

RBI GRADE B



GK DIGEST 2018 JANUARY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNIT- 1 RBI NOTIFICATION

Auction for Sale (Re-issue) of Government Stock (GS).....	4
Auction of Government of India Dated Securities.....	7
Rationalisation of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for Debit Card Transactions.....	9
Change in name of "Sardar Bhiladwala Pardi People's Co-operative Bank Ltd., Killa Pardi, Dist. Valsad (Gujarat)" to "SBPP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Killa Pardi, Dist. Valsad (Gujarat)" in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.....	10
Settlement of Agency transactions in certain cases (for Funds and Agency Commission) directly from Reserve Bank of India	11
Investment by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in Government Securities Medium Term Framework – Review	13
Customer Protection - Limiting Liability of Customers of Co-operative Banks in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions.....	15
Submission of Financial Information to Information Utilities.....	18

UNIT- 2 GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

FAME India Scheme Phase 2.....	20
Swachh Survekshan 2018.....	23
Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls - SABLA.....	25
Haryana Monthly Pension Scheme for Media Persons	28
Atal Mahaapahan Vikas Abhiyan.....	30
Odisha Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme.....	32
NARI Web Portal- One Portal for All Schemes for Women.....	34
Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana.....	36
North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme	38
PRASAD Scheme Launched by Ministry of Tourism.....	40
Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector	43
SAMEEP – 'Students and MEA Engagement Programme'	45

National Strategic Plan 2017-24 and Mission SAMPARK.....	46
Sahafat Finance Scheme.....	48
Udyog Aadhar Memorandum	50
Atal Innovation Mission.....	52
Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sashay Scheme	55
Analyses of Mid-Term Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20	57
Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund.....	61

UNIT- 3 CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Financial Awareness	64
Appointments.....	65
Obituaries.....	66
Honour and Awards.....	67
Important Days	68
MoUs and Partnerships	68
Important News- World	69
Important News India	70
Business, Science and Technology	72
Defence	72
Naseem-Al-Bahr 2017: India, Oman Conducted Naval Exercise.	73
Important News- States.....	73
Sports News	73



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UNIT 1- RBI NOTIFICATIONS

AUCTION FOR SALE (RE-ISSUE) OF GOVERNMENT STOCK (GS)

NOTIFICATION

- Government of India(GoI) notified sale(re-issue) of the Government Stocks
- The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the auctions.
- The Government Stock up to 5% of the amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions as per the enclosed Scheme for **Non-competitive Bidding Facility** in the Auctions of Government Securities.
- Bids for the auction was submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (**E-Kuber**) system.
- The Stock will be eligible for **"When Issued"** trading in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Issuing Authority:** Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. WHAT ARE GOVERNMENT STOCKS/BONDS/SECURITIES?

- One of the bonds sold by a government to finance its budget deficit (the difference between what it gets in taxes and what it spends). Government bonds are usually considered to be a very safe form of investment.
- A government security is a bond issued by a government authority with a promise of repayment upon maturity. Government securities such as savings bonds, treasury bills and notes also promise periodic coupon or interest payments. These securities are considered low-risk, since they are backed by the taxing power of the government.
- The terms on which a government can sell bonds depend on how creditworthy the market considers it to be. International credit rating agencies will provide ratings for the bonds, but market participants will make up their own minds about this.

2. WHAT IS NON-COMPETITIVE BIDDING FACILITY?

To encourage retail participation in the primary market for Government Securities, the facility of non-competitive bidding in Dated Government Securities and Treasury Bills auctions has been introduced. This will enable the investor to purchase a specified number of securities at the weighted average rate of the accepted competitive bids.

1. Who can participate in the Scheme?

Participation in the Scheme of non-competitive bidding is open to retail investors. Retail investor is any person including individuals, firms, companies, corporate bodies, institutions, provident funds, trusts and any other entity as prescribed by RBI.

2. Will non-competitive bidding be allowed in all auctions?

No. It will be decided by the RBI, on particular basis.

3. WHAT IS E-KUBER?

- e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of Reserve Bank of India. E-Kuber provides the provision of a single current account for each bank across the country, with decentralised access to this account from anywhere-anytime using portal based services in a safe manner.
- Core Banking Solutions (CBS) can be defined as a solution that enables banks to offer a multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis from a single location, supporting retail as well as corporate banking activities, as well as all possible delivery channels

existing and proposed. The centralisation thus makes a “one-stop” shop for financial services a reality. Using CBS, customers can access their accounts from any branch, anywhere, irrespective of where they have physically opened their accounts. Almost all branches of commercial banks, including the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), are brought into the core-banking fold.

- Core Banking Solutions (CBS) marked a paradigm shift as it made a bank’s particular branch customers, now bank customers as they can access their accounts from any branch for defined purposes. CBS links all branches of a bank and offers opportunities for information management, better customer service and improved risk management.
- e-Kuber enables ease of operations. The system also benefits state /central Governments as users. Some of the facilities offered include the provision of portal based access which allows Government departments to access on anywhere-anytime basis and view their balances – of all types including the Ways and Means Advances, drawings, funds positions and the like – all in a consolidated manner so as to help them in better funds management. The capability of consolidating revenue collections by banks through the e-Kuber offers the potential for better flexibility for the Government in managing its finances apart from moving over towards higher levels of electronic banking.
- The e-kuber system can be accessed either through INFINET or Internet. The INFINET is a Closed User Group Network for the exclusive use of member banks and financial institutions and is the communication backbone for the National Payments System, which caters mainly to inter-bank applications like Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), Delivery Vs Payment, Government Transactions, Automatic Clearing House, etc.
- The e-kuber system, implemented in 2012, is reported to be one of the foremost central bank oriented Core Banking Systems in the world.
- Auction of Government securities is done through e-kuber system. Sovereign Gold Bonds are available for subscription at the branches of scheduled commercial banks and designated post offices through RBI’s e-kuber system. Goods and Service Tax (GST) settlements are also proposed to be done through e-kuber. On 7 April 2016, RBI launched a platform to enable trading in the priority sector lending certificates (PSLC) through its Core Banking Solution (CBS) portal (e-Kuber).



4. WHAT IS 'WHEN ISSUED' TRANSACTIONS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES?

- As part of restructuring the debt issuance framework in light of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, the Internal Technical Group on Central Government Securities had recommended introduction of 'When Issued' markets in Central Government Securities.
- 'When Issued', a short form of 'when, as and if issued', indicates a conditional transaction in a security authorized for issuance but not as yet actually issued. All 'when issued' transactions are on an 'if' basis, to be settled if and when the actual security is issued.

'WHEN ISSUED' MARKET HAS TWO BASIC ADVANTAGES: -

- A. It facilitates the distribution process for Government securities by stretching the actual distribution period for each issue and allowing the market more time to absorb large issues without disruption.
- B. 'When Issued' market also facilitates price discovery process by reducing uncertainties surrounding auctions.

AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DATED SECURITIES

NOTIFICATION

- Government of India has offered to sell (re-issue) **dated securities**.

- The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the auctions.
- Government Stock up to 5% of the notified amount of sale will be allotted to the eligible individuals and institutions under the Scheme for **Non-competitive Bidding Facility** in the Auctions of Government Securities.
- Both competitive and non-competitive bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (**E-Kuber**) system.
- The Stocks will be eligible for "**When Issued**" trading during a definite period.
- An investor can submit more than one competitive bid at different prices in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.
- **Who are eligible:** All Scheduled Commercial Banks and All State Co-operative Banks/All Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks /All Financial Institutions/All Primary Dealers.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. WHAT ARE DATED GOVERNMENT SECURITIES?

- Dated Government Securities are longer term securities and carry a fixed or floating coupon (interest rate) paid on the face value, payable at fixed time periods (usually half-yearly).
- The Public Debt Office (PDO) of the RBI acts as the registry/depository of Government securities and deals with the issue, interest payment and repayment of principal at maturity.
- Most of the dated securities are fixed coupon securities.
- The nomenclature of a typical dated fixed coupon Government security has the following features- coupon, name of the issuer, maturity and face value.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNMENT DATED SECURITIES

- Zero Coupon Bonds
- Floating Rate Bond
- Tap Stock
- Partly Paid Stock

- Capital Indexed Bonds
- Inflation linked Bonds
- Fixed Rate Bonds

RATIONALISATION OF MERCHANT DISCOUNT RATE (MDR) FOR DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

NOTIFICATION

- The Reserve Bank today said it has decided to rationalise charges on debit card transactions based on category of merchants with a view to giving "further fillip" to digital payments.
- Based on consultations with stakeholders on the "Draft Circular - Rationalisation of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for Debit Card Transactions", as also taking into account the twin objectives of promoting debit card acceptance by a wider set of merchants, especially small merchants, and ensuring sustainability of the business for the entities involved, it has been decided to rationalise the MDR for debit cards based on the following criteria:
 - (1) Categorisation of merchants on the basis of turnover.
 - (2) Adoption of a differentiated MDR for QR-code based transactions.
 - (3) Specifying a ceiling on the maximum permissible MDR for both 'card present' and 'card not present' transactions.
- The draft report had made a case for restructuring MDR on the basis of merchant turnover rather than the present slab-rate based on transaction value. According to the statement, a differentiated MDR for asset-light acceptance infrastructure and a cap on absolute amount of MDR per transaction will also be prescribed.(as given above)
- The revised MDR, aims at achieving the twin objectives of increased usage of debit cards and ensuring sustainability of the business for the entities involved.
- Banks are also advised to ensure that merchants on-boarded by them do not pass on MDR charges to customers while accepting payments through debit cards.
- The above instructions shall be effective from January 1, 2018.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. WHAT IS MDR?

- MDR is the fee that the store accepting your card has to pay to the bank when you swipe it for payments. The MDR compensates the bank issuing the card, the bank which puts up the swiping machine (Point-of-Sale or PoS terminal) and network providers such as MasterCard or Visa for their services. MDR charges are usually shared in a pre-agreed proportion between them. In India, the RBI specifies the maximum MDR charges that can be levied on every card transaction.
- As per RBI rules, the merchant must cough up the MDR out of his own pocket and cannot pass it on to the customer.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- To ensure wider adoption of plastic, banks must have more cards/PoS machines in circulation and more merchants need to install PoS terminals. Getting small merchants to install PoS machines has been a challenge, as cash transactions entail no extra costs to them, while cards do. Banks on their part are willing to increase PoS coverage only if their MDR share is lucrative.

CHANGE IN NAME OF "SARDAR BHILADWALA PARDI PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., KILLA PARDI, DIST. VALSAD (GUJARAT)" TO "SBPP CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., KILLA PARDI, DIST. VALSAD (GUJARAT)" IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT, 1934

NOTIFICATION

- Sardar Bhiladwala Pardi Peoples Co-Op. Bank Ltd. is a Scheduled Co-op. bank with its head office at Killa –Pardi. Dist.Valsad. The Bank is focused on upgrading and improving the services by optimizing the use of the latest technology. The bank was founded in Pardi in 1930. Since then the bank has grown into a Scheduled bank with a network of 11 branches situated in Valsad District offering services including ATM,SMS Banking, RTGS/NEFT services, home loan, small business loan ,Vehicle loan , Industrial Finance and more.

- Its name has been changed to SBPP Co-operative Bank Ltd.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT, 1934

- Scheduled Banks in India refer to those banks which have been included in the Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI in turn includes only those banks in this Schedule which satisfy the criteria laid down vide section 42(6)(a) of the said Act. Banks not under this Schedule are called Non-Scheduled Banks.
- Every Scheduled bank enjoys two types of principal facilities: it becomes eligible for debts/loans at the bank rate from the RBI; and, it automatically acquires the membership of clearing house.

SETTLEMENT OF AGENCY TRANSACTIONS IN CERTAIN CASES (FOR FUNDS AND AGENCY COMMISSION) DIRECTLY FROM RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Before going through the notification we should understand the concept of 'Agency Banks' with the following questions:

HOW DOES RESERVE BANK OF INDIA DISCHARGE ITS STATUTORY OBLIGATION OF BEING 'BANKER TO GOVERNMENT'?

RBI carries out the general banking business of the governments through its own offices and commercial banks, both public and private, appointed as its agents. Section 45 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, provides for appointment of scheduled commercial banks as agents at all places or at any place in India, for purposes that it may specify, "having regard to public interest, convenience of banking, banking development and such other factors which in its opinion are relevant in this regard".

Reserve Bank of India maintains the Principal Accounts of Central as well as State Governments at its Central Accounts Section, Nagpur. It has put in place a well structured arrangement for revenue collection as well as payments on behalf of Government across the country. A network comprising the Government Banking Divisions of RBI and branches of **agency banks** appointed under Section 45 of the RBI Act carry out the government transactions. At present all the public

sector banks and select private sector banks act as RBI's agents. Only designated branches of agency banks can conduct government banking business.

HOW PAYMENT INTO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT IS MADE?

All monies for credit to government account like taxes or other remittances can be made by filling the prescribed challans of the Government/Department concerned. The tax payers are encouraged to pay dues to Government electronically by login in to respective government portals. However, if they prefer to pay dues by way of cash, cheque, demand draft, these are required to be tendered with the authorized **agency bank** branches along with requisite challan.

ARE AGENCY BANKS COMPENSATED FOR CONDUCT OF CENTRAL/STATE GOVERNMENT BANKING?

The accredited banks are paid remuneration by RBI for conduct of State/Central Government transactions. Such remuneration is called **Agency Commission**.

NOTIFICATION

- **Reason behind the notification:** As per the existing arrangements in certain states, in certain cases, some agency banks are routing their agency transactions of state governments through another agency bank, that acts as an aggregator, that in turn settles these agency transactions with concerned Regional Office of RBI for both receipts and payments.
- In the age of prevailing Core Banking Solutions/e-banking systems in all the agency banks, Reserve Bank is committed to provide fast, efficient and secure banking facility to the State Governments by implementation of standardised e-receipts and e-payments with its CBS (e-Kuber), enabling RBI to act as single point of contact for settling state government funds (receipts/payment). This will also facilitate better cash management by the State Governments.
- Therefore, on review, it has been decided that all agency banks should settle their agency transactions for both funds and agency commission directly with the concerned Regional Office of Reserve Bank instead of routing them through any other agency bank that acts as aggregator in certain cases.
- It effectively makes all agency banks to report government receipts directly to RBI instead of reporting them through any other agency bank. So also for payments made by all agency banks on behalf of state government/s get directly settled with the concerned Regional Office of RBI.

- Agency Transaction details/scrolls may be sent directly by individual agency bank to the concerned State Government/Treasury. This arrangement is expected to improve management of State Government funds apart from reducing inefficiencies in the system.
- Agency Banks that are already settling their state government transactions with RBI directly may continue to do so. Agency Banks that are hitherto settling their transactions with other aggregator agency bank may stop such reporting. Such banks should settle their agency transaction hereafter with RBI directly.
- The new arrangement for settlement of state government funds on day to day basis (receipts and payments) directly with Reserve Bank will be with effect from January 1, 2018. Thereby, all agency commission claims beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2018 will be settled directly with the concerned Regional Office of Reserve Bank of India.

INVESTMENT BY FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS (FPI) IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES MEDIUM TERM FRAMEWORK – REVIEW

NOTIFICATION

- The limits for investment by FPIs for the quarter January – March 2018 is increased by INR 64 billion in Central Government Securities (Central G-Secs) and INR 58 billion in **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.
- The revised limits will be effective from January 01, 2018.
- The operational guidelines relating to allocation and monitoring of limits will be issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. STATE DEVELOPMENT LOANS (SDLS)

State Development Loans (SDLs) are dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements. In effect, the SDL are similar to the dated securities issued by the central government. Purpose of issuing State Development Loans is to meet the budgetary needs of state governments. Each state can borrow upto a set limit through State Development Loans.

SDL SECURITIES ARE ELIGIBLE SECURITIES FOR SLR AND LAF OF THE RBI

The SDL securities issued by states are credible collateral for meeting the SLR requirements of banks as well as a collateral for availing liquidity under the RBI's LAF including the repo.

WHO BUYS SDLS?

The investors in SDL are basically commercial banks, mutual funds, insurance companies who are attracted by the slightly higher interest rate of SDL (compared to central government securities). In 2015, Government allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to buy SDLS up to 2% of outstanding SDLS in the market.

2. FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTOR (FPI)

- The term FPI was defined to align the nomenclature of categorizing investments of foreign investors in line with international practice. FPI stands for those investors who hold a short term view on the company, in contrast to Foreign Direct Investors (FDI). FPIs generally participate through the stock markets and gets in and out of a particular stock at much faster frequencies. Short term view is associated often with lower stake in companies. Hence, globally FPIs are defined as those who hold less than 10% in a company. In India, the hitherto existing closest definition to an FPI was Foreign Institutional Investor.
- In the Union Budget 2013-14, announced on 28 February 2013, vide para 95, Honourable Finance Minister announced his intention to go by the internationally accepted definition for foreign investors.
- Prior to this, in December 2012, SEBI had constituted a "Committee on Rationalization of Investment Routes and Monitoring of Foreign Portfolio Investments" under the chairmanship of Shri K. M. Chandrasekhar with a view to rationalize/harmonize various foreign portfolio investment routes and to establish a unified, simple regulatory framework. The Committee had submitted its report in June, 2013 to the Government of India.
- Based on the committee report, on 7th January, 2014 the FPI Regulations, 2014 were notified in the Gazette of India.
- The new FPI Regime came into effect from 1st June, 2014.



CUSTOMER PROTECTION - LIMITING LIABILITY OF CUSTOMERS OF CO-OPERATIVE BANKS IN UNAUTHORISED ELECTRONIC BANKING TRANSACTIONS

NOTIFICATION

- With the increased thrust on IT enabled financial inclusion and related customer protection issues, and considering the recent surge in customer grievances relating to unauthorised transactions resulting in debits to their accounts/cards, the criteria for determining the customer liability in these circumstances have been reviewed.

THE REVISED DIRECTIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE SET OUT BELOW:

STRENGTHENING OF SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

- Broadly, the electronic banking transactions can be divided into two categories:
 - (1) Remote/ online payment transactions (transactions that do not require physical payment instruments to be presented at the point of transactions e.g. internet banking, mobile banking, card not present (CNP) transactions), Pre-paid Payment Instruments (PPI), and
 - (2) Face-to-face/ proximity payment transactions (transactions which require the physical payment instrument such as card or mobile phone to be present at the point of transaction e.g. ATM, POS, etc.)

THE REVISED DIRECTIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE SET OUT BELOW:

- The systems and procedures in banks must be designed to make customers feel safe about carrying out electronic banking transactions. To achieve this, banks must put in place:
 - i. appropriate systems and procedures to ensure safety and security of electronic banking transactions carried out by customers;
 - ii. robust and dynamic fraud detection and prevention mechanism;
 - iii. mechanism to assess the risks (for example, gaps in the bank's existing systems) resulting from unauthorised transactions and measure the liabilities arising out of such events;
 - iv. appropriate measures to mitigate the risks and protect themselves against the liabilities arising therefrom; and
 - v. a system of continually and repeatedly advising customers on how to protect themselves from electronic banking and payments related fraud.

REPORTING OF UNAUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS BY CUSTOMERS TO BANKS

- Banks must ask their customers to mandatorily register for SMS alerts and, wherever available, register for e-mail alerts, for electronic banking transactions.
- The customers must be advised to notify their bank of any unauthorised electronic banking transaction at the earliest after the occurrence of such transaction, and informed that the longer the time taken to notify the bank, the higher will be the risk of loss to the bank/customer.
- The communication systems used by banks to send alerts and receive their responses thereto must record the time and date of delivery of the message and receipt of customer's response, if any, to them. This shall be important in determining the extent of a customer's liability.

DIRECTIONS ON LIMITED LIABILITY OF A CUSTOMER

(A) ZERO LIABILITY OF A CUSTOMER

A customer's entitlement to zero liability shall arise where the unauthorised transaction occurs in the following events:

- a. Contributory fraud/ negligence/deficiency on the part of the bank (irrespective of whether or not the transaction is reported by the customer).

- b. Third party breach where the deficiency lies neither with the bank nor with the customer but lies elsewhere in the system, and the customer notifies the bank within three working days of receiving the communication from the bank regarding the unauthorised transaction.

(B) LIMITED LIABILITY OF A CUSTOMER

A customer shall be liable for the loss occurring due to unauthorised transactions in the following cases:

- a. In cases where the loss is due to negligence by a customer, such as where he has shared the payment credentials, the customer will bear the entire loss until he reports the unauthorised transaction to the bank. Any loss occurring after the reporting of the unauthorised transaction shall be borne by the bank.
- b. In cases where the responsibility for the unauthorised electronic banking transaction lies neither with the bank nor with the customer, but lies elsewhere in the system and the customer notifies the bank of such a transaction within four to seven working days of receiving a communication of the transaction, the per transaction liability of the customer shall be limited. Further, if the delay in reporting is beyond seven working days, the customer liability shall be determined as per the bank's Board approved policy.

BOARD APPROVED POLICY FOR CUSTOMER PROTECTION

Bank shall formulate / revise their customer relations policy with approval of their Boards, which should clearly define the rights and obligations of customers in case of unauthorized transactions in specified scenarios i.e. debits to customer accounts owing to customer negligence / bank negligence / banking system frauds/ third party breaches etc.

The policy should also include mechanism of creating customer awareness on the risks and responsibilities involved in electronic banking transactions, and customer liability in case of unauthorized electronic banking transactions, procedure for reporting unauthorized electronic banking transactions and acknowledgement of complaints.

BURDEN OF PROOF

The burden of proving customer liability in case of unauthorised electronic banking transactions shall lie on the bank.

REPORTING AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The banks shall put in place a suitable mechanism and structure for the reporting of cases of unauthorized electronic banking transactions to the Board or one of its Committees.

SUBMISSION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO INFORMATION UTILITIES

NOTIFICATION

- According to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, a financial creditor shall submit financial information and information relating to assets in relation to which any security interest has been created, to an information utility (IU)
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017, which has come into force with effect from April 1, 2017, has specified the form and manner in which financial creditors are to submit this information to IUs.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as the first IU under the IBBI (IUs) Regulations, 2017 on September 25, 2017.
- All financial creditors regulated by RBI are advised to adhere to the relevant provisions of IBC, 2016 and IBBI (IUs) Regulations, 2017 and immediately put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure compliance to the provisions of the Code and Regulations.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC), 2016

- The Code creates time-bound processes for insolvency resolution of companies and individuals. These processes will be completed within 180 days. If insolvency cannot be resolved, the assets of the borrowers may be sold to repay creditors.
- The resolution processes will be conducted by licensed insolvency professionals (IPs). These IPs will be members of insolvency professional agencies (IPAs). IPAs will also furnish performance bonds equal to the assets of a company under insolvency resolution.
- Information utilities (IUs) will be established to collect, collate and disseminate financial information to facilitate insolvency resolution.

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will adjudicate insolvency resolution for companies. The Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) will adjudicate insolvency resolution for individuals.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India will be set up to regulate functioning of IPs, IPAs and IUs.

2. INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was set up on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as transactions.
- It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for transactions, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code.
- It is a key pillar of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of the Code that consolidates and amends the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders.

3. WHAT IS AN INFORMATION UTILITY?

- Information utility is an information network which would store financial data like borrowings, default and security interests among others of firms.
- The utility would specialise in procuring, maintaining and providing/supplying financial information to businesses, financial institutions, adjudicating authority, insolvency professionals and other relevant stake holders.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT? HOW USEFUL IS IT?

- The objective behind information utilities is to provide high-quality, authenticated information about debts and defaults, as per the report of the Working Group on Information Utility published by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Information utilities are expected to play a key role as they allow storage of financial information of registered users and expeditiously process and verify information received.

- Moreover, the database and records maintained by them would help lenders in taking informed decisions about credit transactions.
- It would also make debtors cautious as credit information is available with the utility. More importantly, information available with the utility can be used as evidence in bankruptcy cases before the National Company Law Tribunal.

4. NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES LIMITED (NESL)

- NeSL is India's first Information Utility and is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the aegis of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- The company has been set up by leading banks and public institutions and is incorporated as a union government company.
- The primary role of NeSL is to serve as a repository of legal evidence holding the information pertaining to any debt/claim, as submitted by the financial or operational creditor and verified and authenticated by the other parties to the debt.
- NeSL's role is to facilitate time bound resolution by providing verified information to adjudicating authorities that does not require further authentication.

UNIT 2- GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

FAME INDIA SCHEME PHASE 2

INTRODUCTION:

- FAME stands for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles and this scheme is a part of National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM) which was set by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises under the central government of India.
- It is launched by the central government of India under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

- The central government has allocated total budget for this scheme is Rs 14000 crore.

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BACKGROUND OF FAME INDIA SCHEME:

- The central government of India has introduced FAME India Scheme on 1st April 2015.
- FAME Scheme mainly focuses on four areas Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.
- The first phase of FAME India scheme is 2 years i.e. 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018.
- It also covers Hybrid & Electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, and Plug-in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.
- In the year 2015-16, the central government allocated Rs 75 crore and in the year 2016-2017, Rs 91 crore was allocated.
- The central government has allocated Rs 155 crore for pilot projects, charging infrastructure projects and technological development projects
- From the date of launch, almost 99000 hybrid or electric vehicles (xEVs) have been supported directly by demand incentives.
-

FAME INDIA SCHEME 2

- FAME India scheme 2 is going to expand from the 1st April 2018.
- So in the second phase, the aim of central government is to make public transportation system fully electric and to replace all old public transportation vehicles.

OBJECTIVE:

- 100% electrification of all the Public Transport System
- To support hybrid or electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system.
- To promote eco-friendly vehicles

HIGHLIGHTS OF FAME INDIA SCHEME

- FAME India Scheme emphasis on e-vehicles and promote e-mobility.
- It will lessen the level of pollution in India by making public transportation system 100 percent completely electric,
- Under this scheme, all vehicles are entirely electric, worked with a chargeable battery and involve zero emissions.
- The central government will create and expand infrastructure for charging which is necessary for electric vehicles.
- This scheme aims to incentivise all segments of the vehicle that is 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.
- The intention of the scheme is to give financial and monetary incentives for adoption and market creation of both hybrid and electric technologies vehicles in the country.
- Its mandate is to promote hybrid or electric vehicles market expansion and its production eco-system in a country in order to achieve self-sustenance in a specified period.

SUBSIDY PROVIDED UNDER FAME INDIA SCHEME II

- FAME India Scheme will give subsidy for buses of Rs 72 lakh to Rs 1 Crore, for Taxi Rs 1.24 lakh and for Auto Rickshaw Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 61,000.
- The Central government of India is making efforts to lessen the cost of Lithium-Ion Batteries which is used to run the electric vehicles.

LIST OF SELECTED CITIES UNDER FAME INDIA SCHEME 2

- Under FAME India Scheme 2, total 11 cities are selected are which are Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Jammu, Ahmedabad Mumbai Indore, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Kolkata

MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

- The central government of India has launched electricity based multi-modal transport system under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- Multi-Modal Transport System need the financial support of Rs 4054.6 crore from the central government in the first phase and more funds for the better implementation in the second phase.
- The central government aims to convert all the fuel stations to charging stations with primary amenities.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018

KEY INFORMATION

- **Date of start:** 4th January 2018
- **Date of completion:** 10th March 2018
- **Started by:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs:** Narender Singh Tomar
- **Venue:** Delhi
- **Covering cities and town:** 4041 (500+3541)
- **Total marks:** 4000 marks
- **Objective:** To encourage citizen involvement and educate them about to make cities and town a cleaner and better place.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018

THIS SURVEKSHAN HAS BEEN DIVIDED RANKING INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

- 1) **National Ranking:** Those 500 cities whose population is more than 1 lakh will be covered in the national ranking.
- 2) **State and Regional Ranking:** Those 3541 cities whose population is less than 1 lakh population will be covered in state and regional ranking.

Ranking	Cities	Population
National Ranking	500	More than 1 lakh

State and Regional Ranking	3541	Less than 1lakh
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- This is the largest survey which influences more than 40 crore urban area population as well as small cities.

METHOD OF COLLECTING DATA IS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

1. Collection of data from **interactions with Municipal Body/service level progress**: 35% weightage will depend on whether the municipal body is implementing Swachh mission or not after verifying all physical document.
2. Collection of data from **Direct Observation**: Under this, 30% weightage will be given on the basis of general cleanliness in cities.
3. Collection of data from **Citizen Feedback**: Under this, 35% weightage depend on citizen feedback. The Citizen can only participate in the survey if citizen resides in the state from last 1 year (at least).
 - Under the category of Collection of data from Citizen Feedback, the citizen can participate in online surveyor by downloading Swachhata App.
 - Till date, more than 49 lakhs citizens have already downloaded the app.
 - Comparison of component weightage from the previous year.

Component	Weightage of 2018	Weightage of 2017
Interactions with Municipal Body	35%	45%
Direct Observation	30%	25%
Citizen feedback	35%	30%

SURVEY CONDUCT ON THE BASIS OF SIX PARAMETERS

- **By Collecting and Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste**: In this parameter, Government will observe that municipal corporation segregated the dry and wet waste and collecting household garbage regularly and keeping public area clean
- **Processing and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste**: In this parameter, government keep an eye that waste is recycling or not.
- **Sanitation-related progress**: under this parameter, the government will ensure that public toilet is clean even petrol pump's toilet and another public toilet.
- **IEC (Information, Education, and Communication)**: Under this parameter government will check about how cities are creating awareness among the public regarding swachh surveksan, management of waste material, cleaning the public toilet, etc.
- **Capacity Building**: It will check that officials were provided opportunities to attend training.

- **Innovation and Best Practices:** This parameter is new in this survey. This will encourage cities to come forward and do something innovative in making India clean and open defecation free by October 2019.

PAST TWO YEARS WINNER OF SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Years	Urban Local bodies (ULB)	Winner
2016	73	Mysuru
2017	434	Indore

RAJIV GANDHI SCHEME FOR EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS - SABLA

INTRODUCTION:

- SABLA is a scheme for the empowerment of teenage and young girls was launched under the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)
- It was launched on the 1st April 2011, International day of women.
- In the year 2018, it is extended with an aim to expand and make it applicable in whole India.
- This scheme is managed by the ministry of women and child development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi.

BACKGROUND OF SABLA SCHEME:

- Scheme for Adolescent was first announced in the year 2010 by the central government of India.
- It was first implemented in 200 districts in the year 2011 and then further 303 districts were added in the year 2017 to expand this scheme.
- Now, in the 2018 Central government aims to make this scheme universalize by expanding it in the remaining districts.
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) was merged with two schemes i.e. Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) and integrated child development service scheme (ICDS).

OBJECTIVE:

- To facilitate self-development and empowerment of young girls,
- To improve their nutrition, nourishment and health status;
- To spread awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, Adolescent, Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), and family and childcare
- To improve their home skills, life skills and vocational skills
- To inform and guide to current government services like PHC, CHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

TARGET GROUP:

- The scheme will cover all the adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years in 202 districts initially.
- The scheme has further divided the age group of 11 to 14 years and 14 to 18 years keeping in view the need for a different age group and to give proper attention to each group.
- The scheme will focus on all out of school adolescent girls, who would assemble at the Anganwadi Centres directed by the central government.
- The school going girls also frequently visit Anganwadi Centres where they will receive living skills, education, nourishment tips and awareness of socio-legal issues.

SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SCHEME

This scheme provides two types of services that are nutrition segment and non-nutrition segment.

1) NUTRITION SEGMENT

- Take ration or hot cooked meal to home.
- 11 to 14 years: out of school girls
- 14 to 18 years: out of school girls and on-going school girls.

2) NON-NUTRITION SEGMENT.

Out of school adolescent girls

11 TO 18 YEARS

- Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation
- Health check-up and Referral services,

- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counselling / Guidance on family welfare, adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH), childcare practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services

16 TO 18 YEARS

- Vocational training under National Skill Development Program

ON-GOING SCHOOL ADOLESCENT GIRLS

- 11 to 18 years
- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counselling / Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services

FUNDING MODEL

- SABLA Scheme is sponsored by the central government so the centre will give 100 percent finance for all inputs to the state government and union territory.
- But the centre will give up to 50 percent in nutrition segment or the real cost incurred which one is minimum.

MONITORING MECHANISM

- Monitoring Mechanism set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme which is also used for the SABLA Scheme.
- Performance of SABLA scheme is analysed on a quarterly basis to know the progress and any loophole if sustain.
- The supervision committee is set up at village and block level, Districts level, state level and at the national level.
- A committee will check the progress of the scheme and try to establish the coordination and concurrence between concerned departments.
- The field visit is taken to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and the defined gaps are filled by taking corrective and proper measures.

MODALITIES OF SABLA SCHEME

1) FORMATION OF KISHORI SAMOOH

- Kishori samooch would be of an age group of 15 to 25 years girls in the village and it is formed only when if in a village there are less than 7 Anganwadi centres.

2) TRAINING KIT

- A training kit is provided to each Anganwadi Centres to know and learn health, education, nutrition and social and legal issues. A cost of this training kit is Rs 10000 and it includes various games and activities.

3) TO CELEBRATE KISHORI DIWAS

- Kishori Diwas is celebrated on every third month decided by the central government for the better implementation and coordination of the scheme.

4) KISHORI CARD

- A Kishori card is given to each Adolescent girls and it is managed by the Anganwadi centres.
- It contains information about height, weight, body mass index, Iron Folic Acid, supplementation, referrals and services taken under SABLA.



HARYANA MONTHLY PENSION SCHEME FOR MEDIA PERSONS

INTRODUCTION:

- The Haryana state government has launched a pension scheme for media professionals in a state at Panchkula on the occasion of "Swarna Jayanti Journalist's Meet"
- Under this scheme, a state government will give Rs 10000 as a monthly pension to each media professionals.
- On the day of launch, chief minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar has given a cheque of Rs 100000 to 10 veteran media professionals as a pension.

OBJECTIVE:

- To give pension to media professionals in a state.

BENEFICIARIES OF THIS SCHEME

- The Haryana state government will give pension to those selected media persons who are either working daily or evening or weekly or fortnightly or monthly newspapers.
- The state government also give pension to those who work with news magazines, agencies, news channels and radio stations.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Under this scheme, a Haryana state government has some eligibility criteria to avail benefit of this scheme.
- The media professional must be a citizen of Haryana state,
- A beneficiary must be an age of 60 years or above,
- A media professional has at least 20 years of experience in the field,
- A beneficiary must have been accredited with details in the language department, PR sectors and information in the Haryana state for the last 5 years.
- An acclamation will be given to those who have completed 5 years in media profession and it is given by the sub-divisional member of online news portals.
- A beneficiary must have a valid Aadhar card which is linked to the saving bank account in a nationalised bank to deposit directly pension amount into the account.
- A pensioner has to give a certificate in the month of January every.
- Media professionals who are getting pension or honorarium from any other state government or news organisation are also eligible under this scheme.
- In case of demise of pensioner media professional, his spouse will get this monthly pension of Rs 10000 is she or he is not getting any kind of salary, wages, pension or any

other type of regular source of income from a state or central government or any other organization.

- If the pensioner is getting the benefit of the pension of less than Rs.10, 000 per month, the entitlement of pension under this scheme would be decreased by that much amount.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HARYANA MONTHLY PENSION SCHEME

- The Haryana state government will give Rs 10000 as a pension to each media professionals who qualified the eligibility criteria.
- Along with it, the Haryana state government has also launched a policy of life insurance worth Rs 10 lakh and a Rs 5 lakh health insurance policy.
- The media professional will get a health insurance of Rs 5 lakh and life insurance of Rs 10 lakh by paying 50% of the premium amount and the remaining 50% is paid by the State government.

CONCLUSION:



- This is not the first time that Haryana government come up with a new trend or a scheme. Before this, the state government has also launched many schemes like pension to widower and widowers, pension to disabled people, pension to senior citizen.
- The Haryana state government is constantly making efforts to bring change in a state and make a life of a people prosperous.

ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

KEY INFORMATION:

Announced on: In the year 2017

Launched by: The Maharashtra state government

Inaugurated by: Shri Devendra Fadnavis, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra government.

OBJECTIVE:

- To support and promote non-banking business in a state

- To help and give financial support to cooperative communities to start a new business
- To encourage, assist and supervise young entrepreneurs.

INTRODUCTION

- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan is named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and a reason behind launching scheme is that cooperative sector is facing a crisis of funding.
- This new scheme will not only benefit cooperative sectors but also assist and promote many other weaker sections because in rural area cooperative sectors play an important role in development. So, it is the backbone of the provincial economy.
- This new scheme will strengthen and encourage pastoral area and it will create employment opportunity which leads to income generation.
- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan will also give assistance to the women self-help group and agriculture community to earn income and create job possibility for others.
- This scheme will boost the rural community and bring the standard of living up.
- The Maharashtra state government has launched a new scheme Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan to improve the life of farmers and women in a state, the state government will grant a handful of a fund to start a new business.
- The state government will aim to attract more private organizations to offer fund and promote the agricultural sector.
- This scheme is an effort to sustain and nurture the rural sector by improving the productivity.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan aims to double the income of framers at the end of the year 2022.
- The Maharashtra state government has decided to fund approx. 5000 cooperative societies to start a new business.
- To create awareness and better implementation of this scheme, The Maharashtra state government will run campaigns and drive in each district of the state.
- The Maharashtra state government will, first of all, do registration of primary agriculture cooperative societies who choose non-banking business either public, private or Cooperative Private Partnership (PCPP).
- The cooperative department, under the Maharashtra state government, has started to accept applications to set up the businesses.

FEATURES OF ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

MOTIVE:

The main motive of this scheme is to increase the standard of living of farmers and women in the rural area. It also aims to inspire and assist young blood to take an initiative to set up new business. And all this leads to bring status up of a rural community.

NEED FOR THE SCHEME:

At present, cooperative sector is facing a huge crisis of finance to set up and operate a business. So, this is a try to give financial assistance. This effort will increase the performance of the corporative sector.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Through this scheme, a state government will give financial assistance to the selected 5000 cooperative sectors for setting up and start a new non-banking business in a rural area.

BENEFITS:

This scheme will benefit farmers and self-help women groups in a rural community. This will create employment opportunity and create a source of income.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

Under Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan, primary agricultural cooperative societies will have to register with the state department.

ODISHA FERTILIZER SUBSIDY SCHEME

KEY INFORMATION:

Launched by: Agriculture department, Odisha state government

Launched on: 1st January 2018

Implementation on: 1st February 2018

Type of benefit: Direct benefit transfer

OBJECTIVE:

- To provide direct fertilizer benefit transfer to farmers.
- To bring transparency in subsidy scheme

HIGHLIGHTS OF ODISHA FERTILIZER SUBSIDY SCHEME

- Odisha fertilizer subsidy scheme is launched by Odisha government collaborating with Agriculture department of state government.
- Odisha fertilizer subsidy scheme is an initiative which will work through a point of sale machine at retailer shops and it is a direct benefit transfer which is linked to the farmer's bank account.
- This fertilizer subsidy scheme will benefit only to the selected farmers and the aim is to reach selected one by one and not to all farmers at the same time. This will improve the efficiency of a scheme and transparency in a distribution system.
- The Odisha state government will spend Rs 70000 crore per year for fertilizer scheme.
- Under this scheme, all retailers have to record detail of all activity at the point of sale device.
- This scheme will curb the illicit flow of fertilizers and prevent the fraudulent who always take unnecessary benefits and by doing this, the state government will save a huge amount of money.
- Under this scheme, more than 11680 retailers are eligible and will give a point of sale service and this whole process is done by Odisha agriculture department. But till now it has just included 6174 retailers with a point of sale machine and a target is to include all other remaining retailers at the end of this month.
- The Odisha state government has set up a committee to sell nutrients chemical on an agricultural base.
- Odisha state government is also forming a primary agriculture Cooperative Societies and Large area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies to provide nutrients chemical but only 913 societies have a point of sale device.

HOW DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER WORK?

- Direct benefit transfer department of fertilizers, the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers will manage and handle all the point of sale machines and retailers.
- All retailers have to compulsory install the latest version of the software and update on regular basis.
- The Recipients have to verify their identity through Aadhar based biometric authentication and it must be linked to a bank account number.
- All the information of buyer will be taken in a retail shop at a point of sales will match to a beneficiary.
- All retailers have to update their stock on regular basis in a system.
- The aim is to connect with all retailers through the current point of sale system so that farmers will get a benefit as soon as possible.

NARI WEB PORTAL- ONE PORTAL FOR ALL SCHEMES FOR WOMEN

KEY INFORMATION

- Launched on: 2 January 2018
- Managed by: Ministry Of Women and Child Development
- Inaugurated by: Smt Meneka Gandhi (Union Minister of Women and Child)
- Portal: www.nari.nic.in / www.ngomwcd.gov.in (e-samvad)
- Hosted by: NIC (National Informatics Centre)
- Objective: To provide all information related to government schemes and initiatives taken by government for women

MEANING OF NARI

NARI means National Repository of Information for Women. Repository means a place where huge data is stored. So it can be said that this website stores huge data related to government schemes in this portal.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NARI PORTAL

- Gives Suggestion on health check-ups
- Tips on nutrition
- Information about diseases
- Tips for job search and interview
- Advice on investment and saving
- Legal aid cell
- Information about crime against women
- Safety
- Procedure to adopt a child
- Harassment at workplace

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of white dots and lines. At the top, the text 'RBI Grade B 2018' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with 'Course' centered below it in a slightly smaller font. To the left, three bullet points are listed: 'Video Classes', 'Notes', and 'Mock Test Series', each preceded by a white checkmark icon. To the right of these points is a small, rounded rectangular logo with the text 'BANK EXAMS Today' in white and red. At the bottom, a white rounded rectangle contains the phone number 'Call - 9914968671' in a white sans-serif font.

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OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

- This is the only official website since Independence which lists down each and every scheme of government. The portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- This is a single portal to provide information regarding government schemes (both central and state) for women. This portal covers 350 plus schemes and other important information like job search, legal advice, and many other facilities which will be updated on real-time basis
- This portal helps to create awareness about central and state government scheme for women like Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, old age pension scheme, Maulana Azad medical schemes and many more.
- For example, many women are not aware of ONE STOP CENTRE is available in 168 districts for women in difficult circumstances. Some women are not aware that PM Awas Yojana gives priority to the registration of homes in the name of women.
- This portal also counsels us that, which government has launched which scheme and for which purpose.

THE SCHEME IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN CATEGORIES:

- Pension and insurance
- Education and research
- Health
- Employment and skilling
- Agriculture
- Housing and shelter

OTHERS

This portal also advises women about legal rights, equality, and women participation. This portal provides information in both languages (Hindi and English).

E-SAMVAD

- In addition to NARI web portal, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has also launched E-samvad portal. Here 'E' refers to electronic and 'SAMVAD' means conversation.
- This portal is a feedback portal, on which NGOs and Civil society can give their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices. All inputs will be recorded with ministry and senior officers of the WCD ministry check the inputs like feedback, suggestions for concerned subject areas and appropriately respond to NGOs and Civil society (who give their inputs). This will help in the formulation of effective policies/scheme and measures for the welfare of women and child.
- On this website, NGOs need to register themselves for giving their feedback and suggestions by using their unique ID of NGOs which is provided by NITI Aayog e-DARPA portal and PAN number
- These two portals are another step toward Digital India.

BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

INTRODUCTION:

- Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana is **launched on 1st January 2018** by Haryana government within a state.
- It is **launched by** the chief minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar.
- It is managed, regulated and supervised by state agricultural department and state government.
- **Objective:** To give right price of crops to farmers

MEANING OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

- Bhav means price
- Antar means difference, the difference between the current price of crop and base price fixed by the state government.
- Bharpai means compensation if farmers will sell below base price state government will compensate.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

- In this Yojana, a state government will first try and fix a minimum support price or base price of vegetables for farmers because due to natural or artificial disasters, farmers do not get the right price for their crop.
- A state government will fix base price for each and every crop which is grown in the state.
- It means if farmers sell their vegetable below certain price or at a very low price, this yojana will directly benefit state farmers to the price difference for crop yielded if farmers sell their crop at a low price than the minimum support price fixed by the state government. So, under this yojana, farmers will at least get the least base price.
- The aim of this scheme is to give a common and real price to farmers for their crop.
- Currently, this yojana covers only four crops that are Potato, tomato, onion and Cauliflower.
- To avail benefit for this yojana, farmers have to register online by understanding yojana procedure for the betterment of price otherwise farmers will not get the benefit without online registration.
- To make sure the selling price of crop and do not put farmers in distress situation by giving price which is at least same to cultivation cost.
- A state government aim to bring 25% of the total cultivable area under horticulture.
- This yojana will give relief to state farmers and protect against hazards up to the cost price of a crop so that they will do not bear lose at least.

FOR EXAMPLE

- If Government decided a fixed price of Red chilly Rs10 per kg as a base price and Farmer sold his Red chilly at Rs 7 then the state government will give Rs 3 as compensation.

FEATURES OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

TO EMPOWER FARMERS

- This scheme will empower farmers and ensure that they will at least do not lose the investment they did.

COVER ALL FARMERS

- This scheme is applicable to all farmers who grow modern or traditional crops.

FIXED MONETARY BENEFITS

- Under this scheme, the state government will give the fixed price decided as a base price which directly transferred to farmer's account by calculating the difference between selling price and base price.
-

ENCOURAGE FOR INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

- This scheme will guarantee in case if the actual price is not realized, so farmers can take a risk and try some innovative farming seeds and use some new technology.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Documents required under this yojana are listed below.

- Bank Passbook,
- Aadhar Card,
- Passport Size photograph,
- Voter ID
- Address Proof

NORTH EAST SPECIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

KEY INFORMATION:

Launched on: 15th December 2017

Launched by: The Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region

Objective: To develop North Eastern states

FOCUSED SECTORS

The NESIDS will broadly include a conception of infrastructure and focus on major two sectors which are as under.

1) PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- NESIDS will focus on Physical infrastructure which includes water supply, power supply, digital connectivity, transportation and especially the projects which promote tourism.

2) SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- NESIDS will also focus on social Infrastructure sectors like education sector, health and medical sector, housing condition and poverty and sanitation etc.

FACTS OF NORTH EAST SPECIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- NESID Scheme is 100% funded by the central government with a total budget up to Rs 500 crore.
- The scheme period is 3 years from 2017 to 2020 so this will help to complete on-going projects successfully and effectively.
- The scheme totally focuses on fulfilling the infrastructure gap in a specific and potential sector.
- NESIDS will not only extend facility in physical and social infrastructure sector but also promote tourism which results in employment in the region.
- NESIDS will work as a catalyst in the overall expansion of the area in a short period.
- A special subsidy of Rs 264.67 crore is given to the special four industrial units in North Eastern area. This will not only give grounds to active units but also raise the spirit of current investors as well as potential investors in North Eastern area.
- It will benefit North Eastern states like Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- This scheme will speed up the projects which are stuck for years due to some reasons.
- This scheme will promote, encourage and benefit handicraft business, Handloom Development Corporation and North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation.
- This scheme will benefit more than 115 districts of North Eastern states which are really underdeveloped.
- This scheme aims to build connectivity of 3800 kilometres of a national highway within 3 years and out of it 1200 kilometres of road connectivity has been already constructed.
- A Rail connectivity of 1385 kilometres is targeted to develop within two to three years under Bharatmala and aims to bring all states on Rail map.
- To develop state, several bilateral projects have been signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh which includes the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, the Rih-Tedim Road Project and Border Haats.
- This will improve the scope of an economic link; add economic growth and expansion of North-Eastern states.
- Bamboo is a livelihood source of lakhs of North Eastern people and there is no permission to sell it beyond territory limit so now target is to ease rules and regulation. So, this will ultimately result in doubling income of farmers by 2022.
-

ALL ABOUT TUIRIAL HYDRO-POWER PROJECT

- A 60 Mega Watt Tuirial Hydro-power Project is a second one which was assigned to the North Eastern region after the first one passed before 13 years. This is the first large Hydro-power project approved in Mizoram which produces 251 Million Units of electrical energy each year and promotes the socio-economic expansion of the State.
- This will make Mizoram third power-surplus State after Sikkim and Tripura in North Eastern Area.
- The aim of this project is not just to make North Western States power surplus but also to supply surplus power to the deficit states.

PRASAD SCHEME LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM

VISION:

- To start a national mission for revitalization and religious development of important spiritual destination.
- To place tourism as an important generator of economic extension and employment.
- To improve tourist attractiveness of the spiritual destination in a sustainable way.
- To extend and fill the gap between infrastructural facility.
- To increase security and safety of pilgrims and to raise the quality of tourist services.

MISSION:

- To recognize and develop pilgrim tourist place on the principal of high tourist visits, competitiveness, sustainability in a unified manner by synergizing attempts to focus on requirements and interests of all tourists to supplement spiritual tourist destination and enhance job creation.

OBJECTIVES:

- United improvement of pilgrims destination in an organized, prioritized and a sustainable manner, to give total divine tourist experience.
- Gear pilgrims tourism for its immediate and multiplier impact on job creation and economic expansion.
- Develop the community-based expansion and pro-poor tourism concept in the expansion of the spiritual destination.
- To leverage public capital and expertise.
- To form world-class infrastructure in a spiritual destination.

- To generate awareness in the local community about the significance of tourism in terms of income, quality of life, living standard and overall expansion of a place.
- To promote regional art, talent, culture, handicrafts, creation, cuisine and much more.
-

STRATEGY OF PRASAD (PILGRIMAGE REJUVENATION AND SPIRITUAL AUGMENTATION DRIVE) SCHEME

- To classify spiritual destination which has a potential to be a world-class tourist destination?
- To assure that the expansion of these destinations which has sustainability and supporting capacities of the destinations?
- To create a structure for analysing infrastructure gaps in the identified places.
- To design in a combined manner the expansion of this destination in a special timeframe ensuring full concurrence of state and central government schemes as well as private sector investments.
- To classify and prioritized outlines which need to be taken up by dedicated public funding directly and to get additional sources of a voluntary fund from a public and private sector.
- To ensure a wide area development method for securing all the facilities required by the tourist in the recognized destinations.
- To agree and organize the expansion process for classified projects centrally.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRASAD SCHEME

- PRASAD scheme was announced during the union budget 2017-2018.
- The government will set special tourism zones with five states and this special zone will work as special purpose vehicles.
- It will boost an image of India in a foreign country and for this, an incredible 2.0 campaign launched.
- A total budget for this is Rs 100 allocated by the government and Rs 412 crore is specially funded to promote and make publicity of various schemes and programmes.
- Along with ministry of tourism, a ministry of railways also started to promote Prasad scheme by launching especially dedicated train.
- PRASAD scheme will focus on improvement and beautification of the classified pilgrimage destinations.
- A drive is on the advancement of that particular path or circuit which consists of many theological places in a state.

- Under this scheme, The ministry of tourism initially aims to cover 25 cities which are Ajmer From Rajasthan, Amritsar from Punjab, Amravati from Andhra Pradesh, Dwarka from Gujarat, Gaya from Bihar, Kamakhya from Assam, Kancheepuram from Tamil Nadu, Kedarnath from Uttarakhand, Mathura from Uttar Pradesh, Patna from Bihar , Puri from Odisha, Varanasi from Uttar Pradesh, Vellankani from Tamil Nadu, Ayodhya from Uttar Pradesh, Badrinath from Uttarakhand, Belur from West Bengal, Deoghar from Jharkhand, Guruvayur from Kerala, Hazratbal and Katra from Jammu & Kashmir , Omkareshwar from Madhya Pradesh, Somnath from Gujarat, Srisailam and Tirupati from Andhra Pradesh and Trimbakeshwar from Maharashtra.
- To recognize new places under the PRASAD scheme is an endless process subject to sources available and programme outlines.

CIRCUIT THEMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION OF SPIRITUAL DESTINATION.

Dr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Tourism & Culture stated that committee has classified 13 themes on which a spiritual place is identified, selected and developed and in addition, a ministry has also planned to add 8 Waterway Cruise Circuits which will include rivers out of this 5 is based on the Ganga and remaining is on the Brahmaputra.

The list of a circuit is listed below.

- The Himalayan Circuit
- The Coastal Circuit
- The North-East India Circuit
- The Buddhist Circuit
- The Desert Circuit
- The Krishna Circuit
- The Tribal Circuit
- The Ramayana Circuit
- The Spiritual Circuit
- The Eco Circuit
- The Heritage Circuit
- The Wildlife Circuit
- The Rural Circuit



SCHEME FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TEXTILES SECTOR

KEY INFORMATION:



Launched On: 20th December 2017

Launched By: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

Approved by: The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Scheme period: from 2017 - 2018 to 2018-2019

Objective: In order to provide a constant supply and boost skilled workers in a labour-intensive textile sector.

BACKGROUND

- This pilot scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Textiles in the last two years of 11th Five Year Plan.
- This scheme's first phase was first estimated during the 12th five-year plan with a budget of Rs 1900 crore was allocated to train 15 lakh individuals.
- The first phase pilot project costs Rs 272 crore out of which a contribution of Rs 229 crores by a government with a target to encourage and provide skills training to 16 lakh persons.
- This scheme approaches the gap of skilled manpower in textile sector by sector oriented training schedules.
- This scheme is implemented by three components where a high punch is given to public-private partnership mode.
- A partnership with a foreign company will give the latest training, demand driven technology to develop the textile sector.

- Till date, under this scheme, a target is to provide training to 10.84 lakh people will get training and out of which 10.12 lakh have been appraised and 8.05 lakhs have been placed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TEXTILES SECTOR (SCBTS)

- Institutions of Ministry of Textiles
- Training institutions relevant to the textile sector
- Textile Industry

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHEME FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TEXTILES SECTOR (SCBTS)

- This skill development programme will cover the whole value string of the textile industry which includes Spinning and Weaving in established Sector.
- Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector will cost a budget of Rs 1300 crores for a period of 2017 to 2019.
- SCBTS will follow National Skill Qualification Framework with funding measures notified by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- The main aim of SCBTS is to give provide demand-driven, employment oriented skilling programme to motivate struggles in the sector to create jobs in a textile industry.
- It aims to upgrade skilled training in a traditional sector and to give subsistence by the ministry of textiles.
- The SCBTS will be implemented all over India and give benefits to all sections of society like Rural, urban, LWE affected, North East and Jammu & Kashmir.
- A preference will be given to all communities like SC, ST, differently abled, minorities and other vulnerable groups.
- In an XII five year plan, training was given to 10 lakh people and out of which 1 lakh are from traditional sector.

STRATEGY ADOPTED TO FOLLOW THIS SCBTS

- Job training is based on the gap defined in skill at different levels like courses related to entry-level, courses related to Up-skilling or re-skilling, Recognition of Prior Learning and Entrepreneurship Development training.
- Section wise requirement of skill needs to be revised from time to time by consulting with a sector.
- In an era of digitalization, a web-based monitoring system is approved to steer each phase of the implementation of the scheme.
- Skill necessity in traditional sectors like handlooms, handicrafts, jute, silk etc. is considered to be special plans.

- Skill up gradation is strengthened further by providing MUDRA loans under entrepreneurial development programme.
- To measure progress and consequences, trainees will be appraised and a certificate is given by an accredited Assessment Agency.
- At least 70% of the certified trainees are to be taken into wage employment and post placement tracking is compulsory.
- To support women employment in the textile sector, all institutes are required to follow the guidelines and must protect from Sexual Harassment.

SAMEEP – 'STUDENTS AND MEA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME'

KEY INFORMATION:

Launched On: 19th December 2017

Launched At: New Delhi

Launched By: The Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

Objective: SAMEEP is an overreach mission which aims to take Indian external policy and its global commitments to students beyond the country and also see at diplomacy as a career option.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SAMEEP

- The main aim of this plan is to make school and college students of India familiar with activities of how the union ministry of External Affairs works.
- This programme will precede students with a fundamental of Indian foreign policy and its progress and achievements.
- This programme will help students to think about voyage as a career option because in India, there is less or no much information regarding this job and that is the main theme of this whole initiate.
- The union minister of external affairs spoke person stated that the main aim is to join with students from the grassroots level so that they can think from the beginning.
- The union ministry of external affairs started this initiative to take a foreign policy to the mass and talk to students to understand foreign policy in a better way.
- This will help students to know India's place around the globe and how the ministry of external affairs Fulfil its purposes by coping with the foreign countries.
- This will give a prospect of a job in a foreign country and it also gives knowledge about how foreign relations are developed, formed and maintained.
- In a digital era, the union ministry of external affairs has started an interactive program named "Ask the Spokesperson" on social media because nowadays youth are more

engaged with smartphones and social pages.so, this will easy for the students as well as for the union ministry to run this operation more smoothly and effectively.

- The team will give all answers related to this programme and perspectives of foreign policy to anyone.
- A name SAMEEP was chosen from 550 entries which were obtained by free entries to the My Government portal.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- This is an optional arrangement for the MEA officials, for secretary and for students with an option to move back to school or college. It is totally free and free from obligation to join in this initiative those who are interested can participate in the programme.
- Under this initiative, the ministry of external affairs officials who will take leave and go to their alma mater and try to engage with any school and college students.
- Their role would be to involve school and college students for a diplomacy job and give them a knowledge in detail or give a brief view of how Indian Government engages with the global country, external policy preferences and how in real diplomacy administered.
- Under this programme, the union ministry of external affairs will present an official presented pattern for the implementation and if officials will find something new or didn't feel this pattern for the progress then they are allowed to make a change or improvise it and supplement their own skill, expertise and practical exercises.
- These officers communicate how MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS runs foreign policy of India, and how to do work of Diplomacy so that students will get an idea for a career option.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-24 AND MISSION SAMPARK

KEY INFORMATION:

Launched On: 1st December 2017

Launched At: New Delhi

Launched By: Anupriya Patel, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Organized by: The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective: To eradicate HIV/AIDS by 2030

To track those who are left to follow up and are to be taken under Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services.

ATTENDEES OF THE OCCASION

- Dr Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health),
- Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, AS & DG (NACO),
- Mr Alok Saxena, JS (NACO),
- Dr Billali Camara, Country Coordinator,
- UNAIDS,
- Dr Benk Henkedam,
- WHO Country Representative to India

FACTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-24 AND MISSION SAMPARK

- National Strategic Plan 2017-24 and Mission SAMPARK were organized on the occasion of World AIDS DAY.
- The aim is to bring more awareness and make people more aware about these diseases and bring people forward by accepting the situation and try to come out of it but not by ignoring it.
- The aim is not to eradicate a disease just from India by 2030 but from the world because it is a global disease and tries not to lose more lives due to carelessness.
- Now, the main task is to find out those who are positive HIV (PLHIVs) but are left from the services and need to bring all those to this service. This is the main aim of launching this new mission SAMPARK under the National Strategic Plan 2017-24.
- A "Community Based Testing" is a service which takes HIV test close to those who are in need and it will help to fast track to those who are HIV positive and link them to Antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- So, the goal is set for the next years and in all these years investments are going to make in services, medicines and in doctors will result at the end of the goal.
- A primary focus area is to prevent infection and especially from mother to new born baby because this dual infection will cause two types of infection that are
 - 1) Mother to child transmission of HIV
 - 2) Mother to child transmission of syphilis
- To eradicate HIV/AIDS and to spread out to people in a society to test and direct them, an act named HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, 2017 has been passed by the government. This act is people-centric, uniform in character protect to those who are discriminated in a society. This law will legally protect those who are HIV positive from a community, medical, educational, job and monetary unfairness.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-24 AND MISSION SAMPARK

This initiative is based on three poles

1) TO PREVENT

- To prevent diseases in highly affected and among the symptom population, a stipulation of services like condoms, needle syringes, Opioid Substitution Treatment, link to HIV testing facility and Health check-ups for STIs.

2) TO CARE-COUNSELLING

- Open counselling is provided to people.

3) TREATMENT

A treatment is given to all affected by 537 Antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres and 1108 link Antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres

- Currently, 11.5 lakhs of people who are positive HIV (PLHIVs) and for all this 536 Antiretroviral therapy (ART) are set all across the nation which treats affected ones.
- A strategy 90:90:90 set to end AIDS disease by the end of the year 2030 which means 90% of all positive HIV/AIDS, provide a facility of Antiretroviral therapy to 90% all those who are diagnosed and achieve result by suppression of 90% of all those who are treated by 2020.
- A Mission SAMPARK will further aid to will help in fast-tracking the identification of all who were HIV positive and subsequently linking to the ART program.

EXAMS Today
SAHAFAT FINANCE SCHEME

KEY FACTS

Launched on: 14th December 2017

Launched at: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

Launched by: Jammu and Kashmir Launched by Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed

Objective: To give easy and hassle-free finance or loan to media professionals who are working in a state

HIGHLIGHTS OF SAHAFAT FINANCE SCHEME

- The aim behind launching this scheme is to make strong and sustaining channel of media in Jammu and Kashmir State and to fulfil a professional desire of Journalists or media persons and agents of Newspaper, editors or media businesses.
- This scheme covers all the media professional and benefits in the journalist's field like periodicals, newspapers, TV media, journals and circulars.

- This scheme also inspires, encourage and empower young blood in a state to opt in journalism field as a profession and it also motivates and supports to local journalists to work better.
- By launching this scheme, a state government wants to give equal emphasis to journalism field among other professions.
- This scheme will give financial benefit keeping in mind the level of risk associated with the profession and struggles by the journalists.
- Sahafat Finance Scheme is totally managed and executed by Jammu and Kashmir bank in a state and it is available to each journalist by fulfilling eligibility criteria.
- Journalists use this amount to purchase a photographic and many other professional tools like camera, Laptop, computer, journals, tablet PC and so on.
- There is no priority for anyone, an equal chance is given to all those who are working in the journalism field.

LOAN DETAIL

- Each journalist will get a minimum amount of Rs 50,000 to 3, 00,000.
- A repayment of the loan amount is set in 60 Equally Monthly Instalments to make it simple and convenient to all.
- A bank also gives Credit limit and loan facility at a cheap interest rate along with 4 lakh insurance facility with a minimum premium of Rs 342 yearly.
- A loan amount is divided into two segments like 75% of the total loan amount of three lakh is approved and the rest 25% is extended for a cash credit.
- A loan amount is available at a 3.4% at Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate and cash credit at 1Yr MCLR+3.4% (floating) with one year.
- A processing charge is of Rs200 plus GST and no penalty for repayment of prepayment of a loan amount.

QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES:

- An employed journalist is described by the act 1955 of working journalists and other Newspaper employees and Miscellaneous Provisions or a Media person whose professional work is to report or edit news for radio channel, TV channel or a web-based channel and worked as a full-time or part-time.
- An employed person either may be a news editor, reporter, photographer, cameraman, photojournalist, stringer journalists, manager or administrator or a supervisor.
- A person is eligible only when he or she is an employee of media or newspapers business which has at least distribution of 2000 prints on a daily basis or a weekly or a monthly.

- A person must have an Employees of Media businesses or Newspapers or TV media or Radio channels or Magazines with at least 3 years of service.
- A person who wants to finance under this scheme must have a salary account with Jammu and Kashmir bank for minimum 6 months prior to it.
- Minimum age of the applicant is 16 years and maximum age limit is 65 years.

UDYOG AADHAR MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION

- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has notified the Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM) under the MSMED Act, 2006 in order to promote ease of doing business for the MSMEs.

BACKGROUND



- The micro, small and medium enterprises need to be registered under MSME for enjoying the benefits provided under various government schemes to the industry. A large chunk of enterprises in India do not register themselves under MSME due to the cumbersome paperwork involved in the entire process and therefore they cannot avail the benefits of the government schemes.
- The panel on financing the MSME sector, headed by K.V Kamath, had recommended that the registration of these enterprises should be universalized.
- Therefore to make these schemes effective for these enterprises and to ease the process of registrations, the government introduced the concept of Udyog Aadhar Memorandum.
- Udyog Aadhar Memorandum would ensure the wider coverage of MSMEs to avail benefits under various schemes of Central and State governments.

SALIENT FEATURES OF UAM

- Udyog Aadhar Memorandum is a one-page registration form for the micro, small and medium enterprises to get registered under the MSME.
- Earlier EM-1 and EM-2(Entrepreneur's Memorandum-Part 1 and 2) forms were used which included a lot of documentation process. Now, this Udyog Aadhar memorandum serves as a replacement for these forms.
- It constitutes a self-declaration format under which the MSME will self-certify its existence and other minimum information required.

- The Ministry of MSME has set up an online portal called Udyog Aadhar Portal ([Click Here](#)) for online filling of UAM by the enterprises.
- Udyog Aadhar registration has enabled the enterprises to seek information about various services offered by all Ministries and Departments simply by using Udyog Aadhar Number.
- More than one Udyog Aadhar can be filed using the same Udyog Aadhar Number.
- This new system Of Udyog Aadhar is capable of delivering assured ease of doing business in the MSME sector. India's rank in the Ease of Doing Business has improved this time, UAM is one of the reasons.
- Approximately 92 percent of the adult population in India is already registered under Aadhar. So enterprise can easily register themselves through UAM.

OTHER RELATED FACTS

MSME (MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES)

- Small industries have always had an important role in the overall planning framework in India. In the Industrial policy resolutions, the smaller sector was given a special role for creating employment with low capital investment.
- The small industries contributed to the overall growth and have provided employment to the relatively unskilled and vulnerable section of the society.
- The small-scale industries were earlier known as the Village and Small Enterprise but in 2006 a new legislation MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Development Act was enacted which defined micro, small and medium enterprises.
- The medium enterprises were introduced for the first time in 2006.

NEW DEFINITIONS OF THESE ENTERPRISES

- After the MSMED Act of 2006, new definitions were to all these industries.
- Micro Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in the plant and machinery does not exceed Rs25 lakh.
- Small Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in the plant and machinery is more than Rs25 Lakh but does not exceed Rs5 crore.
- Medium Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in the plant and machinery is more than Rs5 crore but does not exceed Rs10 crore.
- Service Sector- As the service sector has a lower investment requirement, it has different classification criteria-
- Micro Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in equipment does not exceed Rs10 lakh
- Small Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in equipment is more than Rs10 lakh but does not exceed Rs2 crore

- Medium Enterprise- Enterprises where the investment in equipment is more than Rs2 crore but does not exceed Rs5 crore

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

KEY FACTS

Launched at: Atal Tinkering Lab's Community Day in New Delhi

Organized By: NITI Ayog

AIM:

- To make an attempt to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- To provide a stage to promote world-class innovation hubs, grand challenges, start-up businesses and many other self-employment activities especially in technology driven areas.

MANAGE BY

- All Decisions related to this mission will be taken by High-Level Committee and decisions may be like approval of necessary guidelines, prize money and implementation of many components of Atal Innovation Mission.
- A mission Director and other competent manpower will be hired by NITI Ayog

BACKGROUND:

- This innovation mission is set to boost the ecosystem and to catalyse entrepreneurial vitality in the country.
- In a budget of the financial year 2015-16, Finance minister stated to set up Atal Innovation Mission and to achieve this mission a tool named "SETU" (Self-Employment and Talent Utilization) will be set up.
- A budget for AIM is Rs 500 and for SETU is of Rs 100 crore which is set by the NITI Ayog.
- As a result of the announcement, NITI Ayog established a committee of Professional on innovation and Entrepreneurship under the chairmanship of Prof. Tarun Khanna, Director, South Asia Institute, Harvard University.
- Detailed outlines of AIM and SETU determined by the USA experts.

- A committee suggested a three-stage plan to achieve a goal like a short-term plan, a mid-term plan, and a long-term plan.
- A committee also indicated a clear system to implement, evaluate, monitor and control.
- Atal innovation mission is an umbrella scheme which is divided into two subparts
- Innovation
- SETU(Self-Employment and Talent Utilization)

CORE FUNCTIONS OR OBJECTIVES OF ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

1) PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY SETU

In this, innovators will be encouraged and guided to be prosperous entrepreneurs.

2) INNOVATION PROMOTION

A platform is provided where unique ideas will be generated

To achieve these two core functions, ATAL INNOVATION MISSION has set different compartments.

1) ATAL INCUBATION CENTRES

- It aims to invent and encourage incubation centres all over the nation which promote start-ups and innovators in different sectors like production, transportation, energy, well-being, learning, farming, water and cleanliness and to furnish necessary infrastructural facilities and many other value-added services. The AICs will create world-class incubation facilities and create scalable and sustainable enterprises with capital equipment, experts for mentoring the start-ups, business planning support, initial fund, business partners, training and many other elements for encouraging innovative start-ups.
- Higher educational institutions, R&D institutes, corporate sector, alternative investment funds registered with SEBI, business accelerators, group of people, and people are eligible to apply.
- AIM provides assistance of Rs 10 crore to each Atal Incubation Centres for five years to cover capital and operational expenditure.
- For the AIC, the applicant will have to provide at least 10,000 sq. ft. for use.

2) ATAL TINKERING LABORATORIES

- Through this medium, a goal is to Cultivate one Million School children in India as innovators.
- The aim is to promote curiosity, creativity, intelligence, invention, designing, learning, computing in growing child.

- ATL provides a platform where a shape is given to ideas and skills and children will get an opportunity to work with tools and equipment for the basics of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, electronics, robotics, open source microcontroller boards, sensors and 3D printers, video conference facility.
- AIM provides Rs 10 lakh for a period of 5 years.

3) SCALE UP SUPPORT TO ESTABLISHED INCUBATION CENTRES (EIC)

- To build world-class incubation centres all over India by providing infrastructural support and specialists to guide start-up businesses and improve an ecosystem by establishing a link among incubation centres, Universities and corporates. This will provide financial scale-up support to qualified Incubation Centres.
- EIC must have been in working status for at least 3 years and it must be recorded in India as a public, private or public-private partnership.
- AIM will give assistance of Rs 10 crores in more than two instalments.
- The main purpose of EIC is to increase the capacity of qualified and settled centres.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

- NITI Ayog is going to launch a strategic nation-building initiative name "Mentor India Campaign" to guide and mentor more than 900 students in Atal Tinkering Labs.
- Labs are non-prescriptive by nature and mentors are supposed to behave like instructors.
- Leaders who will spend one to two hours on each week in labs to empower experience of students, study and exercise future skills like a design.
- A core intention of the tinkering labs is to give chance to students and children to learn the joy of experimentation and learning and for this government is providing aids to

students, young entrepreneurs and small businesses and this will make ecosystem strong and efficient.

- ATL provides a platform where students of class 6th to 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas which will transform India.
- ATL has a target to set and join more than 900 schools all over India and target is to join 2000 schools at the end of 2017.
- The idea behind launching this mission is to build and develop which starts from a growing age.
- To make this mission effective and bring a fruitful result, more than 30 corporate leaders from top Indian companies have signed as a representative.
- Mentors are going to cover areas like technical know-how, reformation and design, giving motivation, and business and entrepreneurship.
- Mentors are going to discuss problems of our society and how to overcome it by innovative ideas.
- These mentors are working as volunteers who will get a digital certificate of recognition.

LIST OF MENTORS

- Vijay Shekhar Sharma, co-founder of Paytm
- Bhavish Aggarwal, Ola co-founder
- Zivame founder, Richa Kar
- Amitabh Kant, Niti Aayog CEO
- Deep Kalra (founder of Make My Trip)
- ICICI MD and CEO Chanda Kochar,
- Mobikwik co-founder Bipinpreet Singh,
- NEarbuy founder Ankur Warikoo,

DEEN DAYAL DIVYANGJAN SASHAY SCHEME

Launched on: 3rd December 2017, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Launched by: Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu

Venue: At Sorousajai Stadium in Guwahati, Assam

Differently able people Known As: Divyanjans.

OBJECTIVE:

- To give an equal priority and reverence to the physically challenged persons and to inspire pride in the disabled persons
- To end the stigmatization and biases with the disabled persons
- To change the mind set of people towards those who are differently abled persons and try to give a superior life
- To give financial sustenance to the disable people for the treatment

WHAT IS A DISABILITY?

- A disability can be defined as a person, who is disabled by physical, conscious, cognitive, rational, mental illness, and many other types of diseases related to it and this scheme will cover 21 types of the disease.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEEN DAYAL DIVYANGJAN SAHAJYA SCHEME

- During the launch of an event, the vice president of India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Chief Minister of Assam state Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, the Governor of the state Shri Jagadish Mukhi and Naba Kumar Doley has given financial assistance to the 7 disabled people to initiate scheme and celebrate international days for disabled people.
- A Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sahajya Scheme will benefit more than 4.5 lakhs of disable people in the state and the budget for this scheme is Rs 250 crore from the state government and the rest is shared by the central government.
- Through this scheme Rs 5000 will be given to the beneficiary to treat his disability and it is a one-time financial assistance.
- To avail benefit of this Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sahajya Scheme, a disabled person must have a unique identity card which is certified by the competent authority.
- To support the Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sahajya Scheme, A Assam government has proposed a new Act named " Assam Employees PRANAM act, 2017" and under this new act, each and every government employee of the Assam state have to share 10 percent of his salary to take care of his family member or any other people who are physically disable.
- This scheme will bring an equal opportunity to the Divyangs and the vice president of the Government of India said that to make sure about all the government places and services are open for the Divyangjan so that they will always get an equal chance to do.

- There will be a phase to implement give benefit to the disabled person and under the phase, the Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sahajya Scheme will give financial assistance to the 1 lakh disable people for the treatment.
- During the launching of the Deen Dayal Divyangjan Sahajya Scheme, the vice president of India also give weight to the banks to give financial help by making the process of financial aid very clear and accessible way.
- The benefit given under this scheme is a one-time grant and money granted under this scheme must be used for the treatment of disability and not other than this'
- A differently able people who have no money for the treatment will get a chance to take benefit of all basic requirements
- The target in this scheme to reach to the disabled people and make payment up to 40.5 lakh chosen claimants
- Suggestions and Complaints regarding this scheme like enrolled in the scheme but payment not done, is taken at the state level

ANALYSES OF MID-TERM FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-20

WHAT IS A FOREIGN TRADE?

- A foreign trade is also known as the External trade, International trade or an inter-regional trade and it is a trade between various countries of the market.
- When a country that gets an inflow of the goods and services is called an import trade and the one who sent the outflow of the Commerce, and services is called Export trade.

WHAT IS FOREIGN TRADE POLICY?

- Foreign trade policy is a set of rules, regulations and procedure which have to be followed in the international trade.

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched a new foreign policy for the period of 2015 to 2020 on April 1, 2015, before this period a foreign trade policy is called an EXIM (Export-Import) policy.
- This policy aims to strengthen the potential of export business and performance, to support and build a positive balance of payments.

REVIEW OF MID-TERM FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

- A mid-term foreign trade policy is reviewed on 5th December 2017 by Suresh Prabhu, the Minister of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi.
- At the time of review of foreign trade policy, there are many other ministers from the different ministries like Shri CR Chaudhary (Minister of State for Commerce and Industry), Shri Hasmukh Adhia (Finance Secretary), Smt. Rita Teatota (Commerce Secretary), Shri Ramesh Abhishek (Secretary Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion) and Shri Alok Chaturvedi (Director General of Foreign Trade).
- To promote foreign trade policy, The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has increased annual incentives for labour-intensive or a medium and small enterprise MSME by 2% which amounts to more than 8000 crores of rupees.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REVIEW OF FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015 - 2020

1) GOODS AND SERVICES RELATED REFORMS

- Due to Goods and services tax, there is a big issue of blockage of working capital in the business and it affects foreign trade also. So, an export promotion of capital goods board has unveiled a plan which will benefit a trade whether a domestic or an international 100 per cent and to make this plan active, an E-WALLET is going to be launched on 1st April 2018. Exporters can pay 1% of exported goods and services.

2) REPOSITIONING EXPORT STRATEGY

- To increase India's share in the international market by exploring new market and by goods and services through sharpened policy
- To leverage the perks of goods and services tax and facilitate trade by the ease of doing business.
- To observe export performance and quickly review it by analysing and taking corrective steps.
- To promote exports by small-scale industry or from an agricultural sector through the global value chain.

3) ENCOURAGING EXPORTS BY MSMES AND LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

- To promote MSMEs and labour intensive industry, The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced some incentives which are as under.
- For MSMEs, incentives are at 2%, 3 %, 4% and 5% of the amount of foreign trade export.
- For Textile industry, incentives are raised from 2% to 4% which amounts to Rs 2743 crore.

- For Business, Legal, Accounting, Architectural, Engineering, Educational, Hospital, Hotels and Restaurants, incentives are increased by 2% above the existing rate which amounts to 1140 crore.
- Duty Credit Scrips validity period increased from 18 months to 24 months and rate of transfer or sale of scrips reduced from 12% to 0%.

4) NEW TRUST BASED SELF RATIFICATION SCHEME FOR DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF RAW MATERIAL

- This scheme allows duty-free export with a self-declaration it means, there is no need to go to the norms committee for the approval but instead of it an exporter by himself certify for it.
- This scheme will initially for the Authorized Economic Operators only who deals in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, engineering and in high technology products.

5) CONTACT@DGFT SERVICE FOR TRADE FACILITATION

- A DGFT website www.dgft.gov.in is launched to solve the issues related to the foreign trade and solve it promptly with an ease.
- This portal helps Importer as well Exporter to track the status and chance to give an opinion.

6) TRADE FACILITATION

- A trade facilitation committee is set under cabinet secretary who includes all outlines like clarity, technology, simplification of procedures, risk-based assessment and infrastructure development.
- A committee will mainly focus on the four sections
 - 1) Infrastructure
 - 2) Legal issues
 - 3) Outreach
 - 4) Time Release Study
- 7) New Logistics Division
- It will help to expand and organize the implementation of the integrated development of logistic sector by making improvement in policy, present rules and regulations and current technology.

8) STATE-OF-THE-ART TRADE ANALYTICS

- This department is set to analyse database policy action and initiate trade information related to national and international import-export database.

9) EXPLORING NEW EXPORT MARKETS

- Under this, a new market with a high level of potential to grow and expand will be covered in various sectors like healthcare, education, agro processing, manufacturing, mining, textiles, consumer goods, infrastructure development and construction.

10) EXPLORING NEW EXPORT PRODUCTS

- In this, a range of products included like medical devices or equipment, technical textile, electronic component, project goods, defense and hi-tech products.
- Medium and Small scale industry cover products like agricultural products, marine products, carpets products, leather products, Ayush and health products, textiles products and readymade garments, handloom products, handicrafts products, jute products, diamond, gold and jewelry.

11) GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS

- This will help to facilitate by focusing on automating port and customs operations, allows green channel clearances and benchmarking the shipping time.

12) SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

- Now, PAN card is also used for IEC procedure and the process of export obligation period extension, a block-wise extension, movement of capital goods from one unit of the IEC owner to another is assigned to the regional offices.

13) ENHANCED VALUE LIMIT ON THE FREE OF COST (FOC) EXPORTS

- A free of cost export promotion is sectioned under an annual export limit of 1 crore or 2% of an average annual export realized in the previous three years, whichever is minimum.
- For pharmaceutical sector, a limit is 2% of the annual export and for the government sector; a limit is up to 8% which is realized in the previous three years.

14) CAPACITY BUILDING

- In this, an importance is given to new entrepreneurs for exports and for this, a programme named Niryat Bandhu is followed by DGFT.
- Under Department of Commerce, there are various institutions like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Indian Institute of Packaging, Indian Institute of Plantation, Export Promotion Councils, Centres of Excellence and Plantation Research Institutes.

BHARAT 22 EXCHANGE TRADED FUND

WHAT IS EXCHANGE TRADED FUND?

- Exchange traded funds are the open-ended marketable securities which track securities like commodity, bonds and index fund and to give results of the performance of an index.
- Exchange traded fund is same as shares and many other securities and that is why it is also traded in the stock market also and it is a receptive investment approach.
- Exchange traded fund connects the real-time trading benefits and mutual funds benefit.
- It also provides an intra-day trading option along with limit order and stops order limit and margin money trading.

INTRODUCTION:



- BHARAT 22 ETF is an exchange-traded fund which is going to launch in the month of November 2017.
- It was declared in the budget of the financial year 2017-2018 and it is a medium by which the government of India will achieve the end.
- BHARAT 22 ETF will measure the output of the Bharat 22 index service which is made of 22 influencing companies, traded domestically.
- This Bharat 22 index is the 22 companies in which government of India has a high percentage of investment and the government want to lessons the stake in it. So, all in one these 22 companies are the government's current disinvestment companies and the source of revenue.
- Bharat 22 exchange-traded fund will be managed by the India's one of the best and largest private sector mutual fund company that is ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund AMC.

OBJECTIVE:

- To reach the target of disinvestment of Rs 72,500 crore in the financial year 2017-2018.
- To measure the performance of the Bharat 22 index.
- To invest the capital according to the weighted of the investment and return on Bharat 22 index.

- To track the yield on an index and yield on a fund.

DETAILED PORTFOLIO OF BHARAT 22 EXCHANGE TRADED FUND

Company name	Type of industry	Weightage in the index
State bank of India	Financial industry	7.25%
Axis bank Ltd	Financial industry	7.82%
Bank of Baroda	Financial industry	1.22%
Power finance corporation limited	Financial industry	0.99%
Rural electrification corporation ltd.	Financial industry	1.18%
Indian Bank	Financial industry	0.21%
Larsen & Toubro	Industrial sector	16.92%
Bharat Electronics Ltd.	Industrial sector	3.48%
Engineers India Ltd.	Industrial sector	1.44%
NBCC (India) Ltd.	Industrial sector	0.68%
ITC Ltd.	FMCG Industry	14.26%
Power Grid Corporation of India	Utility sector	7.73%
NTPC Ltd	Utility sector	7.07%
Gail India Ltd.	Utility sector	4.25%
NHPC Ltd.	Utility sector	1.08%

NLC India Ltd.	Utility sector	0.27%
SJVN Ltd.	Utility sector	0.23%
Oil & Natural gas Corporation Ltd	Energy sector	5.54%
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Energy sector	5.00%
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd	Energy sector	4.54%
Coal India Ltd.	Energy sector	3.72%
National Aluminium CO. Ltd.	Basic materials	5.13%

CHARACTERISTICS OF BHARAT EXCHANGE TRADED FUND.

EXTENDABLE INVESTMENT:

- Bharat 22 ETF is an extendable investment index which covers all the sectors for the investment purpose like banking, industrial, financial services, energy sector, basic materials, utility sector and fast moving consumer goods and services sector and the fund allocated is directly related to the weight given to the single security which is shown in an index.

COVER THE TOP COMPANIES:

- In Bharat 22 ETF, It covers the largest government companies in terms of market capitalization and all these companies is already listed on the Bombay stock exchange, one of the best stock market of the Indian market.

REAL-TIME TRANSACTIONS:

- Bharat 22 ETF is also traded on the stock market and that is why it uses real-time transactions. Bharat 22 ETF is also traded directly from the ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund AMC.

A HIGH RATE OF RETURN:

- As in Bharat 22 ETF, there are fewer expenses as compared to the other mutual funds and as a result of this; it would yield a higher rate of return on it. Brokerage fees or the redemption charges are charged from the very beginning of the investment. so, it will reduce the burden on later.

REDUCTION TO THE RETAIL INVESTORS:

- As an initial offer, a government of India has offered a 3 percent of discount to the investors who invest less than of Rs 2 lakhs.

TAXATION RULES

- From the taxation point of view, A Bharat 22 ETF is like an equity investment because all investment is in listed companies and as per the taxation rules Exchange traded fund are not applicable under the wealth tax but the gain from it either a short-term or a long-term is considered as per the taxation rule, gain within a 1 year is considered as a short-term gain and more than 1 year is considered as long-term gain.



UNIT 3: CURRENT AFFAIRS

BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS

- The six-member monetary policy committee of RBI has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6% under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) consequently; the reverse repo rate and bank rate also remained unchanged at 5.75% and 6.25% respectively.
- Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards.
- Paytm Unveils 'Paytm Ka ATM' Partner Outlet for Banking Operations also it is the only bank providing zero balance accounts and zero charges on digital transactions.

- Axis Securities, a subsidiary of Axis Bank, has become the first-ever broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
- India's GDP Growth to Rising to 7.5 pc in 2018: Morgan Stanley
- Paytm Payments Bank rolled out Paytm FASTag to enable electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country, from December 1.
- Paytm Acquires Stake in online Loans Firm CreditMate.
- Paytm Introduces BHIM UPI for Seamless Money Transfer.
- India International Exchange (India INX) has received approval from SEBI for the listing of debt securities.
- RBI Imposes Restrictions on Corporation Bank for its Bad Loans Crosses 10%.
- RBI Imposes Rs 3 crore Penalty on IndusInd Bank for break rules on income classification norms.
- SBI Starts State Bank Rewards Scheme.
- RBI Raises FPI Limit Rs 6,400 crore in Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and Rs 5,800 crore in State development loans (SDLs).
- ADB Lowers India's GDP forecast for FY18 to 6.7%.
- WPI Inflation at 8-month High of 3.93% in November.
- RBI Imposes Additional Actions Under PCA on United Bank of India.
- RBI Imposes Rs 5 crore Penalty on Syndicate Bank.
- Government Ropes in ICICI Bank to Enable Cashless Payments on e-NAM.
- IRDAI panel suggests easing of G-Sec rule for insurance companies.
- Yes bank and European Investment Bank announced a co-finance programme of \$ 400mn for the clean power project.
- AU small finance bank joins hand with Sahaj e village for banking service.
- Govt. infuses Rs. 52000 cr in PSBs under Indradhanush Plan.
- SBI Card and Bharat Petroleum launch BPCL SBI card.
- State-Run Banks' NPAs Touched Rs 7.34 Lakh Crore- RBI Data.
- KKR gets RBI Nod to Start India's 1st Foreign-owned ARC.
- Lok Sabha passes Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill, 2017.
- SBI Gets Board Approval to Raise Rs 8,000 crore to Comply Basel III.
- Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) Ties up with HDFC, IndusInd bank for Post Harvest Credit.
- Bank of Baroda Enters into MoU with POORTI Agri Services Pvt. Ltd.
- SEBI Caps Cross-Shareholding in Rating Agencies at 10%.
- Small Savings Schemes' Interest Rates Cut by 20 bps.

APPOINTMENTS

- Preet Dibal has been elected as the mayor of Yuba city in California, who is the first Sikh woman to hold the position in the United States.
- Azar A.H.Khan Appointed Next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.

- London Mayor Names Deepak Parekh as First International Ambassador.
- Swiggy Appoints Vishal Bhatia as CEO of New Supply Business.
- Ellie Goulding Honored as UN Environment Global Goodwill Ambassador.
- Rahul Singh, New President of the National Restaurant Association of India.
- Uma Shankar Appointed RBI Executive Director.
- Rahul Gandhi Elected Indian National Congress President.
- Nakul Chopra Elected as BARC India Chairman.
- Pradeep Singh Kharola Takes Over as Air India CMD.
- Dhammapiya from Tripura has been elected as the new secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- Pradeep Kumar Gupta appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.
- Ravindra Jaiswal appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Sudan.
- M. Subbarayudu appointed as Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru.
- Justice UD Salvi Appointed Officiating Chief of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar retired.
- Airtel Payments Bank CEO Shashi Arora Resigns.
- Apple appoints Michel Coulomb to lead India operations.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres has appointed Henrietta H Fore as the new Executive Director of UNICEF.
- IPS officer Abhay appointed DG of Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Amardeep Singh Bhatia was appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- Sumita Misra appointed as joint secretary in PM's Economic Advisory Council.
- Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as President of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- George Weah Elected Liberian President.

OBITUARIES

- France's biggest rock star Johnny Hallyday passes away.
- Veteran Actor Shashi Kapoor Passes Away.
- Singer Purabi Mukhopadhyay passes away.
- Ali Abdullah Salehi, former Yemen president was killed.
- Music director Adithyan passes away.
- Pioneer of DNA Fingerprinting Lalji Singh Passes Away.
- Actor-Director Neeraj Vora Passes Away.
- Journalist Batuk Gathani passes away.
- Congress leader Chaudhary Prem Singh passes away.
- Bengali Singer Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay Passes Away.
- Jazz and Pop singer Keely Smith passes away.
- Former UP Governor Banwari Lal Joshi passes away.

- Bengali Film Actor Partha Mukhopadhyay Passes Away.
- Music Legend Robbie Malinga Passes Away.
- The creator of Bugs Bunny, Bob Givens, Passes Away at 99.
- Veteran Sports administrator Ashok Mattoo Passes away.

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HONOUR AND AWARDS

- Dangal Wins Best Asian Film Award at AACTA.
- President Ramnath Kovind confers 'National Awards for Divyangjan 2017' on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in New Delhi.
- The 23rd edition of the Star Screen Awards was held at Mumbai.
- itesh Singh Deo Wins Mr India World 2017.
- The School Bag' Wins Best Short Film Award.
- Priyanka Chopra Honoured with Mother Teresa Memorial Award.
- Dr Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates the 'Bodhi Parva'.
- India Wins 5 Medals at 10th Asian Airgun Shooting Championship.
- Vice President Confers 'Yeraringan' Award to M.S. Swaminathan.
- J.K. Rowling Honoured With Royal Companion Of Honour Award.
- Rekha Receives First Smita Patil Memorial Award.
- Shree Saini Crowned Miss India USA 2017.
- Actor Salman Khan has topped the 2017 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list for the second consecutive year with the earning of Rs 232.83 crore.
- Tata Steel Joda East Iron Mine (JEIM) gets Golden Peacock Innovation Award.
- Authors Mamang Dai and Ramesh Kuntal Megh have won this year's Sahitya Akademi award.

- Anushka Sharma Named PETA's Person of the Year.
- Veteran singer K S Chitra has been selected for prestigious 'Harivarasanam' award 2017.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- India's first President Rajendra Prasad 133rd birthday - 03rd December 2017
- World Soil Day: 5 December 2017
- 2017 Theme: 'Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground'.
- International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development – 5th December.
- Theme – Volunteers act first, here, everywhere.
- Armed Forces Flag Day- 07 December
- International Civil Aviation Day – 7th December.
- Theme – Working together to ensure no country is left behind.
- International Mountain Day – December 11
- National Energy Conservation Day: December 14
- Human Rights Day- 10 December, The Campaign is named as #standup4humanrights.
- International Migrants Day: 18 December 2017
- The theme for the year 2017 is "Safe Migration in a World on the Move".
- National Mathematics Day- 22nd December.
- Nation Celebrates Kisan Diwas- 23rd December,
- Birth anniversary of the fifth prime minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- Good Governance Day: 25 December 2017
- The day is celebrated annually since 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

MOUS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- India and Cuba Sign MoU for Enhanced Cooperation in Health Sector.
- Indian and Italy Sign MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary Issues.
- India and Germany Sign Govt- to-Govt Umbrella Agreement.
- Various MoUs Signed between India and Morocco, for corporation in road transport, water resources and the marine sector, enhanced cooperation in healthcare.
- Finance Minister Holds 5th Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting.
- Russia-India-China Foreign Ministers Meet Begins in Delhi.
- 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit Begins in New Delhi.
- ASEAN–India Connectivity Summit held in New Delhi.
- 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue Held in New Delhi.
- India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for \$250 Million for SANKALP Project.
- 7th International Ground Water Conference held in New Delhi.
- Assam Signs MoU with Isha Foundation to Save Rivers.

- Andhra Pradesh Government Signs Agreements With Alphabet X.
- Skill Development Ministry and Maruti Suzuki Sign MoU to support Skill India in the automobile industry.
- India, Myanmar Ink MoU for Development of Rakhine State.
- India signed an agreement with Switzerland for Information Exchange.
- A loan agreement has been signed between India and Germany for Pare Hydroelectric Plant Project.
- Kabul and Mumbai Linked with Second Air Corridor.
- India, World Bank Ink \$40 Million Loan Agreement for UP Tourism.
- UP inks MoU with South Korea in field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
- Government, World Bank ink loan agreement for Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project.
- Amazon Acquires Connected Security Camera Maker 'Blink'.
- IRDAI Norms Allow Insurers to Begin Offshore Business From GIFT IFSC.
- Bilateral Meeting Between External Affairs Minister of India and Jordan Held in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT NEWS- WORLD

- British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding has been appointed as the Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment.
- Venezuela has launched its own cryptocurrency called Petro.
- The US and South Korea have started their largest-ever joint air exercise Vigilant Ace. North Korea has labelled this exercise an "all-out provocation".
- Russia Banned From Winter Olympics 2018.
- A 16-year old boy Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize.
- The Silence Breakers' Named Time's Person of the Year for 2017. The "Silence Breakers" is a group of five women who came forward to share their experiences of sexual assaults and harassment at workplace.
- Cristiano Ronaldo Wins 5th Ballon d'Or 2017.
- ADB Funds \$580 Million for Reliance's Bangladesh Power Plant Project.
- Iranian President Inaugurates First Phase of Chabahar Port.
- Supreme Court Allows Trump's Travel Ban to go into Full Effect.
- USA Now Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital.
- 'Youth quake' Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year.
- Norway Shuts National Broadcasts on FM.
- World Bank to stop funding oil, gas projects from 2019.
- Sri Lanka Hands Over Hambantota Port to China on 99-Year Lease.
- China Starts world's Biggest Floating Solar Project.
- Saudi Arabia Lifts Ban on Movie Theatres after 35 Years.

- AIIB Grants 1st loan to China to Reduce Dependence on Coal.
- 2nd UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture Held in Muscat.
- 11th WTO Ministerial Conference Held in Argentina.
- MIT scientists create plants that can glow in dark.
- Andrej Babis Appointed as new Prime Minister of Czech.
- According to Forbes' annual ranking for the best countries for business in 2018, US is at the top place.
- France Passes Law to Ban all Oil and Gas Production by 2040.
- Sebastian Pinera Wins Chile's Presidential Election.
- World Bank Provides Loans of \$125 Million for STRIVE Project.
- WHO Certifies Gabon as Polio-free.
- Belgium-First Country to Appoint Female Envoy to Saudi Arabia.
- AG600, world's largest amphibious aircraft that is China's home-grown took off from the southern city of Zhuhai.
- India and Afghanistan launch 2nd air cargo route linking Kabul with Mumbai.
- China Launches World's Largest Human Genome Research Project.
- WHO to classify Gaming Disorder as mental health condition.
- World's Longest Glass Bridge Opens in China.
- Modi to be First PM to Attend World Economic Forum in 20 years.

IMPORTANT NEWS INDIA

- The first international conference and exhibition on AYUSH and wellness systems, International Arogya 2017, was inaugurated in Delhi by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- India's largest floating solar power plant in the country at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad was inaugurated by Kerala Electricity Minister M M Mani.
- Clean Sea-2017', the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Minority Status for Hindus: George Kurien Committee Constituted.
- Kumbh Mela, the largest congregation of pilgrims on the planet has secured its place in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.
- One of the seven wonders of the world and the symbol of eternal love Taj Mahal is UNESCO's second-best World Heritage Site in India.
- Amitabh Kant Panel to Tackle NPA in Power Sector.
- 6th International Tourism Mart to Begin in Guwahati.
- India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant Opens in Kerala.
- Kacheguda Railway Station in Hyderabad Becomes India's First Energy-Efficient Railway Station.
- New Delhi Hosts ICOMOS at 19th Triennial General Assembly. The Theme of ICOMOS is "Heritage and Democracy".

- The 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit began in New Delhi.
- Global Prosperity Index: India Ranks 100.
- India ranks 109th in mobile internet speed by Ookla.
- Govt. Launches Door-to-door Campaign against T.B.
- India to Host 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB.
- Railways have introduced Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS), an online bill tracking system for vendors and contractors.
- E-way Bill to be Made Compulsory from February 2018.
- Companies Amendment Bill 2017 Passed by Parliament.
- Lok Sabha Passes Immovable Property Amendment Bill.
- First National Training of trainers programme for Sendai Framework held in New Delhi.
- DARPAN Launched for Financial Inclusion of Rural Population.
- Cabinet Approves Establishing India's 1st National Rail and Transportation University.
- India's First design University Opens in Haryana.
- GST Council Clears e-way Bill Mechanism.
- India has largest diaspora population in the world: UN Report.
- India to Host Meeting of WTO Member Countries on Food Security.
- Russia's Deputy PM Dmitry Rogozin Visits New Delhi.
- Cabinet Approves "Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector".
- MEA Launched SAMEEP to Take Indian Foreign Policy to Students Across Country.
- NGT Bans Plastic Items in Towns Located Along Ganga.
- Indian Railways plans to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.
- NITI Aayog to set up Methanol Economy Fund to promote production and use of the clean fuel.
- Parliament passes Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017.
- India selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee of Kimberley Certification Scheme.
- Govt. approves setting up of 42 Mega food park.
- IACS Developed Hydrogel to Remove Toxic Dyes and Metal Ions.
- Govt Mint Launches High Purity Gold Reference Standard.
- UP launches Prakash Hai to Vikas Hai Scheme.
- Blue Flag Pilot Project Launched for Beach Clean-up.
- President Kovind Inaugurates AP Fibre Grid Project.
- Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017 Passed in Lok Sabha.
- India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off in Mumbai.
- Government launches e-HRMS (electronic-Human Resource Management System).
- Blue Flag pilot project launched for beach clean-up and development.
- India to become fifth largest economy in 2018: Report.
- India's first pod taxi to follow US safety norms.
- Lok Sabha passes GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017.

- Parliament passes Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy Bill, 2017.
- Parliament passes Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill, 2017.
- Government launches Livestock Disease Forewarning–Mobile Application.
- Environment Ministry launches Regional Project to Tackle Stubble Burning.
- President Inaugurated 100th Indian Economic Association Conference.

BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Tencent Becomes First Chinese Tech Firm Valued over \$500 Billion.
- Uber Approves SoftBank Multibillion-Dollar Investment Offer
- PayPal Launches Domestic Payments in India.
- Ola Ties up with Microsoft to Build Connected Vehicle Platform
- ONGC Gets Government Nod for Acquiring HPCL.
- Maruti Suzuki Replaces SBI as 6th Most Valuable Indian Firm.
- OBOPAY Gets Pre-Paid Instrument Licence from RBI.
- Ministry Launched First NIC-CERT a setup of National Informatics Centre to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities in New Delhi.
- ISRO is developing small satellite launch vehicles to launch low-cost small satellites.
- Ola Acquires Food Panda India Business, further invest \$200 million.
- Bharti Airtel to buy Millicom's Operations in Rwanda.
- Quikr Acquires HDFC's Digital, Realty Units in all Stock Deal.
- China has successfully launched its Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2.
- US scientist developed Reservoir computing system developed to help machines to think just like humans.
- China successfully launches remote sensing satellites of Yaogan-30 project.
- 25th National Children Science Congress held in Gujarat.

DEFENCE

- UAE, UK, US and French Armies Hold Joint Exercises in Abu Dhabi
- The Surface to Air Missile AKASH Successfully Launched.
- India has added another feather in its cap of indigenously built missiles by successfully testing surface-to-air Akash missile at Chandipur.
- South Korea, US Launch Largest Air Exercise.
- INS Kalvari: First Scorpene-class submarines inducted in Indian Navy.
- PM Narendra Modi Inducts Scorpene-Class Submarine Kalvari into Indian Navy.
- Exercise Ekuverin 2017: India-Maldives bilateral military exercise held in Belagavi.
- India and Maldives are organising the eighth edition of EKUVERIN joint military exercise in Belagav, Karnataka.
- Hamesha Vijayee Military Exercise Begins in Rajasthan.

NASEEM-AL-BAHR 2017: INDIA, OMAN CONDUCTED NAVAL EXERCISE.

- India Successfully Test-fires Supersonic Interceptor Missile.
- Prithvi supersonic interceptor missile successfully test fired from Odisha.
- ISRO to launch 31 satellites in single mission in January 2018.
- Indo-Maldives Joint Exercise 'Ekuverin' Concludes in Karnataka.

IMPORTANT NEWS- STATES

- Andhra Pradesh Assembly Passes Kapu Reservation Bill.
- UP's Shamli Becomes 23rd District to be Included in NCR.
- The 6th edition of International Tourism Mart 2017 was inaugurated in Guwahati by the Governor of Assam Shri Jagdish Mukhi.
- UP, First State to Endorse Centre's Triple Talaq Draft Bill.
- Kerala to Raise Minimum Liquor Drinking Age from 21 to 23.
- Rajasthan Becomes First State to Offer e-mail IDs in Hindi.
- Jammu and Kashmir govt. launches Saubhagya Scheme.
- ADB approved USD 346 million to Karnataka to upgradation project of highways to the state government.
- Bihar Government launches Safe City Surveillance scheme for Women Safety.
- Adivasi Mahotsav 2017: Tribal Festival organised in Chhattisgarh.
- India's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster set up in Andhra Pradesh.
- Losar Festival Celebrated in Ladakh.
- Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune's initiative, Avantika University has become India's first design university with a unique academic structure.
- UP To, Have Cow Protection Committees in All Districts.
- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Approves Pension for State's Transgender.
- Goa Celebrates 56th Liberation Day.
- Vijay Rupani Remains Gujarat Chief Minister and Nitin Patel His Deputy.
- PM inaugurates 60 MW Tuirial Hydropower Project in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project gets environmental clearance in Telangana.
- India's First National Rail and Transportation University to come at Vadodara.
- Jairam Thakur Is the New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- Bengaluru Becomes First City to Get its Own Logo.
- Gujarat is hosting the 25th edition of National Children Science Congress (NCSC) from December 27 to December 31, 2017.
- Maharashtra & UP top in GST collection in first five months.
- Vijay Rupani sworn in as Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- President inaugurates Andhra Pradesh Fiber Grid Project.

SPORTS NEWS

- A visually impaired Reserve Bank of India employee has brought laurels to India by claiming gold at the World Para-Swimming Championship in Mexico.
- India Wins First-Ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship.
- Yuvraj Singh Launches UNICEF-ICC's Adolescent Campaign.
- Russia Banned from 2018 Winter Olympics.
- Prithvi Shaw Named India's Captain for 2018 U-19 World Cup.
- Deepika Kumari Wins Bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup.
- Roger Federer named BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year.
- India to Host 2021 Champions Trophy, 2023 World Cup.
- India Becomes 1st Ever Team to Register Hundred 300+ ODI Totals.
- India Beat Germany, Win Bronze at Hockey World League Final.
- Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu Win bronze Medals at Asian Championships.
- Australia Beat Argentina to Win Gold in Hockey World League Final.
- Indian Golfer Shubhankar Sharma claimed his maiden European Tour victory in the Joburg Open, in South Africa.
- BCCI Lifts Ban on Rajasthan Cricket Association.
- PV Sindhu Wins silver at BWF World Superseries Finals.
- Sir Mo Farah has been named BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2017.
- Messi Gets La Liga's Best Player Award 2017.
- Sushil Kumar Clinches Gold at Commonwealth Wrestling Championships.
- Junior shuttler Aakarshi Kashyap won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at Badminton junior Nationals in Guwahati, Assam.
- India Finishes 1st at Junior Boxing Championship in Germany.
- Ekta Bisht First Indian Women Cricketer named in ICC ODI & T20 Teams.
- Birmingham to Host Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- BCCI Appoints Saba Karim as General Manager.
- Jitu Rai Shoots 50m Pistol Gold With Record Score.
- Viswanathan Anand wins World Rapid Chess Championship.

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