of wind resource assessment in uncovered / new areas with an aim to assess the realistic potential at 100 m level in 500 new stations across the country under the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF).

Renewable energy database is updated regularly in the country. 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. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed Biomass Atlas of India, and the Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee has assessed small hydro potential in the country.

Renewable Energy for Rural Applications

More than 35,000 biogas plants of the approved models were installed across the country with financial support of the Ministry, taking the cumulative installation to over 49.40 lakh biogas plants in all states and union territories.

New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme

The New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) is being implemented with the objective to provide clean cooking fuel and to meet lighting, thermal and small power needs of farmers/ dairy farmers/users including individual households and to improve organic manure system based on bio slurry from biogas plants in rural and semi-urban areas by setting up of biogas plants.

National Solar Mission

Launched in January 2010, the National Solar Mission (NSM) was the first mission to be operationalized under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Solar/Green Buildings Programme

The Ministry has been implementing a Scheme on Energy Efficient Solar Green Buildings since 2009, through a combination of financial and promotional incentives.

Solar Cities Programme

The “Development of Solar Cities” programme aims at minimum 10 per cent reduction in projected demand of conventional energy at the end of five years, which can be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency measures while enhancing supply from renewable energy sources.

Coal

Coal Reserves

319.020 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 major deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.

Coal Production

The overall production of coal for 2018-19 was projected at 730 MT. During 2018-19 the actual production was 730.25 MT.

Coal India Limited

Coal India Limited (CIL) is a ‘Maha Ratna’ company under the Ministry of Coal, with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal. CIL is the single largest coal producing company in the world. CIL 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

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited

Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been conferred with 'Navratna' status since 2011. Its registered office at Chennai and corporate office at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is a pioneer among the public sector undertakings in the energy sector. All the mines of NLC are ISO certified for quality management system, environmental management system and occupational health and safety management system.

12. ENVIRONMENT

THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources. The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the 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.

Botanical Survey of India

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is the apex research organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country. It was established in 1890 with the basic objective to explore the plant resources of country and to identify the plants species with economic virtues. Sir George King, the then Superintendent of the 'Royal Botanic Garden' Calcutta was appointed as first ex-officio Honorary Director of the BSI.

Zoological Survey of India

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a premier research institution under the Ministry has completed 100 years of services to the Nation, undertaking survey, exploration and research. Over the successive plan periods functions of ZSI have also expanded gradually encompassing areas like the Environmental Impact Assessment with regard to fauna; survey of conservation areas; status survey of endangered species; computerization of digitization of data on faunal resources; Environmental Information System (ENVIS) on faunal diversity; identification and advisory services; National Designated Repository of type and voucher specimens; supporting enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; establishment of marine aquaria and Museum for awareness on conservation etc., and acts as a custodian of the National Zoological Collections. Headquarters are at Kolkata and 16 Regional centres are located at different parts of the country.

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 main objective of PISFR was to ascertain the availability of raw material for establishment of wood based industries in selected areas of the country. After a critical review of activities, the mandate of FSI was refined in 1986 in order to make it more relevant to the rapidly changing needs and aspirations of the country.

Biodiversity Conservation

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The objective of CBD are: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing 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, and an Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity.

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.

Biosphere Reserves

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.

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.

Implementing organizations are the concerned states/UT government, environment and forest departments/line departments.

Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CPB): It was negotiated under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and adopted in 2000. India is a party to the Protocol. The main objective of the Protocol is to ensure safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern

Forest Protection

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme of intensification of Forest Management Scheme deals within forest fire management, to address the growing concern over adverse effects of forest fire. With this, the present Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM) was formulated.

Wildlife Conservation

There is a Wildlife Division of the Ministry that has two sub-divisions, namely, Project Elephant Division and Wildlife Division. In addition, there are three autonomous bodies. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife research and training. Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for conservation and zoo management and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The NTCA has been constituted by converting the Project Tiger Directorate into an autonomous body for tiger conservation. The National Zoological Park in the Capital is also a part of the Wildlife wing of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Wildlife Division provides technical and financial support to the state/Ut governments for wildlife conservation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and also through Central Sector Scheme-Strengthening of Wildlife Division

and Consultancies for Special Tasks, and through grants in aid to the Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the state/UT government for activities aimed at wildlife conservation through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The scheme has following three components; support to Protected Areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves); protection of wildlife outside protected areas; and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established under the Ministry, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi. 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. 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 to oversee the functioning of zoos in the country with the view to enhance their role in conservation.

National Zoological Park

The National Zoological Park (NZN) was set up in 1959 under this Ministry. The main objective of the Park is to complement and strengthen the national efforts in conservation of the rich biodiversity of the country, particularly the wild fauna. To achieve this objective protocol is adopted which includes: supporting the conservation of endangered species by attempting their coordinated breeding under ex-situ conditions and raise stocks for rehabilitating them in wild as and when it is appropriate and desirable; and providing opportunities for scientific studies useful for conservation in general and creation of data base for sharing between the agencies involved in in-situ and ex-situ conservation.

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.

National Tiger Conservation Authority / Project Tiger

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under this Ministry constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing funding support to tiger range states, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction.

Project Tiger

Project Tiger was launched in 1973 for conserving the tiger. From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50, spread out in 18 of tiger range states. These reserves are constituted on a core / buffer strategy. The core areas have

the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary, whereas the buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area. The NTCA / Project Tiger also conducts the country level assessment of the status of tiger, co-predators, prey and habitat once in four years, using the refined methodology, as approved by the Tiger Task Force. Due to the concerted efforts under the Project, India has the distinction of having the maximum number of tigers in the world - 2,967 - to be precise, as per the results of the 4th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation.

International Tiger's Day is held every year on 29th July to raise public awareness and support regarding several issues related to tiger conservation. The idea behind such an event came up at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010.

Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare General - Animal Board of India

General Animal Welfare covers the welfare of individual animals, mainly domesticated, as 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.

Free Mobile Animal Clinic

The 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 operating Awareness Rallies Conducted During World Animal Day Week.

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. It was first used in India as early as 1978 with river valley projects, and was subsequently extended to large public sector projects requiring Public Investment Board (PIB) clearance. These practices were formally codified for the first time in the EIA Notification, 1994. This made the requirement of environmental clearance mandatory for 37 categories of projects/ processes, listed therein. The criterion of investment was the basis for the projects requiring environmental clearance in different sectors.

Control of Pollution

Air Pollution

Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution is undertaken under various provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986 which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue. The major impact is highlighted with reference to health of people. As per the available data for Delhi and NCR for last five years, Particulate Matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5) concentrations are the major concern for the entire area, however a few violations are observed in NO₂ concentrations in Delhi, Meerut and Faridabad.

Measures to Combat Air Pollution

National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants have been notified under the EPA,. Government is executing a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). With reference

to vehicular pollution the steps taken include introduction of cleaner/ alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG, etc.) ethanol blending, universalization of BS-IV by 2017;

National Air Quality Index (AQI) was launched in 2015 starting with 14 cities and then extended to 34. A Graded Response Action Plan for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified. This plan specifies actions required for controlling particulate matter (PM emissions from various sources) and prevent PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels to go beyond 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.

Noise Pollution

As a follow-up of Section 5.2.8 (IV) of National Environmental Policy (NEP)-2006, ambient noise has been included as a regular parameter for monitoring in specified urban areas. Protocol for National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme has been prepared and circulated to state pollution control boards. Central Pollution Control Board in association with state pollution control boards established Real Time National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network in 7 metropolitan cities.

Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

The concept of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) arose in order to make a co-operative movement for pollution control. The main objective of the CETPs is to reduce the treatment cost to be borne by an individual member unit to a minimum while protecting the environment to a maximum.

Chemical Safety

In order to ensure chemical safety, the Ministry notified two sets of Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 viz., (i) The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC); and (ii) The Chemical Accidents (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules (EPPR), 1996. A set of rules entitled Chemicals Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 was notified with the aim of providing administrative structure at different levels such as national, state, district and local levels for effective planning, preparedness and responses to chemicals accidents and also ensuring availability of information to public likely to be affected by an accident. The Chemical Accidents (EPPR) Rules, 1996 envisage a four-tier crisis management system in the country at the central, state, district and local levels.

Hazardous Waste Management

To address the issue of ensure environmentally sound management of hazardous waste for safety of health and environment during handling of such waste Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 were notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The major salient features of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 include the following:- the ambit of the Rules has been expanded by including 'Other-Waste'; authorization and registration requirement is replaced with one permission i.e., authorization under the rules for all stakeholders handling the hazardous and other waste; waste management hierarchy in the sequence of priority as prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, recovery, co-processing; and safe disposal being incorporated; the process of import/export of waste under the rules has been streamlined by simplifying the procedure and by revising the list of waste regulated for import/ export; separate schedule has been introduced which comprises waste such as metal scrap, paper

waste and various categories of electrical and electronic equipments for re-use purpose exempted from the need of obtaining Ministry's permission; the list of waste prohibited for import has been revised by inclusion of following items: waste edible fats and oils of animals or vegetable origin, household waste, critical care medical equipment, solid plastic wastes, other chemical wastes especially in solvent form.

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. Besides, threshold limits, which are accepted globally have been prescribed for six hazardous substances used in manufacture of electrical and electronics components. Producers are expected to achieve reduction in use of the hazardous substances (RoHS) to the prescribed limit. These rules are the main instrument to ensure environmentally sound management of e-Waste.

Solid Waste Management

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. The Rules mandate local bodies to frame their bye-laws to impose 'User Fee', to be paid by the generator to waste collector and for 'Spot Fine' for littering and non-segregation.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 were notified in 2011 which included plastic waste management. The Rules provide for: (i) increase in minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns, (ii) 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, (iii) 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, (iv) ways and means to promote gainful utilization of plastic waste such as energy recovery, in road construction, etc. (v) introducing user charge and spot fines by local authority.

Construction & Demolition Waste Management, 2016

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. The new rules regulate waste generated from construction, re-

modeling, repair and demolition of any civil structure and make a way forward to reuse, recycle such waste in gainful manner. The new rules will apply to everyone who generates construction and demolition waste-building materials, debris, and rubble waste from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition of any civil structure of individual or organisation or authority. 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

To address the environmental problems of fly ash disposal, the Ministry issued notification on fly ash utilization in 1999 prescribing the targets for the fly ash utilization for coal/lignite power based thermal power stations with the aim to achieve 100 per cent utilization in phased manner. 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.

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.

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.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

In 2006, over 190 countries including India acceded to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), an international policy framework to foster sound management of chemicals. Towards this end, India initiated the preparation of the National Chemicals Management Profile to assess India's infrastructure and capacity for management of chemicals.

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. Presently NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14.

Conservation of Wetlands

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.

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.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules

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 been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010. 25 wetlands spread over 14 states have already been notified under these Rules.

World Wetland Day

Each year, World Wetland Day is 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.

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. Launched in 2000-02, the scheme has acquired a pan India ambit over the last nine years of its implementation and was being implemented by 28 states of the country. 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. Under Entry Point Activities, community assets are created with a 'care and share' concept.

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.

Under this scheme, the establishment and operational expenditure on the Eco Task Force (ETF) Battalions raised by Ministry of Defence is reimbursed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while the inputs like sapling, fencing, etc., and also the professional and managerial guidance is provided by the state forest departments.

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. The Mission embarks on meeting the challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation through sub-

National Natural Resources Management System

The Scheme "National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)" of the Ministry is a part of an umbrella scheme of the erstwhile Planning Commission-Planning Committee-National Natural Resources Management System (PC-NNRMS) and is in operation since, 1985.

Forestry Research

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun deals with solution based forestry research in tune with the emerging issues in the sector, including global concerns such as climate change, conservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and sustainable management and development of resources.

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

The 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). The mandate of the Academy is to impart training to IFS Probationers by way of knowledge and skills to the professional foresters and help them to develop competence for managing the country's forest and wildlife resources on a sustainable basis, besides enabling them to act as catalysts for environmental protection, economic development and social change

Wildlife Institute of India

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was established in 1986 in Dehradun as an autonomous institute of the Ministry. The Institute has emerged as a premier training and research institution in the field of wildlife and protected area management in south and south east Asia. The Institute has been generating quality information and knowledge products in the field of wildlife science through research and mainstreaming it in capacity building programmes for various target groups and provide advisory support to central and state governments.

Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is one of the implementing partners in this project for enhancing capacities of the project implementers and as a knowledge management centre on landscape approach to biodiversity conservation.

National Green Corps Programme

National Green Corps (NGC) were formulated in 2001-02. The phenomenal response that NGC received has made the network more than 1,00,000 Eco clubs across the country in 15 years, making it one of the largest conservation networks.

National Nature Camping Programme

National Nature Camping Programme is an initiative of the Ministry in environment education. Through this initiative it is hoped that every child who goes through middle school (classes VI-VIII) to get at least one opportunity for a 2-3 day camping experience during these years.

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.

National Green Tribunal

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. 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.

Climate Change

In order to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country different studies under Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) were initiated. Many important bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations including Conference of Parties (CoP-22) were held.

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. Eight national missions in the area of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan eco-system, Green India and strategic knowledge for climate change form the core of NAPCC.

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a central sector scheme under implementation in the 12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE).

Climate Change Action Programme

Ministry is implementing a scheme titled ‘Climate Change Action Programme’ since January, 2014. The NCAP is a major multi-institutional and multi-agency study. In this initiative, MoEF & CC collaborate with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Space Research Organization, the Ministry of Science and Technology and other associated agencies to enhance understanding of the role of black carbon in climate change through monitoring and assessment of the impacts of Black Carbon using modelling techniques.

Ozone Cell

Ozone Layer Protection

The ozone layer absorbs all the harmful UV-B radiations emanating from the sun. It protects plant and animal life from UV-B radiation. The UV-B radiation has the potential to cause skin cancer, eye cataract, suppress body’s immune system, decrease crop yield etc., which led to the adoption of the 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 the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its all amendments/adjustments. 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.

Vienna Convention

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are the international treaties specific for the protection of the Stratospheric Ozone (Ozone layer). The Montreal Protocol has been recognized as the most successful international environmental treaty in history. It has been universally ratified and all the 197 UN member countries of the world are the parties to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

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, and 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).

United Nations Environment Programme

India is a member of UNEP. Three of the thirty three members on UNEP’s International Resource Panel (IRP) are currently from India. The Ministry is a member of the IRP Steering Committee. IRP supports UNEP’s Resource Efficiency/Sustainable consumption and Production (SCP) sub-programme.

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

THE Ministry of Finance is responsible for administration of finances of the government. It is an important ministry within the government concerned with the economy of the country, serving as the Indian treasury department. In particular, it concerns itself with taxation, financial legislation, financial institutions, capital markets, centre and state finances, and the Union Budget. The Ministry is also the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service, Indian Economic Service, Indian Cost Accounts Service and Indian Civil Accounts Service.

This Ministry consists of five departments, namely, (i) Economic Affairs, (ii) Expenditure, (iii) Revenue, (iv) Investment and Public Asset Management; and (v) Financial Services.

Department of Economic Affairs

The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management. A principal responsibility of this Department is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament and budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations. Other functions include: formulation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, including issues relating to fiscal policy and public finance, inflation, public debt management and the functioning of capital market including stock exchanges; production of bank notes and coins of various denominations, postal stationery, postal stamps; and cadre management, career planning and training of the Indian Economic Service .

All the external, financial and technical assistance received by India, except through specialized International Organizations like FAO, ILO, UNIDO and except under International bilateral specific agreement in the field of science and technology, culture and education are also monitored by this Department.

The Department of Economic Affairs is 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.

Annual Financial Statement

Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India has to be laid before Parliament in respect of every financial year. This statement titled 'Annual Financial Statement' is the main Budget document. 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.

Besides the normal receipts and expenditure of Government which relate to the Consolidated Fund, certain other transactions enter Government accounts, in respect of which, Government acts more as a banker, for example, transactions relating to provident funds, small savings collections and other deposits, etc. The moneys thus received are kept in the Public Account and the connected disbursements are also made therefrom. Parliamentary authorisation for such payments from the Public Account is, therefore, not required. 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 mid-day 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. The actual expenditure proposed on the specific objects is, also submitted for vote of Parliament.

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.

Demands for Grants

The estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund included in the Annual Financial Statement and required to be voted by the Lok Sabha are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants in pursuance of Article 113 of the Constitution. Generally, one Demand for Grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department. However, in respect of large ministries or departments more than one demand is presented. In regard to union territories without legislature, a separate Demand is presented for each of the union territories.

Finance Bill

At the time of presentation of the Annual Financial Statement before Parliament, a Finance Bill is also presented in fulfilment 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. It is accompanied by a Memorandum explaining the provisions included in it.

Appropriation Bills

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.

Balance of Payments

India's balance of payments (BoP) situation which has been benign and comfortable since 2013-14, to 2016-17, registered an increase in Current Account Deficit (CAD) during 2018-19 (April-March) and stood at US\$ 57.3 billion (2.1 per cent of GDP) as compared to US\$ 48.7 billion in (1.8 per cent of GDP) in 2017-18 (April-March).

Sources of Revenue

In accordance with the Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Act, 2000, which has been given retrospective effect from April 1, 1996, all taxes to in the Union List, except the duties and taxes referred to in Articles 268 and 269, respective surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in Article 271 and any cess levied for specific purpose under any law made by Parliament, shall be levied and collected by the Government of India and shall be distributed between the

Union and the states in such manner as may be prescribed by the President on the recommendations of the Finance Commission. For the period 2015-2020, the manner of distribution between the Centre and the states has been prescribed in Presidential Orders issued after considering the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. The main sources of Union Tax revenue are customs duties, union excise duties, service tax, corporate and income taxes, non—tax revenues largely comprise 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.

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 (Section 20 and 21).

Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

From 2005-06, a separate Statement on the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) was introduced in the Budget document. From the financial year 2011-12 this statement is focused only on Plan schemes under ‘Scheduled Castes Sub Plan’ and ‘Tribal Sub Plan’ exclusively for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes welfare schemes respectively. It shows year-wise budget Estimates and Revised Estimates of current year and Budget Estimates of next financial year.

Public Debt

Public debt includes: (a) 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 (b) 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.

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.

Economic Growth

As per the provisional estimates (PE) of national income released by Central Statistics Office in May 2019, the growth of GDP at constant (2011-12) market prices for the year 2018-19 is estimated at 6.8 per cent, which is lower as compared to the growth of 7.2 per cent in 2017-18. The growth of gross value added (GVA) at constant (2011-12) basic prices is estimated at 6.6 per cent in 2018-19 (PE). The growth in GVA was 6.9 per cent in 2017-18. At the sectoral level, GVA in agriculture and allied sector, industry sector and services sector have been estimated to grow by 2.9 per cent, 6.9 per cent, and 7.5 per cent respectively in 2018-19.

Prices

Consumer Price Index (Combined) (CPI-C) inflation (Base 2012=100) for 2017-18 declined to 3.6 per cent from 4.5 per cent in 2016-17, 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 and 5.9 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 3.4 per cent in 2018-19 and stood at 2.9 per cent in March 2019. Food inflation based on Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) declined to 1.8 per cent in 2017-18 from 4.2 per cent in 2016-17, 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 and 6.4 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 0.1 per cent in 2018-19 and stood at 0.3 per cent in March 2019. Inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 3.0 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to 1.7 per cent in 2016-17, (-)3.7 per cent in 2015-16 and 1.2 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 4.3 per cent in 2018-19 and stood at 3.1 per cent in March 2019.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 427.8 billion as on 28th June, 2019, showing an increase of US\$ 14.9 billion over the level of US\$ 412.9 billion end-March 2019.

External Debt

India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 543.02 billion at end-March 2019 recording an increase of US\$ 13.7 billion over the level at end-March 2018. The maturity profile of India's external debt indicates dominance of long-term borrowings. At end-March 2019, long-term external debt witnessed an increase of 1.7 per cent over the end-March 2018. Long-term external debt accounted for 80.0 per cent of total external debt at end March.

Climate Change

The 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24) was held in Katowice, Poland. The developed countries had made a commitment to a goal of mobilizing US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 for supporting climate action in developing countries. The issues relating to climate finance, in particular, guidance on finance provisions was operationalized under Articles 9.5 and 9.7 of the Paris Agreement.

Banking Sector

The performance of the banking sector (domestic operations), Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular, improved in 2018-19. The Gross Non-Performing Advances (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) decreased from 11.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018, as also, their Restructured Standard Advances (RSA) ratio declined from 0.7 to 0.4 per cent. The Stressed Advances (SA) ratio decreased from 12.1 to 10.5 per cent during the same period. GNPA ratio of PSBs decreased from 15.5 to 13.9 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018.

Credit Growth

Non-Food Credit (NFC) grew by 13.2 per cent (y-o-y) in February 2019 as compared with 9.8 per cent in February 2018. Bank credit to large industry and services segments were the main drivers of overall NFC growth in 2018-19. Credit to medium and micro and small industries further decelerated in recent months.

One-time Restructuring of Loans to MSMEs

The scheme was made available to MSMEs qualifying certain objective criteria including inter alia a cap of Rs 250 million on the aggregate exposure of banks and NBFCs to an MSME as on January 1, 2019.

Insolvency And Bankruptcy Code

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) became operational in 2016. 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. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is taking further necessary steps for implementation of the Code.

Financial Stability and Development Council

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.

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

- i) Bank Financing: 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.
- ii) 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.
- iii) Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs): 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.
- iv) 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.

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. 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 BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form the five key pillars of south-south cooperation and are the representative voice of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries in the global forums such as the G20. The New Development Bank, established by these nations in 2015, marked its first imprints in India by signing a loan

agreement for financing of the major district road project in Madhya Pradesh in March 2017. The framework of swap lines, conceived as a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) with a corpus of US\$ 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. All assistance provided by the UNDP is grant assistance. The UNDP derives its funds from voluntary contributions from various donor countries. India's annual contribution to the UNDP has been to the extent of US\$ 4.5 million, which is one of the largest from developing countries. The country-specific allocation of UNDP resources is made every five years under the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) which usually synchronizes with India's five-year plans.

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. It is a consensus-based forum for the exchange of ideas, development of regional programmes and projects. Under the Framework for Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC countries, RBI offers swaps of varying sizes to each SAARC member country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) depending on their two months import requirement and not exceeding US\$ 2 billion in total, in USD, Euro or INR. So far, the facility has been availed by Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

SAARC Development Fund (SDF)

SDF was established in 2008 by the SAARC. The Fund is implementing many SAARC projects and programmes. Project funding in SDF is to be taken up under three windows (Social, Economic and Infrastructure). Of the three windows of SDF, economic and infrastructure windows are being operationalized.

Bilateral Cooperation

Department of Economic Affairs also 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. The Division also deals with the work relating to extension of Lines of Credit to developing countries. It is also the focal point for administering short term foreign training courses of the duration upto four weeks offered by various international agencies/countries.

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.

World Bank

India has been borrowing from the World Bank through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) for various development projects in the areas of poverty reduction, infrastructure, rural development, etc.

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. Keeping in alignment with the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) of the World Bank Group in India, IFC focuses on low-income states in India.

New Development Bank

The New Development Bank (NDB) has been instituted with a vision to support and foster infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies. The founding members of the NDB - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) - brought in capital of USD 1 billion as initial contribution.

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.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

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

Global Environment Facility

GEF provides grants to eligible countries in its 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 economics 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, totalling 6,72,030 shares in ADB as on 31st December, 2016, with 5.363 per cent voting rights. India started borrowing from ADB in 1986.

Currency and Coinage

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.

It is engaged in the manufacturing of security paper, minting of coins, printing of currency and bank notes, non-judicial stamp papers, postage stamps, travel documents, etc. 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.

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.

International Investment Treaties and Framework

India initiated the exercise to negotiate and enter into Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)/ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) with other countries as a part of the comprehensive economic reforms programme which was initiated in 1991.

The new Indian Model BIT of 2015 aims to provide appropriate protection to foreign investors in India and Indian investors in the foreign country, in the light of relevant international precedents and practices.

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. The principal activities of the Department include overseeing the expenditure management in the central ministries/ departments through the interface of the Financial Rules/ regulations/ orders, pre-sanction appraisal of major schemes/ projects, handling bulk of the central budgetary resources transferred to state.

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. The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government. Under Article 150 of the Constitution, the Annual Appropriation Accounts (Civil) and Union Finance Accounts are submitted to Parliament on the advice of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Public Financial Management System

The 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.

Institute of Government Accounts & 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.

Central Pension Accounting Office

The Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) was established in 1990 for Payment and Accounting of Central (Civil) Pensioners and pension to freedom fighters etc. CPAO is a subordinate office under the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.

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. The Institute adheres to norms prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

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

Legislative Development

The proposal to introduce a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST) was first mooted in 2006-07. The Goods and services Tax Council was constituted in 2016. 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).

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.

e-Governance Initiatives

(a) 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. PAN, thus, acts as an identifier for the “person” with the Income tax department.

(b) Common Business Identification Number (CBIN or BIN)

PAN is leveraged to become Common Business Identification Number (CBIN) or simply Business Identification Number (BIN) for providing registration to a number of government departments and services.

(c) 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 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.

(d) PAN Service Providers

The services related to PAN such as receiving PAN application forms, verification of the documents submitted, digitizing the PAN application form, uploading the data on the NCC (National Computer Centre), printing PAN cards and dispatching of PAN cards have been outsourced to the PAN Service Providers, M/s UTITSL and M/s NSDLeGov.

(e) PAN Verification Facility

PAN verification facility is provided through CBDT’s e-filing server to Government departments through the Internet.

PAN can also be verified through “Know Your PAN” facility on Income-tax official web site www.incometaxindia.gov.in where Name, Father’s Name and Date of Birth (DOB) /Date of Incorporation (DOI) are known. Service for PAN verification is also provided by income tax PAN Service Providers (UTITSL and NSDLeGov)

(f) Grievances Redressal Machinery

Grievances are also received through Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). All grievances related to PAN are downloaded from the website of CPGRAMS and after examination, appropriate action is taken by the Directorate and information about redressal action taken in such cases, is uploaded on the website. Further a new mechanism to lodge grievances has been made available to PAN holders and new PAN applicants through eNivaran facility on eFiling portal.

New Initiatives

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) Paperless Application using Aadhaar based eKYC

Another paperless procedure for allotment of PAN using Aadhaar data and photograph of applicant has been launched. The applicant signs the application using Aadhaar based eSignature.

(e) PAN 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.

(f) Common Service Centres

Common Service Centres (Village Level Enterprises) have been enrolled with PAN Service Providers M/s UTIITSL and M/s NSDL eGov for receiving PAN applications in far flung corners of the country. The initiative has resulted in outreach of PAN services at village level.

(g) Electronic filing 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.

(h) IT enablement of Business Processes

Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) was conceptualized with development of new application for computerization of all internal processes of Income Tax Department..

(i) 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.

Major Citizen Friendly Initiatives

Aayakar Sewa Kendra

Aayakar Sewa 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.

Aayakar Setu

“Aayakar Setu” would facilitate the online payment of the taxes, calculation of taxes, removal of grievances through login to the e-Nivaran module, information about the TPS hierarchy, ASK IT module, Tax Gyaan, TDS/TRACES and other features.

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.

Enterprise Data Warehouse

CBEC is one of the first government departments to have implemented an Enterprise Data Warehouse, a central repository of clean and consistent, near real time data pertaining to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax. It employs best-in-class business Intelligence tools for online analytical processing and data mining.

Directorate of Enforcement

Directorate of Enforcement was set up at New Delhi in 1956 for enforcement of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947. FERA was repealed in 2000 and replaced with Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). Subsequently, the Directorate was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), which came into force in 2005. 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.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India

Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) is the central national agency for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect 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. The main functions of FIU-IND include domestic co-operation, international co-operation, outreach, compliance and administration of an Information Technology based platform(FINnet) providing end-to-end solution for filing, analysis and dissemination of information, including making request and submission of feedback.

Narcotics

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.

Central Bureau of Narcotics

The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) headed by the Narcotics Commissioner is headquartered at Gwalior. The administrative control of the department lies with CBEC while its operational functions are monitored by the Department of Revenue, the nodal Department entrusted with the task of policy decisions over control over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor and essential chemicals used in the manufacture of the NDPS. It performs the function of National Opium Agency for India under the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs 1961 to exercise control and supervision over opium poppy cultivation, which is presently undertaken in selected notified areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

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Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal

Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (earlier known as Customs Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal) was formed as a quasi-judicial body to hear appeals from the orders and decisions passed by the Commissioner/ Commissioner (Appeals) of Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax under the Customs Act, 1962, Central Excise Act, 1944 and Finance Act, 1994 respectively. The Tribunal is also having appellate jurisdiction on Anti-dumping matters and such matters are heard by special bench headed by the President, CESTAT. The headquarter and Principal Bench of the Tribunal is situated at Delhi.

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), etc.

It also covers pension reforms and industrial finance and micro, small and medium enterprise. It started the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory body which also works under this Department.

Banking

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are the mainstay of the Indian banking industry. PSBs and PSB-sponsored Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have dominant market presence and constitute 78 percent of the bank network of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). In rural locations, this share is even higher at 87 per cent.. PSBs and RRBs play a critical role in priority sector lending and account for 74 per cent of outstanding credit to small and marginal farmers, 65

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per cent of outstanding credit to Micro and Small Enterprises and 95 per cent of education loans.

Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Following India's independence on 15 August 1947, the RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949.

The RBI has four zonal offices at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. It has 21 regional offices and 11 sub-offices throughout India.

As the central bank of India, RBI is an independent apex monetary authority which regulates banks and provides important financial services like storing of foreign exchange reserves, control of inflation, monetary policy report. It is a member bank of the Asian Clearing Union. The general superintendence and direction of the RBI is entrusted with the 21-member central board of directors which has : the governor; four deputy governors; two finance ministry representatives; ten government-nominated directors to represent important elements of India's economy; and four directors to represent local boards headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi.

The central bank executes many functions such as overseeing monetary policy, issuing currency, managing foreign exchange, working as a bank for government and as a banker of scheduled commercial banks. It also works for overall economic growth of the country. The primary objective of RBI is to undertake consolidated supervision of the financial sector comprising commercial banks, financial institutions and non-banking finance companies.

Payment and settlement systems play an important role in improving overall economic efficiency. The Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007 (PSS Act) gives the Reserve Bank oversight authority, including regulation and supervision, for the payment and settlement systems in the country. Two payment systems National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) allow individuals, companies and firms to transfer funds from one bank to another.

RBI is the sole body that is authorized to issue currency in India. The bank also destroys the same when they are not fit for circulation. All the money issued by the central bank is its monetary liability, i.e., the central bank is obliged to back the currency with assets of equal value, to enhance public confidence in paper currency. For printing of notes, the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), a wholly owned company of the Government of India, has set up printing presses at Nashik, Maharashtra and Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. For minting coins, SPMCIL has four mints at Mumbai, Noida (UP), Kolkata and Hyderabad.

Regional Rural Banks

The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to create an alternative channel to the cooperative credit structure. RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

Kisan Credit Card

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the. The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banks throughout the country. KCC is one of the most effective tools for delivering agriculture credit. NABARD monitors the scheme in respect of cooperative banks and RRBs and RBI in respect of commercial banks.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

The Central Government established a fund to be operationalised by NABARD namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which was set-up within NABARD during 1995-96 by way of deposits from Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/priority sector/weaker sections lending.

Insurance

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.

Life Insurance Corporation of India

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was established by an Act of Parliament called the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956. LIC is present in 14 countries abroad through branch offices/joint ventures companies and wholly owned subsidiary.

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. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is functioning from its head office in Hyderabad, Telangana. IRDAI has also laid down the regulatory framework for registration of insurance companies, maintenance of solvency margin, investments and financial reporting requirements.

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.

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. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC of India. It provides an assured return of 8 per cent per 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., Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) which is administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India. Under this social security scheme below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizens are covered under 48 identified occupations. The scheme provides death cover of ₹ 30,000/- in case of natural death. All these benefits are paid for a nominal premium of ₹ 200/- per member per annum, out of which ₹ 100/- is borne by the central government through Social Security Fund maintained through LIC of India, and the balance premium of ₹ 100/- is borne by the member and/or nodal agency and/or central/state government department which acts as the nodal agency

Social Security Schemes

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. Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account. Minimum pension of ₹ 1,000 or ₹ 2,000 or ₹ 3,000 or ₹ 4,000 or ₹ 5,000 is guaranteed by the Government of India to the subscriber at the age of 60 years, with a minimum monthly contribution (for those joining at age at 18) of 42 or 84 or 126 or 168 or 210, respectively.

In order to facilitate subscribers with the convenience and accessibility of his/her APY account, Mobile Application for APY has been launched by PFRDA.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

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. It involves convenient bank account linked enrolment with implementation in IT mode, and premium payment through auto-

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (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 ₹ 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and ₹ 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

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: (i) 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. (ii) to cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹ 1 lakh.

Pension Reforms

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 features of the NPS design are: self-sustainability, portability and scalability.

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. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), set-up as a regulatory body for the pension sector, is engaged in consolidating the initiatives taken so far regarding the full NPS architecture and expanding the reach of NPS distribution network. A Mobile App for NPS is available for the subscribers in Google Play Store as 'NPS by NSDL e-Gov' and 'NPS by Karvy-CRA'.

The Retirement Advisers (RAs) are appointed by PFRDA to engage in the activity of providing personalized advice on pension, retirement and NPS thereby extending its outreach. The Pension Sanchay; a dedicated website (www.pensionsanchay.org.in) is an initiative of PFRDA for increasing financial literacy with special emphasis on concepts of pension and retirement.

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. It is a co-contributory pension scheme whereby the central government contributes a sum of ₹ 1,000 per annum in each NPS account opened having a saving of ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 12,000 per annum.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA), is a refinance institution set-up by the government 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 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 ₹ 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.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

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.

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. The corpus of NIF was to be of a permanent nature and NIF was to be professionally managed. As per this Scheme, 75 per cent of the annual income of the NIF was to be used for financing selected social sector schemes which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25 per cent of the annual income of NIF was to be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

In view of the difficult economic situation caused by the global slowdown of 2008-09 and a severe drought in 2009-10, Government approved a change in the policy for utilization of Disinvestment proceeds by granting a one-time exemption to utilize the disinvestment proceeds directly for selected social sector schemes allocated by Department of Expenditure/Planning Commission. In order to align the NIF with the Disinvestment Policy, Government decided that the disinvestment proceeds, with effect from the fiscal year 2013-14, will be credited to the existing NIF which is a public account under the Government Accounts and the funds would remain there until withdrawn/invested for the approved purposes.

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. The Ministry is also responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002 to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers through the commission set up under the Act.

Besides, it exercises 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. The Ministry also has the responsibility of carrying out the functions of the Central government relating to administration of Partnership Act, 1931, the Companies (Donations to National Funds) Act, 1951 and Societies Registration Act, 1860.

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. 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. Using the

integrated e-form SPICe, stakeholders can apply for five services simultaneously viz., company name, company incorporation, DIN of the directors, Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) for the newly incorporated company.

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 Companies Act, 2013 seeks to bring corporate governance and regulatory practices in India at par with global best practices. Key features of the Act are given here.

Key Features of the Companies Act, 2013

I. Business Friendly Corporate Regulations/Pro-Business Initiatives

- Provision of self-regulation instead of ‘Government approval based regime’.
- 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.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been constituted.
- Concept of ‘dormant companies’ introduced.
- Concept of One Person Company (OPC) introduced.

II. Good Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Concept of Independent Directors (IDs) included as a statutory requirement.
- 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.

III. 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.
- 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.

IV. Strengthened Enforcement

- The Central Government to have powers to order investigation, suo-motu, in public interest.
- Statutory recognition of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- Special Courts have been constituted.

- 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.

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 (IBC, 2016)

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) became functional from May, 2016. Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 were amended wherein Ministry of Corporate Affairs was entrusted with the responsibility to administer the Code.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established in 2016. The IBBI has the mandate for regulation of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities besides exercising other powers and functions as envisaged under the Code.

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. 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.

NCLAT has its headquarters at New Delhi. At present the NCLT has its Benches at 10 locations viz., New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

The Competition Appellate Tribunal under the provisions of Competition Act was dissolved in 2017 and merged with NCLAT. The appeal against the orders of Competition Commission of India is now with NCLAT.

Limited Liability Partnerships

Analysis of the data collected by the Ministry of MSME suggests that high compliance cost under the Companies Act, 1956 deterred the MSMEs from adopting the corporate form.

A need was felt for a new corporate form that would provide an alternative to the traditional partnership with unlimited personal liability on the one hand, and the statute-based governance structure of the limited liability company on the other. In this context, the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act was enacted in 2008 and came into force from 2009.

LLP is a form of business entity where 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. An LLP would be able to fulfil the compliance norms with much greater ease, coupled with limitation of liability. The corporate

structure of LLP and the statutory disclosure requirements are expected to enable higher access to credit in the market.

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”.

Investor Education and Protection Fund

The Companies Act provides for establishment of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) for promoting Investor Awareness and protecting their interests. The amount of dividend, matured deposits, matured debentures, application money, etc., which remained unpaid/unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they first become due for payment, are transferred to IEPF.

IEPF Authority was made functional from 2016. The IEPF Authority is also entrusted with the responsibilities of carrying out investor awareness activities using the amounts transferred to IEPF. Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) are organized in association with three professional institutes namely; (a) Institute of Chartered Accounts of India, (b) Institute of Company Secretaries of India and (c) Institute of Cost Accounts of India.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, inter-alia, has accorded statutory status to SFIO and its functions and powers have been enhanced substantially with number of enabling provisions in the Act and it was established under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature. It takes up investigation of frauds characterized by complexity, and 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.

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Institute fulfils the training needs of the officers of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), and other officials working for the Ministry, corporates, PSUs and banks through its network of various schools and centres. National Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility is also anchored with IICA.

Competition Commission of India

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 AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is a ministry with two departments - the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) one of the two departments under the Ministry was constituted as a separate Department in June 1997 as it was considered necessary to have a separate department to give a fillip to the nascent consumer movement in the country

The Department has been entrusted with the following work: internal trade; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, etc.; Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980; regulation of packaged commodities; training in legal metrology; consumer cooperatives, etc., to name a few.

Consumer Affairs

The mandate of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is consumer advocacy. India was a pioneer in consumer advocacy with the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), a path breaking legislation at the time, enacted in 1986 and the establishment of a separate government department dedicated to consumer affairs as early as in 1997.

Consumer Awareness

The Department has been conducting a countrywide multimedia awareness campaign since 2005 on various issues related to consumer rights and responsibilities across diverse subjects. “Jago Grahak Jago” has today become a household axiom. More recently, joint publicity campaigns have been launched in partnership with the related government departments/organizations that deal with a mass consumer clientele.

Consumer Welfare Fund

The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 was amended in 1991 to enable the Central government to create a Consumer Welfare Fund into which unclaimed central excise revenues not refundable to the manufacturers would be credited annually. The 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. Enabling provisions have also been made for making hallmarking of the precious metal articles

mandatory. The Act enables the Central government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.

The Bureau of Indian Standards was set up as a statutory organization taking over the assets and liabilities of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) that came into existence in 1947. The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi

Consumer Grievance Redress

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism has been set up in the country to adjudicate complaints filed before them and to provide speedy redress to consumers. This includes the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) at the apex level with territorial jurisdiction over the whole country and pecuniary jurisdiction to consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims above ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over state/commissions; 35 state consumer disputes redressal commissions (state commissions) with territorial jurisdiction over the state/ UT concerned and financial jurisdiction to entertain consumer complaints involving claims above ₹ 20.00 lakh and up to ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over the district fora and 679 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (district forum) with territorial jurisdiction over the district and pecuniary jurisdiction up to ₹ 20.00 lakh.

National Test House

The National Test House (NTH) is a premier test and quality evaluation laboratory for industrial, engineering and consumer products under the administrative control of the Government of India since the year 1912. The first regional laboratory was set up by NTH in Mumbai in 1963 and subsequently at Chennai (1975), Ghaziabad (1977), Jaipur (1994) and Guwahati (1996). The National Test House works in the field of testing, evaluation and quality control of various engineering materials and finished products, calibration of measuring equipment/ instruments and devices.

Price Monitoring

The DCA operates a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) tasked with monitoring prices of select essential commodities. The monitoring is done in respect of both retail and wholesale prices on a daily basis. The Cell monitors the prices of 22 essential commodities.

The prevailing price situation as well as the other factors that impact prices, both in the domestic and the international markets are analyzed and brought to the notice of the inter-ministerial consultation mechanism for appropriate policy action. Based on the analysis of price data received, specific interventions are undertaken including allowing import of various items of mass consumption at zero or concessional import duties; restriction on exports, when necessary; prescribing stock holding limits under Essential Commodities Act; and allocation of foodgrains at affordable prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Food and Public Distribution

The primary objective of the Department of Food & 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 foodgrains sugar and edible oils through appropriate policy instruments; including maintenance of buffer stocks of

foodgrains; making foodgrains accessible at reasonable prices, especially to the weaker and vulnerable sections of society under a Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Procurement of Foodgrains

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)

With the substantial increase in production of foodgrains in recent years and with an emphasis on bringing Green Revolution in Eastern-India, the procurement operations have expanded to many states due to which accumulated Central Pool Stock of foodgrains had reached to a record level of 805.16 lakh tonnes in 2012.

National Food Security

The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to a rights based one.

The Act provides for coverage of upto 75 per cent of the rural population and upto 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population. This coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under two categories—households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the remaining households as priority households. AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to 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, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice. Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices.

Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)

A new central sector scheme— ‘Integrated Management of PDS’ (IM- PDS) is to be implemented during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 for establishing Public Distribution System Network (PDSN) to inter alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries and portability. The Scheme will strengthen better targeting of food subsidy and help the beneficiaries to lift foodgrains from the FPSs of their choice.

Other Welfare Schemes

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme 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. Foodgrains are supplied free of cost at 100 grams for primary stage and at 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 where raw foodgrains are distributed.

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

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 foodgrains for nutrition is at 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

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 it. Foodgrains are provided by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the scheme at BPL prices.

Storage of Foodgrains

Capacity of FCI and State Agencies

FCI has its own grid of covered godowns in all states to safely stock the central pool foodgrains. In addition, it hires capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and state agencies like state warehousing corporations as well as private parties.

Sufficient storage capacity is available and against 876.31 lakh MT capacity available, the Central stock of foodgrains stood at 627.13 lakh MT in July 2018.

Augmentation of Storage Capacity

In order to cope with increasing production and procurement of foodgrains, the Department is implementing private entrepreneurs guarantee (PEG) scheme in which godowns are constructed in PPP mode and the land and construction cost is borne by the selected partners.

As a part of the modernization of storage facilities, modern storage facilities in the form of steel silos are also being created in Public Private Partnership. Each silo will have capacity of 25,000 or 50,000 MT. This will mechanize the existing supply chain and improve operational efficiency.

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority

The government constituted the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in 2010 for implementation Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007. The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses would help the farmers in seeking loan from banks. It would help overcoming the situation of distress sale of agricultural commodities by the farmers during peak harvest season. Warehouses need to be registered with the WDRA for issuing NWRs. The warehouses are inspected by the empanelled inspection agencies prior to grant of registration to ensure that basic requirements of scientific and safe storage of agricultural and other commodities are fully met by the warehouses.

The Authority has notified 123 agricultural commodities including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, spices, vegetable oils, edible nuts and other commodities like rubber, tobacco, tea, coffee makhana, etc., and 26 horticultural commodities such as potato, dehydrated onion, garlic, ginger, turmeric, apple and resins for issuance of NWRs.

Central Warehousing Corporation

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957 under this Department to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements and other notified commodities. CWC also has a 100 per cent owned subsidiary company namely, Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) for development of Railside Warehouse Complexes (RWCs).

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.

Central Grain Analysis Laboratory

The Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) located in New Delhi assists the Department in monitoring the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement, storage and distribution by analyzing samples collected by quality control officers.

Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme

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.

Government has also notified new National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 under which sugarcane juice has been allowed for production of ethanol. For the first time the Government has also fixed ex-mill price of ethanol derived from B-heavy molasses/partial sugarcane juice at ₹ 52.43/litre and from 100 per cent sugarcane juice at ₹ 59.13 per litre for those mills who will divert sugarcane juice for production of ethanol thereby not producing any sugar.

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 Sugar Development Fund (SDF) through budgetary process. The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 can be utilized by the Government of India for giving loans.

International Cooperation

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 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

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

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 up to 1995. It administers the Grains Trade Convention, 1995. The IGC Secretariat, based in London since 1949. IGC has two types of members—importing and exporting members. India has been included in the category of exporting member in July, 2003 and represented in the meetings/sessions of the Council held from time to time.

Food Processing Industries

The Ministry is concerned with formulation and implementation of the policies for the food processing industries within the overall national priorities and objectives. The subjects allocated to the Ministry under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 are:- (i) industries relating to : (a) processing and refrigeration of certain agricultural products (milk powder, infant milk food, malted milk food, condensed milk, ghee and other dairy products), poultry and eggs, meat and meat products; (b) processing of fish (including canning and freezing); (c) establishment and servicing of development council for fish processing industry; (d) technical assistance and advise to fish processing industry; (e) fruit and vegetable processing industry (including freezing and dehydration); and (f) food grains milling industry.

(ii) planning, development and control of, and assistance to, industries relating to bread, oil seeds, meals (edible), breakfast foods, biscuits, confectionery (including cocoa processing and chocolate making), malt extract, protein isolate, high protein food, weaning food and extruded food products (including other ready to eat foods); (iii) beer including non-alcoholic beer; (iv) alcoholic drinks from non-molasses base; (v) specialized packaging for food processing industry, and (vi) aerated water and soft drinks.

Employment in Food Processing Sector

Food processing industry is one of the major employment intensive segments constituting 12.77 per cent of employment generated in all registered factory sector in 2014-15.

FDI in Food Processing Sector

Cent 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.

Food Parks and Cold Chain

Ministry is following transparent selection process and on line filing claims for the infrastructure development projects of Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain and all other schemes under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampda Yojana (PMKSY). A dedicated investors's portal called 'Nivesh Bandhu' was launched in 2017 to aid and assist potential investors in the food processing sector in taking informed decision.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

PMKSY is a comprehensive package resulting in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. The following schemes are

implemented under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana: (i) mega food parks (ii) integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure (iii) creation/expansion of food processing and preservation capacities (unit scheme) (iv) infrastructure for agro-processing clusters (v) creation of backward and forward linkages (vi) food safety and quality assurance infrastructure (vii) human resources and institutions.

Mega Food Parks Scheme

The scheme intends to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with food processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. The central processing centre is networked with the primary processing centres and collection centres located at the farm gate in production areas. It envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state-of-the-art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well-established supply chain.

Scheme of Operation Greens

MoFPI launched a new central sector scheme “Operation Greens—A scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato”. Operational Guidelines for the scheme of “Operation Greens” are uploaded on the website of the Ministry.

National Mission on Food Processing

The Ministry 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..

Government of India approved a new central sector scheme - Kisan Sampada Yojana - (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) in 2017 with an outlay of ₹ 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. It is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management

The Ministry established the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management at Kundli, in Haryana in May, 2012. NIFTEM has been declared a Deemed University under de novo category.

Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology

The Ministry upgraded Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (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.

16. HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

THE Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is instrumental and responsible for implementation of various programmes on the national scale in the areas of health and family welfare, prevention and control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as promoting research across the country. Expenditure is incurred by the Ministry either directly under central schemes or by way of grants-in-aid to the autonomous/statutory

bodies, etc. The Ministry of Health Family Welfare (MoHFW) earlier had two departments - Department of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Health Research.

Department of AIDS Control has been merged with Department of Health & Family Welfare and now be known as National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). In December 2014, Department of AYUSH was made Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) with focused attention on development of education and research in ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and homoeopathy systems. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is an attached.

National Health Policy

The National Health Policy (NHP) was released in 2017 after a gap of 15 years. NHP 2017 addresses the current and emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic, technological and epidemiological landscape. It envisages providing larger package of assured comprehensive primary healthcare through the health and wellness centres. NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion (two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care and aims to ensure availability of two beds per 1,000 population distributed in a manner to enable access within golden hour

National Health Portal (NHP) is functioning as citizen portal for healthcare providing health related information to citizens and stakeholders in different languages (currently six languages)

Hospital Information System (HIS) is being implemented in hospitals for automation of hospital processes to achieve better efficiency and service delivery in public health facilities upto CHC level.

Online Registration System (ORS) is a framework to link various hospitals for online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online, etc.

Mera Aspataal (My Hospital) application is an IT based feedback system to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction using a multi-channel. The application automatically contacts the patient (outpatient after the closure of the OPD and the inpatient at the time of discharge) using the above tools to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction.

Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) / Reproductive Child Health (RCH) application is an individual-based tracking system across all the states & UTs to facilitate timely delivery of antenatal and postnatal care services and immunization to children with an objective of improving IMR, MMR, & morbidity. Kilkari application was launched to deliver free weekly audio messages about pregnancy, child birth and care..

Mobile Academy, launched in 2016, is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge base of ASHAs and improve their communication skills.

TB Patient Monitoring System "Nikshay" for tracking of individuals for treatment-adherence has been implemented across all states for monitoring of TB patients.

SUGAM by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing & grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics.

Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) (eAushidhi) deals with purchase, inventory management and distribution of various drugs, sutures and surgical items to various district drug warehouse of state/UT, district hospitals, their sub-stores, etc., by automating the workflow of procurement, supply chain, quality control and finance department in state/UT level.

National Health Mission

Besides the National Health Policy, the efforts of MoHFW are directed towards achieving the global goals, encompassing reproductive health as well as communicable disease viz., AIDS, TB, malaria, leprosy etc. One of the major focus in the health sector has been to increase the funding to healthcare to at-least 2 per cent of the GDP. As a step towards this goal the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 and it morphed into National Health Mission (NHM) with the launch of National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in 2013. Thereafter, NRHM and NUHM became two sub-missions under the overarching NHM.

Mission Indradhanush

Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to increase full immunization coverage to at least 90 per cent children by 2020.

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) is defined as less than one neonatal tetanus case per 1,000 live birth in every district per annum. India has been validated for Maternal and Neonatal tetanus elimination in May 2015. India achieved MNT Elimination through the strengthening of health systems by innovative programmes like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karayakaram (JSSK) to improve institutional delivery and by strengthening Routine Immunization.

New Vaccines

Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV): IPV was introduced in November 2015 in six states and expanded throughout the country by June 2016.

Rotavirus Vaccine: This vaccine was launched in March 2016 to reduce the burden of diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus.

Rubella Vaccine as Measles Rubella (MR) Vaccine: MR vaccination campaign targeting children from 9 months up to 15 years of age, was launched in 2017 in five.

Adult JE vaccine: Japanese Encephalitis vaccination in children was introduced in 2006. However, the vaccine was expanded in adult population of districts with high disease burden in 2015.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV): This vaccine is provided to reduce child deaths due to pneumonia - which is a major cause of child mortality. It was launched in 2017 in the first phase.

India New Born Action Plan

This was launched in 2014 with the goal of attaining “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030” and “Single Digit Still Birth rate (SBR) by 2030”.

Ayushman Bharat

Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2018. This comes under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW. The Scheme has the benefit cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year. AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes–Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Being an entitlement based scheme the entitlement is to be decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database, female headed households with no adult male member between ages 16 to 59, disabled member and no able bodied adult member in the family, SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour will be automatically covered.

One of the core principles of AB-NHPM is co-operative. State governments will be allowed to expand the Scheme both horizontally and vertically. They can implement through insurance company or directly through trust / society or a mixed model. States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement it.

Mother’s Absolute Affection Programme

“MAA-Mother’s Absolute Affection” which is an intensified programme was launched in 2016 in an attempt to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding. Key components of the programme are - awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding and inter personal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points, monitoring and award/recognition.

National Deworming Day

To combat Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections, the Ministry has adopted a single day strategy called National Deworming Day (NDD) wherein single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of age group schools and anganwadi centres.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram

This initiative launched in 2013 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management of 4 Ds i.e. defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and free management of 30 identified health conditions including surgery at tertiary health facilities. Children between 0-18 years of age are covered in a phased manner across the country.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents. The intervention under RKSK are: Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation: WIFS is evidence based programmatic response to the prevailing anaemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys through supervised weekly ingestion of IFA supplementation. Menstrual Hygiene Scheme: The scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary. To further equip the peer educators, the Ministry launched “Saathiya Resource Kit” in 2017. Understanding the growing number of mobile

based app users, Saathiya Salah App has also been made a part of the “Saathiya Resource Kit”. The App is linked to another important piece of cost-effective information platform of a toll-free Saathiya Helpline.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

The programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities. The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign

Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants for Treatment

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets have been put in place to provide drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with cardiac implants. These are provided at 60 to 90 per cent discount on prevailing market rates.

Kayakalp

Under this initiative awards and commendation certificates are given to public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance i.e., meeting standards of protocols of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control.

Organ Transplant

National Organ Transplant Programme was launched for carrying out the activities as per Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 training of manpower and promotion of organ donation from deceased persons. Under this, an apex level organization, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) was set-up at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi including a National Registry (NOTTR) to provide an online system for procurement and distribution of organs and tissues and to promote deceased organ and tissue donation.

Mental Health Care

The Mental Health Care Act, 2017 adopts a rights-based statutory framework for mental health and strengthens equality and equity in provision of mental healthcare services in order to protect the rights of people with mental health.

The most progressive features of the Act are provision of advance directive, nominated representative, special clause for women and. Decriminalization of suicide is another significant facet of the Act, which will ensure proper management of severe stress as a precursor for suicide attempts.

HIV & AIDS

HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, aims to end the epidemic by 2030 in accordance with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. A person living with AIDS cannot be treated unfairly at employment, educational establishments, renting a property, standing for public or private office or providing healthcare and insurance services.

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is the nodal organization for National AIDS response in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. National AIDS Control Programme

is a fully funded central sector scheme implemented through State/ UT AIDS Control Societies (SACS) in states/union territories and closely monitored through District AIDS prevention and control unit (DAPCU) in 188 high priority districts. Currently, National AIDS Control programme (NACP)-IV (extension) is under implementation for the period 2017-20.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education, research and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country. PMSSY has two components- setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country: and upgradation of existing Govt Medical Colleges (GMCs).

Medical Education

The major step was the passage of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2016, a uniform entrance examination for admission to Under Graduate and Post Graduate medical courses in the country viz. National Eligibility-cum- Entrance Test (NEET) has been introduced from the Academic Year 2016-17.

Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research

The Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research is a pioneering initiative by AIIMS, New Delhi in quest for convergence of contemporary medicine with India's ancient and traditional medical practices and has been envisioned as a "state-of-the-art" research centre

Revised Tuberculosis Control Programme

The goal of Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) is to decrease mortality and morbidity due to TB and cut transmission of infection until TB ceases to be a major public health problem in India.

National AIDS Control Programme

National AIDS Control Programme is a 100 per cent central sector scheme. More than 10 lakh people living with HIV are on ART; one lakh additional patients brought under the ambit of Anti Retro Viral (ARV) treatment in line with 'Test and Treat' Policy launched for covering all patients with ART cover irrespective of CD count or clinical stage.

National Tobacco Control Programme

In 2007- 08, the National Tobacco Control programme (NTCP) was launched in 9 states. Further, in 2008-09, the programme was up-scaled to cover 12 new states.

National Mental Health Programme

National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) is being implemented to improve coverage and accessibility of mental health care in the country. For improving reach of mental healthcare, district level activities under it are being supported across all 36 states and UTs.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Its objective is to reduce leprosy burden in the country by providing quality leprosy services through general health care - to achieve elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in all states and districts i.e., reduce annual new case detection Ratio to < 1 per 100,000 populations at national level.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a centrally sponsored scheme under NHM implemented in all states and UTs. The main objectives and strategies include strengthening /maintaining a decentralized laboratory based IT-enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease.

Food Regulation

Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 was enacted with the objective to consolidate the laws relating to food and for laying down science based standards for articles of food. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was established in

Drug Regulation

Control over the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs, cosmetics and notified medical devices in the country are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945. The objective of the drug regulatory system is to ensure availability of safe, effective and quality drugs, cosmetics and medical devices based on scientific excellence and best possible regulatory practices.

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at Government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of “one time grant” to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being received.

Health Minister’s Cancer Patient Fund

The scheme Health Minister’s Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) within RAN was also set up in 2009. In order to utilize the HMCPF, the revolving fund as under RAN, has been established in 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs)

Health Research

Indian Council of Medical Research

As one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was established in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA). Across its 32 research institutes as well as through extramural funding of research institutes, medical colleges, and non- governmental organizations, ICMR has made significant scientific contributions to understanding various diseases of national importance such as malaria, Japanese encephalitis, tuberculosis, AIDS, Kala-azar, Filariasis, Leprosy and Poliomyelitis.

Flagship Programmes

The India TB Research Consortium: ICMR took a lead and initiated a new flagship programme to establish India TB research and development consortium that aims to bring together all major national players (with international collaborators) to address overarching scientific questions to tackle TB in a mission mode.

TB Diagnostic Initiative: Truenat Rif, an indigenous, cost effective, rapid molecular diagnostic kit for TB/MDR-TB has been developed in collaboration with ICMR, DBT and the industry.

Preparedness to handle Zika virus outbreak: ICMR-NIV established surveillance at 25 sites in the country for Zika testing. Four cases of Zika virus were detected through ICMR's surveillance network . Entomological surveillance for ZV also established.

Ayush

The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) was established in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in 1995. It was rechristened as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy with acronym AYUSH in 2003. The Department of AYUSH was granted the status of Ministry in 2014. Sowa Rigpa is the recent addition to the existing facility of AYUSH systems.

Ayurveda, Siddha Unani and Homoeopathy drugs are covered under the purview of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The Ministry has set up a National Medicinal Plants Board to promote cultivation of medicinal plants and ensure sustained availability of quality raw material.

Ayush Systems of Healthcare

Ayurveda

'Ayurveda' literally means "Science of Life". The Charak Samhita and Sushruta Samhita developed around 2500 BC are the main treaties of Ayurveda fully available today. According to Ayurveda, health is considered as a pre-requisite for achieving the goals of life i.e., Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. .

Yoga

Yoga is essentially spiritual and it is an art and science of healthy living which focuses on bringing harmony between body and mind. The word 'Yoga' has two meanings; the first comes from the root 'Yujir' or 'Union', the second is derived from a different root 'yuja' which means 'Samadhi' - the highest state of mind and the absolute knowledge

Naturopathy

Naturopathy is a system of medicine that advocates harmonious living with constructive principles of nature on physical, mental, moral and spiritual plane.

Unani

The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece and passed through many countries before establishing itself in India during the medieval period. This system of medicine was documented in Al- Qanoon, a medical classics, by Sheikh Bu-Ali Sina (Avicena) (980-1037) AD), in Al-Havi by Razi (850-923 AD) and in many others books written by the Unani physicians.

Siddha

The Siddha System of medicine is one of the ancient systems of medicine in India having its close links with Dravidian culture. Eighteen Siddhars are said to have contributed towards the systematic development of this system.

Homoeopathy

Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician scientifically examined this phenomenon and codified the fundamental principles of Homoeopathy. Homoeopathy was brought into India around 1810 A.D. by European missionaries and received official recognition by a Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1948 and then by the Parliament.

Sowa-Rigpa

Sowa-Rigpa is among the oldest surviving health traditions of the world with a living history of more than 2500 years. It has been in vogue and practised in Himalayan regions throughout particularly in Leh and Laddakh (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, etc. Sowa-Rigpa is effective in managing chronic diseases like asthma, bronchitis, arthritis, etc.

Ayush Drug Quality Control

Ministry of AYUSH has a Drug Control Cell to look after and co-ordinate in matters related to Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs. In addition, the Ministry has taken up amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for promoting scientific data based shelf life studies and prohibition of the use of prefix and suffix with the names of classical formulations. Under the centrally sponsored initiative of the National AYUSH Mission, grant-in-aid is provided to the states for strengthening of infrastructural, functional

and regulatory capacity for manufacturing and testing of drugs and enforcement of the regulatory provisions.

Medical Education in Ayush

The Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) is the statutory body constituted under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 which lays down the standards of medical education in Ayurved, Siddha and Unani through its various regulations. Similarly, homoeopathy medical education is being regulated by Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) through its various regulations under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

Research in AYUSH

The government has set-up five autonomous research councils, namely, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM), Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) with the mandate to under-take research in their respective system. Recently, for the management of diabetes mellitus, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has developed a formulation namely, AYUSH-82 from 05 Ayurvedic medicinal plants.

National Medicinal Plants Board

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is an apex national body which co-ordinates all matters relating to medicinal plants sector in the country. The Board was established in 2000 and acts as advisory body to the concerned ministries, departments and.

AYUSH Services

The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is a turning point as it inter-alia envisages better access to AYUSH services through increase in number of AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries, ensure availability of AYUSH drugs and trained manpower.

AYUSH Pharmacopoeial Laboratories

(i) Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) ; It is a subordinate office of Ministry of AYUSH located at Ghaziabad. IT was established in 1970 as a Pharmacopoeial Standards Setting - cum Drugs testing laboratory at national level for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) Medicine.

(ii) Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeial Laboratory (HPL)

Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad was set up as a national laboratory for the purpose of laying down standards and testing for identity, purity and quality of homoeopathic medicines.

(iii) Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicines & Homeopathy (PCIM & H)

The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicines & Homeopathy (PCIM&H) is an autonomous organization registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The main mandate of the commission is publication and revision of the Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeia of India at suitable intervals; Publication and revision of the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Formularies as well as Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical Codex;

Regulatory Councils

The Statutory Regulatory Councils under AYUSH are:-

(i) Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), New Delhi

The Central Council of Indian Medicine has prescribed Regulations for Under-graduate and Post-graduate courses of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Tib and Sowa Rigpa.

(ii) Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), New Delhi

Central Council of Homoeopathy has been constituted by the central government under the provisions of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 for the maintenance of a Central Register of Homoeopathy and for other matters connected therewith. The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 was amended lastly in 2002, provisions of which were enforced from 2003.

17. HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

THE Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is entrusted with the responsibility of broad policy formulation and monitoring of programmes regarding urban housing and urban development. It is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level.

Urbanization in India has become an important and irreversible process, and it is an important determinant of national economic growth and poverty reduction. As per the Census of India 2011, the population of India is 1,210.50 million, of which 377.10 million (31.2 per cent) is urban and 833.40 million (68.8 per cent) is rural. The urban population is located in 7,933 towns, comprising 4,041 statutory towns and 3,892 census towns.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Housing for All (Urban)

Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-22. To address Housing for All in urban area, the Mission has four verticals: (a) In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers; (b) affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG); (c) Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors; (d) subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancements.

With the last amendment in 2018 coverage is now extended to the entire urban areas consisting of all statutory towns and areas including Notified Planning/development area/industrial development authority/special area development authority/urban development authority or any such Authority under state legislation which is entrusted with the functions of urban planning and regulations.

A comprehensive and robust MIS system is in place that helps all stakeholders to seamlessly manage information pertaining to physical and financial progress. The MIS is equipped with geo-tagging features and integrated with BHUVAN Portal of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and BHARAT MAP of National Informatic Centre (NIC) for monitoring the progress of construction of. The MIS has also been integrated with UMANG Mobile App,

Smart Cities Mission

The Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015. The objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions.

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Under it, 100 Smart Cities have been selected in 4 Rounds based on All India Competition. All 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015. In all, 500 cities have been included in the Mission. All Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with a population of one lakh or more, all other capital cities of states/ UTs, all Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) cities, identified cities on the stem of the main rivers, from hill states, islands and tourist destinations. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with a total outlay of rupees one lakh crore including a Central Assistance of ₹ 50,000 crore spread over 5 years i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-2020. The balance share of ₹ 50,000 crore has to come from states and ULBs.

Heritage City Development

The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner with the objective of preserving the heritage character of each Heritage City. The scheme is being implemented in 12 identified cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households. The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, to be decided by the state as per local need and capability.

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March, 2016 heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector. The core objective of this transformative legislation is to ensure regulation and promotion of real estate sector in an efficient manner and to protect the interest of home buyers.

Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

The objective of the Act is to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities. States/UTs (with legislature) are the appropriate government for framing of Rules and Schemes under the Act for their respective states/UTs. Ministry being the appropriate Government for UTs (without Legislature) has framed Rules and Schemes under the said Act.

Urban Transport

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of Urban Transport matters at the central level. However, technical planning of rail transport continues to be with Ministry of Railways. Similarly, road transport is the responsibility of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, the major responsibility for urban transport infrastructure and service delivery rests with State Governments and local bodies.

National Urban Transport Policy

In order to deal with the emerging problems in Urban Transport, the Government of India formulated a National Urban Transport Policy in 2006. It offers central government's financial support for investments in public transport, infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as in the construction of parking facilities, including demonstrative pilot projects.

Standardization and Indigenization of Metro Rail Systems

To promote indigenization and reduction in cost, the specifications of various metro rail components like rolling stock, signalling systems, electrical and electro-mechanical components and civil engineering structures have been standardized.

I-Metros (Indian Metro Rail Organisations' Society)

A platform to exchange ideas, pooling of knowledge and sharing of experience, best practices, innovations etc. among the Indian metro rail companies to nurture excellence in performance, was launched in March 2018.

18. INDIA AND THE WORLD

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also known as the Foreign Ministry, is the government agency responsible for the conduct of foreign relations of the country.

India's broadening horizons on maritime issues were postulated through presentation of a six-point Indo-Pacific policy, reinforcing our concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). India played a pioneering role on climate change and global warming issues with the holding of the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in 2018.

India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' continued to be accorded the highest priority. In Nepal, the Arun III hydro-electric project and the Nepal India Ramayana Circuit were. In solidarity with Bangladesh's efforts to provide succour to those displaced from North Rakhine State in Myanmar, India launched Operation Insaniyat and supplied three tranches of humanitarian aid. India is assisting Myanmar to create an environment conducive to the return of displaced persons through the Rakhine State Development Programme. The two countries have signed a Land Boundary Crossing Agreement whereby designated boundary points were opened up to the normal movement of visa-holding travellers, including from third countries

With strategic autonomy at its core, India continued to step up its engagement with all the major powers of the world, taking independent decisions in the national interest. The "informal summit" mechanisms with China at Wuhan and Russia at Sochi were important milestones. India and the US held their first 2+2 dialogue between foreign and defence

ministers, consolidating the global strategic partnership. The Act East policy has received a boost with the renewed global emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region.

Carrying forward India's 'Think West' policy, coordinating energy and security interests, External Affairs Minister met representatives of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE for bilateral engagements during the year. In December, the India Ports Global Limited company assumed responsibilities for operations in Iran's Chabahar port, which will provide sea land connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia. A waiver was obtained from the US which enabled the continued imports of Iranian oil and separate mechanisms were evolved for payments and marine insurance.

The G20 Summit also saw intensive engagement, with the first ever Japan-America-India (JAI) trilateral meeting as also the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting. India announced that it would host the G20 Summit in 2022, the 75th year of India's Independence. The General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was inaugurated in Delhi, along with the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global Re-invest Meet. The ISA is the first UN-affiliated inter-governmental organization to be headquartered in India. More than ten thousand civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. Given its popularity and in-line with the changing needs and technological advancements around the world, new platforms like e-ITEC and ITEC-Onsite have been included in the bouquet of ITEC offerings.

Cooperation on the humanitarian front was extended to countries affected by disaster. India launched Operation 'Samudra Maitri' for earthquake and tsunami assistance to Indonesia.

Neighbourhood **Afghanistan**

Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 1 billion as a result of initiatives including 'Air Freight Corridor'; India's development partnership and capacity building programme for Afghanistan was scaled up; and cooperation, including in the areas of security, connectivity; and promotion of friendly exchanges was deepened.

Pakistan

India, as part of its consistent policy, expressed its desire to have normal relations with Pakistan in an environment free from terror and violence, and called upon Pakistan to create a conducive environment for the same. India's proposal to establish a "Corridor" to facilitate smooth and easy access for Indian pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib, currently located on the Pakistani side of the International Border, was agreed to by Pakistan.

Bangladesh

India-Bangladesh relations expanded in depth and complexity in the year under review. During Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit to India (West Bengal) it was decided to open a Bangladesh Bhavan at Shantiniketan and to receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

Myanmar

The positive trajectory of bilateral ties between India and Myanmar was maintained. External Affairs Minister visited Myanmar in 2018, signing five MoUs including the Land Boundary Crossing Agreement. Substantial progress was recorded in accelerating some of our

legacy infrastructure projects, with the completion of construction of two elements out of three (port plus inland waterway) of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share extraordinary ties of friendship and cooperation marked by mutual understanding, goodwill and respect for each other's interests. Both countries jointly celebrated in 2018 the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with a series of commemorative events that showcased the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Nepal

The high-level visits provided an opportunity to comprehensively review bilateral partnership as well as to launch new initiatives in the areas of agriculture, inland waterways and railways. The year also witnessed intensive official and technical level bilateral engagements. India and India is the largest trade partner of Nepal and one of the largest investors.

China

The closer developmental partnership between India and China reached a new milestone in 2018 with the first Informal Summit between Indian Prime Minister and Sino President held in 2018. India joining the SCO as a full member and China taking over the chairmanship of SCO in 2018 provided further opportunities for greater.

Sri Lanka

Bilateral relationship strengthened with high-level political engagements and people-to-people contacts. Expansion in scope and spread of India development assistance projects to hitherto untouched areas in central and southern Sri Lanka has helped in change of perception regarding India as a reliable developmental partner.

Maldives

The 14th edition of the Trilateral Joint Naval Exercise, "Dosti-14" between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held in Maldives. The 3rd Joint Staff talks were held in Male.

Mauritius

External Affairs Minister led a delegation to the 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius in 2018. On the economic front several rounds of negotiations towards conclusion of CECPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement) were held, resulted in signing of the Joint Study Report in 2018.

Seychelles

Our pragmatic, outcome oriented engagement was re-energised in 2018 by successful visit of President to India. The visit saw signing of 6 important agreements pertaining to various sectors of cooperation and gifting of US\$ 30 million worth Dornier aircraft to Seychelles for enhancing EEZ Surveillance.

Indian Ocean Rim Association

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanism has a vital role to play in realizing this common aspiration for the region. India has been supportive of further invigoration of IORA activities across a wide spectrum.

South East Asia and Asia Pacific

Under India's Act East Policy (AEP) launched in 2014, India has been engaging robustly with countries in Southeast Asia region, Oceania, Northeast Asia and East Asia. ASEAN is at the core of AEP. The upgrade from Look East to Act East highlights the importance of the region through a more proactive and pragmatic. The Government of India engages with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam and Pacific Island countries through its various development assistance programmes.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

After successfully hosting the India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Commemorative Summit in January 2018, India continued with its calibrated efforts to pursue a dynamic and multi-dimensional relationship with ASEAN. In accordance with its 'Act East Policy', India has boosted ties with the ASEAN Member States across political, security, economic and cultural spheres.

The Gulf and West Asia

Gulf

The bilateral friendly ties with each of the Gulf countries are deep-rooted in a shared history. The region is one of our largest trading partners with a trade of US\$ 123 billion in 2017-18, energy supplies with over 50 per cent of crude oil and 70 per cent of LNG requirements. Besides, strategic oil reserves being created in India with close cooperation with the region and investments in green field oil refinery project add to our energy security assurances. A huge diaspora of over 9 million contributes to the goodwill between the countries besides contributing to annual remittances of over US\$ 38 billion (in 2017).

Iran

Bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of economic, energy, connectivity, people-to-people contacts were expanded. The Trilateral Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran for establishment of International Trade and Transit Corridor through Chabahar came into effect in 2018.

West Asia and North Africa

West Asia and North Africa (WANA): This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash—the key raw materials for the production of various fertilizers. More than 80 per cent requirements of rock phosphates are sourced from the countries in this region. India has enhanced its cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region to secure their interest in the areas of anti-piracy and maritime security.

AFRICA

East & South Africa

The year saw first ever visits by an Indian President to Swaziland (Eswatini) and Equatorial Guinea in 2018 and the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda. President also visited Zambia (2018) and Prime Minister visited Uganda after a gap of 21 years and South Africa. Indian Missions in Rwanda and Djibouti have already been opened this year. Significant events organized by India at the ministerial high-level included commemoration of the 120th year of the incident involving Mahatma Gandhi at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in South Africa and West Africa Regional CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in Nigeria in 2018 and launch of India for Humanity Programme in Malawi. The new capacity building

institutions launched included Gandhi-Mandela Skills centre in South Africa and upgrade of Indo-Zim Technology centre in Zimbabwe..

West Africa

India's relations with countries in the West Africa (WA) region continued to expand and diversify during the year. The region is rich in all known minerals. India sources about 18 per cent of its crude oil requirements from this region. India imports over US\$ 2 billion worth of gold from Ghana per year. India also sources a significant amount of raw cashew nuts from countries in the region including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal.

There have been better coordination and synergy of efforts amongst the countries of the region to deal with the threat of terrorism. These efforts include the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) or FC-G5S established by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. India has been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic Of Congo).

Europe and European Union

Central Europe

There were outgoing visits of President to Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic and Vice President to Serbia, Malta and Romania. PM participated in the first ever India- Nordic summit at Stockholm and interacted with the leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. India and the Central European countries continued to extend support to each other in various international fora including the support for each other candidates in international organizations.

Western Europe

India continued its multifaceted engagement with the countries of Western Europe including Belgium, France, Germany, UK, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, etc. Vice President of India visited Brussels for the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) hosted by the European Union. The Vice-President also represented India at the commemorative ceremony of World War-I Armistice Centenary and participated in the inaugural Paris Peace Forum in Paris. India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of cooperation like security in the Indian Ocean region, climate change including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and sustainable growth and development among others.

India and Italy commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations with year-long celebrations in both the countries. The multi-faceted strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom received fresh impetus with the visit of Prime Minister to London.

European Union

The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2004. Today, India and the EU have over 30 dialogue mechanisms covering a large gamut of issues of mutual interest. The European Union came out with a new Strategy Paper for India covering wide canvas with concrete action points to be worked upon over the next 10- 15 years.

The Americas

North America

2018-19 witnessed significant forward movement in India's bilateral relations with the U.S. and steady progress in relations with Canada. The first-ever Trilateral Summit involving leaders of India, the U.S. and Japan took place in Buenos Aires. The inaugural meeting of the India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue in set the stage for rich discussion and outcomes on foreign policy, defence and security fields. India's elevation as a Strategic Trade Authorization Tier-I partner country for the purpose of U.S. trade in dual-use items reflected benefits to India as a major defence partner of the U.S., counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination with the U.S. on regional counter-terrorism challenges improved significantly.

Latin America

During 2018, India's relations with the region both in terms of political engagement as well as trade and commercial linkages intensified, and was marked by many VVIP visits and interactions.

United Nations and International Organisations

In 2018, India continued its active engagements with international organizations including United Nations (UN), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth. PM led the Indian delegation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in London. External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation at the 18th NAM Mid-term Ministerial conference held in Baku. EAM also led the Indian delegation during the High-Level segment of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session.

India and Peacekeeping

India continued to push for greater priority to be given within the UN system for the global counter-terrorism effort. It was repeatedly highlighted that the international community needed to strengthen its legal framework that supported international counter-terrorism cooperation by reaching agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). India was elected to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2019-2021, securing the highest number of votes (188 out of 193) among all the 18 candidate countries. India was re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (CNGO) for the term 2019-2022. India was also elected to five UN Bodies: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term 2019- 21; Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS for the term 2019-2021; UN-Women (Executive Board of UN-WOMEN) for the term 2019-2021; CPD (Commission on Population and Development) from 2018 to 2021; and CSoCD (Commission for Social Development) from 2018 to 2021. India was re-elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for 2019-2022 term.

States Division

MEA has a States Division, established in 2014, to foster closer links between Indian missions and posts abroad and states/union territories. It facilitates the signing of various Sister City/Sister States and other MoUs between state/union territory governments and foreign entities. This Division rendered assistance to foreigners in distress and eliminate any negative fallout from these events abroad.

Global Cyber Issues

Increasing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the social and economic development of nations has made cyber issues one of the significant subjects of

diplomatic discussions around the world. MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues cell to create the new Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of Indian interests on the subject in international fora.

Overseas Indian Affairs

The Overseas Indian Affairs Divisions are driven by the vision of development through coalitions in a world without borders. As part of government's commitment to strengthen engagement with diaspora, among the major initiatives hosted during 2018-2019 were Videsh Sampark outreach programme, Know India Programme, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences, Scholarship programme for diaspora children, and Awareness Campaign on Safe and Legal Migration.

19. INDUSTRY

THE Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) was established in 1995 and was reconstituted in 2000 with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development.

The role and functions of the Department, primarily include: (a) formulation and implementation of industrial policy and strategies for industrial development in conformity with the development needs and national objectives; (b) monitoring the industrial growth, in general, and performance of industries specifically assigned to it, in particular, including advice on all industrial and technical matters; (c) formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and promotion, approval and facilitation of FDI; (d) formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property Rights in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods and administration of regulations, rules made there under.

National Manufacturing Policy

In order to bring about a quantitative and qualitative change and to provide necessary impetus to the manufacturing sector, the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) was notified with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so.

National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure; land use on the basis of zoning; clean and energy efficient technology; necessary social infrastructure; skill development facilities, etc., to provide a conducive environment for manufacturing industries.

Manufacturing Clusters

The objective of the National Plan for Manufacturing Clusters is to bring about convergence in the multiple models of development of industrial clusters by the central and state governments so as to affect better cost efficiency and optimal utilization of resources. Following this DIPP has developed Industrial Information System, web-portal to capture information of all industrial clusters/zones/nodes/parks in existence and those which are in pipeline. The system has been developed in Open Source Software on the GIS layers developed by BISAG.

Foreign Direct Investment Policy

DPIIT is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India based on the remittances reported by the Reserve Bank of India. With a view to attract higher levels of FDI, a liberal policy has been put in place on FDI under which FDI up to 100 per cent is permitted under the automatic route in most sectors/ activities

After abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), process for granting FDI approvals has been simplified wherein the work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the government thereon under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA is now handled by the concerned ministries/departments. However, DIPP is a single point interface of the government to facilitate investors for FDI through approval route

Make in India

The initiative was launched in September, 2014 as a national effort towards making India an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. The Action plans include initiatives for infrastructure creation; Ease of Doing Business; innovation and R&D; fiscal incentives and skill development. Make in India initiative is now focused on 27 sectors - 15 manufacturing sectors and 12 champion service sectors. The sectoral plans for manufacturing sectors are coordinated in DPIIT while the sectoral plans for services are coordinated by the Department of Commerce in convergence with the Champion Services Sector initiative.

Public Procurement

The Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 (PPP-MII Order) was issued in 2017 pursuant to Rule 153 (iii) of the General Financial Rules 2017 as an enabling provision to promote domestic value addition in public procurement. This Order is applicable for procurement of goods , services and works (including turnkey works) by a central ministry/department, their attached/subordinate offices, autonomous bodies controlled by the Government of India and government companies as defined in the Companies Act.

Ease of Doing Business

In order to improve the business environment in the country, the DPIIT has taken up a series of measures to simplify and rationalize the regulatory processes (registration and inspection processes) and introduction of information technology as enabler to make governance more efficient and effective. India ranks 77th in the World Bank's annual Doing Business Report (DBR) 2019 as against 100th rank in the DBR 2018. The DBR ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier, an absolute score that measures the gap between India and the global best practice on 10 specified indicators. India's absolute score improved from 60.76 in DBR 2018 to 67.23 in DBR 2019. DPIIT launched an online portal to track implementation of reforms on a real-time basis.

The assessment of Business Reforms Action Plan, 2017-2018 was released jointly by DPIIT and the World Bank in 2018. An 80-point Business Reforms Action Plan 2019 has been prepared and shared with states and UTs.

Start up India

Launched in 2016, the startup India has rolled out several programmes with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building up a robust start up ecosystem and transforming India into

a country of job creators instead of job seekers. These programmes are managed by a dedicated Startup India team, which reports to DPIIT.

Invest India

Invest India has been set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), CII, NASSCOM and various state governments. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors

Project Monitoring – Invest India Cell

Project Monitoring Group (PMG), was set up in Cabinet Secretariat in 2013 and has recently been merged with DPIIT from 2019, with Invest India providing support. The PMG is now known as Project Monitoring- Invest India Cell (PMIC). It is an institutional mechanism for resolving of issues and fast tracking the setting up and expeditious commissioning of large public, private and Public- Private Partnership (PPP) Projects.

Research Parks

Research Parks are being established at IIT Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Delhi and Bombay to propel successful innovation through incubation and joint R&D efforts between academia and industry.

Promoting Startups in Biotechnology

With the aim to foster and facilitate bio-entrepreneurship, Bio-clusters, Bio-Incubators, Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) and Bio-Connect offices are being established in research institutes and universities across India. Seed fund and Equity Funding support is also provided to bio-tech Startups under the initiative.

Startup India Hub was operationalized in 2016 to resolve queries and handhold Startups. A digital extension to Startup India Hub, an intelligent online hub was operationalized in 2017 which will serve as a platform where all the stakeholders of the Startup ecosystem can collaborate and synergise their efforts. It will facilitate location-wise and sectoral mapping.

Intellectual Property Rights

DPIIT is nodal department for administration of various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights. DPIIT also is the nodal department for dealing with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), a subordinate office under DPIIT, carries out statutory functions related to grant of patents and registration of trademarks, Designs and Geographical Indications. The registration of Copyrights is administered by the Registrar of Copyright Office, working under the CGPDTM. It functions out of offices situated in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad, while the Central IP Training Academy is at Nagpur.

The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), established in 2003, is the appellate tribunal to hear appeals against decisions of the Controller of Patents as also Registrar of Trade Marks and Geographical Indications. Under the Finance Act, 2017, the Copyright Board has also been merged in the IPAB. It is headquartered at Chennai.

National IPR Policy

The National IPR Policy, lays the future roadmap for intellectual property in India. The Policy recognises the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelise these energies towards a better and brighter future for all.. The Policy lays down the following objectives: (i.) IPR Awareness: outreach and promotion - to create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.; (ii.) generation of IPRs - to stimulate the generation of IPRs.; (iii.) legal and legislative framework - to have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest.; (iv.) administration and management - to modernize and strengthen service oriented IPR administration.; (v.) commercialization of IPRs - get value for IPRs through commercialization. (vi.) enforcement and adjudication - to strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements; (vii.) human capital development - to strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

Productivity and Quality

DPIIT is the nodal department for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector. The National Productivity Council (NPC) represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), of which India is a founder member.

Industrial / Economic Corridors

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project was launched in pursuance of an MoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan in 2006. The DMIC is being developed on either side, along the alignment of the 1504 km long Western Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor between Dadri (UP) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai.

Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor

Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor: This will be structured around the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC).

Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor: is a key part of the east Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), India's first coastal corridor. VCIC is aligned with the Golden Quadrilateral and is poised to play a critical role in driving India's Act East Policy.

National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

In view of the success and importance of DMIC project, four more industrial corridors were assurance namely Amritsar - Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Bengaluru - Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC), Chennai - Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and East Coast Economic corridor with Vizag - Chennai industrial corridor (VCIC) as the initial phase of development. It has been expanded and re-designated as National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

National Design Policy

The National Design Policy was approved in 2007. The details of the Policy, inter alia, include: (i) promotion of Indian design through a well-defined and managed regulatory, promotional and institutional framework; (ii) setting up of specialized Design Centres or

Innovation Hubs for sectors such as automobile and transportation, jewellery, leather, soft goods, digital products, toys and games which will provide common facilities and enabling tools like rapid product development, high performance visualization, etc.; (iii) formulation of a scheme for setting up Design Centres / Innovation Hubs in select locations / industrial clusters / backward states, particularly in the North East; etc.

Performance of Eight Core Industries

In line with the base year change in IIP, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, revised the base year of Index of Eight Core Industries to 2011-12. These eight industries have combined weight of around 40.27 per cent in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Leather industry plays an important role in the Indian economy in view of its substantial overall output, export earnings and employment potential.

Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPP) aims at augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology upgradation of leather units.

Cement Industry: Different varieties of cement are produced as per Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specifications and its quality is comparable with the best in the world. Cement cannot be sold in the country without BIS mark. Indian cement industry has managed to keep pace with global technological advancement. India is the second largest manufacturer of cement after China in the world.

Ceramic Industry: The Ceramic industry is about 50 years old. It comprises ceramic tiles, sanitary-ware and crockery. India continues to rank No.3 in terms of production and consumption of tiles in the world after China and Brazil. With the majority of raw materials necessary for the production of tiles available in the country, the Indian tile industry has kept pace with the times embracing modern technology.

Tyre & Tubes Industry: All types of tyres required to meet the domestic demand are manufactured in India. India is one of the few countries worldwide which has attained self-sufficiency in manufacturing a wide range of tyres for all applications. With the objective of ensuring the safety of human lives and vehicles and also availability of quality products, a Quality (Control) Order for Pneumatic Tyres and Tubes for Automotive Vehicles was notified by the Department in 2009. This prohibits import, sale or distribution of pneumatic tyres and tubes which do not conform to the specified Bureau of Indian Standard and which do not bear the standard mark.

Rubber Goods Industry: The rubber industry manufactures a wide range of products like rubber coats and aprons, contraceptives, footwear, rubber hoses, cables, camelback, battery boxes, latex products, conveyor belts, surgical gloves, balloons, rubber moulded goods, etc.

Cigarette Industry: The cigarette industry is an agro-based labour intensive industry. Cigarette included in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development & Regulations) Act, 1951 requires industrial license.

Paints & Allied Products: The paints and allied Industry which has been exempted from compulsory licensing, mainly consists of paints, enamels, varnishes, pigments, printing inks, etc.

Glass Industry: Glass industry comes under the category of delicensed. It covers seven items such as flat glass (including sheet, float, figured, wired, safety, mirror glass), glass fiber and glass wool, hollow glassware, laboratory glassware, table and kitchen glassware, glass bangles and other glassware.

Paper Industry: India rules as one of the fastest growing paper market in the world. The growing knowledge base coupled with synergistic contributions from flagship schemes, namely, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, (SSA) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) etc, a robust demand for paper and paper board. The industry was de-licenced in July, 1997. As per the present policy, FDI up to 100 per cent is allowed on the automatic route for the pulp and paper sector.

Newsprint: The newsprint sector in the country is governed by the Newsprint Control Order (NCO), 2004. The mills listed under the schedule of this order are exempt from excise duty, subject to actual user condition

Salt Industry: India continues to hold third position in the production of salt in the world after China and USA with annual production of 260 lakh tonnes and second largest producer of iodized salt, next to China.

Transmission Towers: There is an increasing trend in India to have larger power stations, particularly mega and ultra-mega power projects. Consequently while there would be fewer but larger power generating stations, the demand for transmission of energy would grow substantially.

Lead Acid Storage Batteries: Lead acid batteries are accumulators of current and power which is discharged over a period of time. They are used in vehicles and also for various industrial uses such as for backup power for UPS application, control rooms, power stations, telecommunications, etc. In addition, it is also used for emergency lights for houses, telephone systems and as power source for mining, etc. A new application of lead acid batteries has emerged today in electric vehicles. order to ensure safe disposal of lead acid batteries, Ministry of Environment and forest has issued a notification Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Bicycle Industry: The bicycle industry of India is one of the most established industries. India is the second largest bicycle producer of the world, next only to China. Most of the manufacturing units are located in Punjab and Tamil Nadu with Ludhiana (Punjab) being a major bicycle production hub.

Food Processing Machinery: The most promising areas of growth are fruit and vegetable processing, meat, poultry, dairy and seafood, packaged/convenience food, soft drinks and grain processing. The machinery manufacturers have honed their expertise in manufacturing dairy machinery and other core equipment of food processing machinery.

Packaging Machinery Industry: Considering the growth prospects in industrial sector and growing consumer awareness of packaging, it is expected that there would be substantial growth in this area. There is a wide range of packaging machinery available in the country covering packaging of vast range of items. Some of the commonly available packing machinery includes machines for coding and on-line printing machines, feeding and labelling machines, strip packaging, form fill and seal machines etc.

Watch Industry: The watch industry in the country comprises units both in the organized as well as the small scale sector. The organized sector contributes 40 per cent of the total demand while the rest is met by the unorganized sector.

Central Public Sector Enterprises

The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, comprising the Department of Heavy Industry and the Department of Public Enterprises, functions under the charge of Cabinet Minister (Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises). There is a Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The Ministry promotes the development and growth of three sectors i.e., capital goods, auto and heavy electrical equipment in the country; administers 31 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs); 5 Autonomous Organizations and frames policy guidelines for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and overall administration of CPSEs

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector. The Act provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of “enterprise” which comprises both manufacturing and service entities. It defines medium enterprises for the first time and seeks to integrate the three tiers of these enterprises, namely, micro, small and medium.

The primary responsibility of promotion and development of MSMEs is of the state governments. However, the Government of India, supplements the efforts of the states through various initiatives. The role of the Ministry and its organizations is to assist the states in their efforts to encourage entrepreneurship, employment and livelihood opportunities and enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs in the changed economic scenario.

As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 73rd round, conducted by National Sample Survey Office, in 2015-16, there were 633.88 lakh unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs, in the country engaged in different economic.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956), and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organization under the Ministry of MSME and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

Coir Board

The Coir Board is a statutory body established under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 for promoting overall development of the coir industry and improvement of the living conditions of the workers engaged in this traditional industry. The functions of the Board for the development of coir industry inter-alia, include undertaking scientific, technological and economic research and development activities, etc.

Textiles

The textile industry contributes to 7 per cent of industry output in value terms of 2 per cent of India’s GDP and to 15 per cent of the country’s export earnings. With over 45 million people

employed directly, this industry is one of the largest sources of employment generation in the country.

India Handloom Brand: Indian handlooms have worldwide recognition through India Handloom Brand (IHB) which guarantees high quality, authentic handloom items made with organic substance. It has partnered with 100 retail stores to sell the exclusive IHB items from their stores. 25 retail stores across India have started operations. Leading garment brands have been working with IHB in bringing out a separate range of garment line using handlooms. BIBA, Peter England, ONAYA have already launched a separate range of handloom garments.

Silk

Silk in the Indian subcontinent is a luxury item. In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir. Three other commercially important types of silk fall into the category of non-mulberry silks namely: eri; tasar; and muga.

Cotton

Cotton is one of the most important cash crops in India and the country accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production. In the raw material consumption basket of the Indian textile industry, the proportion of cotton is around 59 per cent. India has the largest area under cotton in the world with around 105 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 35 per cent of the world area. To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staples groups viz., medium staple and long staple cotton. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry, is the principal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level.

Jute

India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually. The Government of India provides support to the jute growers not only through MSP operation by the Jute Corporation of India but also through direct purchase of jute sacking valued at around ₹ 6000 crore annually for packing foodgrains by invoking provisions under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. This is a major support not only to the jute farmers but also to jute mill workers. A software platform “Jute-SMART” (Jute Sacking Supply Management & Requisition Tool) was implemented for procurement of jute sacking from 2016. Jute - ICARE has been launched for increasing the income of jute farmers by at least 50 per cent through promotion of certified seeds, better agronomic practices and use of microbial retting of the jute plant.

Wool

For the holistic growth of the wool sector, the Ministry formulated a new integrated programme i.e. Integrated Wool Development Programme, (IWDP). The programme is to be implemented through Central Wool Development Board in major wool producing states in next three years. A programme for development of Pashmina sector in J&K was announced.

Technical Textiles

Technical textiles are the future of the textiles industry. High tenacity fibers are the lightest and toughest fabrics yet. They have a variety of applications in automobile, aerospace,

architecture and building, occupational therapy, sport and apparel industries etc. Eleven Focus Incubation Centres (FICs) have been established on plug and play model

Impetus to the Powerloom Sector

The powerloom sector is predominantly an unorganised sector producing 57 percent of the total cloth in the country. With a view to enhance quality and productivity of the powerloom, the Government launched IN SITU upgradation of plain powerlooms as part of PowerTex India under which plain powerlooms are attached with process control equipment leading to higher productivity, better quality and more than 50 per cent additional value realisation.

New Initiatives

Weavers' Mudra Scheme: Weavers' Mudra Scheme was launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers. Margin Money Assistance to a maximum of ₹ 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also provided.

e-Dhaga App: Govt of India launched Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) and e-Dhaga mobile App in 2016 to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers and help them to access information on 24x7 basis. The App is available in 10 languages- Hindi, English, Assamese, Odiya, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Urdu and Bangla.

BunkarMitra Help Line: To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries "BunkarMitra" -Helpline 18002089988 for handloom weavers was launched in 2017.

MoU with Financial Corporations: MoU was signed with National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Schedule Castes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) to implement schemes of Government of India for OBC and SC artisans and weavers.

Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs: Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs for handloom weavers and handicraft artisans are organized across the country. Various activities such as disbursement of MUDRA loan, supply of looms ,accessories and tool kits to weavers and artisans, issue of Pehchan ID Cards, yarn passbooks, enrolment of family member of weavers under IGNOU and NIOS were organized in the shivirs.

Steel

This industry has been a core pillar of industrial development in the country. India's crude steel capacity has steadily risen to 142 MT at present and India has become the world's second largest producer of steel (-111 MT crude steel production in 2018). It has a multiplicative effect on the economy stemming from both direct and associated effects on the supply chain and consumption industries. Out of a total global crude steel production of 1,241 MT (during January-August 2019, up by 4.4 per cent), India was the 2nd largest crude steel producer (75.69 MT) with a 6.1 per cent share in total world production and a 4.4 per cent growth in production over the same period of 2018. China remained the largest crude steel producer in the world, accounting for 75 per cent of Asian production and 54 per cent of world crude steel production.

National Steel Policy

The National Steel Policy (NSP) was launched in 2017 to ensure that the Indian steel sector is prepared to service the growing requirements of modern India and to promote a healthy sustainable growth for the sector. Key features of the NSP 2017 include establishing self-sufficiency in steel production by providing policy support and guidance to private manufacturers, MSME steel producers and CPSEs.

The policy projects crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (MT), production of 255 MT and a robust finished steel per capita consumption of 160 kg by 2030-31, as against the current consumption of 74 kg.

Key Initiatives

Purvodaya

The eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Northern Andhra Pradesh) are home to 80 per cent of the Indian iron reserves. Therefore, a flagship initiative - Purvodaya was envisaged for an integrated steel hub in the Eastern states. It will drive best in class capacity creation, augment value addition and boost competitiveness through the setting up of Greenfield steel plants, clusters, capital goods and requisite logistics infrastructure.

Make in Steel

India is on the cusp of rapid development in its infrastructure building phase and given the proposed ₹ 100 lakh crore spend in infrastructure, India's steel demand has massive potential to grow. Ispati Irada is a collaborative branding campaign with the objective of promoting the benefits of steel usage in various facets of nation building and how it impacts the lives of citizens in the country.

Boost domestic manufacturing through the DMI&SP Policy: Ministry of Steel has amended the Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products Procurement Policy (DMI&SP) in order to increase domestic sourcing of iron and steel products by government agencies. Through this policy, steel imports worth more than ₹ 15,000 cr. have so far been avoided.

Fertilizers

Department of Fertilizers comes under the ambit of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The main objective of the Department is to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers at affordable prices for maximizing agricultural production in the country. The Department has one attached office under it, viz., Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee (FICC).

Agriculture which accounts for about one seventh of the GDP, provides sustenance to nearly two-third of our population, Besides, it provides crucial backward and forward linkages to the rest of economy. In meeting the domestic requirement of food grains and also generating exportable surpluses, the significant role played by chemical fertilizers is well recognized.

New Urea Policy

The New Urea Policy-2015 was notified with the objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production; promoting energy efficiency in urea production; and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government. It will drive urea units to select better technology and different measure to reduce energy consumption. The higher energy efficiency due to these measures will reduce subsidy bill.

Neem Coating of Urea

Neem coating of urea (NCU) has been made mandatory for all the indigenous producers. By curbing this illegal diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes, the government aims to prevent subsidy leakages.

New Investment Policy

New Investment Policy was launched in 2013 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to make India self sufficient in it. Subsidy will be given only upon domestic sale as at present for a period of 8 years from the date of start of production.

Public Sector Undertakings

Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited

Incorporated in 1961, FCI was re-organized along with National Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (NFCL) from 1978 into five companies namely, FCI, NFL, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited

The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) was incorporated in 1978 as a result of the reorganization of the erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), and NFL Group of Companies.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited (RCF) was incorporated as a separate company in 1978 as a result of reorganization of the erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited.

National Fertilizers Limited

National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) was incorporated in 1974 for setting up two nitrogenous plants, at Bathinda (Punjab) and Panipat (Haryana) with LSHS as fee stock, each having urea production capacity of 5.11 lakh MT per annum.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industry

This industry occupies a pivotal position in meeting basic needs and improving quality of life. The industry is the mainstay of industrial and agricultural development of the country and provides building blocks for several downstream industries, such as textiles, papers, paints, soaps, detergents, pharmaceuticals, varnish, etc.

In the chemical sector, 100 per cent FDI is permissible. Manufacture of most of the chemical and petrochemical products is delicensed. The entrepreneurs need to submit an Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion provided no locational angle is applicable. Only the following items are covered in the compulsory licensing list because of their hazardous nature:- hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives; phosgene and its derivatives; and isocyanates and di-isocyanates of hydrocarbons.

Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions

The Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) Policy, is to promote the petroleum chemical and petrochemical sector in an integrated and environmental friendly manner on a large scale.

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), under the aegis of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, was established in 1968. The diversified

activities of CIPET include, skill development, technology support to industry, academics and research and development (STAR) in the field of plastics engineering technology, tooling, plastics processing, testing and quality assurance, etc. The reach of CIPET has been expanded and it is now operating at 30 centres in 18 states across the country

Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology

Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) was established in 1991 as an autonomous institution under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. IPFT is a NABL accredited laboratory for testing of pesticides technical and formulation, pesticide residues in various food matrices and CWC related chemicals.

Pharmaceuticals

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was under the Ministry of Industry until 1989, when it was brought under the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. In 1991, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was transferred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy

The Department notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) in 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs to ensure availability of required medicines - “essential medicines” - at reasonable prices.

Medical Devices

Medical devices industry is a multi-product industry, producing wide range of products. India is growing as a key market for Medical Devices and Diagnostics. Indian Medical Devices industry depends on imports up to an extent of almost 70 per cent.

Medical Device Segments

The medical devices industry can be broadly classified as consisting of (a) medical disposables and consumables; (b) medical electronics, hospital equipment, surgical instruments; (c) implants; and (d) diagnostic reagents.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

The Jan Aushadhi Scheme was launched in 2008 with the aim of selling affordable generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets i.e., Jan Aushadhi Stores in various districts across the country. The first Jan Aushadhi Store was opened at Amritsar in Punjab in 2008. The original target of the campaign was to establish Jan Aushadhi Stores in every district of our country. Recently, “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana” (PMJAY) has been renamed as “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” (PMBJP) and “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra” (PMJAK) as “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra” (PMBJK).

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) was incorporated in 1961 with the primary objective of creating self-sufficiency in essential life saving drugs and medicines. The company has presently three manufacturing plants, one each at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Gurgaon (Haryana).

Mines and Minerals

The Ministry is responsible for legislation for regulation of mines and development of minerals within the territory of India, including mines and minerals underlying the ocean

within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India as may be specified, from time to time by or under any law made by Parliament; regulation of mines and development of minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing and any other mineral declared as prescribed substances for the purpose of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962) as declared by law.

Mineral Legislation and Reforms

The Central Act to provide for the development and regulation of mines and minerals is the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which came into force in 1958. Section 13 of the MMDR Act empowers the central government to formulate rules for regulation of grant of mineral concessions for major minerals; in accordance of which Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 have been framed. Section 18 of MMDR Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to frame rules for the conservation and systematic development of minerals and for the protection of environment in accordance of which Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 have been framed. Section 15 of MMDR Act, 1957 empowers state governments to frame rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals; accordingly all state governments and some union territories have framed their own rules in this regard.

National Mineral Exploration Trust

The Government notified National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2015 and has also established National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) in pursuance Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 1957, with primary objective to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana

The government launched Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) which is to be implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts. PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected person and create a win- win situations for the stakeholders. The monitoring of PMKKKY would be done under “DISHA”, the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Rural Development to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.

National Mineral Exploration Policy

Government unveiled National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 (NMEP) which spells out the strategy and outlines the action plan that the Government will adopt to ensure comprehensive exploration of country’s mineral resources (non-fuel and non-coal).

Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation

The Ministry has developed a Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA) portal and mobile application. This will be an interactive platform for all stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory/ other clearances.

Star Rating of Mines

The Ministry of Mines launched in 2016 Scheme of Star Rating of Mines/ mining leases for implementation of Sustainable Development Framework (SDF). The Star Ratings are to be awarded, based on evaluation of performance of mines on techno, socio-economic and

environmental parameters and give objective reporting of their activities. It has been instituted as a two tier system providing self-evaluation templates to be filled in by the mine operator followed by validation through Indian Bureau of Mines.

Mining Surveillance System

To curb the menace of illegal mining, a satellite-based monitoring system namely Mining Surveillance System (MSS), was developed and launched which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration through automatic remote sensing detection technology.

Mineral Resources

The classification of reserves/resources of various minerals based on United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) was done in April 2010 following which National Mineral Inventory was prepared. The UNFC consists of a three dimensional system with three axes-economic viability; feasibility assessment; and geological assessment.

Bauxite

By grades, about 81 per cent resources are of metallurgical grade. The resources of refractory and chemical grades are limited and together account for about 5 per cent. Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of

Chromite

Chromite in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 344 million tonnes, comprising 102 million tonnes reserves (30 per cent) and 242 million tonnes remaining resources (70 per cent). About 96 per cent resources of chromite are located in Odisha.

Copper

The total resources of copper ore in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 1511.50 million tonnes with about 12.16 million tonnes of copper metal. Of these 207.77 million tonnes (13.74 per cent) fall under Reserve. Rajasthan is credited with 813.33 million tonnes ore (54 per cent) containing 4.48 million tonnes of copper metal

Gold

Total resources of gold (primary), in terms of metal, stood at 654.74 tonnes. Out of these, 70.09 tonnes were placed under reserves The resources include placer-type gold ore in Kerala. The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent).

Iron Ore

Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India. About 59 per cent hematite ore deposits are found in the eastern sector. About 92 per cent magnetite ore deposits occur in southern sector, especially in Karnataka. By grades, lumps constitute about 56 per cent followed by fines (21 per cent), lumps with fines (13 per cent) and the remaining 10 per cent are black iron ore, not-known and other grades

Classification of Magnetite on the basis of grades shows 20 per cent resources of metallurgical grade while 80 per cent resources belong to unclassified, not-known and other grades.

Lead and Zinc

The total resources of lead and zinc ores as in 2015 as per UNFC system, are estimated at 749.46 million tonnes. Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 670.34 million

Manganese Ore

The total resources of manganese ore in the country as in 2015 are placed at 496 million tonnes as per UNFC system. State wise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share.

Nickel

Important occurrence is nickeliferous limonite in the overburden of chromite in Sukinda Valley, Jajpur district, Odisha, where it occurs as oxide. Nickel also occurs in sulphide form along with copper mineralisation in East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. In addition, it is found associated with uranium deposits at Jaduguda, Jharkhand and process is being developed for its recovery.

Tungsten

Resources are mainly distributed in Karnataka (42 per cent), Rajasthan (27 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (17 per cent) and Maharashtra (9 per cent).

Barytes

The total resources of barytes in India as in 2015 as per UNFC system are placed at 86.7 million tonnes. Andhra Pradesh alone accounts for 92 per cent of the country's barytes resources followed by Telangana and Rajasthan.

Diamond

Diamond occurrences are reported since prehistoric times in the country. Presently, diamond fields of India are grouped into four regions: 1) South Indian tract of Andhra Pradesh, comprising parts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Guntur, Krishna, and Kurnool districts and Mahaboobnagar in Telangana; 2) Central Indian tract of Madhya Pradesh, comprising Panna belt and Chhatarpur districts; 3) Behradin-Kodawali area in Raipur district and Tokapal, Dugapal, etc. areas in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh; and 4) Eastern Indian tract mostly of Odisha, lying between Mahanadi and Godavari valleys.

Dolomite

Dolomite occurrences are widespread in the country. Major share of about 88 per cent resources was distributed in eight states: namely, Madhya Pradesh (27 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (15 per cent), Chhattisgarh (11 per cent) Odisha (10 per cent), Karnataka and Rajasthan (7 per cent each), Gujarat (6 per cent) and Maharashtra (5 per cent)

Gypsum

Of the total resources, fertilizer/pottery grade accounts for about 80 per cent and cement/paint grade 13 per cent. By States, Rajasthan alone accounts for 81 per cent resources and Jammu & Kashmir 14 per cent resources.

Graphite

Graphite occurrences are reported from various states but the deposits of economic importance are located in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Limestone

The total resources of limestone of all categories and grades as per UNFC system in 2015 are estimated at 203,225 million tonnes. Karnataka is the leading state having 27 per cent of the total resources followed by Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan (12 per cent each).

Mica

The most important mica-bearing pegmatites occur in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Occurrences of mica pegmatites are also reported from Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Magnesite

The total reserves/resources of magnesite as per UNFC system in 2015 are about 394 million tonnes. Substantial quantities of resources are established in Uttarakhand (59 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (14 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (25 per cent).

Geological Survey of India

Geological Survey of India (GSI) the premier earth science organization of the country, is the principal provider of basic earth science information to the Government, Industry and the geoscientific sector.

GSI is now the custodian of one of the largest and most comprehensive earth science databases developed over the last one and half century. Its Charter of operation laid down by the Government of India details the scope of activities and responsibilities of GSI that encompasses practically the entire gamut of earth science activities.

Online Core Business Integrated System and National Aerogeophysical Mapping Programme GSI launched, in 2017, an Online Core Business Integrated System (OCBIS) which is a state-of-the-art IT enabled system encapsulating all the main activities of GSI using an online digital platform. The workflow of GSI from data acquisition to data storage, analysis and dissemination is digitally captured in this system, besides all the administrative and financial activities of GSI.

Indian Bureau of Mines

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) established in March, 1948, is a multi-disciplinary scientific and technical organisation under Ministry of Mines. The Indian Bureau of Mines performs regulatory functions under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 amended in 2015.

IBM provides technical consultancy services to the mining industry for the geological appraisal of mineral resources, and the preparation of feasibility report of mining projects, including beneficiation plants. It prepares mineral maps and countrywide inventory of mineral resources of leasehold and freehold areas. It also promotes and monitors community development activities in mining areas

The Ministry of Mines has three Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) under its administrative control. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) are operating in the field of mining and mineral processing, and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is operating in the field of mineral exploration.

National Aluminium Company Limited

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines. It was established in 1981 in the public sector, with its registered office at Bhubaneswar. NALCO has bulk shipment facilities at Vizag port for export of Alumina/Aluminium and import of caustic soda and also utilises the facilities at Kolkata and Paradeep ports. The Company is listed at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) since 1992 and National Stock Exchange (NSE) since 1999.

Hindustan Copper Limited

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, was incorporated in 1967 under the Companies Act, 1956. It has the distinction of being the nation's only vertically integrated copper producing company as it manufactures copper right from the stage of mining to beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal into downstream saleable products.

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) a Miniratna Company is the leading organisation both in government and in private sector, possessing entire spectrum of mineral exploration facilities under one roof. Since its inception in 1972, MECL has grown from strength to strength by adopting modern techniques of exploration and it has now emerged as the premier exploration agency in the country.

National Institute of Rock Mechanics

National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) is the only institution in south Asia exclusively devoted to research in rock mechanics. Over the period of last 25 years, the institute has the privilege to provide its expertise to various central, state government agencies and public sector undertakings in the field of mining, hydroelectric projects, nuclear power projects etc.

National Institute of Miners' Health

National Institute of Miners' Health, Nagpur (NIMH) is an autonomous institute established under Ministry of Mines, with the objective of promotion of occupational health and prevention of occupational diseases among the persons employed in mining and mineral based industries. The Institute is engaged in research and developmental activities relating to occupational health.

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre

The Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur is a Centre of Excellence set up in 1989 as a joint venture of Ministry of Mines, Government of India and UNDP with a view to provide major R&D support system for the emerging modern aluminium industry in India

20. LAW AND JUSTICE

Ministry of Law and Justice comprises the three Departments namely the Department of Legal Affairs, the Legislative Department and the Department of Justice. The Department of Legal affairs is assigned legal functions including the interpretation of the Constitution and Laws, litigation, legal profession, law reforms, treaties and agreements with foreign countries in the matters of the civil law, legal services including Indian Legal Service, etc. The

legislative Department is concerned with the drafting of the principal legislation for the central government. The Department of Justice is concerned with the appointment, resignation and the removal of the Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts etc.

Indian Legal System

The Indian Legal System comprises four components namely the basic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution; rights and obligations conferred by ordinary statutes;

Sources of Law

The main sources of law in India are the Constitution, statutes (legislation), customary law and case law. Statutes are enacted by Parliament, state legislatures and union territory legislatures. Besides, there is a vast body of laws known as subordinate legislation in the form of rules, regulations as well as bye-laws made by central/state governments and local authorities like municipal corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats and other local bodies.

Enactment of Law

The Parliament is competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the Union List. State legislatures are competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the State List. Parliament alone has power to make laws on matters not included in the State List or Concurrent List. On matters enumerated in the Concurrent List, laws can be made by both Parliament and the state legislature. But in the event of repugnancy, law made by Parliament shall prevail over law made by state legislature.

Judiciary

At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the Supreme Court of India with a High Court for each state or group of states and under the High Courts there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts.

The highest court in each district is that of District and Sessions Judge. This district court is the principal court of civil jurisdiction and can try all offences including those punishable with death. He is the highest judicial authority in a district.

Supreme Court

After achieving independence in August, 1947, there was demand from the Indian polity for enlarging the jurisdiction of Federal Court and granting more powers to it. From 1949 appeals to the Privy Council were abolished altogether and the entire appellate jurisdiction was vested in the Federal Court. On January 26, 1950, Federal Court gave way to the Supreme Court of India under the new Constitution. Supreme Court of India is located on Tilak Marg, New Delhi.

After its inauguration on January 28, 1950, the apex court commenced its sittings in a part of the Parliament House. The Court moved into the present building on August 4, 1958. The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges - leaving it to Parliament to increase this number.

The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of India

and must have been, for at least five years, a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an Advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist. Provisions exist for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court as an ad hoc Judge of the Supreme Court and for retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts to sit and act as Judges of Supreme Court.

High Courts

High Court stands at the head of the state's judicial administration. There are 24 High Courts in the country, three having jurisdiction over more than one state. Among the union territories, Delhi alone has a High Court of its own. Other six union territories come under the jurisdiction of different state High Courts. Each High Court comprises a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may, from time to time, appoint. The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state.

Jurisdiction and Seat of High Courts

Each High Court has powers of superintendence over all courts and tribunals within its jurisdiction. It can call for returns from such courts, make and issue general rules and prescribed forms to regulate their practices and proceedings and determine the manner and form in which book entries and accounts shall be kept.

Power of Supreme Court and High Courts

Supreme Court has power to issue any person or authority and government within its jurisdiction, direction, order or writs, including writs which are in the nature of for enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose. This power may also be exercised by any high court exercising jurisdiction in relation to territories within which the cause of action, wholly or in part arises for exercise of such power, even if the seat of such government or authority or residence of such person is not within those territories.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. All States have formulated their Litigation Policies with a view to reduce the Governmental litigation. Department of Legal Affairs have formulated National Litigation Policy, 2015, which is under active consideration of the government.

In the case of *Intiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and others*, the Supreme Court asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The criteria of judge-population ratio for determining the adequacy of the Judge Strength in the country has been reviewed by the Law Commission in its 245th Report (2014) prepared on the direction of the Supreme Court in this case. In this report, the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish their recommendations in this regard. NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. It has, inter alia, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific

method to determine the total number of Judicial Hours required for disposing of the case load of each court

The judge-population ratio in the country, taking into account sanctioned strength of judges at all levels now stands at about 19.61 judges per one million of the population.

Judicial Infrastructure

The primary responsibility of infrastructure development for the subordinate judiciary rests with the state governments. A centrally sponsored scheme has been in place since 1993-94 to assist the states for the development of judicial infrastructure. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers. Until 2011, the central and state governments used to contribute an equal share under the scheme but from 2011-12 onwards the central government was contributing 75 per cent of the funds. In the case of states in the north eastern states the central government provides 90 per cent of the funding. Central funding is, however, subject to budgetary allocation for the scheme.

e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the e-Governance projects being implemented in High Courts and district/subordinate courts of the country. The project has been conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary-2005” by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.

Access to Justice for the Marginalised

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, is implementing a decade long programme on Access to Justice for Marginalised People (2008- 2017). The project extends to the eight UNDAF states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Legal Affairs

Department of Legal Affairs is the nodal department for reciprocal arrangement with foreign countries for enforcement of arbitral awards pursuant to the New York Convention under section 44(b) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The department of Legal Affairs is the Central Authority under the Hague Convention of 1965 for service aboard of judicial and extra-judicial documents in civil and commercial matters.

Legal Information Management and Briefing System

LIMBS helps to introduce transparency as well as a sense of ownership among various stakeholders during the entire life cycle of a court case. In a very short span, with the help of various ministries and their nodal officers and local admins, LIMBS has captured more than 1.36 L court cases with more than 5500 registered users, more than 14000 advocates.

National Litigation Policy

There are approximately 3.2 crore cases pending in various courts in India. Therefore, the draft National Litigation Policy 2017 proposes to put in place a system which prevents, controls and reduces litigation.

Institutionalisation of Arbitration

Department of Legal Affairs, constituted a high level committee to review Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Shri B. N. Srikrishna.

Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange

The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange was established in 2000 under Section 18 of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. Under Section 19 of FEMA, the central government or any person aggrieved by an order made by Special Director (Appeals), or made by an Adjudicating Authority other than referred to in sub-Section (i) of Section 17, may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal that may be filed within 45 days from the date of receiving the order by the aggrieved person or the central government.

Enforcement Agencies

Police

The police force in a state is headed by the Director General of Police/ Inspector General of Police. State is divided into convenient territorial divisions called ranges and each police range is under the administrative control of a Deputy Inspector General of Police. A number of districts constitute the range.

The central government maintains Central Police forces, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), institutions for training of police officers and forensic science institutions to assist the states in gathering intelligence, in maintaining law and order, in investigating special crime cases and in providing training to the senior police officers of the state governments.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police

The ITBP was raised in the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962 with a modest strength of 4 Bns under an integrated 'guerilla-cum-intelligence-cum-fighting Force' self-contained in supplies, communication and intelligence collection. ITBP is basically a mountain trained force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers. They have scaled more than 180 Himalayan peaks including Mt. Everest four times including the 2012 expedition.

Border Security Force

Border Security Force was raised in 1965, the Force has grown in size and as on date, it has 186 Battalions including 3 NDRF battalions, 5 major training institutions, 11 subsidiary training centres and 03 minor training institutions. The Force Headquarter is in New Delhi. Its field formations includes 2 Special Directorates General (Spl DsG) i.e. Spl DG (Eastern Command) and Spl DG (Western Command)

Assam Rifles

It has its headquarters at Shillong and the Force is completely deployed in the North East for guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border, spread over 1,631 kilometers. It functions under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs. The Force comprises a Directorate General headquarter, three Inspectorate General headquarters.

National Security Guard

National Security Guard (NSG) was conceptualised and created after studying and analysing Special Force like SAS in the United Kingdom, GIGN in France. Accordingly, NSG was raised in October, 1985 as a Federal Contingency Force under the MHA. 53 per cent of the

personnel are drawn from the army while the central armed police like BSF, CRPF and ITBP contribute 47 per cent. Nine NSG Commandos have also made the supreme sacrifice in living up to the NSG's motto of Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.

Central Reserve Police Force

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was formed in July 1939 at Neemuch as the Crown Representative's Police. After independence it was renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the then Home Minister had visualized a multi-dimensional role for it.

From a single battalion in 1939 the Force has now grown to four zones, 20 Adm. Sectors, 2 Ops Sectors, 36 Adm Ranges, 7 Ops Ranges, 228 Bns, 41 group centers, 15 training institutions and 4 composite hospitals. It is the only Central Armed Police Force in the country which has 3 Mahila Battalions. The bulk of the force is deployed in Jammu and Kashmir; left wing extremism affected states and in north-eastern states to tackle terrorist and insurgent activities.

Rapid Action Force

In 1992, 10 Battalions of CRPF were reorganized and converted into 10 battalions of 4 coys each of Rapid Action Force (RAF). The personnel in RAF are trained and equipped to be an effective strike Force in communal riots and similar situations.

Commando Battalion for Resolute Action

In order to effectively tackle the Maoists, the need for a Special Force, capable of striking at the core of naxal heartland was felt. With this idea, ten CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) battalions were raised between 2008 and 2011. Out of the ten CoBRA battalions, nine are deployed in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) and one in Assam.

Central Industrial Security Force

Raised in 1969, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is providing security cover to 303 units including 59 domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to 87 industrial undertakings. The Force has so far taken over security of all major airports in the country, which includes international airports of Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. CISF is a cost reimbursement force i.e., it is not a burden on the national exchequer.

Sashastra Seema Bal

The "Sashastra Seema Bal" (SSB) is the newest border guarding force of Union of India entrusted with the guarding of Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders. "Sashastra Seema Bal" is guarding Indo-Nepal border since 2001 and was also given the additional responsibility of guarding Indo-Bhutan border in 2004.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence includes any measures not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack whether from air, land, sea or other .

The Amendment to the Civil Defence Act, 1968 accorded legal sanction to the additional role of the Civil Defence constituents in the field of disaster management.

Civil Defence volunteers are in various constructive and nation building activities—including providing assistance to the administration in undertaking social and welfare services and in

the prevention, mitigation of natural, man-made disasters as well as in post-disaster response and relief operations and law and order situations. The training of its organisation is carried out in three tier levels. The training of master trainers and specialized training is conducted at the National Civil Defence College, Nagpur and team/ leadership training is conducted at state civil defence institutes

Home Guards

Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December, 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. Subsequently, the concept of the voluntary citizens force was adopted by several states. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the states and union territories to merge their existing voluntary organisations into one uniform voluntary force known as Home Guards. Home Guards are of two types-rural and urban

Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and rules of the states/union territories. They are recruited from various cross sections of the people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, private sector organisations, college and university students, agricultural and industrial workers, etc., who give their spare time to the organisation for betterment of the community. All citizens of India, who are in the age group of 18-50, are eligible to become members of Home Guards.

Fire Services

“Fire Services” is a state subject and has been included as a municipal function in the XII schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243-W. The 13th Finance Commission recognizing the need to restructure Fire and Emergency Services across the country has recommended that a portion of the grants provided to the urban local bodies should be spent on revamping of fire services within their respective jurisdiction. Government of India as a supplemental initiative is also implementing a centrally sponsored scheme at a cost of ₹ 200 crores for strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services in the country.

Personal Law

The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III- Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature, namely Parliament and subject to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution. The state legislatures are also competent to make laws in the field.

Marriage

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 which provides for a special form of marriage and the registration of such marriages extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, but also applies to the citizens of India domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir. Persons governed by this Act can specifically register marriage under the said Act even though they are of different religious faiths.

An attempt has been made to codify customary law which is prevalent among Hindus by enacting the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. This Act, which extends to the whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, applies also to Hindus domiciled in territories to which the Act extends and those who are outside the said territories. It applies to Hindus (in any of its forms or development) and also to Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and also those who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews by religion. However, the Act does not apply to

members of any scheduled tribes unless the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette otherwise directs. Common ground on which divorce can be sought by a husband or a wife under these Acts are: adultery, desertion, cruelty, unsoundness of mind, venereal disease, leprosy, mutual consent and being not heard of as alive for seven years.

As regards the Christians, provisions relating to marriage and divorce are contained in The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 and in Section 10 of The Indian Divorce Act, 1869 respectively.

As regards divorce, i.e., a Muslim wife has a much restricted right to dissolve her marriage. Unwritten and traditional law tried to ameliorate her position by permitting her to seek dissolution under the following forms : (a) This is a form of delegated divorce. According to this the husband delegates his right to divorce in a marriage contract which may stipulate, on his taking another wife, the first wife has a right to divorce him; (b) : this is a dissolution of agreement between the parties to marriage on the wife's giving some consideration to the husband for her release from marriage ties. Terms are a matter of bargain and usually take the form of the wife giving up her or a portion of it and (c) : this is divorce by mutual consent.

The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 governs the matrimonial relations of Parsis. The word 'Parsi' is defined in the Act as a Parsi Zoroastrian. The provisions of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 have been enlarged so as to bring them in line with The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. As for the matrimonial laws of Jews, there is no codified law in India.

Adoption

Although there is no general law governing adoption, it is permitted by The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 amongst Hindus and by custom amongst a few numerically insignificant categories of persons. Since adoption is legal affiliation of a child, it forms the subject matter of personal law. Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. Muslims, Christians and Parsis can take a child under the said Act only under foster care. Once a child under foster care attaining the age of majority, that is eighteen years old, he is free to break away all these connections. Besides, such a child does not have the legal right of inheritance. Foreigners, who want to adopt Indian children have to approach the court under the aforesaid Act.

The Hindu law relating to adoption has been amended and codified into the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, under which a male or female Hindu having legal capacity, can take a son or a daughter in adoption. Hindu law, Muslim Law and the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 are three distinct legal systems which are prevalent. Though The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 was amended so as to remove the incapacity of married women to take in adoption of a son or a daughter merely on the basis of her marital status and to provide that the mother with the consent of the father and the father with the consent of the mother shall have equal right to give in adoption of their children.

The general law relating to guardians and wards is contained in the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. It clearly lays down that father's right is primary and no other person can be appointed unless the father is found unfit. This Act also provides that the court must take into consideration the welfare of the child while appointing a guardian under the Act. Though The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 was amended so

as to include the mother along with the father as a fit person to be appointed as a guardian of a child so that the courts shall not appoint any other person as a guardian of a minor if either of the parents is fit to be the guardian of such minor.

Maintenance

Obligation of a husband to maintain his wife arises out of the status of the marriage. Right to maintenance forms a part of the personal law. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, right of maintenance extends not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives.

Under the Hindu Law, the wife has an absolute right to claim maintenance from her husband. But she loses her right if she deviates from the path of chastity. Her right to maintenance is codified in The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. Justifiable reasons are spelt out in the Act. Maintenance (pending the suit) and even expenses of a matrimonial suit will be borne by either, husband or wife, if the other spouse has no independent income for his or her support. The same principle will govern payment of permanent maintenance.

Under the Muslim Law, The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 provides that a divorced Muslim woman shall be entitled to : (a) reasonable and fair provision and maintenance to be made and paid to her within the period by her former husband; (b) where she herself maintains children born to her before or after her former husband for a period of two years from the respective dates of birth of such children; (c) an amount equal to the sum of or dower agreed to be paid to her at the time of her marriage or at any time there after according to the Muslim Law; and (d) all property given to her before or at the time of marriage or after her marriage by her relatives or friends or by husband or any relatives of the husband or his friends.

The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 recognises the right of wife to maintenance-both alimony and permanent alimony. The maximum amount that can be decreed by the court as alimony during the time a matrimonial suit is pending in court, is one-fifth of the husband's net income. The order will remain in force as long as wife remains chaste and unmarried.

Election Laws and Electoral Reforms

The Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to Parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice-President are : (i) The Representation of the People Act, 1950; (ii) The Representation of the People Act, 1951; (iii) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952; (iv) The Delimitation Act, 2002; (v) The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005; and (vi) The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Act, 2010. These are administrated by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

Delimitation of Constituencies

The electoral boundaries are drawn on the basis of the last published census figures and are relatively equal in population. Equally populous constituencies allow voters to have an equally weighted vote in the Legislature

The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973. The third delimitation exercise— based on 1971 census—was completed in the year 1975. The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years.

The Government, as part of the National Population Policy strategy, decided to extend the current constitutional freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to 2026 as a motivational measure to enable state governments to fearlessly pursue the agenda for population stabilization. It has also been decided, however, to simultaneously undertake readjustment and rationalization of electoral constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the population census for the year 1991, without affecting the number of seats allocated to states in the legislative bodies so as to correct the imbalance caused due to uneven growth of population/electorate in different constituencies.

Reservation of Seats for Women

During the years, a consistent demand has been made for giving adequate representation to women in Parliament and state legislatures. Such a demand finds support in the 73 and 74 Amendments to the Constitution made in 1992. There was a proposal to amend the Constitution and to provide for reservation in Parliament and state legislatures.

Electronic Voting Machines

The use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was started in the country on experiment basis in 1982. It took more than two decades for the universal use of EVMs and during the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 2004, EVMs were used in all polling stations across the country. The EVMs were developed at the behest of the Election Commission jointly with two Public Sector Undertakings, Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad (ECIL) in 1989.

Electors' Photo Identity Cards

The electoral rolls are normally revised every year with 1st January of the year as the qualifying date. Every Indian citizen who attains the age of 18 years or above as on that date is eligible for inclusion in the electoral roll and can apply for the same. Once he is registered in the roll, he would be eligible for getting an EPIC

Voting Rights to the Citizens of India Living Abroad

There are a large number of Indian citizens residing outside the country due to various reasons. They have been persistently demanding for conferring them the voting rights.

The Government considered all aspects of the demand and accordingly introduced the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha in 2006 to enable the Indian citizens absenting from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the concerned constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India as mentioned in their passport so that they would be in a position to cast their votes in elections to the Lok Sabha and to the state legislatures in case they happen to be in their constituency at the time of polls.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the introduced a fresh Bill, namely, The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2010 in August, 2010, to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

The said Bill has been enacted as the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010. In pursuance of the provisions of the said Act the Central Government, in consultation with the Election Commission prepared and published the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2011 on February 3, 2011 and Registration of Electors (Second Amendment) Rules 2011 on February 23, 2011. The Central Government has issued necessary notification

bringing the Act into force from February, 2011. The overseas Indians can now furnish the documents self-attested by them and get their name enrolled in the electoral roll of their respective constituency.

Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The provision related to the reservation of seats for these communities in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies find place in Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution. Adequate safeguards were provided for them in our Constitution by giving representation to this small section of the society, under Article 331 of the Constitution by way of nomination of two persons of that community in the House of the People by the President.

Likewise, provision for nomination of one member each by the Governor, wherever necessary, belonging to this community in the state legislative assemblies was also incorporated.

Recently, through the Constitution (One Hundred Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2009 extension of the period for a further ten years has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and received the assent of the President in January, 2010. The said Bill was enacted as the Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Act, 2009.

21. LABOUR, SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

THE Ministry of Labour and Employment is one of the important and oldest ministries of the Government of India. The main responsibility entrusted to the Ministry is to protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and the poor, deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society, in particular.

New Initiatives

Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana

Government of India introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for unorganised workers. Enrollment under the scheme has started since February, 2019.

The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washermen, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and those engaged in similar other occupations, whose monthly income is ₹ 15,000/ per month or less are eligible to enroll under PM-SYM subject to these conditions: These should belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years; should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS); Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO); should not be an income tax payee.

PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis, where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the central government as per the scheme guidelines. For example, if a person enters the scheme at an age of 29 years, he is required to contribute ₹ 100/- per month till the age of 60 years. An equal amount of ₹ 100/- will be contributed by the central government. A subscriber would receive the following benefits: (i) Minimum Assured Pension: each subscriber "under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of ₹ 3,000/- per month after attaining

the age of 60 years; (ii) Family Pension: during the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse; (iii) if a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.

The subscriber's contributions to PM-SYM is through 'auto-debit' facility from his/ her savings bank account/Jan- Dhan account and it ranges from ₹ 55 /- to ₹ 200/- per month depending at the entry age of the subscriber. The subscriber is required to contribute the prescribed contribution amount from the age of joining PM-SYM till the age of 60 years. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC and Common Services Centres-SPV. LIC is the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out, CSC-SPV is responsible for enrolling the beneficiaries through its approx. 3 lakh CSCs across the country. Under the scheme, contribution amount for the first month is being paid in cash.

National Career Service Project

The Ministry is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for a variety of employment related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships etc.

The NCS Project has also been enhanced to interlink all employment exchanges with the NCS Portal so that services can be delivered online.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

The Ministry is also implementing "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" (PMRPY) since 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation with an allocation of ₹ 1,000 crores. Under the scheme, Government of India will pay the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment.

Shram Suvidha Portal

The Ministry has developed a unified web portal 'Shram Suvidha Portal', to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease compliance.

Labour Codes

This Ministry has taken a number of initiatives for bringing transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws, with the objective of strengthening the safety, health, social security measures for every worker and bringing ease of compliance for running an establishment to catalyse creation of employment opportunities.

Legislative Initiatives

Draft Small Factory Bill

The Bill provides for regulation of working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers. The Bill amalgamates, simplifies and rationalizes the provisions of six Labour Laws at one place for these small factories.

Social Security

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948. Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is implementing the ESI Scheme introduced since 1952. The achievements are as follows:

Health Reforms Agenda of ESIC: A series of Health Reforms Agenda were launched. These include, online availability of Electronic Health Record of ESI Beneficiaries (insured persons and their family members); Abhiyan Indradhanush: ensuring the change of bed sheet according to VIBGYOR pattern during the week etc.

Digital India e-initiatives of ESIC

e-biz Platform: ESIC was the first organization of Central government, to integrate its services (Registration of Employers through e-biz portal of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion DIPP) to promote ease of business and curb transaction costs.

e-Pehchan: A process of establishing the identity of the insured person through Adhaar number has been set up by seeding Adhaar number to the insurance number. This has simplified the identification process of the insured person and his/her dependents at various point of contact during all type of benefit disbursement.

Unemployment Allowance under Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana (RGSKY) has been enhanced from 12 to 24 months. In order to get benefits under RGSKY, the eligibility of contribution condition has also been reduced from three to two years for getting the benefits. The employers are exempted from paying their share of contribution up to 10 years in respect of all permanently disabled persons irrespective of their wages working in factories and establishments covered under ESI Act.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule-I to the Act. The following three schemes framed are: Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

The Government of India through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) administers the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act, 1952 and the following three schemes framed there under: Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

Universal Account Number

The facility of Universal Account Number (UAN) for EPF subscribers was formally launched in 2014. It provides automatic portability of Provident Fund account on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

Industrial Relations

Twenty-two Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT) -cum-Labour Courts have been set up under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for adjudication of industrial disputes in organizations for which the Central Government is the appropriate authority. Through Finance Act, 2017, the powers to settle the Appeals arising out of EPF&MP Act, 1952 have also been entrusted upon to these Tribunals.

Policy on Child Labour

The National Policy on Child Labour announced in August, 1987, addresses this complex issue in a comprehensive, holistic and integrated manner.

Under the Legislative Action Plan, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, was enacted in 1986. As per the provisions of the Act, the employment of children below the age of 14 years was prohibited in 18 occupations and 65 processes. Then the Government followed it up with the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which came into force from 2016. The Amendment inter-alia covers the complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes; linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009; prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act; and project based action plan in the areas of high concentration of child labour. In pursuance of National Child Labour Policy, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme was started in 1988 to rehabilitate children rescued from child labour. It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme.

Re-alignment of NCLP Scheme with RTE Act

With the enactment of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, there was a need for realignment of the NCLP Scheme with the provisions of RTE Act, 2009. The NCLP Schools could now serve as special training centres for un-enrolled and out of school children in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the RTE Act and Rule 5 of the Right of Children for free and compulsory education (RTE) Rules, 2010

Bonded Labour

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

With a view to supplementing the efforts of the state governments; a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched in 1978. Under the Scheme, state governments are provided Central assistance on matching grants (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labour. The said Plan Scheme was drastically modified in 2000 to provide for 100 per cent assistance for conducting district wise surveys for identification of bonded labour, awareness generation activities, and evaluatory studies. The Rehabilitation grant has also been raised from ₹ 10,000/- per identified bonded labour, to ₹ 20,000/- per identified bonded labour. Further, in the case of North- Eastern states, cent per cent rehabilitation grant is provided in case they fail to provide their matching contribution.

Wages and Bonus

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector. Under the provision of the Act, both the Central and state governments are the appropriate governments to fix, revise, review and enforce the payment of minimum wages to workers in respect of scheduled employments under their respective

jurisdictions. While in the Central sphere, the enforcement is done through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated a Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the state is ensured through the state enforcement machinery.

Payment of Wages

The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers. Central Government, on the basis of figures of the Consumer Expenditure Survey published by National Sample Survey Office, has enhanced the wage ceiling from ₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 18,000/- per month from 2012.

Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2017: The amendment enables making payment of wages in cash or by cheque or by crediting in the bank account of the employee. The amendment also enables the appropriate government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the industrial or other establishment, the employer of which shall pay to every person employed in such industrial or other establishment, the wages only by cheque or by crediting the wages in the bank account.

Occupational Safety and Health

The provisions on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of workers as provided for in the Constitution of India are being implemented through the offices of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI). The DGMS enforces the safety and health provisions for the workers in the mining industry through its Inspectors appointed under the Mines Act, 1952. The DGFASLI, through its Inspectorate of Dock Safety enforces safety provisions in the docks and also acts as the coordinating agency at the national level for the Inspectorate of Factories functioning under different state governments.

The Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given to the workers employed in department/public sector undertakings of the Central and state governments and the manufacturing units employing 500 or more workers in the private sector in recognition of their performance, devotion to duty, etc. The Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskars (VRPs) are given to individual workers or group of workers for their outstanding suggestions leading to improvement in productivity, safety and health as well as the import substitution resulting in the savings of foreign currency. The National Safety Awards (NSAs) are given in recognition of good safety performance on the part of the industrial establishments. The National Safety Award (Mines) are given at the national level in recognition of outstanding safety performance in mines covered under the Mines Act, 1952.

Skill Development

Recognising the urgency of all concerned stakeholders in this field, a separate ministry was created in 2014, namely, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. This Ministry is responsible for co-ordination of all skill development efforts, removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework, skill up-gradation, building of new skills, and innovative thinking not only for existing jobs but also jobs that are to be created. The Ministry aims to Skill on a large Scale with Speed and high standards in order to achieve its vision of a 'Skilled India'.

It is aided in these initiatives by its function arms - National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and 33 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) as well as 187 training partners registered with NSDC.

National Skill Development Mission

The National Skill Development Mission was launched in 2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day. It aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework. The Mission will also run select sub-missions in high priority areas. At the outset, seven sub-missions have been proposed in the following areas: (i) Institutional Training, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Trainers, (v) Overseas Employment, (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods, (vii) Leveraging Public Infrastructure.

National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

The first National Policy on Skill Development (NPSD) was notified in 2009. The NPSD 2009 laid out the broad framework as well as objectives and outcomes for the skilling landscape in the country.

The skill component of the policy addresses key issues in the skill landscape: low aspirational value, non-integration with formal education, lack of focus on outcomes, quality of training infrastructure and trainers, among others.

Schemes and Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of this Ministry. The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of youth to take up outcome based skill. The scheme was launched in 2015. The PMKVY is being implemented by the Centre along with the states.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK)

This Ministry through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), implements Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) Scheme for setting up of model skill centre in every district of the country while ensuring coverage of all the parliamentary constituencies.

Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana

This Scheme aims at creating an enabling eco-system for entrepreneurship promotion among youth through entrepreneurship education and training, advocacy, easy access to entrepreneurship support network and promotion of social entrepreneurship. The specific objectives of the scheme are as follows: a) educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs; b) connect entrepreneurs through networks of peers, mentors, incubators, funding and business services

Udaan

The Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir is funded by Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The programme is a part of the overall initiative for addressing economic issues in the state and is focused on providing skills and job opportunities to the youth.

22. MASS COMMUNICATION

THE Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is involved in catering to the entertainment needs of various age groups and focusing attention of the people on issues of national integrity, environmental protection, health care and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues relating to women, children, minority and other disadvantaged sections of the society. The Ministry is divided into four wings i.e., the Information Wing, the Broadcasting Wing, the Films Wing and the Integrated Finance Wing. The Ministry functions through its 21 media units/ attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and PSUs.

The Information Wing handles policy matters of the print and press media and publicity requirements of the Government. This Wing also looks after the general administration of the Ministry.

The Broadcasting Wing handles matters relating to the electronic media and the regulation of the content of private TV channels as well as the programme matters of All India Radio and Doordarshan and operation of cable television and community radio, etc. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC), which is a subordinate office, functions under the administrative control of this Division.

The Film Wing handles matters relating to the film sector. It is involved in the production and distribution of documentary films, development and promotional activities relating to the film industry including training, organization of film festivals, import and export regulations, etc. The Integrated Finance Wing looks after the financial aspects of the Ministry.

Prasar Bharati

Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is the public service broadcaster in the country, with Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan as its two constituents. It came into existence on November 23, 1997, with a mandate to organize and conduct public broadcasting.

Prasar Bharati Board

The Corporation, is governed by the Prasar Bharati Board, which comprises a Chairman, an Executive Member (also known as Chief Executive Officer), a Member (Finance), a Member (Personnel), six part-time Members, a representative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Directors General of All India Radio and Doordarshan as ex-officio Members. The Chairman is a part-time member with a three year tenure subject to an age limit of seventy years. The Executive Member is a whole time member with a five-year tenure subject to an age limit of sixty five years.

All India Radio

After the invention of Radio and the starting of broadcasting in the western countries, broadcasting by private Radio Clubs started in a few cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

The first radio programme was broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in June, 1923. It was followed by the setting up of a Broadcasting Service that began broadcasting on July 23, 1927 on an experimental basis at Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously under an agreement between the Government of India and a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd.

All India Radio came to be known as Akashvani from 1957. AIR took over radio stations being run by native states since British days such as Akashvani Mysore, Hyderabad Radio, and Radio Kashmir, etc.

The entertainment channel of AIR named Vividh Bharati was started on October 3, 1957 and since November 1, 1967, commercials were aired on this channel. The first Radio Sangeet Sammelan was organised in 1954, which has since become annual feature. Akashvani Annual Awards to promote excellence in Programme, Engineering, News and Audience Research were instituted in 1974. Doordarshan was separated from AIR on April 1, 1976. The first broadcast by political parties before Elections went on the air in 1977 from different stations of AIR. The North Eastern Service was commissioned on January 3, 1990 at Shillong in the campus of AIR, Shillong

Three-Tier Broadcasting

The three-tier system of broadcasting of AIR caters to the information, education, and entertainment needs of the audiences through its stations in this country of continental dimension and with a plural society. They provide news, music, spoken word and other programmes to almost the entire population of the country.

In National Service the national programmes, which are heard on the Medium Wave in most parts of the country, cater to the first-tier broadcasting. Recently, it has started airing on Short Wave also. The regional and sub-regional stations provide the second-tier of broadcasting giving the programmes in the regional languages and promoting regional cultural facets. In addition, FM Channels at metros cater to the modern needs of the people primarily the youth. All India Radio has also set-up Community Radio Service at five places in the North Eastern India as the voice of the local tribal population.

FM Rainbow

FM Rainbow channel of All India Radio was launched at a time when radio listening was declining especially in big cities. FM radio filled this gap effectively by ensuring disturbance-free high quality music to its listeners. Even the presentation style of the compere on FM channel was transformed to suit the changing needs of listeners.

FM Gold

FM Gold channel went on air on September 1, 2001 at Delhi as a niche infotainment channel with 30 per cent of news and current affairs component and 70 per cent of entertainment programming. At present, FM Gold channel is available daily round the clock. FM Gold channel is available at five places four metros i.e., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Ludhiana.

DTH Service

DTH Radio Channel is a satellite service meant for the listeners, who own a TV set. The Service is available through the DTH platform of Prasar Bharati with uplinking facilities at Todapur, Delhi. It is a 24 hour service broadcast digitally.

The popular Vividh Bharati Service provides entertainment for 17 hours a day.

News Services Division

The News Services Division has substantially increased its presence on the social media and crossed major milestones in reaching out audiences far and wide.

NSD's 47 Regional News Units (RNUs) play a vital role to cater to the information needs of the people. RNUs make bulletins and programmes in 77 regional languages/ dialects to make news region specific and people friendly.

For Mann Ki Baat programme, live webcasting is done on website news on air.nic.in. Special window and page is created for the purpose.

Central Archives

The Transcription Service was started in April, 1954 and entrusted with the main function of preparing transcription of speeches of all dignitaries with a special reference to the Presidents and Prime Ministers of India. The processed records eventually proved to be uneconomical, the processing work had to be closed down in 1967 and new modes of preservation like analogue magnetic tapes, etc., came into use.

Sound Archives

The library preserves a separate collection of Mahatma Gandhi's speeches including his first and the last prayer. The only broadcast by Gandhiji from AIR Delhi on November 12, 1947 is also preserved. The library contains recordings of all the Presidents and Prime Ministers of India..

Digital Sound Archives

Transcription and Programme Exchange Service (T&PES) has taken up a mega project of digitizing all the analogue content. Major steps have been taken in this direction.

Archives Digital Library

Radio Autobiography

In Radio Autobiography, recordings of eminent personalities from various walks of life are preserved. The Central Archives of All India Radio is a rich repository of priceless recordings of Radio Autobiographies of renowned musicians, public figures, literatures etc.

Programme Exchange Library

The main purpose of this unit is to exchange good quality programmes among the stations as per their requirements. In PEU Library approx. 8000 tapes containing the recordings of music and spoken word programmes are preserved for this purpose.

Transcription Unit

Tapes containing the recording of speeches along with transcripts are received from various AIR stations. The bound volumes of all transcriptions are prepared and kept in the archives.

Refurbishing Unit

In order to refurbish the vintage music recordings in archives refurbishing unit was installed some years back with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme. Hundreds of hours of recordings of music and voice of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, etc., were refurbished here.

External Services Division

At the dawn of Independence, ESD became the voice of an emerging nation. Since then the External Services Division of AIR has been a vital link between India and rest of the World,

specially with those countries where the interest of India are intertwined because of Indian population staying in those countries.

The AIR, through its external broadcasts, aims to keep the overseas listeners in touch with the ethos of India. The services in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Gujarati are directed at overseas Indians, while those in Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Saraiki, Kannada and Bengali are meant for listeners in the Indian sub-continent.

National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia

National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) (Programme) hitherto known as Staff Training Institute (Programme) is the apex training institute of Prasar Bharati. It is responsible for training of in-service Programme and Administrative personnel working at various stations of AIR and Doordarshan.

Doordarshan

From an experimental service begun at Delhi in September 1959, Doordarshan (DD) over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organizations of the world. Doordarshan is headed by the Director General who is responsible for policy formation, planning and development. Four zonal offices located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai look after project and maintenance activities in their responsive zone

Electronic Media Monitoring Centre

Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) is entrusted with the task of monitoring the content being aired by TV channels. EMMC is among one of the premier organisations of the world that monitor the broadcasting sector and the content being aired by broadcasters.

EMMC records and monitors the content of around 600 channels, beaming over the Indian Territory, so that any violations of codes framed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 could be checked. Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 identifies several codes which must be adhered to by all broadcasting entities.

Press and Print Media

Registrar of Newspapers for India

The Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is an attached office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Under its Statutory and derivative functions, it verifies and approves titles of newspapers, registers them, checks and establishes circulation claims. Under its non-statutory functions, the RNI issues Eligibility Certificates for import of newsprint, to actual users which are registered with RNI as well as Essentiality Certificates for import of printing machinery, etc.

Press Information Bureau

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print, electronic and social media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. The information is released in English, Hindi, Urdu along with 13 other regional languages which reaches newspapers and media organizations all over the country. PIB also provides accreditation facility to media persons so as to facilitate access to information from the government sources.

Publicity

Departmental Publicity Officers are attached to various ministries and departments for disseminating information to the media through press releases, press notes, backgrounders etc., and also by arranging press conferences, press tours, media briefings etc.

Prime Minister's Unit

PM's Publicity and Reference Unit is a dedicated unit for the publicity and media support for the Prime Minister's Office and cabinet.

Media Interactive Sessions

Media Interactive Sessions are planned in selected state capitals on issues such as socio-economic development, infrastructure, developmental schemes, etc. 'Vartalap' is a programme organized for small towns/rural journalists to keep them aware/updated about the various central government Flagship Schemes for the welfare of rural populace.

Online Press Accreditation

Press Accreditation is granted to media representatives including members of the foreign media at the headquarters of Press Information Bureau, New Delhi

International Film Festival of India

The Press Information Bureau was part of the IFFI 2017 to facilitate dissemination of Festival related information to media at the venue in Goa.

News Agencies

Press Trust of India

Founded in August, 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949. It offers its news services in English and Hindi languages. Bhasha is the Hindi language news service of the agency. PTI subscribers include 500 newspapers in India and scores abroad. All major TV and radio channels in India and several abroad, including BBC in London, receive its services.

PTI news is also available through World Space radio broadcast reception. The Photo service is delivered by satellite as well as accessed through dial-up. The agency is now engaged in archiving its photos. Currently, PTI commands 90 per cent of news agency market share in India. A television wing, PTI-TV, does features and undertakes corporate documentaries on assignment basis.

United News of India

United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in December, 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961. It also has a full-fledged Hindi wire service 'UNIVARTA' since 1982 and a Photo Service and a Graphics Service in the same decade. In June 1992, it launched the first ever wire service in Urdu.

NAM News Network

NAM News Network (NNN) is the internet-based news and photo exchange arrangement of the news agencies belonging to member countries of the nonaligned movement. Formally launched in April 2006, NNN replaces the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP)

Press Council of India

The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority mandated by the Parliament for the twin objective of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining

and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India exercising equal quasi-judicial functions over the authorities as well the press person. It comprises a Chairman and 28 members. The Chairman has, by convention, been a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India

The Press Council has the responsibility to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. There is also an advisory role on the Council in that it can, either suo-motu or on a reference made to it by the government under Section 13(2) of the Act.

Press and Registration Appellate Board

Section 8C of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 entrusts to the Press Council, the Appellate Jurisdiction over the Magisterial Orders of non-authentication of a Declaration under Section 6 or its subsequent cancellation under Section 8B of the said Act.

National Press Day

The National Press Day is celebrated annually on November 16 as a symbol of a free and responsible press in the country.

New Media Wing

Set up in 1945, the Research, Reference and Training Division now renamed as “New Media Wing” functions as information unit for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Social Media

Since its inception in 2012, Social Media Cell of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting performs various activities to reach out to the last mile. The Ministry is active on all major social media platforms and has built a strong relationship with the audience.

Photo Division

Photo Division, an independent media unit meant for the visual support of the varied activities of the Government of India, is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the biggest production unit of its kind in the country in the field of photography. Photo Division was established in late 1959 as a culmination of the government’s decision for establishing a separate department keeping in view the importance of the medium, as the photograph gives the most authentic & truthful record as well as recognize the new medium for right projection, create the archival record under the professional experts.

Publications Division

Publications Division, a repository of books and journals highlighting subjects of national importance and India’s rich cultural heritage, was established in 1941. It has emerged as a premier publishing house of the Government of India. The Division publishes books and journals on diverse aspects of Indian panorama, ranging from art and culture, biographies of the Builders of Modern India, cultural leaders of India, life and works of other prominent Indian personalities form different walks of life, India’s history and freedom struggle among many other subjects.

The Division has published several books on Gandhian thoughts including the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG) in 100 volumes, in English and Sampurna Gandhi Vangmaya in Hindi which is considered to be the most comprehensive and authentic

collection of Gandhiji's writings. Publications Division, in collaboration with Gujarat Vidyapith, and under supervision of prominent Gandhian scholars, has also prepared the e-version of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (e-CWMG), fully searchable master copy, in the form of a well-designed set of DVDs.

Mobile App "Digital DPD ": It is available for free download on Google Play Store and will facilitate reading about DPD books and easy purchasing.

Archival Research Centre

Archival Research Centre (ARC), a multi station research facility by Films Division has been opened on October 26, 2013. The ARC makes the entire archive of Films Division available to the fifteen research stations presently routed to it.

International Documentary Film Festival

Since 1990, Films Division organises the biennial Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films (MIFF). It provides a unique opportunity for film makers, producers, distributors, exhibitors and film critics to meet and exchange ideas and concepts.

National Museum of Indian Cinema

The concept of National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) is a unique idea to be pursued for the first time in the history of Indian Cinema. The Film Museum will not only provide a store house of information to the laymen but it will also help film makers, film students, enthusiasts and critics to know the development of cinema as a medium of artistic expression.

National Film Development Corporation Limited

The National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC), incorporated in 1975, (100 per cent owned GOI body). NFDC was reincorporated in the year 1980, by merging the Film Finance Corporation (FFC) and Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation (IMPEC) with NFDC.

Central Board of Film Certification

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

Cinematograph (Certification) Rules were revised in 1983 and since then the Central Board of Film Censors became known as the Central Board of Film Certification. The Board consists of non-official members and a chairman (all of whom are appointed by central government) and functions with headquarters at Mumbai.

The Certification process is in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, and the guidelines issued by the central government u/s 5(b). Initially there were only two grading, U and A. In 1983 two more rating were introduced i.e., UA and S. UA means it can be unrestricted public exhibition but with a word of caution that children below 12 years of age will require the parental guidance, the S category is only for special class of persons like doctors, etc.

Directorate of Film Festivals

The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was set up in 1973 with the prime objective of promoting good cinema. It provides a unique platform for exchange of ideas, culture and experiences between India and other countries in the field of cinema.

International Film Festival of India

The 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held from November 20 to 28, 2019. It witnessed more than 200 acclaimed films from 76 countries, with Russia as the country of focus. The nine-day long festival of quality cinema concluded with the Indian premiere of Italian film ‘Marghe and Her Mother’.

National Film Awards

The National Awards along with cinema’s highest honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, are presented by the President of India. To commemorate the release of the first Indian Feature Film, Raja Harishchandra on 3rd May 1913, It has been decided to confer the National Film Awards on 3rd May of every year. Accordingly, 65th National Film Awards were given away for 2017.

65th National Film Awards

The 65th National Film Awards were given away by the President of India to honour the best films of 2017 in Indian cinema. The best Feature Film was bagged by ‘Village Rockstars’ (Assamese) directed by Rima Das. The award for best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment was given to ‘Bahubali 2 - The Conclusion’ (Telugu) directed by S. S. Rajamouli. The best actor was given to Ridhi Sen for the film ‘Nagarkirtan’ (Bengali) and the best actress to late Sridevi for the film ‘Mom’ (Hindi). The best Book on Cinema award was given to ‘Matmagi Manipur: The First Feature Film’ written by Bobby Wahengbam while Giridhar Jha was awarded the best Film Critic. The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2017 was awarded posthumously to veteran actor Vinod Khanna for his commendable contribution to Indian cinema.

National Film Archive of India

Thus, the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was established as a media unit in February, 1964 to trace, acquire and preserve for posterity the heritage of national cinema and build up a representative collection of world cinema; to classify and document data related to film, undertake and encourage research on cinema and publish and distribute them; etc.

National Film Heritage Mission

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM), a prestigious mission of Government of India project was set up in November, 2014 for restoring and preserving the film heritage of India. This is a part of 12th Five Year Plan which will spill over to 13th Five Year Plan.

Children’s Film Society of India

Children’s Film Society of India (CFSI) which started functioning in 1955 as an autonomous body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is mandated to produce children’s film and exhibit and create and nurture a dynamic child’s culture in the country with a purpose of stimulating their creativity, compassion and critical thinking.

Film Production

An opportunity to prospective film-makers to make children’s film in any genre or duration in 23 Indian languages, is funded by CFSI. CFSI has annual target of 3 feature+2 short films

with total budgetary grant of 10 crores, including NE component. CFSI films participate and win acclaim in various renowned National/ International Film Festivals and have won several prestigious national and international awards.

Bureau of Outreach and Communication

Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) was created in 2017 in order to streamline government's outreach communication to have mass reach with specific focus on media dark areas and rural areas and on communicating with people in the form and language understood by them, using different vehicles of communication, viz., print media advertising, audio visual advertising, outdoor publicity, exhibitions, new median, etc. Bureau of Outreach and Communication, with its headquarter at New Delhi, consists of 23 Regional Outreach Bureaus (ROBs) and 148 Field Outreach Bureaus, (FOBs).

Film and Television Institute of India

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in 1960. Following the addition of Television wing in 1974, the Institute was re- designated as Film and Television Institute of India. The Institute became a Society in October, 1974 under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. The Institute is governed by a Governing Council, headed by a Chairman.

Film and Television Institute of India provides the latest education and technological experience in the art and technique of film making and television production. In-service training is provided to officers of all grades of the Doordarshan and others. It is equipped with the latest digital and broadcast grade production set-ups viz.

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata was established as an autonomous educational institution and was registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. SRFTI is the second national level film training institute to be established by the Government of India. The institute offers three-year post-graduate diploma courses in direction and screenplay writing, cinematography, editing and audiography. Research and explorative studies in sociology, culture and technology of film and television are the other areas of focus in SRFTI.

SRFTI is run by a Society constituted by the Government of India. The Society runs the Institute through a governing council that is constituted with select members of Society.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 came into existence in 1965. The Institute, was established with the basic objective of undertaking teaching, training and research in the area of mass communication.

It provides its expertise and consultancy services to other institutions/organs of the Central/state governments, public sector organizations, universities and other academic institutions. With the growing popularity of the Institute's training activities and with a view to meeting regional aspirations, the Institute opened a branch at Dhenkanal, Orissa in 1993 for catering to the demands of the eastern region.

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd. (BECIL), a profit making PSE was constituted in 1995 to provide the national broadcasters' expertise to the private broadcasters in the

country. At present, BECIL is an established consultancy agency, system integrator and turnkey solution provider in all spheres of Broadcast Engineering. BECIL also undertakes operation and maintenance of various types of broadcast systems. Its clients include government, semi government, overseas and private organisations.

BECIL client list includes Government, Semi Government, Overseas and Private organizations. It has many firsts to its credit like establishment of first teleport in India, first to establish infrastructure, first to set-up multi channel FM transmission in India combining up to 7 FM channels at Bengaluru, first to design and establish HDTV studio set-up for Presidential Secretariat and Lok Sabha TV, to name a few.

23. PLANNING

PLANNING in India derives its objectives and social premises from the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary.

NITI Aayog

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) came into existence in 2015 replacing the Planning Commission which was established in 1950. The NITI Aayog is the successor to the Planning Commission. The new institution is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process; nurturing an overall enabling environment, through a holistic approach to development going beyond the limited sphere of the public sector and Government of India.

Founded in 2015, the National Institution for Transformation of India or NITI Aayog has been created to serve as the think tank of the Government of India. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chair of the institution. The institution plays a leadership role in policymaking in the central government, works closely with state governments, serves as a knowledge hub and monitors progress in the implementation of policies and programmes of the Government of India.

The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly. It uses the lessons learnt from monitoring and feedback to make innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections. Also, NITI Aayog actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the prospects of success of the latter. The Aayog publishes policy research papers on contemporary issues, brings out books on best practices, prepares model laws to help states.

Composition

The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:

Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson. The Governing Council comprises the Chief Ministers of all the states, Chief Ministers of union territories with legislatures, viz., Delhi and Puducherry and Lt. Governors of other union territories. Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister. The full time organizational framework will consist of, in addition to the Prime Minister as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson is to be appointed by the Prime Minister. Full

time and part-time members will be maximum of 2, from leading universities, research organizations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part time members will be on a rotational basis. Ex officio Members will be maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister. Chief Executive Officer is to be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Secretariat as deemed necessary.

Erstwhile Planning Commission

The Planning Commission was set up in March, 1950 in pursuance of declared objectives of the Government to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.

First Plan

Keeping in view the large-scale import of food grains in 1951 and inflationary pressures on the economy, the First Plan (1951-56) accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects. About 44.6 per cent of the total outlay of ₹ 2,069 crore in the public sector (later raised to ₹ 2,378 crore) was allocated for this purpose. The Plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from five to about seven per cent of the national income.

Second Plan

The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) sought to promote a pattern of development, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society in India. Its main aims were (i) an increase of 25 per cent in the national income; (ii) rapid industrialization with particular emphasis on the development of basic and heavy industries; (iii) large expansion of employment opportunities; and (iv) reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power. The Plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from about seven percent of the national income to 11 per cent by 1960-61. It laid emphasis on industrialization, increased production of iron and steel, heavy chemicals including nitrogenous fertilizers and development of heavy engineering and machine building industry.

Third Plan

The Third Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) aimed at securing a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth. Its immediate objectives were to : (i) secure an increase in the national income of over five per cent per annum and at the same time ensure a pattern of investment which could sustain this rate of growth in the subsequent Plan periods; (ii) achieve self-sufficiency in food grains and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports; (iii) expand basic industries like steel, chemicals, fuel and power and establish machine building capacity so that the requirements of further industrialization could be met within a period of about 10 years mainly from the country's own resources; (iv) fully utilize the manpower resources of the country and ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities; and establish progressively greater equality of opportunity and bring about reduction in disparities of income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power. The Plan aimed at increasing the national income by about 30 per cent from ₹ 14,500 crore in 1960-61 to about ₹ 19,000 crore by 1965-66 (at 1960-61 prices) and per capita income by about 17 per cent from 330 to 386 over the same period.

Annual Plans

The situation created by the Indo-Pakistan conflict in 1965, two successive years of severe drought, devaluation of the currency, general rise in prices and erosion of resources available for Plan purposes delayed the finalization of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Instead, between 1966 and 1969, three Annual Plans were formulated within the framework of the draft outline of the Fourth Plan.

Fourth Plan

The Fourth Plan (1969-74) aimed at accelerating the tempo of development of reducing fluctuations in agricultural production as well as the impact of uncertainties of foreign aid. It sought to raise the standard of living through programmes designed to promote equality and social justice. The Plan laid particular emphasis on improving the conditions of the less privileged and weaker sections especially through provision of employment and education. Efforts were directed towards reduction of concentration of wealth, income and economic power to promote equity. The Plan aimed at increasing the net domestic product (at 1968-69 factor cost) from ₹ 29,071 crore in 1969-70 to ₹ 38,306 crore in 1973-74. The average annual compound rate of growth envisaged was 5.7 per cent.

Fifth Plan

The Fifth Plan (1974-79) was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures. The major objectives of the plan were to achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below the poverty line. This Plan also gave high priority to bring inflation under control and to achieve stability in the economic situation. It targeted an annual growth rate of 5.5 percent in the national income. Four Annual Plans pertaining to the Fifth Plan period were completed. It was subsequently decided to end the Fifth Plan period with the close of the Annual Plan 1978-79.

Sixth Plan

Removal of poverty was the foremost objective of the Sixth Plan (1980-85). The strategy adopted was to move simultaneously towards strengthening the infrastructure for both agriculture and industry. Stress was laid on tackling interrelated problems through a systematic approach with greater management, efficiency and intensive monitoring in all sectors and active involvement of people in formulating specific schemes of development at the local level and securing their speedy and effective implementation. The actual expenditure in the Sixth Plan stood at ₹1,09,291.7 crore (current price) as against the envisaged total public sector outlay of ₹97,500 crore (1979-80 prices) accounting for a 12 per cent increase in nominal terms. The average annual growth rate targeted for the Plan was 5.2 per cent.

Seventh Plan

The Seventh Plan (1985-90) emphasized policies and programmes, which aimed at rapid growth in food grains production, increased employment opportunities and productivity within the framework of basic tenets of planning, namely, growth, modernization, self reliance and social justice. Food grains production during the Seventh Plan grew by 3.23 per cent as compared to a long-term growth rate of 2.68 per cent between 1967-68 and 1988-89 and the growth rate of 2.55 per cent in the eighties due to overall favourable weather conditions, implementation of various thrust programmes and concerted efforts of the Government and the farmers. To reduce unemployment and consequently, the incidence of poverty, special programmes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were launched in addition to the existing programmes. Due recognition was accorded to the role, small-scale and food

processing industries could play in this regard. The total expenditure during the entire Seventh Plan stood at ₹2,18,729.62 crore (current prices) as against the envisaged total public sector outlay of ₹1,80,000 crore, resulting in a 21.52 per cent increase in nominal terms. During this Plan period, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 5.8 per cent exceeding the targeted growth rate by 0.8 per cent.

Eighth Annual Plans

The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1990-95) could not take off due to the fast-changing political situation at the Centre. The Eighth five-Year Plan commenced in 1992 and that 1990-91 and 1991-92 were treated as separate Annual Plans. Formulated within the framework of the Approach to the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1990-95), the basic thrust of these Annual Plans was on maximization of employment and social transformation.

Eighth Plan

The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) was launched immediately after the initiation of structural adjustment policies and macro stabilization policies, which were necessitated by the worsening Balance of Payments positions and the position of inflation during 1990-91. The various structural adjustment policies were introduced gradually so that the economy could be pushed to a higher growth path and improve its strength and thus prevent a crisis in Balance of Payments and inflation in the future. The Eighth Plan took note of some of these policy changes, which were to come about due to these reforms. The Plan aimed at an average annual growth rate of 5.6 per cent and an average industrial growth rate of about 7.5 per cent. These growth targets were planned to be achieved with relative price stability and substantial improvement in the country's Balance of Payments. Some of the salient features of economic performance during the Eighth Five-Year Plan indicate, among other things: (a) a faster economic growth, (b) a faster growth of the manufacturing sector and agriculture and allied sectors, (c) significant growth rates in exports and imports, improvement in trade and current account deficit and a significant reduction in the Central Governments fiscal deficit. However, a shortfall in expenditure in the Central sector due to inadequate mobilization of internal and extra budgetary resources by the PSUs and various departments was witnessed. In the States sector, there as on for the shortfall was lack of mobilization of adequate resources due to deterioration in the balance of current revenues, erosion in the contribution of state electricity boards and state road transport corporations, negative opening balance, mounting non-Plan expenditure and shortfalls in the collection of small savings, etc. The total expenditure during the entire Eighth Plan stood at ₹4,95,669 crore by taking 1996-97 (RE) as actual] at current prices as against envisaged total public sector outlay of ₹4,34,100 crore (1991-92 prices) resulting in a 14.2 per cent increase in nominal terms. The Eighth Plan envisaged an annual average growth rate of 5.6 per cent. Against this, an average annual growth rate of 6.8 per cent was achieved during this plan period.

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Ninth Plan

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) was launched in the fiftieth year of India's Independence. The Plan aimed at achieving a targeted GDP growth rate of seven per cent per annum and there was emphasis on the seven identified Basic Minimum Services (BMS) with additional Central Assistance earmarked for these services with a view to obtaining a complete coverage of the population in a time-bound manner. These included provision of safe drinking water, availability of primary health service facilities, universalization of primary education, public housing assistance to shelter less poor families, nutritional support to children, connectivity of all villages and habitations and streamlining of the public distribution system with a focus on the poor. The Plan also aimed at pursuing a policy of fiscal consolidation, whereby the focus was on sharp reduction in the revenue deficit of the Government, including the Centre, States and PSUs through a combination of improved revenue collections and control of inessential expenditures, particularly with regard to subsidies and through recovery of user charges and decentralization of planning and implementation through greater reliance on States and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

The specific objectives of the Ninth Plan included : (i) priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generate adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty; (ii) accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices; (iii) ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society; (iv) providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter, and connectivity to all in a time-bound manner; (v) containing the growth rate of population; (vi) ensuring mobilization and participation of people at all levels; (vii) empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development; (viii) promoting and developing people's participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj Institution, cooperatives and self-help groups; and (ix) strengthening efforts to build self-reliance. The Ninth Plan envisaged an average target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in GDP as against the growth rate of 7 per cent approved earlier in the Approach Paper. The scaling down of the target was necessitated by the changes in the national as well as global economic situation in the first two years of the Ninth Plan. Against this, the achievement in the growth-rate on an average was to be 5.5 per cent per annum.

Tenth Plan

The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07) was approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 2002. The Plan has further developed the NDC mandate objectives, of doubling the per capita income in ten years and achieving a growth rate of eight per cent of GDP per annum. Since economic growth is not the only objective, the Plan aims at harnessing the benefits of growth to improve the quality of life of the people by setting of the following key targets : Reduction in the poverty ratio from 26 per cent to 21 per cent, by 2007; decadal population growth to reduce from 21.3 per cent in 1991-2001 to 16.2 per cent in 2001-11; growth in gainful employment, at least, to keep pace with addition to the labour force; all children to be in school by 2003 and all children to complete five years of schooling by 2007; reducing gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by 50 percent; literacy rate to increase from 65 per cent in 1999-2000, to 75 per cent in 2007; Providing potable drinking water to all villages; increase in forest/tree cover from 19 per cent in 1999-2000, to 25 per cent in 2007; and cleaning of major polluted river stretches.

The Tenth Plan had a number of new features that include, among others, the following: Firstly, the Plan recognised the rapid growth in the labour force. At current rate of growth and labour intensity in production, India faces the possibility of rising unemployment, which could lead to social unrest. The Tenth Plan therefore aims at creating 50 million job opportunities during the period, by placing special emphasis on employment intensive sectors of agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information and communication technology and other services. Secondly, the Plan addresses the issue of poverty and the unacceptably low levels of social indicators. Although these have been the objectives in earlier Plans, in the current Plan there are specific monitorable targets, which will need to be attained along with the growth target.

The Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of the economy was expected to come down to about 3.6 as against 4.5 during the Ninth Plan. This decline in ICOR was achieved mainly through better utilization of existing capacities and suitable sectorial allocation of capital and its efficient utilization. The growth target, therefore, would require an investment rate of 28.4 per cent of GDP. This requirement was to be met from domestic savings of 26.8 per cent of GDP and external savings of 1.6 per cent. The bulk of the additional domestic savings will have to come from reduction in Government dis-saving from -4.5 (2001-02) to -0.5 per cent (2006-07) of GDP. The average growth rate in the last four years of the 10th Plan (2003-04 to 2006-07) was little over 8 per cent, making the growth rate 7.7 per cent for the entire 10th Plan period. Though this was below the target of 8 per cent, it is the highest growth rate achieved in any Plan period.

Eleventh Plan

The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) provided a comprehensive strategy for inclusive development, building on the growing strength of the economy, while also addressing weaknesses that have surfaced. It set a target for 9 per cent growth in the five year period with acceleration during the period to reach 10 per cent by the end of the Plan.

Twelfth Plan

The Twelfth Plan fully recognizes that the objective of development is broad-based improvement in the economic and social conditions of our people. However, rapid growth of GDP is an essential requirement for achieving this objective. The Approach Paper to the Twelfth Plan, had set a target of 9 per cent average growth of GDP over the Plan period (2012 to 2017). That was before the Euro-zone crisis in that year triggered a sharp downturn

in global economic prospects, and also before the extent of the slowdown in the domestic economy was known. Twelfth Plan envisaged that the current slowdown in GDP growth can be reversed through strong corrective action, including especially an expansion in investment with a corresponding increase in savings to keep inflationary pressures under control. However, while our full growth potential remains around 9 per cent, acceleration to this level can only occur in a phased manner, especially since the global economy is expected to remain weak for the first half of the Plan period.

Atal Innovation Mission

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the Central Government, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country. AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts across the country. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces of 1000-1500 square feet where latest technologies like 3D printers, robotics, internet of things (IOT), miniaturized electronics ‘do it yourself’ kits are installed using a grant of ₹ 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to create innovative solutions.

At the university, NGO, SME and Corporate industry levels, AIM is setting up world-class Atal Incubators (AICs) that would trigger and enable successful growth of sustainable startups in every sector /state of the country.

Mentor India

The Mentor India programme launched by AIM that draws more than 3,200 mentors from all over the country belonging to various industry sectors have been assigned to work with 1800+ ATLs on a continuous basis.

Atal New India Challenge

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC), which is an initiative by Atal Innovation Mission aimed at supporting innovators to create products/ solutions based on advanced technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based mechanism.

Moving forward, AIM is also planning to launch another programme ARISE to promote collaborative Applied Research and Innovation between various central ministries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Initiatives and Reforms

Agriculture Reforms

Implementation of MSP for notified crops

NITI Aayog in consultation with central ministries and states developed a mechanism for implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different agricultural crops. Accordingly Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare launched Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) in 2018 including three mechanisms: price support scheme or market assurance scheme, price deficiency payment scheme and pilot on private procurement stockists

Contract Farming

The Union Government provided, for the first time, an opportunity to the farmers to decide the price of their produce and negotiate with buyers through Model Act on Contract Farming. The Model Act called the State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming

and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018 was formulated in consultation with NITI Aayog and launched in 2018 for its adoption by the states/union territories.

Reforms in Nutrition

POSHAN Abhiyaan

Launched in 2018, POSHAN Abhiyaan directs the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition and addresses it in a mission-mode. For its implementation the four point strategy/pillars of the mission are: (i) inter-sectoral convergence for better service delivery (ii) use of technology (ICT) for real time growth monitoring and tracking of women and children (iii) intensified health and nutrition services for the first 1,000 days (iv) Jan Andolan or people's movement.

POSHAN Maah

September was celebrated as Rashtriya POSHAN Maah in 2018. The activities in POSHAN Maah focussed on Social Behavioural Change and Communication (SBCC).

Health Sector Reforms

Ayushman Bharat: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Ayushman Bharat comprising twin missions is set to transform the nation's health system by: operationalizing 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres offering preventive and primary care, on the supply side; and offering financial protection of up to ₹ 5 lakhs per year per family for the deprived 10 crores plus households towards secondary and tertiary care, on the demand side.

24. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

INDIA has been a welfare state since independence and the primary objective of all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its people. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India.

The Community Development Programme, inaugurated in 1952, was an important landmark in the history of rural development. This programme underwent many changes and was handled by different ministries.

Presently, the Ministry of Rural Development consists of two departments, namely, Department of Rural Development and Department of Land Resources.

Major Programmes for Rural Development

The major programmes being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development are: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for providing wage employment; National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for self employment and skill development; Housing for All: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Grameen (PMAY-G) for providing housing to BPL households; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for construction of quality roads; National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for social pension; Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission; Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for improving the productivity of the land.

Rural Employment

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has come a long way since its inception, and has become a lifeline to millions. The objectives of the scheme are: providing upto 100 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability; enhance livelihood security of the rural poor by generating wage employment opportunities in works that develop the infrastructure base of the area concerned.

Direct Benefit Transfer

To streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 21 states and 1 union territory. This process reduces the delay in allocation of funds for payment of wages to the states and removes parking of funds at various level

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission

National Rural Livelihoods Mission, renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) was launched in 2011. While doing so, DAY-NRLM ensures adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50 per cent of the beneficiaries are members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, 15 per cent from minority groups and 3 per cent from persons with disability, while keeping in view the overall target of 100 per cent coverage of the rural poor households identified through Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) and through participatory processes of identification of poor households and approved by Gram Sabha.

The key components of DAY-NRLM include : (i) Promoting Institutions of Poor; (ii) Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building: Focus is on developing and engaging community professionals and community resource persons (CRPs) in order to provide timely support and bring about reduction in poverty levels; (iii) Community Investment Support Fund: Community Investment Support Fund is routed to SHGs through federations (primary and secondary level); (iv) National Special Fund Support for Convergence under DAY-NRLP was provided to help states mainstream convergence as an effective method to reduce poverty and empower rural poor; (v) Infrastructure Creation and Marketing Support: DAY-NRLM ensures that infrastructure needs for major livelihoods activities of poor are met with.; (vi) Sensitive Support Structures: DAY-NRLM has set up sensitive and dedicated support structures at the national, state, district and sub-district levels.; (vii) Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP); (viii) Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana: The Government of India has introduced a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) entitled “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana” (AGEY) from the financial year 2017-18.

Rural Self Employment Training Institute

It has been decided to set up one Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in each district of the country. RSETIs are bank lead initiative with the active support of state government. The Government of India provides one time infrastructure support of ₹ 1 crore besides reimbursing the cost of training rural poor candidates, the state government provides land free of cost or at nominal charges and the banks are responsible for day to day functioning of the RSETI.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Government of India, as the part of poverty reduction strategy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the State List under the Constitution. The primary objective of Scheme is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 census) and above in plain areas. In respect of ‘Special Category States’ (North- East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the desert areas, the tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88 selected tribal and backward districts, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations as per Core-Network with a population of 250 persons and above (census 2001).

Rural Housing

The rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, aimed at providing houses to families below the poverty line (BPL) in rural areas has since inception provided assistance for construction of 360 lakh houses.

In the context of government’s priority for “Housing for All” by 2022, the rural housing scheme IAY has been restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana—Gramin (PMAY-G), which came into effect from the financial year 2016-17. The main features of the scheme include: (a) providing assistance for construction of 1.00 crore houses in rural areas over the period of 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19; (b) enhancement of unit assistance from ₹70,000 to ₹1.20 lakh in plains and from ₹75,000 to ₹1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas and IAP districts; (c) identification of beneficiaries based on the socio-economic and caste census (SECC 2011) data; (d) setting up of national technical support agency at national.

National Social Assistance Programme

The Government of India introduced National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme under which 100 per cent central assistance is extended to the states/UTs to provide the benefits in accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the central government. Presently NSAP comprises the following schemes for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households:

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Under the scheme, assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Under the scheme central assistance of ₹ 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and belonging to family living below poverty.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): Under the scheme central assistance of ₹ 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty.

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under the scheme a BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years. The amount of assistance is ₹ 20,000/-.

Annapurna: Under the scheme, 10 kg of foodgrains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible under IGNOAPS, are not receiving pension under IGNOAPS.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Announced in 2014, DDU-GKY is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy. The scheme is a pioneer in standards-led delivery of skilling, the first to notify standard operating procedures for training, and the first to introduce IT solutions for skilling, including mandatory tablets for trainees, Aadhar-linked biometric information on attendance, and geo-tagged time-stamped record of training centres and classes. DDU-GKY has its roots in the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). In 2010, SGSY was restructured as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), also known as Aajeevika. On Antyodaya Diwas, 25th September 2014, Aajeevika Skills was announced as DDU-GKY with a focus on providing opportunities through skilling for rural poor youth in domestic and global jobs.

Key Features

(i) The focus of this programmes is on the rural youth from poor families, in the age group of 15 to 35 years, belonging to: a) MGNREGA worker household in which household members have together completed 15 days of work; b) RSBY household; c) Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household; d) BPL PDS card households; e) NRLM-SHG household; f) Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011. (ii) Full social inclusion of candidates is ensured by the mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups—50 per cent allocation to SC/ST groups, 15 per cent to minorities, 33 per cent for women and 3 per cent for persons with disabilities. (iii) Placement in wage employment is mandated for a minimum of 70 per cent of all successful candidates, with a minimum salary of ₹ 6,000/- per month or the minimum wages, whichever is higher.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to develop one village by each Member of Parliament as a model village by 2016 and two more by 2019. In other words, SAGY attempts to develop the value chain through value change.

A campaign, namely, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan was also started. This campaign which, undertaken under “Sabka Sath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas”, is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of the government, reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes. During this, saturation of eligible households/persons would be made under seven flagship pro-poor programmes namely, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Saubhagya, Ujala Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Mission Indradhanush.

Land Reforms

Watershed Management Programme

Management of a watershed entails the rational utilization of land and water resources for optimum productivity, with minimum hazards to human settlements.

Watershed Development

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015-16 by amalgamating ongoing schemes of three ministries viz., Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and PMKSY (WR) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the Micro Irrigation component of On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW). At present, the principal emphasis is on qualitative and timely implementation and completion of the ongoing watershed development projects.

Natural Land Reforms Modernization

The scheme of National Land Reforms Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is being implemented since 2008. Under it, 27 states/ UTs have computerized the registration of records (RoRs) of land in their respective areas

Panchayati Raj

The mandate of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), which was set up in 2004, is to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution, provisions regarding the District Planning Committees as per Article 243 ZD, and PESA. The Ministry's vision is to attain decentralized and participatory local self-government through Panchayats, or Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Constitutional Mandate

Part IX of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states of union territories having population less than 2 million): (i) gram panchayats at village level; (ii) district panchayats at district level; and (iii) intermediate panchayats at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats. It also provides for gram sabha (general assembly of registered voters who reside in the area of gram panchayat) as a forum for direct participation of villagers in local governance. The Constitution India has fixed five year term for these panchayats and has made provision for the reservation of seats for women and marginalized sections (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) of Indian society. While reservation of schedule castes (SCs) & scheduled tribes (STs) is in proportion to their share in population, that for women is at least 33.33 per cent. However, many states have increased the reservation of seats and chairperson posts for women in panchayats to 50 per cent.

Within this broad framework, as local government is a state subject, State legislatures have a critical role in determining various aspects of panchayati raj in their states. States are keys as far as devolution of powers to panchayats is concerned.

Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan

To improve the functioning of PRI, the MoPR implemented the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in the 12th Five Year Plan period i.e., from 2012-13 upto 2015-16. The RGPSA addressed the major constraints of inadequate devolution of powers, lack of manpower, inadequate infrastructure and limited capacity in the effective functioning of panchayats by providing manpower, infrastructure, training and promotion of devolution of power to panchayats and put in place structures of accountability.

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Under RGSA comprehensive efforts will be made to support and enhance the capacity building and training facilities for all stakeholders with particular thrust on the aspects of Gram Panchayat Development Plan campaign.

e-Panchayat

e-Panchayat was identified as one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) formulated in 2006.

Recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award for the period 2015—2020 grants to the tune of ₹ 2,00,292.20 crore are being devolved to gram panchayats in the country constituted under Part IX of the Constitution. The FFC has not recommended grants to Non-Part IX areas under Schedule VI in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, the areas in the hill districts of Manipur, rural areas of Nagaland and Mizoram.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

The Department of Drinking Water Supply was created in the Ministry of Rural Development in 1999. Keeping in view the significance of rural water supply and sanitation, the Government of India created and notified the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as a separate Ministry in 2011. After the notification in June 2019, the Ministry has since been renamed as Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. It is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of the flagship programmes of the Government of India viz., the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for rural drinking water supply and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] for sanitation in the country.

Swachh Bharat Mission

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014. The concept of Swachh Bharat Mission is to provide access for every person to sanitation facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems and village cleanliness. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. An Action Plan has been drawn up for Swachh Bharat to become a reality by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The main objectives of the SBM(G) are : (a) bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation; (b) accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019; (c) encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

The Ministry is reforming the sanitation sector by shifting metric from building toilets to Open Defecation Free villages. Behaviour change is the primary focus and fundamental tool for achievement of ODF outcomes. The Ministry is doing it by its focused Information , Education and Communication (IEC) programme.

Swachhata Pakhwada

Swachhata Pakhwada was started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging GoI

Namami Gange

Namami Gange Programme is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, comprising making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management. All 4470 villages located across 52 districts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal has since been made ODF with active help of state governments. Now the Ministry has taken up 24 villages on the bank of river Ganga to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with NMCG.

Gram Panchayats have been empowered to play an active role in ownership and maintenance of Ganga Gram activities. People's involvement is a major plank of Ganga Gram Project.

Swachhta Action Plan

Swachhta Action Plan (SAP), a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta, is a concrete realization of the vision that swachhta is everyone's business.

Swachh Iconic Places

The Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across the country that are "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance. This initiative is in partnership with ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with MDWS being the nodal ministry. So far in first two phases, 20 iconic places has been taken up

National Rural Drinking Water Programme

The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing adequate and safe drinking water to the rural population of the country. The NRDWP is a component of Bharat Nirman which focuses on the creation of the infrastructure.

A Technology Mission with stress on water quality, appropriate technology intervention, human resource development support and other related activities was introduced in 1986 which was subsequently renamed as the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991. In 1999-2000, Sector Reform Projects were started to involve the community in planning, implementation and management of drinking water schemes which was in 2002 scaled up as the Swajaldhara programme. The programme was revised in 2009 and named as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

25. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

THE Department of Science and Technology (DST) functions as the nodal agency to connect science and technology sector to Government verticals.

Some of the important domains in which the Department devotes its attention are: strengthening the pool of scientists and technologists for carrying out globally competitive R&D in cutting edge areas of science; nurturing R&D institutions and building infrastructural facilities for enhancing global ranking of India in scientific research; support for the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for partnerships for promoting science; deploying technology through national missions.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

The new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy unveiled in 2013 includes a thrust for innovations in science and technology sector. Science, research and innovation system for

high technology led path for India (SRISHTI) is the main policy goal. Department has already established a dedicated Policy Research Cell.

Science and Engineering Research

The research and development in frontier areas of science and engineering has received an overwhelming support with the establishment of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). Several new initiatives have been launched by the Board recently to reverse the brain drain at different stages of scientific careers such as Early Career Research Awards (ECRA) for young faculty for setting up laboratory facilities for quick launching of research by new faculty, around 300 candidates will be supported annually under ECRA.

Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme : The Scheme launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in a regular capacity in state universities/colleges/academic institutions such as IITs, IISc, IISERs, national labs, etc., located nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working. Provision of fellowship amount of ₹5,000 per month, contingency grant of ₹5 lakh per annum and overhead for a period of 3 years has been made.

Attracting Young Talent

Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE) is an ongoing initiative for attracting talent for science and research. Science camps are organised to provide opportunity to class XI students pursuing science to interact with the science icons from India and abroad including Nobel Laureates to experience the joy of innovations. INSPIRE faculty awards are provided to post-doctoral researchers in the age group of 27-32 years through contractual and tenure positions for 5 years in basic and applied sciences.

Opportunities for Women Scientists

Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing). Through this unique initiative, DST provides opportunity to women scientists who had break in their career, primarily due to family reasons, to pursue research in physical and mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, earth and atmospheric sciences and engineering technology.

Nano Science and Technology

National Mission of Nano Science and Technology - an umbrella programme- was launched in 2007 to promote R&D in this emerging area of research in a comprehensive fashion.

Climate Change

National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC) launched under National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) are under implementation by the Department.

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)

It has evolved as an umbrella scheme for a seamless innovation ecosystem booster. The specific components of NIDHI are - grand challenge and competitions for scouting innovations; promotion and acceleration of young and aspiring innovators and startups (PRAYAS) - support from idea to prototype; entrepreneur in residence (EIR) - support system to reduce risk; startup-NIDHI through innovation and entrepreneurship development centres (IEDCs) in academic institutions for encouraging students to promote start-ups; start-

up centre in collaboration with MHRD - inculcating a spirit of entrepreneurship in national institutions of higher learning; technology business incubator (TBI) - converting innovations to startups; accelerator - fast tracking a start-up through focused intervention; seed support system (SSS) - providing early stage investment; centres of excellence (COE) - a world class facility to help startups go global and/or scale up.

Survey of India

Survey of India (SOI), the national survey and mapping organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was set up in 1767. In its assigned role as the National Principal Mapping Agency, Survey of India bears a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development. It has also been called upon extensively to deploy its expertise in the field of geodetic and geophysical surveys, study of seismicity and seismotectonics, glaciology, participation in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica and projects related to digital cartography and digital photogrammetry, etc., to provide basic data to keep pace with Science and Technology Department.

Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad established under UNDP assistance is a premier institution for training in various disciplines of surveying and mapping to the trainees.

While Survey of India meets the national needs in cartography, some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users are taken care of by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) operating under the Department.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, (CSIR) constituted in 1942 is an autonomous body which is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse S&T areas. It covers a wide spectrum of science and technology—from radio and space physics, oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology. It provides significant technological intervention in many areas with regard to societal efforts which include environment, health, drinking water, food, housing, energy, leather, farm and non-farm sectors. CSIR is the nation's custodian for measurement standards of mass, distance, time, temperature, current, etc. It has created and is the custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which is a powerful weapon against unethical commercial exploitation of Indian traditional knowledge. It maintains Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank. Pioneer of India's intellectual property movement, CSIR today is strengthening its patent portfolio to carve out global niches for the country in select technology domains.

Atomic Energy

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), established in 1954 is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, and basic research.

DAE has wide ranging capabilities in uranium mining and mineral processing, and is self-sufficient in the production of heavy water, zirconium alloy components and other materials and supplies, for pressurised heavy water reactor. The Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad manufactures fuel assemblies for pressurised heavy water reactors, boiling water reactors and fast breeder reactor.

Heavy Water Board

The Heavy Water Board (HWB) has contributed successfully to the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme by producing heavy water for all pressurised heavy water reactors in a cost effective manner enabling the Department to provide nuclear power at an affordable cost. Presently, the Board is not only self-sufficient in meeting the domestic demand of heavy water, but is also geared up to supply heavy water for the future PHWRs and AHWRs as per the envisioned nuclear power programme of DAE.

Fast Breeder Reactors

For the second stage of the Nuclear Power Generation Programme, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is pursuing development of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors and associated fuel cycle technologies. The Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operating at Kalpakkam for over 25 years, also caters to technology development related to fast reactors.

Thorium Based Reactors

Nuclear power employing closed fuel cycle is the only sustainable option for meeting a major part of the world energy demand. World resources of thorium are larger than those of uranium. Thorium, therefore is, widely viewed as the 'fuel of the future'. The Indian Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3 aims at using thorium as fuel for power generation on a commercial scale. In the thorium fuel cycle, thorium 232 is transmuted into the fissile isotope uranium 233 which is a nuclear fuel.

Kalpakkam Mini (Kamini) Reactor

Kamini reactor was operated successfully for neutron radiography of various pyro devices for Department of Space. High temperature fission chambers required for neutron flux measurement of PFBR were successfully tested.

Advanced Technologies

The research centres of DAE are engaged in developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers, advanced materials, robotics, supercomputers, instrumentation and others. BARC, RRCAT, VECC and BRIT are also engaged in the development of radiation technologies and their applications for better crop varieties, techniques for crops protection, radiation based post-harvest technologies, techniques for radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy of diseases particularly cancer, technologies for safe drinking water, better environment and industrial growth.

Electronics & Instrumentation

The Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) continued to remain engaged in the design, development, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of electronic equipment for the atomic energy, defence, aerospace, security, information technology and e-governance sectors.

Robotics

A robot based frameless stereotactic system is developed at BARC for performing neurosurgery.

Radioisotopes & Radiation Technology

DAE has been playing a significant role in the development and applications of various radioisotopes in healthcare, industry, agriculture and research.

Radioisotopes are produced in the Dhruva Research Reactor at Trombay, accelerator at Kolkata and the various nuclear power plants of NPCIL, a wide variety of radioisotopes for medical, industrial and research applications were produced and supplied by BARC.

Homi Bhabha National Institute

The Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) accredited as a deemed university by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) completed ten years of its existence.

Indian Space Programme

The Government of India constituted the space commission and established the Department of Space (DOS) in 1972 and brought ISRO under DOS in 1972. Space Commission formulates the policies and oversees the implementation of the Indian space programme to promote the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the country. DOS implements these programmes through, mainly, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) and Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL). Antrix Corporation, established in 1992 as a government owned company, markets the space products and services.

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M 1, successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into its planned orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 45,475 km. The launch took place from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

Other Activities

In all ISRO accomplished 13 missions, which includes six launch vehicle missions, six satellite missions and one technology demonstrator, Pad Abort test.

Space Applications

The Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme of ISRO is continuing to provide space based inputs for the effective management of disasters in the country. The Decision Support Centre (DMSDSC), established at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), is engaged in monitoring of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, forest fires, etc.

National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) continued to provide disaster related inputs for states/UTs with multi-scale geo-spatial database. In addition to these daily data, alerts/warnings from forecasting agencies were also provided as part of NDEM dashboard. IRSO is a signatory of the International Charter for 'Space and Major Disasters', which aims at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to users affected by disasters.

Space Science and Planetary Research

Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), which is India's first inter-planetary spacecraft mission, has successfully completed three years in its orbit around Mars and still continues to provide vital information on regular basis.

AstroSat, India's first multi-wavelength observatory, completed two years in orbit. The satellite is now being operated as an 'Observatory', in which observational time is allocated

based on the proposals received from interested researchers and scientists in the country, through IRSO's Announcement of Opportunity (AO).

Space Commerce

Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Department of Space, is marketing the Indian space products and services in the global market. Antrix offers a wide range of services from the space based systems through specific commercial contracts with other agencies, including foreign customers.

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

Towards capacity building in human resources and to meet the growing demands of the Indian Space Programme, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), a deemed university, was established at Thiruvananthapuram in 2007.

Earth Sciences

Earth system sciences deals with all the five components of the earth system, viz., atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere and biosphere and their complex interaction. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) holistically addresses all the aspects relating the earth system science for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services.

Earth System Science Organization

The Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) operates as an executive arm of the MoES for its policies and programmes. The ESSO was established in 2007 as a virtual organization, bringing all meteorological and ocean development activities under one umbrella, recognizing the importance of strong coupling among various components of the earth viz., atmosphere, oceans, cryo-sphere and geo-sphere. It has four major branches of earth sciences, viz.: (i) ocean science and technology (ii) atmospheric and climate science (iii) geo-science and technology and (iv) polar science and cryo-sphere. The sole purpose of the endeavour was to address holistically various aspects relating to earth processes for understanding the variability of earth system.

ESSO functions through its following centres: Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE); National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR); National Centre for Seismology (NCS); National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF); India Meteorological Department (IMD); National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT); Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS); National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR); Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM); and National Centre for Earth Science Studies(NCESS).

Atmospheric and Climate Research

A high resolution global deterministic weather prediction model was commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 12 km. With this, MoES has attained the same capability as in USA in using high resolution weather prediction models. Under the Monsoon Mission, operational dynamical model systems have been implemented for extended range and seasonal forecasts. For the first time, forecasts on different time scales during the hot weather season (April to May) including heat waves were issued by the India Meteorological Department.

Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services

The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides the Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) for the benefit of farmers. Farmers make use of these services for planning the operations like sowing, irrigation, application of fertilizer and pesticide, harvest and protection of crops from wather disasters.

Forecasts for Heat and Cold Waves

With global warming, surface air temperatures are expected to further increase and frequency of heat waves may also increase. To provide adequate warnings about heat waves and associated health hazards, MoES for the first time started issuing forecasts for heat waves over the country.

A Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model was commissioned in 2018. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) appreciated IMD for tropical cyclone advisory services during Cyclonic Storm Sagar over Arabian Sea, Mekunu over Arabian Sea, VSCS Luban and Titli which helped minimize the impact and saved many lives.

A new early warning system of air quality in Delhi was developed in collaboration with National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA. The system will assimilate data from around 36 monitoring stations and satellite data on stubble burning and dust storms. These warning services were provided to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science

Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART), has been put in place for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. The scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as services, technology, resources, observations and science

Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services

Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services (ACROSS) pertains to the atmospheric science programmes of the Ministry. Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society. It also aims at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive R & D. It will be implemented by the Ministry through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

A mobile App named “DAMINI” has been developed to disseminate the information on lightning to the public. The field campaign namely the Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX) Phase-IV campaign was conducted near Solapur in Maharashtra to understand the physical process involved in enhancement of precipitation.

Ocean Services: Technology and Observations

Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) Advisories: provided by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on a daily.

Ocean Forecasts

Ocean state forecasts (forecasts of waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) to fisher folk, shipping industry, oil and natural gas industry, navy, coast guard and other stakeholders have improved considerably. Oil spill advisories are being provided to facilitate the indication of eco-sensitive zones, potential fishing zones etc. The ocean forecast services were extended to two other Indian Ocean Rim countries, namely Sri Lanka and Seychelles on various.

Tsunami Warning System

The Indian Tsunami Warning System established by the Ministry at the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad has been recognized as the Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RSTP) for the Indian Ocean region by UNESCO to provide warning to countries of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Tsunami Warning System is equipped to issue warnings within ten minutes of occurrence of earthquakes.

Open Cage Culture

Large scale fish production through marine culture is the viable alternative to cope with the ever increasing demand for fish proteins. An open sea cage culture mooring system was designed and developed for commercially important marine finfishes suitable for Indian sea conditions to meet this demand with available marine engineering and biological expertise.

Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER)

National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa established a high altitude research station in Himalaya called Himansh (literally meaning, a slice of ice), situated above 13,500 ft (>4000 m) at a remote region in Spiti Himachal Pradesh. This station is equipped with instruments such as, automatic station, water level recorder, steam drill, snow ice corer, ground penetrating radar, differential global positioning system, snow fork, flow tracker, thermister string, radiometer, etc.

Seismology and Geoscience Research (SAGE)

The national seismological network consisting of 115 observatories has been functioning smoothly. Information pertaining to significant earthquake events were transmitted to all concerned state and central government agencies, dealing with relief and rescue operations in the region and also posted on the website. Scientific deep drilling in Koyna which started in 2016 is aimed at setting up of borehole observatory (s) at depth for directly measuring the in-situ physical properties of the rocks.

Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) Programme is a scheme that provides support to academic/research organizations in various sectors of earth system sciences including technology development.

Biotechnology

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology was established in 1986. This provided the much needed impetus to biotechnology and the Department conceived programmes and formulated integrated programmes in line with its allocation of business rules.

Building capacity in cutting edge areas of research, developing right kind of infrastructure, building new national and international partnership is one of the thrusts of the Department. At the same time impetus is on developing products and their commercialization for robust bio-

economy and establishment of India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub for developing and developed markets in near future.

More than 80 technologies developed under the efforts of autonomous institute and many of them have been commercialized through technology transfer. The autonomous institute of DBT have several research leads including IPR/patents.

National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, promotes state-of-art teaching and training facilities in advanced biological sciences using an inter-disciplinary approach so as to inculcate the highest level of aptitude and ability in the country's skilled manpower pool.

National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune has taken new initiatives in nurturing young scientific talent and research scholars into its PhD programme dealing with cutting-edge research areas in structural biology, stem cell biology, deciphering the role of RNA in biological control processes and the cellular and molecular basis of memory.

Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad is well equipped with world class state-of-the-art instrumentation and computing infrastructure to facilitate working in frontier areas of research in life sciences.

Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneshwar is giving focus on infectious disease biology, gene function and regulation and translational research.

National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar is pursuing interdisciplinary research and teaching on epilepsy and brain mapping.

National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), Delhi is focusing research on understanding of the structure, expression and function of genes along with arrangement of genes on plant genomes and manipulation of plant genes/genomes to breed improved varieties of food and industrial crops for high yields and of better quality product.

Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal is involved in conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources for the socio-economic development of the north eastern region.

Centre of Innovative and Applied Bio-processing (CIAB), Mohali is giving focus on secondary agriculture and catalyzing research, innovations and knowledge translation for production of secondary agricultural bio-products.

National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani is engaged in accelerating genomics for health and disease and discovering genomic evidence that underpins disease and health-related traits.

Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bengaluru has successfully attracted outstanding investigators, who have initiated theme driven programmes.

National Agri Food Biotechnology Centre (NABI), Mohali engaged in research programmes and technologies for the biotech cluster at Mohali to make Indian agriculture and food industry more innovation driven, remunerative and sustainable.

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi is endeavouring to bring excellence in genetic engineering with collaborative partnership of scientists from all over the world.

Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

The Department of Biotechnology promotes biotech research and helps to translate research into products and services. One of the means by which development of new commercial products is to be achieved through the setting up the biotechnology parks, where facilities for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies are provided for accelerated commercial development of biotechnology.

Bangalore Life Science Cluster for Multi-scale Basic and Applied Research in Biological Sciences (B-Life), Bengaluru promotes research and technology development through generation of ideas, sharing resources and infrastructure amongst the partnering institutes.

NCR Biotech Science Cluster is established by involving five autonomous institutes of DBT (NII, NIPGR, NBRC, THSTI and RCB).

Public Sector Undertakings

As an interface agency Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has been set up to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, promote affordable innovation in key social sectors, empowerment of start-ups and small and medium enterprises, contribute through partners for capability enhancement and diffusion of innovation, enable commercialization of discovery and ensure global competitiveness of Indian enterprises.

Biotech Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme under BIRAC is encouraging scheme for the young investigators for entrepreneurial and managerial development of SME's in biotechnology through incubators.

The Department is also having two PSUs namely Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

BIRAC has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms that help to bridge the existing gaps in the industry-academia innovation research and facilitate novel, high quality affordable products development through cutting edge technologies.

26. TANSPORT

Railways

About 35.32 per cent of the route kilometre and 47.09 per cent of running track kilometre and 48.26 per cent of total track kilometre is electrified. The network is divided into 17 zones. Divisions are the basic operating units.

The main objectives of railways planning have been to develop the transport infrastructure to carry the projected quantum of traffic and meet the developmental needs of the economy. Since the inception of the planned era in 1950-51, Indian Railways have implemented nine five-year plans, apart from annual plans in some years.

Central Public Sector Enterprises

There are thirteen undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, viz., (i) RITES Ltd., (ii) IRCON International Limited, (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), (iv) Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC) (vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. (Rail Tel), (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), (x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), (xi) Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd. (BWEL), (xii) Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) and (xiii) Braithwaite and Company Limited (BCL).

Research and Development

The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) at Lucknow is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. It functions as a consultant in technical matters.

Railway Finance

Though a part of the overall financial figures of the Government of India, the Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924-25 owing to the Separation Convention of 1924. The Railways had its own 16 demands for grants, which also used to be considered and passed by the Parliament separately. The Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from the 2017-18. This merger would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways.

Passenger Business

During 2018-19, the number of originating passengers on IR was 8,438 million vis-a-vis 8,286 million during the last year, registering an increase of 1.83 per cent. The passenger earnings during this period was ₹ 51,066.64 crores up by ₹ 2,423.50 crores (4.98 per cent). Total freight earnings in 2018-19 stood at ₹ 1,27,430.08 crores which shows an increase of ₹ 10,374.68 crores (8.86 per cent) over the earnings in the previous year.

Railway Electrification

Indian Railways has been slowly but steadily being electrified its routes. By March, 2018, electrification was been extended to 29,376 RKMs out of the total rail network of 67,368 RKMs. This constitutes 44.85 per cent of the total railway network.

Catering Services

New Catering Policy 2017 was issued in 2017 with the objective to provide quality food to rail passengers by unbundling of catering services on trains. IRCTC has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution.

Rail Tourism

The important train/coach services offering package tours are (i) Luxury Tourist trains, (ii) Semi-luxury trains, (iii) Buddhist Special trains, (iv) Bharat Darshan trains, (v) Astha Circuit trains, (vi) Glass Top (Vistadome) Coaches, (vii) Steam Train, (ix) Value Added Tour Packages and (x) Rail Tour Packages. Railways has been operating the luxury tourist train 'Palace on Wheels' since 1982. Four more trains namely 'Deccan Odyssey', 'Golden Chariot', 'Heritage Palace on Wheels' and 'Maharajas Express' on similar lines have been added over the years.

Roads

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to road transport and transport research. It encompasses construction and maintenance of national highways (NHs), administration of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, National Highways Act, 1956 and National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, formulation of broad policies relating to road transport, environmental issues, automotive norms etc. In order to assist the state governments in the development of state roads, central government also provides financial assistance out of the Central Road Fund (CRF) and Inter State Connectivity and Economic Importance (ISC & EI) Scheme.

The NHDP was mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), and is spread over seven phases with an estimated expenditure of about ₹ 6,00,000 crore. The remaining works under NHDP have now been subsumed under the Ministry's new flagship programme - Bharatmala.

Development and Maintenance of National Highways

The Government is implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the largest Highways Project ever undertaken in the country since 2000. The NHDP is mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).

Bharatmala Pariyojana

The Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages development of about 26,000 km length of economic corridors, which along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors are expected to carry majority of the freight traffic on roads. The programme envisages development of Ring Roads / bypasses and elevated corridors to decongest the traffic passing through cities and enhance logistic efficiency; 28 cities have been identified for Ring Roads.

Setu Bharatam

In order to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic, the Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of level crossing on national highways by Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) under a scheme known as Setu Bharatam.

Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana

This project envisages development of easy access to the four prominent Dhams, namely, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, situated in Uttarakhand.

National Highways Authority of India

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under the NHAI Act, 1988. It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project (NHDP). NHAI is entrusted to among others,; develop, maintain and manage national highways vested in it; collect fees on national highways, regulate and control the plying of vehicles for its proper management; develop and provide consultancy and construction services in India and abroad and carry on re-search activities in relation to the development, maintenance and management of highways or any other facilities there at; advise the central government on matters relating to highways, etc.

National Highways Development Project

The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to up- grade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in the country to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998 This project is managed by NHAI under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways. The NHDP has been subsumed in the ongoing Bharatmala project.

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation

The NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry that exclusively carries out the task of construction/ up-grading/widening of national highways in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries in order to promote regional connectively with neighbouring countries on a sustainable basis.

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) is a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry. It is a collaborative body of both central and state governments and was set up in 1983.

National Registry of Vehicle and License Records

In order to usher in transformational improvements in this sector, the Ministry has put in place several policies for citizens. Transport Mission Mode Project has successfully automated RTO operations, set up a consolidated transport database. The salient aspects of this Mission Mode Project are two flagship applications - Vahan and Sarathi. While Vahan consolidates vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services across the country, Sarathi looks after the driving license, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.

Road Safety

The important schemes on road safety operated by the Ministry include publicity measures and awareness campaign on road safety, Scheme for Setting up Institutes for Driving Training, Refresher Training of Drivers in Unorganized Sector and Human Resource Development, National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS), setting up of inspection and certification centres and road safety and pollution testing equipment and programme implementation.

e-Tolling

In order to remove traffic bottle neck at toll plazas and ensure seamless movement of vehicles and hassle-free collection of toll, the Government has implemented a nationwide Electronic Toll Collection based on passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). It provides for electronic collection of toll through FASTags. The project was first launched in 2015.

National Green Highways Project

In order to develop eco-friendly highways, the Green Highways (Plantation Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy was firmed up in 2016. The Policy aims to develop eco-friendly national highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector. The initial plantation drive on 1,500 km of national highways at a cost of about ₹ 300 crore was launched as part of the Policy.

Shipping

The Ministry of Shipping was formed in 2009 by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent ministries. The Ministry of

Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport. It is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to shipping.

Maritime Development

India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km, spread on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the Islands. It is an important natural resource for the country's trade. There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports.

Sagarmala Programme

To harness the coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes, the Government of India has embarked on the ambitious Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country. This includes: reducing the cost of transporting domestic cargo; lowering logistical cost of bulk commodities by locating future industrial capacities near the coast; improving export competitiveness by developing port proximate discrete manufacturing clusters, etc. The objectives of the Programme include: port modernisation, new port development, port connectivity, coastal community development, etc.

Ship Building

The Indian shipbuilding industry continued to concentrate on defence, coastal and inland vessels. The fleet expansion plans of Indian Navy and the vessels for the Indian Coast Guard are the two prime segments which were targeted by the Indian shipyards. A shipbuilding subsidy scheme was in existence to promote Indian Shipbuilding industry for Central PSU Shipyards since 1971.

Ship Recycling

India has 25-30 per cent share in the global ship recycling industry. Ship recycling is carried out mainly at Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat. Started in February, 1983, Alang-Sosiya is the largest ship recycling yard in the world. Approximately 10 km long sea front on the western coast of the Gulf of Cambay adjoining to Alang-Sosiya village has been developed as a ship recycling yard.

Major Ports

There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports along India's coastline which is about 7517 km. Of the total traffic handled by all Indian ports, 57 per cent is handled by major ports and 43 by others.

Kolkata Port: Kolkata Port is the only riverine major port in the country having been in existence for about 138 years. The port has twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex on the western bank of river Hooghly.

Paradip Port: Paradip Port is one of the major ports of the country. The Government of India declared Paradip Port Trust (PPT) as the eighth major port the country making it the first major port in the east coast commissioned in independent India.

New Mangalore Port: New Mangalore Port was declared the ninth major port in 1974 inaugurated in 1975.

Cochin Port: The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 1920-1940 due to the untiring efforts of Sir Robert Bristow. By 1930-31 it was formally opened for vessels up to 30 feet draught. Cochin was given the status of a major port in 1936. The hinterland of the port includes the whole of Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port: Constructed in the mid 1980's and commissioned in 1989, it is a trendsetter in port development in India through new initiatives like private sector participation. Jawaharlal Nehru Port is an all weather tidal port.

Mumbai Port: Mumbai Port is a fully integrated multi-purpose port handling container, dry bulk, liquid bulk and break bulk cargo. It has extensive wet and dry dock facilities.

Chennai Port: Chennai Port is an all weather artificial harbour with one outer harbour and one inner harbour with a wet dock and a boat basin with round the clock navigation facilities.

Mormugao Port: Mormugao Port, situated on the west coast of India, is more than a century old port. It has modern infrastructure capable of handling a wide variety of cargo. It is a natural harbour protected by a breakwater and also by a mole.

V.O. Chidambarnar Port (Tuticorin): V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located strategically close to the east- west international sea routes on the south eastern coast of in the Gulf of Mannar, with Sri Lanka on the south east and the large land mass of India on the west.

Deendayal Port (Kandla): Deendayal Port (erstwhile Kandla Port) was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port.

Visakhapatnam Port: Port of Visakhapatnam, a natural harbour, was opened to commercial shipping in 1933. It is the only Indian port possessing three international accreditations viz., ISO 14001; 2004 (EMS)/OHSAS 18001 and ISO 90001:2000 (QMS).

Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore): Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), the 12th major port under the Ministry of Shipping was commissioned in 2001, primarily as a coal port dedicated to handling thermal coal requirements of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB).

Inland Water Transport

India has one of the longest navigable and inland water networks. However, cargo transport through these inland waterways is, presently less than 1 per cent of the total cargo movement in the country. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in 1986, for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. 111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

Jai Marg Vikas Project

Jai Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is being implemented by the IWAI for the capacity augmentation of national waterway I on the Haldia–Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank.

Coastal Shipping

Coastal Shipping is fuel efficient, environment friendly and helps in easing traffic congestion on roads. In other large economies like China, USA and Japan the share of waterways is more than that of India.

Indian Maritime University

Indian Maritime University (IMU) was set up in 2008 in Chennai with campuses at Chennai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam as a central university. The existing seven government and government aided maritime training and research institutes viz., Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Kolkata, Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Mumbai, Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Advanced Maritime Studies and Research, Mumbai, T.S. Chanakya, Navi Mumbai, National Maritime Academy, Chennai, Indian Institute of Port Management, Kolkata as well as National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam have been merged with the IMU.

Lighthouses and Lightships

In the vast ocean, a mariner is not sure of his position unless he is guided by some signal from the land/space. Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) provides service to enable the mariners to know their position with respect to a fixed point on the land with the help of visual aids to navigation such as lighthouses, light vessels, buoys, beacons and radio aids to navigation like differential global positioning system (DGPS), radar beacons (Racons), vessel traffic service (VTS) and automatic identification system (AIS) etc.

Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai

The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 on all matters relating to shipping policy and legislation, implementation of various international conventions relating to safety, etc.

Cochin Shipyard Limited

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), located in Kochi in Kerala is one of the largest shipyards in the country. The yard has built and delivered over 100 ships including tankers, bulk carriers, port crafts, offshore vessels, tugs and passenger vessels. It is the only yard which has regularly undertaken dry dock repairs of the aircraft carriers of Indian Navy. CSL had the privilege of receiving INS Viraat for the 13th.

Dredging Corporation of India

Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL) was formed in 1976 to provide integrated dredging and related marine services for promoting the country's national and international maritime trade, beach nourishment, reclamation, inland dredging, environmental protection and ultimately to become a global player, in the field of dredging. It is located strategically on the eastern seaboard of India at Visakhapatnam.

Civil Aviation

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the civil aviation sector in the country. In addition to primary functions of framing of policies, the Ministry provides guidance to the organisation in the implementation of policy guidelines, monitors and evaluates their activities and also provides their interface with the Parliament. It also supervises

implementation by the organizations of special programmes of the Government, particularly those intended for weaker sections of society.

National Civil Aviation Policy

For the first time since Independence and Integrated Civil Aviation Policy was notified in June, 2016, which aims at creating an ecosystem that will push the growth of the civil aviation sector. The Policy aims to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance and promote the entire aviation sector chain in a harmonized manner covering cargo, MRO, general aviation, aerospace manufacturing and skill development.

Regional Connectivity Scheme

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 with the twin objective of promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses. The Scheme, which will be in operation for a period of 10 years, envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports.

Air Sewa

Air Sewa is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 2016 to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience. It works through an interactive web portal (airsewa.gov.in) or a mobile app that includes a mechanism for grievance redressal.

FDI Liberalization

Government of India has raised the FDI limit for 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non scheduled air transport services, FDI in scheduled airlines upto 49 per cent permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49 per cent through Government approval. For NRIs, 100 per cent FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation). The headquarters are located in New Delhi. DGCA is primarily responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards. It is also responsible for licensing of pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and monitoring of flight crew standards etc. The regulations are in the forms of the Aircraft Act, 1934, the Aircraft Rules, the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), the aeronautical information circulars. It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a cell in the DGCA in 1978, to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters. It was reorganized into an independent Department in 1987. BCAS is the regulator for civil aviation security in the country and is responsible for laying down the standards for pre-embarkation security and anti-sabotage measures in respect of civil flights and ensuring their compliance through regular inspections and security audits. Its main responsibility is to lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India and Indian aircraft operators at foreign airports. The BCAS has its

headquarters in New Delhi and has nine regional offices at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Imphal airport.

Airports Authority of India

Airports Authority of India (AAI) came into being in April 1995. AAI is a Mini Ratna-Category-I PSE involved in building, upgrading, maintaining and managing airports infrastructure across the country

Air Navigation Services

Authority of India (AAI) provides Air Navigation Services (ANS) at all civil airports in the country. AAI manages the designated Indian air space measuring 2.8 million square nautical miles which includes land area measuring 1.05 million square nautical miles and oceanic airspace measuring 1.75 million square nautical miles

GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO. It is fully operational since May 2015 and available on 24 × 7 basis.

Air India

Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines, a new company viz., National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was incorporated. Consequently post merger, the new entity is known as “Air India” and the appointed date of the merger is 1 April 2007. The “Maharaja” is retained as its mascot. The Registered Office of the Company is in New Delhi. Air India Ltd. is basically a passenger orientated in transport services sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Pawan Hans Limited

Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) was incorporated in October, 1985 (under the name of ‘Helicopter Corporation of India Limited’) as a government company under the Companies Act. It was established with the primary objective of providing helicopter support services to the oil sector in offshore exploration, operate in hilly and inaccessible areas and make available charter flights for promotion of travel and tourism. The registered office of Pawan Hans is located in New Delhi, corporate office at Noida and its regional offices are at Mumbai, New Delhi and Guwahati.

It has been providing helicopter support for offshore operation of ONGC for carrying its men and vital supplies round the clock to drilling rigs situated in Bombay off-shore platforms.

Pawan Hans runs the helicopter services from Phata to the Holy Shrine of Kedarnath during the yatra seasons.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was set up at Fursatganj, Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to bring about a quantum improvement in the standards of flying and ground training of commercial pilots in the country. The Akademi is equipped with most modern and sophisticated trainer aircraft along with their associated simulator with 180° view. Up-to-date audio-visual training aids and other facilities for effective ground training. It employs qualified flying and ground instructors, with long experience in the field of aviation and flying training. The aim at IGRUA is not only to train to make a pilot but also to make one an effective systems manager in aeronautics.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 in 2009 with its head office at Delhi.

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) is a central university under the administrative control of the Ministry. The university has been established by the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013. It is situated at Fursatganj, Raebareli, district Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

27. WATER RESOURCES

THE Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation lays down policies and programmes for development and regulation of the water resources of the country. The Ministry has been renamed Ministry of Jal Shakti with two departments— Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Water Availability

As per National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) report, the total water availability of the country received through precipitation is about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum.

Water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India water availability per capita is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may reduce further to 1340 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

National Water Policy

The National Water Policy, 2012 was adopted by the National Water Resources Council. The Policy lays emphasis on community participation in management of water resources projects and services; incentivizing water saving in irrigation through methods like micro irrigation, automated irrigation operation, etc; undertaking conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure in a scientifically planned manner through community participation; and arresting declining ground water levels in over-exploited areas.

National Water Mission

With a view to address Climate Change and the related issues, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was prepared by the Government

The main objective of the National Water Mission is (NWM) “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”.

Main Activities

Comprehensive water data base in public domain: India-WRIS (Water Resource Information System), a portal for providing information on water resources has been developed by Central Water Commission..

National Mission for Clean Ganga

Despite being highly revered and the primary water resource for the heartland of the country, the Ganga river is today seriously polluted and under extreme environmental stress. The major source of pollution in the river is untreated domestic and industrial liquid waste thrown in to it. About 70 per cent of the pollution is from untreated domestic sewage, 20 per cent is from toxic industrial waste water and 10 per cent is from non-point sources such as agricultural runoff, open defecation, dumping of solid waste disposal, etc.

In 2015, the “Namami Gange” - Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission programme was launched. This was at an indicative cost of ₹ 20,000 crores, as an umbrella programme with an aim to integrate previous and currently ongoing projects and new initiatives planned as its part. In 2016, through the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016, NGRBA has been replaced with a National Ganga Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga as an authority. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also been converted in to an authority. National Mission for Clean Ganga.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan(2015-16 to 2017-18). The objectives of Jal Kranti Abhiyan are as follows: strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes (e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM); encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management; to utilize sector level expertise from different levels in government, NGO’s, citizens, etc; and enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas.

Jal Manthan

Jal Manthan is an initiative of this Ministry for wider consultations among various stakeholders for churning out new ideas and tangible solutions to various water sector issues.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

Major and medium irrigation/ multipurpose irrigation (MMI) projects are being funded under PMKSY-AIBP and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) projects are being funded under PMKSY-Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

Command Area Development and Water Management

The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme was launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers’ field

with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water for improving socio-economic condition of farmers.

The Programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme in 2004. The programme is under implementation as a sub-component of Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - from 2015-16 onwards. The ongoing CADWM programme has been restricted to the implementation of CAD works of 99 prioritized AIBP projects from 2016-17 onwards. The activities covered under CAD component are broadly categorized as 'Structural' and 'Non-Structural' interventions as detailed here:

To promote water use efficiency in irrigation, financial assistance is provided to the states for development of infrastructure for micro-irrigation to facilitate use of sprinkler / drip irrigation as an alternative to construction of field channels. At least 10 per cent CCA of each project is to be covered under micro-irrigation. Micro-irrigation infrastructure includes components of sump, pump, high-density polyethylene pipelines, and pertinent devices needed for bringing efficiency in water conveyance and field applications (through sprinklers, rain guns, pivots, etc).

Flood Management

Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) has been proposed with merged components from the existing Flood Management Programme (FMP) and River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA) schemes.

River Management Activities related to Border Areas

This central sector scheme is in place since 2014 to cover the major works/schemes during the XII Plan. It has the following components: (i) hydrological observations and flood forecasting on common border rivers with neighbouring countries; (a) flood forecasting on rivers common to India and Nepal; flood forecasting on rivers common to India and Nepal has been in operation with currently 46 meteorological/hydrometeorological sites in the Nepalese territory; (b) hydrological observations on rivers originating in Bhutan: this comprehensive scheme for establishment of flood forecasting network on rivers common to India and Bhutan is also in operation for transmission of real time data to control rooms in India. The cost of operation and maintenance of these sites in Bhutan is borne by India.; (c) joint observations on rivers common to India and Bangladesh and cooperation with neighbouring countries: during lean season (January to May), the Ganga/Ganges waters is being shared at Farakka with Bangladesh, as per the provisions of the Treaty signed between the two countries in 1996.

Ganga Flood Control Commission

Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) was set up in 1972. The functions include: to lay down the broad policies and decide priorities in the implementation of various schemes, and to issue necessary directions in respect of formulation of comprehensive plan for flood control in the Ganga basin and approval of schemes.

Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), a subordinate office of this Ministry with its headquarters at Patna, was also created in 1972.

There are 11 states in Ganga Basin, namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and

NCT Delhi. The river systems of Ganga basin are (1) Gomati, (2) Adhwara Group, (3) Ghaghra, (4) Mahananda, (5) KamlaBalan, (6) Burhi Gandak, (7) Bagmati, (8) Punpun, (9) Kosi, (10) Gandak, (11) Ajoy, (12) Kiul-Harohar, (13) Damodar, (14) Mayurakshi, (15) Yamuna, (16) Ramganga, (17) Tons, (18) Badua-Chandan, (19) Rupnarain-Haldi-Rasulpur, (20) Jalangi, (21) Sone, (22) Tidal rivers and (23) Main Ganga. Most of these rivers are inter-state rivers.

Central Ground Water Board

Ground Water Development

CGWB carries out periodic assessment of ground water resources jointly with the state ground water departments.

Aquifer Mapping and Formulation of Aquifer Management Plan

Aquifers are natural rock formations which can store and economically yield water. In the XII Plan, CGWB has taken up the National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) to facilitate identification, delineation, characterization and effective management of aquifers to ensure sustainability of ground water resources.

Demonstrative Projects on “Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting
CGWB has implemented demonstrative projects on artificial recharge to groundwater and rain water harvesting.

Central Ground Water Authority

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling ground water development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose. The Authority derives its functions from the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute

The Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute (RGNGWTRI) is the training arm of Central Ground Water Board and is located at Raipur, Chhattisgarh. It caters to the training requirements of Central Ground Water Board and other central and state government organizations, academic institutes, NGOs, etc.

Central Water Commission

Central Water Commission (CWC) is headed by a Chairman, with the status of an ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India. The work of the Commission is divided among 3 wings namely, Designs and Research Wing (D&R), Water Planning and Projects Wing (WP&P) and River Management Wing (RM). National Water Academy, the training institute of CWC, is located at Pune for training of central and state in-service engineers, NGO's, etc.

Hydrological Observations

Central Water Commission is operating a network of 878 hydro-meteorological observation stations throughout the country on all major river basins to observe (i) water level (gauge), (ii) discharge, (iii) water quality, (iv) silt (v) selected meteorological parameters including snow observations at key stations.

Water Quality Monitoring

Central Water Commission is monitoring water quality at 429 key locations covering all the major river basins of India. It is maintaining a three tier laboratory system for analysis of the physio-chemical parameters of the water.

Flood Forecasting

CWC has been making continuous endeavour for modernization and expansion of its flood forecasting network in order to have desired automatic system of data collection and real time data transmission.

Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is the World Bank assisted project at an estimated cost of ₹ 2,100 crore with the provision of rehabilitation of about 223 large dams in the seven participating states (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission.

National Register of Large Dams

As per the latest information compiled under the National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) maintained by CWC

Water Resource Information System

CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010. Subsequently, four versions of the website of India-WRIS have been launched. The ver. 4.1 was launched in 2015 and is available in public. As per provision of Hydro-Meteorological Data Dissemination Policy 2013 (MoWR), all unclassified data of CWC G&D stations has been made available on this website.

Training & Capacity Building

Central Water Commission offers training to water sector professionals every year. These training are organised at National Water Academy (NWA), CWC Headquarter and field offices of CWC.

National Water Academy

National Water Academy (NWA) is an institute established under Central Water Commission at Khadakwasla, Pune. The objective of NWA is to function as “Centre of Excellence” in training and capacity building for all stakeholders on various aspects of water resources planning, development and management.

Since its inception in 1988, NWA has contributed immensely in the capacity building and training in this sector for all stakeholders including Cadre Training Programmes for Central Water Engineering Services Officers, capacity building for state and central organizations; programmes under PMKSY etc.

Central Soil and Materials Research Station

Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), New Delhi, is a premier organization in the country dealing with the field explorations, laboratory investigations, and basic and applied research in the field of geotechnical engineering and civil engineering materials, particularly for construction of river valley projects and safety evaluation of existing dams.

The Research Station primarily functions as an adviser and consultant to various departments of Government of India, state governments and Central Undertakings.

Indo-Bangladesh Water Resources Cooperation

An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) is functioning since 1972 with a view to maintain liaison in order to ensure most effective joint efforts in maximizing the benefits from common river systems. A Treaty was signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in 1996 for the sharing of Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka during the lean season.

Indus Waters Treaty

Under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, India and Pakistan have each created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. Each Commissioner is the representative of his government and serves as a regular channel of communication on all matters relating to implementation of the Treaty. The two Commissioners together form the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).

National Water Development Agency

The National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Registered Society under the Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) was set up in the year 1982 to carry out detailed studies, surveys and investigations in respect of Peninsular Component of National Perspective for Water Resources Development. The Government subsequently modified the functions of NWDA to include the Himalayan Component of National Perspective for Water Resources Development 1992.

National Institute of Hydrology

The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), established in 1978 as an autonomous organization under this Ministry, is a premier R&D institute in the country to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate basic, applied and strategic research on all aspects of hydrology and water resources development. The Institute has its headquarters at Roorkee (Uttarakhand).

National Projects Construction Corporation Limited

National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) was established in 1957 as a premier construction company to create necessary infrastructure for economic development of the country. In its 59 years of existence the Corporation has successfully associated itself with completion of several national projects from concept to commissioning stage. Some of them are in remote and hazardous location over the country.

Water and Power Consultancy Services

Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) was established in 1969. WAPCOS provided opportunities to Indian engineers to work in diverse geographical and climatic regions thereby enhancing India's knowledge and expertise. India came to be recognised for its cost effective technical know-how and dedicated technical manpower.

Main fields of specialization of the Company cover irrigation, drainage and water management, ground water exploration and minor irrigation, flood control and river morphology, river management, dams and reservoir engineering, water bodies and land conservation, agriculture, watershed management, etc.

North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management

The North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) was established at Tezpur, Assam by North Eastern Council (NEC), in 1989. The Institute is under the administrative control of this Ministry. The main objective of the Institute is to provide capacity building, undertake research and provide technical services to the line departments in order to improve agricultural production and socio-economic status of the people in north east.

Minor Irrigation and Water Bodies Census

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS) was launched in 1987-88 in the Ministry of Water Resources, with cent per cent assistance to the states/UTs. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the RMIS scheme was converted as one of the components of the Central Sector Scheme - Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS). In 2017-18, the scheme was renamed as “Irrigation Census” and brought under the umbrella scheme, ‘Prime Minister’s Krishi Sinchai Yojana and other Schemes’.

Detailed database on minor irrigation works in the country has been generated through five censuses carried out under the scheme so far with reference years 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07 and 2013-14 respectively. The census reports are available on the website of this Ministry.

28. WELFARE

Two departments have been created under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment namely: (i) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya and Adhikarita Vibhag) (ii) Department of Disability Affairs (Nishaktata Karya Vibhag) since renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

Events Related to Scheduled Caste Welfare

Celebration of Constitution Day

The Constitution declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, assuring its citizens of justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavours to promote fraternity among them. Dr B.R.Ambedkar is regarded as the principal architect in the framing of the Constitution of India. The national committee that was formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister for celebrating the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar decided to increase awareness about the Constitution.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The Constitution contains several provisions in the nature of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes. The following two Acts specifically aim at curbing (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against SCs and STs, and are therefore very important for the Scheduled Castes— (i) The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and (ii) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Protection of Civil Rights

In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in 1976 as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (The PoA Act) came into force in 1990. This legislation aims at preventing commission of offences by persons other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also to review issues concerning their welfare. Functions of the NCSC are enumerated in the Article 338(5) of the Constitution.

Educational Empowerment

Pre-Matric Scholarship

This is a centrally sponsored Scheme, which is implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations, which receive 100 per cent central assistance for the total expenditure under the scheme, over and above their respective committed liability. It was started in 1977-78. Initially, it covered only hostellers. Subsequently, in 1991 day scholars were also brought within its purview. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided for pre-matric education to children of the following target groups, viz., (i) scavengers of dry latrines, (ii) tanners, (iii) flayers and (iv) waste pickers.

Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students

The Scheme was introduced in 2012. The Scheme is centrally sponsored and implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations, which provides 100 per cent assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme, over and above their committed liability.

National Overseas Scholarship for SCs

The Scheme provides for fees charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium, annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance. Only two children of the same parents/ guardians are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme. The second child of the same parents/guardian will be considered only if the slots are still available for that year.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana

The objective of the Scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. The state governments/union territory administrations and the central and state universities/institutions are eligible for central assistance, both for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities while NGOs and deemed universities in the private sector can avail the benefit only for expansion of their existing hostel facilities.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Students

The Scheme provides financial assistance to scheduled caste students for pursuing research studies leading to M. Phil, Ph.D, and equivalent research degree in universities, research

institutions and scientific institutions. University Grants Commission (UGC) is the nodal agency for implementing the Scheme.

Special Central Assistance

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central sector Scheme, started in 1980, under which 100 per cent grant is given to the states/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

Scheduled Castes Development Corporations

The centrally sponsored scheme for participating in the equity share of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in the ratio of 49:51 (central/state) was introduced in 1979. At present, SCDCs are functioning in 27 states/UTs. These Corporations are playing an important role in providing credit and inputs by way of margin money loans and subsidy to the target group.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up in 1989 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. The broad objective of NSFDC is to provide financial assistance in the form of concessional loans to scheduled caste families, and skill-cum-entrepreneurial training to the youth of the target group, living below double the poverty line for their economic development.

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

Government announced the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes in 2014.

Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes

In 2014, the government announced that a sum of ₹ 200 crore will be allocated towards credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to scheduled castes.

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

In order to give focused attention to different policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities, a separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2012. The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities including effecting closer coordination among different.

Constitutional Provisions

Part-III of the Constitution provides for a set of six Fundamental Rights to all the citizens (and in a few cases to non-citizens also). These include - Right to Equality; Right to Freedom; Right against Exploitation; Right to Freedom of Religion; Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies. All these rights are also available to the Persons with Disabilities even though no specific mention of such persons appear in this Part of the Constitution.

Article 41: Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases, provides: “The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of

unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want'. Besides, Eleventh Schedule to Article 243-G and Twelfth Schedule to Article 243-W, which pertain to the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats and municipalities respectively with respect to implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice, include welfare and safeguarding the interests of Persons with Disabilities among other weaker sections of the society.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), has formulated the accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), as a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs. The campaign targets three separate verticals for achieving universal accessibilities, namely, the built up environment, transportation eco-system and information and communication eco-system. The Department has asked various states to identify about 50 to 100 public buildings in big cities and also identify citizen centric public websites, which if made fully accessible would have the highest impact on the lives of PwDs. Once identified "Access Audit" of these buildings and websites will be conducted by professional agencies.

The Department is collaborating with Ministry of Home, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Tourism for creating "accessible police station", "accessible hospitals" and "accessible tourism" respectively across the country. The Department is also coordinating with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for enhancing accessibility of television programmes by incorporating features like captioning, text to speech and audio description.

Persons with Disability

Section 2 (t) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, defines a person suffering from not less than 40 per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority. The disability being blindness (b) low vision (c) leprosy cured (d) hearing impairment (e) loco-motor disability (f) mental illness (g) mental retardation (h) autism (i) cerebral palsy or (j) a combination of any two or more of (g), (h) and (i) (Section 2 (i) of the PwD Act, 1995 read along with Section 2(j) of The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999).

Mental Health Act

Mental illness has been recognized as one of the disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The treatment and care of the mentally ill persons are governed by the Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Persons with Disabilities Act

A comprehensive law, namely, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was enacted and enforced in 1996. The law deals with both prevention and promotion aspects of the rehabilitation such as education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures like unemployment allowance and grievance redressal machinery both at the central and state level. National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is a statutory body under The

National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

The Chief Commissioner is an important statutory functionary, appointed under Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The functions and duties of the Chief commissioner include: coordinating the work of state commissioners for persons with disabilities, monitoring of utilisation of funds disbursed by the central government, taking steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities, etc.

Rehabilitation Council

The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education.

National Institutes

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problem of the disabled population, the following national institutes/apex level institutes have been set-up in each major area of disability; (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, (ii) National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata, (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, (v) National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, (vi) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, (vii) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur is a public sector body, engaged in manufacturing of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.

Five Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for the Persons with Disabilities are located at Srinagar, Lucknow, Bhopal, Sundernagar and Guwahati. These centres conduct training programmes to prepare professionals in the field of rehabilitation as well as provide rehabilitation services to the disabled.

Economic Development

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is an apex-level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development. Funds assistance is disbursed through the channelising agencies authorized by the state governments/UT administrations and non-governmental organisations.

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Appliances

Under the Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDs and Appliances assistance is given for procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the impact of disability and enhance their economic potential. It is implemented through agencies like voluntary organisations, national institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO, Zilla Panchayats, DRDAs, etc

Tribal Affairs

Development of Scheduled Tribes

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas

The Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of Constitution defines “Scheduled Areas” as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as “Tribal Areas” and provides for district councils and/or regional councils for such areas.

Scheduling and De-Scheduling of Tribes

Thus, the first specification of scheduled tribes in relation to a particular state/ union territory is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the state governments concerned. The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are : (a) indications of primitive traits; (b) distinctive culture; (c) shyness of contact with the community at large; and (d) geographical isolation i.e., backwardness. These are not spelt out in the Constitution but have become well established. They take into account the definitions in the 1931 Census, the reports of the first Backward Classes Commission (Kalelkar Committee), 1955, the Advisory Committee on Revision of SC/ ST lists (Lokur Committee), 1965 and the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1967 (Chanda Committee), 1969. There are over 700 tribes (with many of them overlapping in more than one state) as notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different states and union territories of the country. It is worth noting that no community has been specified as a scheduled tribe in relation to the states of Haryana and Punjab and the union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003. The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled tribes and to evaluate the working of such safeguards; and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled tribes.

Tribal Sub Plan

The present Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy was adopted for the first time in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The TSP strategy, with some modifications, continues till this day and the salient features with respect to TSP for states, are: the funds provided under the Tribal Sub Plan of the state have to be at least equal in proportion to the ST population of each state or UT; tribals and tribal areas of a state or union territories are given benefits under the TSP, in addition to what percolates from the overall Plan of a state/UT.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

With a view to pay a focused attention and accelerate the pace of economic development of scheduled tribes, the erstwhile National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Financial

Development Corporation was bifurcated and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The NSTFDC has been granted license under Section 25 of the Companies Act (A Company not for profit). NSTFDC also provides financial assistance as grant for skill and entrepreneurial development of the target group.

Special Schemes

Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) is an exclusive Scheme for the economic development of ST women, at a highly concessional rate of interest. Micro-credit scheme is meant to provide financial assistance for undertaking small self-employment ventures/activities by the eligible STs through existing profit making SHGs.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. Under its revised mandate TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from tribes. TRIFED now functions as a 'market developer' for tribal products and as 'service provider' to its member federations.

Forest Rights of STs

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognized in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act has been notified for operation from 2007.

Rules, for implementing the provisions of the Act, were notified in 2008 and they envisage the constitution of various Committees under the Act, viz, the sub divisional level committee, district level committee and the state level monitoring committee, by the state governments.

As per the Act, the responsibility for recognition and vesting of forest rights and distribution of land rights rests with the state government. All the state governments have been directed that the entire process of vesting of forest rights as per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 should be completed at the earliest.

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

The central government launched an approach, namely, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) that aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of tribal people. This process envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes / schemes of central as well as state governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

Welfare of Other Backward Classes

The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340, submitted its report in 1980. In the light of this report, the

Government of India provided 27 per cent reservation in central government posts for persons belonging to the socially and economically backward classes, (also referred to as “Other Backward Classes” or OBCs). The Government in 1993 reserved 27 per cent of vacancies in civil posts and services under the Central Government, to be filled through direct recruitment in favour of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up in 1993 as per the provision of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. The Constitution (102 Amendment) Act of 2018 gave constitutional status to the Commission.

National Fellowship for OBC Students

Assistance for Skill Development

The aim of the Scheme is to involve the voluntary sector to improve educational and socio-economic conditions of the target group i.e., Other Backward Classes (OBCs)/De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)/Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) with a view to upgrade skill to enable them to start income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other.

Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans

The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability. Out of the total outlay for a year, a minimum of 50 per cent amount is earmarked for interest subsidy to the girl students.

Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels

This is a centrally sponsored Scheme launched from 2014-15 being implemented through state governments/UT administrations/central universities. The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to those DNT (De Notified Tribe) students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. The income ceiling for eligibility is ₹ 2.00 lakh per annum.

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) was incorporated in 1992 as a Company not for profit. It is a Government of India Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Corporation extends various types of loans to the target group i.e., members of backward classes. Besides other developmental activities, the Corporation is promoting, marketing facilities for the artisans of the target group by providing opportunities to participate in the country’s leading fairs like India International Trade Fair, Dilli Haat, Surajkund Crafts Mela as well as in the exhibitions/fairs organized in their respective states.

Social Defence

In the areas of Social Defence the Ministry is committed towards welfare of older persons and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The programmes for the targeted groups are given here.

National Policy for Older Persons

The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The Policy envisaged state support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older

persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

National Council for Older Persons

The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged. Under Integrated Programme for Older Persons, financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, etc.

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, was enacted, inter alia, to curb drug abuse. Section 71 of the Act provides that the Government may, in its discretion, establish as many centres as it thinks fit for identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation, social reintegration of addicts and for supply, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, by the concerned government of any narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the addicts registered with the government and to others where such supply is a medical necessity.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy

Ministry of Finance in consultation with all stakeholders including the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has brought the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy (NDPS Policy) which aims to: (a) spell out the policy towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; (b) serve as a guide to various ministries and organisations and (c) re-assert India's commitment to combat the drug menace in a holistic manner.

Minorities

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was established in 2006. It has been mandated for formulation of policies, schemes and programmes for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 (six) notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, which constitute more than 19 per cent of India's population. From October 2016, the mandate of the Ministry has been expanded to manage Haj Pilgrimage as well.

15-Point Programme for Minorities

The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme are: (a) enhancing opportunities for education, (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, (c) improving the conditions of living of minorities, (d) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15 per cent of physical targets and financial outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the target groups.

Naya Savera - The "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities was launched in 2007 by this Ministry.

Nai Udaan-objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete.

Padho Pardes

The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

Nai Roshni

This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme 'Nai Roshni' for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented through empanelled non-governmental organizations.

National Commission for Minorities

The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 after which it was renamed as the National Commission for Minorities. The provision under Section 3(2) of the Act stipulates that five members including the Chairpersons shall be from amongst the minority communities.

State Commission for Minorities

Thirteen state governments, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Government of NCT of Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have set up statutory commissions for minorities. Manipur and Uttarakhand have set up non-statutory commissions.

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities

The Office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) was established in 1957. in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution which envisages investigation by CLM of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in the country under the Constitution and reporting to the President upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct

Constitutional Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities

Under the Constitution of India, certain safeguards have been granted to the religious and linguistic minorities. Article 29 and 30 seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognize their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Article 347 makes provision for Presidential direction for official recognition of any language spoken by a substantial proportion to the populations of a state or any part thereof for such purpose as the President may specify. Article 350 gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the Union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union/states. Article 360A provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. Article 350B provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

Central Wakf Council

A Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for purposes recognised by the Muslim Law as religious, pious or charitable. Apart from these religious

aspects, the Wakfs are also instruments of social and economic upliftment. Administration of central legislation for Wakfs is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Union Minister in charge of Wakf is the Chairperson of the Council. The Central Wakf Council is also playing a vital role in the development of the society by way of implementing development of urban Wakf properties and educational development programmes.

Women and Child Development

A separate Ministry of Women and Child Development came into existence from 2006 with the prime intention of addressing gaps in state action for women and children and for promoting inter- ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child centred legislation, policies and programmes.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is one the flagship programmes of the Government, launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and address other related issues of disempowerment of women. It is a tri- ministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource .

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

Government announced pan India implementation of maternity benefit programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers. The programme was named Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

It is a centrally sponsored Scheme under which the grant-in-aid is PMMVY released to states/UTs in cost sharing ratio between the centre and the states and UTs with legislature as 60:40, for north-eastern states and Himalayan states it will be 90:10 and 100 per cent for union territories without legislature.

PMMVY envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000/- directly to the bank/post office account of PW and LM in DBT mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.

Poshan Abhiyaan

Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM). Swachh Bharat Mission. Public Distribution System (PDS). Besides increasing the birth weight. It will help reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

Mahila Shakti Kendra

Government of India approved the Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme in 2017 for its implementation from 2017-18 to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation. The Scheme aims to provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements and also empowering them through training and capacity building. MSK Scheme is being implemented with a cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre and states except for north eastern and special category states where the funding ratio is 90:10.

One Stop Centres

Women who suffer violence face huge problems in getting justice as they have to register FIRs and engage lawyers to fight court cases. In many cases the medical evidence gets destroyed due to lack of knowledge or pressure from perpetrators. As a result, very often women suffer violence but do not complain. In order to assist such women, a new initiative to establish One Stop Centres (OSC) was conceived and is being implemented across the country since April 2015. The OSC, popularly known by the name of Sakhi will be integrated with 181 and other existing helplines.

Universalisation of Women Helpline

The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is being implemented since 2015, intended to provide 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital) and information about women related government schemes / programmes across the country through a single uniform number (181).

Panic Button on Mobile Phones

To provide emergency response to women in distress, MWCD had taken up the installation of physical panic button on mobile phones. Based on extensive stakeholder consultations initiated by the Ministry the 'Panic Button and Global Positioning System in Mobile Phone Handsets Rules, 2016' have been notified by the Department of Telecommunications. Under these rules, all new feature phones will have the facility of panic button configured to the numeric key 5 or 9 and all smart. An Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is also being set up under Nirbhaya Fund in collaboration with MHA, which will integrate all emergency numbers to 112 with state-of-art technology to respond to distress signals sent from panic button.

Mahila Police Volunteers

Haryana has become the first state to operationalise the Mahila Police Volunteers scheme. It was launched jointly by the WCD Ministry and Haryana government in 2016 for the districts of Karnal and Mahendragarh in the state. Other states are expected to follow the same soon.

Swadhar Greh

The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for the women victims of difficult circumstances which includes widows, destitute women and aged women. Swadhar Greh Scheme is being implemented as a sub-scheme of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme Protection and Empowerment of.

Working Women Hostel Scheme

Working Women Hostel Scheme aims at providing safe and affordable accommodation to working women. The cost sharing ratio amongst the central government, states/UTs (other than NE and Himalayan States) and Implementing Agencies is 60:15:25 for construction of building for working women hostel/running hostel in rented premises. For NE and Himalayan States, the ratio is 65:10:25.

Reservation for Women in Police Force

An advisory has been issued to all state governments to increase representation of women in police to 33 per cent of the total strength. As a result, reservation has been extended in 14 states/union territories.

Inclusion of Acid Attack as Disability

The recently enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified in 2016, included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.

NRI Matrimonial Disputes

To spread information MWCD has prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for women involved in NRI matrimonial disputes. These SoPs narrate the step wise correct legal recourse to be undertaken by women to facilitate speedy access to justice. These are also intended to serve as an effective reference manual for court and police officials across the country who are investigating such disputes or representing such women's interest in courts.

Gender Budgeting Initiatives

Gender Budgeting (GB) is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. To institutionalize such budgeting in the country, the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in all ministries/departments was mandated by the Ministry of Finance in 2007. The MWCD as the nodal agency for gender budgeting is undertaking several initiatives for taking it forward at the national and state levels. 21 states and union territories have designated Gender Budgeting nodal centres.

Gender Champions

The initiative of Gender Champions is being implemented through educational institutions to sensitize young students and create awareness on laws, legislations, legal rights and life skills education. The Gender Champion guidelines developed by MWCD are being operationalized in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Shelter Home for Widows

It is the largest ever such facility being established or funded by the government, the Home, which will have a capacity to house 1000 women, is being constructed on 1.424 hectare of land at an estimated cost of ₹ 57 crore (including cost of the land) at Vrindavan. The design of the Home has been prepared in consultation with HelpAge India and is old age friendly.

Training for Women Heads of Panchayats

WCD has initiated a massive programme to train over 2 lakh women heads of Panchayats. The training was started from 2016 onwards in partnership with Ministry of Rural Development. This Scheme is being implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Extending Maternity Leave Duration

Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out suitable amendments Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, which are as follows: (i) enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks; (ii) extension of maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers; (iii) establishment of crèche facility within the office/factory premises.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace

To ensure safety and security of women at workplaces, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is working towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. In addition,

MWCD has also prepared and released a Handbook on the Act which provides information about the provisions of the Act in an easy-to-use practical manner.

Village Convergence and Facilitation Service

Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS) is an initiative launched in 2015 aimed at creating awareness through community engagement. Dedicated village coordinators are selected to facilitate convergence on women's issues and work in close coordination with the gram panchayat and its sub- committees.

Women of India Exhibitions/Festivals

The Initiative was started in 2014 to link women organic farmers and entrepreneurs directly to the market. Three such exhibitions/ festivals have already been held in Delhi, many more such exhibitions/festivals are being organised in locations outside Delhi.

Mahila e-Haat

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "Mahila e- Haat", a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHOs/NGOs in 2016.

National Policy for Women

The Draft National Policy for Women, 2016, is in its last stages of finalization. It has been revised after 15 years and is expected to guide government action on women's issues over the next 15-20 years.

New Passport Rules

Now, as per the revised Rules, submission of father's name is not mandatory and a person can obtain passport only by specifying his/her mother's name. Further, a person does not need to submit her/his marriage/ divorce certificates.

Legislation on Trafficking

Ministry of Women and Child Development has drafted a comprehensive legislation on Trafficking - Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2017. The draft Bill also proposes to tackle trafficking by creating a strong legal, economic and social environment for the victims by putting in place dedicated institutional mechanisms at district, state and national level.

Initiatives for Women

Ujjawala Scheme

Ujjawala is a comprehensive scheme to combat trafficking. The Scheme was launched in 2007 with the objective to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, to facilitate rescue victims and placing them in safe custody, to provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities/needs, to facilitate reintegration of victims into the family and society, to facilitate repatriation of cross border victims. The Scheme is being implemented mainly through the non governmental organisations (NGOs).

Nirbhaya Fund

The Government had set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. A number of projects are being implemented under the Nirbhaya Fund, for the safety and security of women. A robust online MIS has been developed to track implementation of all the projects under it.

Nari Shakti Puraskar

Every year, International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March. On this day, a large number of events are held across the country to inspire and celebrate achievements of women in various spheres. On this occasion, Nari Shakti Puraskars are given to individuals and institutions that have rendered distinguished services to the cause of women empowerment.

Children's Issues

Missing/Trafficked/Runaway Children

Khoya-Paya Portal: In order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, a new citizen based portal Khoya-Paya was launched in 2015 which enables posting of information of missing and sighted children. It also provides facility for matching the two databases - missing and sighted children.

POCSO e-Box

Children are often unable to complain about sexual abuse because it is usually done by someone known to them. In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet based facility, e-Box, has been provided. Here, a child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance.

Juvenile Justice

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (JJ Model Rules, 2016) was notified thereby repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007 (JJ Rules, 2007). The JJ Model Rules, 2016 are based on the philosophy that children need to be reformed and reintegrated into society. The JJ Model Rules, 2016 prescribe detailed child friendly procedures for the police, Juvenile Justice Board and children's court. The Juvenile Justice Board and the Children's Court are required to put the child at ease and to encourage him/her to state the facts and circumstances without any fear, after understanding the questions put across in a language understood by the child.

Comprehensive Adoption Reforms

Central Adoption Resource Agency has been reconstituted as Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under this Act.

The Adoption Regulations were notified in 2017 and in supersession of Guidelines Governing Adoption of Children, 2015. Registering online with Central Adoptions Resource Authority (CARA) is mandatory to adopt a child from anywhere in India. Central Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) is the only official portal of CARA for legal adoption process. The Adoption Regulations contain the provisions for in-country and inter-country adoptions of OAS (orphaned, abandoned and surrendered) children. Procedures related to adoption by relatives both within the country and abroad have been defined in the Regulations.

National Nutrition Mission

National Nutrition Mission (NNM) is proposed to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children (0-6years), adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner over a period of three years with the objectives of preventing and reducing under-nutrition in children (0-3 years); reducing the prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months); reducing the prevalence of anaemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years) and reducing low birth weight.

Anganwadi Services

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme now known as Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objective to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years. The beneficiaries of the scheme are children below six years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers. It is self selecting and is open to all the beneficiaries without any pre- condition.

These objectives are achieved by providing a package of six services by AWWs/ AWHs under the ICDS scheme, viz., supplementary nutrition, pre- school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunization, health check-up; and referral services.

ICDS System

MWCD implementing International Development Association (IDA) assisted in 162 high burden districts of 8 states in the country covering 3.68 lakh Anganwadi Centres with the following project development objective: (i) to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) policy framework; (ii) to strengthen convergent actions for improved nutrition outcomes. One of the key activities in ICDS System's Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) is Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of ICDS

Scheme for Adolescent Girls

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) was introduced in 2010-11 that aims at all-round on pilot basis development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years. The Scheme is being implemented through the state governments/UTs with the cost sharing ratio between the centre and the states and UTs (with legislatures) in the ratio of 50:50 for nutrition and 60:40 for rest of the components. For eight north eastern states and three special category Himalayan states, the share of centre and state is in the ratio of 90:10.

Junk Food Guidelines

Junk Food Guidelines have been developed and forwarded to MHRD and MoHFW for implementation. MHRD has requested all CBSE affiliated schools to follow them. MHRD has been requested to issue an advisory to all the states/ UTs accordingly.

Major Initiatives of Food and Nutrition Board

Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in process of setting up of 4 food testing Laboratories viz., central laboratory at Faridabad and 3 regional food testing laboratories at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata for analyzing the food and nutritional. A comprehensive regulation on fortification of Foods namely 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 was operationalized which sets the standards for fortification of major staple foods namely, wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and salt. A logo has also been launched.

National Plan of Action for Children

The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2016 is based on the principles embedded in the National Policy for Children, 2013. The Action Plan has four key priority areas: survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection; and participation.

National Creche Scheme

The National Creche Scheme is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme through the states/UTs from 2017 to provide day-care facilities to children of working mothers and other deserving women.

National Early Childhood Care and Education

Ministry launched the National Early Childhood Care and Education (NECCE) Policy in 2013. It recognises the synergistic and interdependent relationship between the health, nutrition, psycho-social and emotional needs of the child. This would add impetus to the policy activities mentioned in the revised service package of ICDS. The main objective of the Council is to embed the concept and practice for holistic and integrated development with requisite quality for young children in the age group of 0-6 years.

Under POSHAN Abhiyaan in collaboration with UNICEF, 21 e-ECCE On-line Modules have been developed in line with existing off-line ECCE modules under POSHAN Abhiyaan to be used by Anganwadi Services key functionaries.

Organisations under WCD

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has six autonomous organisations as well. These are:

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development. Established in New Delhi in 1966 under Societies Registration Act of 1860, it functions to cater to the region-specific requirements of the country.

National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. NCPCR is a statutory body to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Central Adoption Resource Authority

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body that functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the central authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

Central Social Welfare Board

The Central Social Welfare Board was established in 1953 to carry out welfare activities for promoting voluntarism, providing technical and financial assistance to the voluntary organisations for the general welfare of family, women and children.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was established in 1993 as an autonomous body and was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. RMK is a national level organization for socio-economic empowerment of women. The operating model currently followed by RMK is that of a facilitating agency wherein it provides loans to NGO-MFIs termed as Intermediary Organizations (IMO) which on-lend to Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women.

29. YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

THE Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports functioned under the overall guidance of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports during the year. In April, 2008, two separate Departments, namely, Department of Youth Affairs and Department of Sports, were created under the Ministry.

The youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with about 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of 15- 29 years comprise 27.5 per cent of the population. It is estimated that by the year 2020, the population of India would have a median age of 28 years only.

National Youth Policy

The National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014) was launched in 2014, replacing the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003. NYP-2014 has been finalised after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders. The Policy defines 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years.

Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world. The objective of the programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, etc.

National Youth Corps

The Scheme of National Youth Corps (NYC) was launched in 2010-11 and the same is being implemented through NYKS. The main objectives of the Scheme are as follows: to set up a group of disciplined and dedicated youth who have the inclination and spirit to engage in the task of nation-building; to facilitate the realization of inclusive growth (both social and economic); to act as group modulators and peer group educators; and to act as role models for the younger cohort, especially towards enhancement of public ethics, probity and dignity of labour.

Under it, youth in the age-group of 18-25 years are engaged as volunteers to serve upto maximum 2 years in nation-building activities.

National Service Scheme

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the youth through voluntary community service. Education through Service is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is ‘not me, but you’.

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an ‘Institute of National Importance’ under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at post graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

The assistance under NPYAD is provided under 5 major components, namely: (a) youth leadership and personality development training; (b) promotion of national integration; (c) promotion of adventure; Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards; (d) development and empowerment of adolescents; (e) technical and resource development.

National Youth Festival

Under promotion of national integration, of NPYAD, a National Youth Festival is organised in January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12th January), which is celebrated as National Youth Day.

Youth Hostels

The construction of the youth hostels is a joint venture of the central and state governments. While the central government bears the cost of construction, the state governments provide fully developed land free-of-cost, with water supply, electricity connection and approach roads.

Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisation

The Department provides assistance to the scouting and guiding organisations, with a view to promote the scouts and guides movement in the country. The financial assistance is provided to scouting and guiding organisations for various programmes such as organization of training camps, skill development programmes, holding of jamborees, etc. The activities, inter alia, include programmes related to adult literacy, environment conservation, community service, health awareness and promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

Sports

National Sports Policy

National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages mainly broad basing and promotion of excellence in sports. The salient features of this Policy are: (i) broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence; (ii) upgradation and development of infrastructure; (iii) support to national sports federations and other appropriate bodies; (iv) strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports; (v) incentives to promote sports; (vi) enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth; (vii) involvement of corporate sector in sports promotion; and (viii) promotion of sports mindedness among the public at large.

Sports Authority of India

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984 as a registered society primarily to ensure effective maintenance and optimum utilization of the sports infrastructure that was built in Delhi during ASIAD, 1982. With a view to promote sports on single discipline basis, National Sports Academies have been set up by SAI, in collaboration with the National Sports Federations to attract sports talent in the respective sports discipline in the age group of 14-25 years. The Scheme envisages modern training centres having state of the art sports facilities, equipment, requisite sports science infrastructure as well as qualified personnel to meet the daily requirement of the trainees.

For optimum utilization of its five stadia which were renovated at substantial cost for Commonwealth Games, 2010, Sports Authority of India introduced ‘Come and Play Scheme’ in 2011. The designated areas in the SAI stadia viz., Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, Dr. SPM Swimming Pool Complex, Major Dhyani Chand Hockey Stadium and Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium were thrown open in 2011 for imparting professional training and also to.

Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education

The Institute was established initially as a college in 1957, the centenary year of the first war of Independence. The University is located at Gwalior, where Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi had laid down her life for the country’s freedom struggle. In recognition of the services rendered in the field of physical education and sports by the Institute, it was upgraded to a “Deemed University” in 1995.

National Sports University

In recognition of the talent and contribution of the sportspersons of the North Eastern states in general and Manipur in particular, the Government of India decided to set up a National Sports University in Manipur. The Manipur government has provided land measuring 325.90 acres in west Imphal District for setting up of this University. It will be first of its kind, to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching besides functioning as the national training centre for select sports disciplines by adopting best international practices.

Khelo India

A new umbrella Scheme “Khelo India” was launched during 2016-17 after merger of existing scheme Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search System Programme (NSTSSP).

The revamped Khelo India has twelve components, which aim at achieving the twin objectives of the National Sports Policy 2001- broad basing of sports and achieving excellence in sports, which in turn will infuse sports culture in the country and enable it to derive benefits that sports offers, namely, holistic development of children and youth, community development, gender equity, healthy nation, national pride and economic opportunities related to sport development.

Its 12 verticals are: play field development, community coaching development, state level Khelo India centres, annual sports competitions, talent search and development, utilization and creation / upgradation of sports infrastructure, support to national / regional / state sports academies, physical fitness of school-going children, sports for women, promotion of sports

among persons with disabilities, sports for peace and development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

Promotion of Excellence in Sports

Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for conducting national championships and international tournaments, participation in international tournaments abroad, organizing coaching camps, procuring sports equipment, engagement of foreign coaches, etc.

Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports

The Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports, was launched in the 2013-14 after thorough revision of the “Scheme of Talent Search and Training”. The main focus of the Scheme is to give emphasis on the academic and intellectual side of sports management by awarding Fellowships to deserving candidates.

National Sports Development Fund

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted with a view to mobilizing resources from the government as well as non-governmental sources, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for promotion of sports and games in the country. To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100 per cent exemption from income tax is available on all contributions.

Incentive Schemes for Sportspersons

Various schemes to give incentives to sportspersons to take up sports are also implemented by the Ministry.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

The Scheme was launched in 1991-92 with the objective of honouring sportspersons to enhance their general status and to give them greater dignity and place of honour in society. For 2019, this award has been conferred upon Shri Vimal Kumar for badminton, Shri Sandeep Gupta for table tennis and Shri Mohinder Singh Dhillon for athletics.

Arjuna Award

The award was instituted in 1961. To be eligible for the award, a sportsperson should have not only good performance consistently for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year for which award is recommended, but should have also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievement

This award was instituted in 2002. It is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.

Dronacharya Award

This award was instituted in 1985 to honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

This trophy was instituted in 1956-57. The top overall performing university in the inter-university tournaments is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, which is a rolling trophy.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

With a view to recognizing the contribution made to sports development by entities other than sportspersons and coaches, Government has instituted a new award titled ‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar’ from 2009, which has four categories, namely, identification and nurturing of budding / young talent, encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility, employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures and sports for development.

Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

This Scheme was launched in 1994. As per the Scheme, those sportspersons, who are Indian citizens and have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup / World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Para-Olympics and Para-Asian Games, have attained the age of 30 years and have retired from active sports career are eligible for pension for life. Rates of pension have been doubled from April 2018.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund

The name of National Welfare Fund for sportspersons was changed to Padit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for sportspersons from 2017. This Fund was set up in 1982 with a view to assisting outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in indigent circumstances who had won glory for the country in sports.

Scheme of Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use by sportspersons of a substance or method banned by Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee / World Anti Doping Agency (WADA).

National Anti Doping Agency

National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), set up in 2009, is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country. The Anti Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the Anti Doping Code of WADA.

National Dope Testing Laboratory

The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) is an autonomous body under this Ministry. It is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories and World Anti- Doping Agency for testing of urine and blood samples from human sports. NDTL is one of the 33 WADA accredited laboratories in the world and one among seven in Asia. It has state- of-the-art facilities for both routine and research activities. NDTL was registered in 2008 under Registration of Society Act, 1860.

DAIRY OF NATIONAL EVENTS

January 1, 2019—December 31, 2019

January, 2019

The Constitution (103rd Amendment Act), 2019 providing ten per cent reservation in government jobs and education to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the general category comes into force.

Prime Minister dedicates the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial in Dandi, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Varanasi.

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C44, successfully injected Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 satellites into their designated orbits.

First ever National Museum of Indian Cinema inaugurated in Mumbai.

The government approves merger of Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda; first-ever three way merger in Indian banking.

Womaniya on Government e-Marketplace initiative launched to enable women entrepreneurs to sell items online.

e-Court services initiated through common service centres across the country.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

February, 2019

President presents the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Khelo India App launched to develop sporting ecosystem.

President presents the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Prime Minister launches the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM- KISAN) scheme from Gorakhpur.

National Mineral Policy, 2019 to ensure effective regulation of mining sector approved.

The scheme - 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' for farmers' welfare approved.

e-AUSHADHI portal for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy medicine launched.

National Institute of Design at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam inaugurated.

Digital India Awards, 2018 conferred for excellence in web space.

Human Resources Development Ministry launches SHREYAS – ‘Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills’ for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates.

Tribal Affairs Ministry launches Van Dhan - the scheme for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest produce and development of value chain.

March, 2019

India conducts its first anti-satellite missile test ‘Mission Shakti’ from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.

Maharashtra’s second metro lane inaugurated in Nagpur.

New series of visually impaired friendly ₹ 1, ₹ 2, ₹ 5, ₹ 10 and ₹ 20 coins released.

ISRO launched a special programme for school children titled ‘Young Scientist Programme’ or ‘Yuva Vigyani Karyakram’ from 2019.

World Consumer Rights Day, 2019 observed with the theme ‘Trusted Smart Products’ highlighting the security and privacy issues associated with smart products.

Kumbh Mela entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest traffic and crowd management plan, largest sanitation drive and largest painting exercise of public sites.

President launches countrywide Pulse Polio programme on the eve of National Immunisation Day.

A book titled ‘Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio’ was released in New Delhi. The book is based on 50 episodes of Prime Minister’s heart- to-heart talk with the citizens of India, broadcast on All India Radio.

Former Goa Chief Minister and BJP leader Manohar Parrikar passes away in Panaji.

Common smart card format for driving licences and registration certificates prescribed across the country.

Pinaki Chandra Ghose appointed as India’s first Lokpal.

President presents the Nari Shakti Puraskar, 2018 to 44 awardees on International Women’s Day.

April, 2019

PSLV-C45 successfully launches EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR in Sriharikota.

India finishes fourth by winning 17 medals at Asian Athletics Championships 2019 in Doha, Qatar.

Jet Airways, India's leading private airlines, shut operations due to mounting fund crunch.

May, 2019

Shri Narendra Modi sworn in as Prime Minister for second term. Leaders of all BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries attend the swearing-in ceremony.

The United Nations listed Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him.

PSLV-C46 successfully launches RISAT-2B, a radar imaging earth observation satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test fires AKASH MK-1S surface-to-air missile from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.

Human Resource Development Ministry launches Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education.

June, 2019

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha commences. BJP MP from Rajasthan, Om Birla, unanimously elected as the Speaker.

Prime Minister approves the re-constitution of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme extended to all farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.

New centralised air traffic flow management system inaugurated in Delhi to optimise utilisation of airspace and regulate air traffic.

International Yoga Day observed.

World's largest multi-purpose lift irrigation project - Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – inaugurated in Telangana.

July, 2019

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launches the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth orbit.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan for water conservation and water security launched.

Ministry of AYUSH conceptualised AYUSH GRID Project for digitising AYUSH healthcare delivery at all levels.

India jumped five places to 52nd position in the 2019 Global Innovation Index.

Former Chief Minister of Delhi and senior Congress leader Sheila Dikshit passes away in Delhi.

Parliament passed the Triple Talaq Bill making the practice of Triple Talaq an illegal, unconstitutional and punishable act.

Sprinter Dutee Chand becomes the first Indian to win gold in the 100m race at the World University Games held in Naples, Italy.

Sprinter Hima Das won five successive gold medals in a month in different meets across Poland and the Czech Republic.

Floods wreak havoc in many districts of Bihar and Assam.

August, 2019

President confers country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna on former President Pranab Mukherjee and posthumously on social activist Nanaji Deshmukh and singer Bhupen Hazarika.

The Parliament passes the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 and approved the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. The move ended the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and paved the way for splitting the state into two union territories.

President presents the National Sports and Adventure Awards on National Sports Day.

Shuttler P. V. Sindhu becomes the first Indian to win gold at Badminton World Federation Championship after defeating Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Para-badminton player Manasi Joshi created history by securing gold at the BWF Para-Badminton Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

Prime Minister launches Fit India Movement on National Sports Day.

Wrestler Deepak Punia wins gold in the 86kg category at Junior World Championships in Talinn, Estonia. He becomes the first Indian in 18 years to win the title.

Senior BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passes away in Delhi.

'Janaushadhi Sugam' mobile application launched for locating outlets and searching generic medicines anywhere in the country.

Human Resource Development Ministry launched school education portal 'Shagun'.

Former Finance Minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley passes away in Delhi.

Information and Broadcasting Ministry launches e-version of Rozgar Samachar to spread awareness about job opportunities.

India became the first country in the world to issue facial biometric cards known as Biometric Seafarer Identity Document for seafarers.

One Nation, One Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

September, 2019

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 comes into force.

India hosts the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

India's ambitious lunar mission, Chandrayaan 2's lander 'Vikram' lost communication with the ground stations during its final descent and made a hard landing.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana to provide social security net for the small and marginal farmers launched.

India successfully flight-tested indigenously developed Air-to-Air Missile 'Astra' from Sukhoi-30 MKI.

National Rural Sanitation Strategy for next decade (2019-2029) launched to increase access to solid and liquid waste management.

October, 2019

Nation celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Jammu and Kashmir bifurcated into two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Indian-origin economist Abhijit Banerjee wins the 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics for his work on global poverty.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade launches website, mobile app for start-ups to protect their Intellectual Property Rights.

Tenth edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav held in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

e-Portal and YouTube channel of CCRT 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' launched.

Nationwide Paryatan Parv - 2019 to promote tourism held in New Delhi.

India and Pakistan sign an agreement to operationalise the historic Kartarpur Corridor.

India climbed 14 places to 63rd position among 190 nations in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking.

November, 2019

550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev celebrated across the country. Prime Minister inaugurates the Kartarpur corridor, and flags-off first batch of 500 pilgrims.

The Supreme Court in its verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case orders the construction of Ram temple at the site and directs the union government to allot a five-acre plot for Muslims in Ayodhya.

President inaugurates the Constitution Day celebrations in New Delhi.

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.

The Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 for the social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders and protection of their rights.

Mumbai and Hyderabad became members of UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the fields of film and gastronomy.

50th International Film Festival of India held in Goa from 20th to 28th November.

Uddhav Thackeray takes over as the 18th chief minister of Maharashtra.

December, 2019

Vice President of India gives away the 66th National Film Awards. Actor Amitabh Bachchan honoured with 50th Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

India participates in the annual United Nations Climate Conference COP25 held in Madrid, Spain.

The Citizenship Act of 1955 was amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Parliament on December 11 and received the President's assent on December 12, 2019.

The Parliament passes a bill to merge Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli – two separate UTs presently. The new union territory is to be called Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Prepaid rechargeable tags for toll collection - FASTags - made mandatory for all vehicles.

Indian Railways recorded zero passenger deaths in 2019, making it the national transporter's safest year.

Hemant Soren takes over as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

The Union Cabinet approved creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff to head new Department of Military Affairs under Ministry of Defence.

General Bipin Rawat appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff.

General. Manoj Mukund Naravane appointed as the 28th new Chief of Army staff.

Indian Air Force decommissioned the last MiG-27 squadron.

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