



## Government Schemes



## Union Cabinet approves Rewari AIIMS



Union Cabinet has approved establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rewari (Rewari AIIMS) at Manethi, Haryana. It will be established under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Its construction cost will be borne by Central Government under PMSSY.

### AIIMS Rewari

It will be institution of national importance. It will provide quality tertiary healthcare, medical education, nursing education and research in Haryana and nearby areas.

It will also create large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region that can be used at primary and secondary level institutions created under National Health Mission (NHM).

It will add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats. It will have around 15-20 Super Specialty Departments.

It will add around 750 hospital beds which will include emergency and trauma beds, AYUSH Beds, Private Beds and ICU opeciality and super speciality beds

Its campus will be having medical college, AYUSH block, night shelter, auditorium, guest house, hostels and residential facilities.

### Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

It was launched in March 2006 with aim to correct imbalances in availability of affordable tertiary healthcare facilities in different parts of country and augment facilities for quality medical education in under-served states.

It has two components - setting up of AIIMS in various states and upgradation of existing Government Medical Colleges (GMC).

Under it, construction of new AIIMS and their operations and maintenance expenses are fully borne by Central Government. It is funded from different centrally sponsored schemes relating to creating health infrastructure.

## Cabinet approves Phase II of FAME India Scheme



Union Cabinet has approved implementation of Phase II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Scheme (FAME India Phase II) Scheme for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country. It is expanded version of present FAME India I scheme launched in April 2015. It has total outlay of Rs 10000 crores over the period of three years (April 2019 to 2022).

### FAME India (Phase II) Scheme

It aims at promoting eco-friendly electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. The scheme is being administered by Union Ministry of Heavy Industries.

**Objective:** Encourage faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront Incentive on purchase of EVs and also by way of establishing necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles. It also seeks to address issue of environmental pollution and fuel security.

**Features:** It gives emphasis is on electrification of public transportation that includes shared transport.

It will give demand incentives on operational expenditure model for electric buses through State/city transport corporation (STUs).

In three and four wheelers segment, it will incentives to vehicles used for public transport or registered for commercial purposes. In two wheelers segment, it will focus on private vehicles.

It plans to support 10 Lakhs e-2W, 5 Lakhs e-3W, 55000 4Ws and 7000 Buses.

**Encourage advance technologies:** Benefits of incentives under it will be extended to only those vehicles which are fitted with advance battery like Lithium Ion battery and other new battery technologies.

**Charging Infrastructure:** It also proposes for establishment of charging infrastructure. It seeks setting up about 2700 charging stations in metros, million plus cities, smart cities and cities of hilly states across the country to ensure availability of at least one charging station in grid of 3 km x 3 km. It also proposes establishment of charging stations on major highways connecting major city clusters. On such highways, charging stations will be established on both sides of road at an interval of about 25 km each.

Notes

STUDY IQ



## Cabinet approves National Policy on Software Products 2019



Union Cabinet has approved National Policy on Software Products–2019 (NPSP-2019) to develop India as robust software product nation. It is aligned with other Government initiatives such as Start-up India, Make in India and Digital India, Skill India etc. Its implementation will lead to formulation of several schemes, initiatives, projects and measures for development of Software products sector in the country.

### National Policy on Software Products 2019

**Objectives:** Develop India as global software product hub, driven by innovation, improved commercialization, sustainable Intellectual Property (IP), promoting technology start-ups and specialized skill sets.

Create Indian Software Products Industry of US \$70-80 billion with direct and indirect employment of 3.5 million by 2025.

**Implementation:** It lays out five-year road map seeking creation of 3.5 million jobs and promoting 10,000 startups with initial budget of Rs 1,500 crore. This initial outlay is for seven years and is divided into Software Product Development Fund (SPDF) and Research & Innovation fund. It will be used to implement programmes planned under policy.

### Five Missions of NPSP 2019

Promote creation of sustainable Indian software product industry, driven by IP. It seeks for ten-fold increase in India share of global software product market by 2025.

Nurture 10,000 technology startups in software product industry, including 1000 such startups in Tier-II and Tier-III towns/cities. Generate direct and in-direct employment for 3.5 million people by 2025.

Create talent pool for software product industry through (i) up-skilling of 1,000,000 IT professionals, (ii) motivate 100,000 school and college students and (iii) generate 10,000 specialized professionals that can provide leadership.

Build cluster-based innovation driven ecosystem by developing 20 sectoral and strategically located software product development clusters having integrated ICT infrastructure, marketing, incubation, R&D/testbeds and mentoring support.

Set up National Software Products Mission to evolve and monitor scheme and programmes for implementation of this policy. It will have participation from Government, academia and Industry.

### Background

The Indian IT Industry has predominantly been a service Industry. However, a need has been felt to move up the value chain through technology oriented products and services. Software product ecosystem is characterized by innovations, IP creation and large value addition increase in productivity. It has potential to significantly boost revenues and exports in IT sector, create substantive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in emerging technologies and leverage opportunities available under existing Government programmes such as Digital India, thus leading to boost in inclusive and sustainable growth.

Notes



## Cabinet approves National Mineral Policy 2019



Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved National Mineral Policy 2019 (NMP 2019). It replaces National Mineral Policy 2008 (NMP 2008). It is aimed at bringing about more effective regulation to mining sector as well as more sustainable approach while addressing issues of those affected by mining especially tribals. It gives focus on transparency, better regulations and enforcement, balanced growth and sustainability of mining sector.

### National Mineral Policy (NMP) 2019

**Objective:** It aims to have more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.

It also aims to attract private investment through incentives while the efforts would be made to maintain a database of mineral resources and tenements under mining tenement systems.

### Key Provisions in NMP 2019 to give boost to mining sector

Introduces Right of First Refusal for Reconnaissance Permit(RP)/ Prospecting License(PL) holders.

Encourages private sector to take up exploration.

Proposes auctioning of virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML on revenue share basis,

Encourages merger and acquisition of mining entities.

Proposes transfers of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.

It also includes focus on make in India initiative and Gender sensitivity in terms of the vision.

### Key Features of NMP 2019

Grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector

Proposes long term import export policy for mineral to help private sector in better planning and stability in business

Proposes long term export import policy for mineral sector to provide stability and as an incentive for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.

Proposes rationalization of reserved areas given to PSUs which have not been used and put these areas to auction, which will give more opportunity to private sector for participation.

Efforts need to be made to harmonize taxes, levies & royalty with world benchmarks to help private sector.

Introduces concept of **Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with well-being not only of present generation but also of the generations to come.

Proposes to constitute inter-ministerial body to institutionalize mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

Focusses on use coastal waterways and inland shipping for evacuation and transportation of minerals and encourages dedicated mineral corridors to facilitate the transportation of minerals.

Utilization of district mineral fund for equitable development of project affected persons and areas.

Notes



## HRD Ministry launches STARS Scheme



Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science (STARS) to fund science projects. It was launched on the occasion of National Science Day (NSD) observed every year on 28 February.

### Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science (STARS)

Under it, HRD Ministry has approved funds worth Rs 250 crore. These funds will be utilised to sponsor about 500 science projects.

The selection of these projects will be done on basis of competitions. The project will be coordinated by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. Interested candidates will have to submit applications in April 2019 to take part in this competition.

### SHREYAS Scheme

It was launched by HRD Ministry also collaborated with National Skill Ministry and Labour and Employment Ministry for the empowerment of non-technical courses.

SHREYAS is acronym for Scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills.

It has been conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical with view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promote apprenticeship as integral to education and also amalgamate employment facilitating efforts of government into the education system.

## Government launches Scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector



Union Ministry of Textiles has launched comprehensive scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector under PowerTex India Scheme. In this regard, ministry has approved combined SFC (Standing Finance Component) of PowerTex India Scheme and Knitwear Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 487.07 crore

### Scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector

It envisages creation of new service centres on public private partnership (PPP) model by industry and association in the knitting and knitwear clusters.

It also entails modernisation and upgradation of existing power loom service centres (PSCs) and institution run by Textile Research Associations (TRAs) and Export Promotion Councils Association (EPCs) in knitting and knitwear clusters.

**Components of scheme:** (i) Group work shed scheme, (ii) Yarn bank scheme, (iii) Common facility center scheme (iv) Pradhan mantra Credit Scheme (v) Solar Energy Scheme, and (vi) Facilitation, IT, awareness, studies, surveys, market development and publicity for knitting and knitwear units.

### Knitting and knitwear sector

Knitting is a major segment in the entire textile value chain. It is predominantly MSME in size and mainly located in decentralized sector. It is one of the major employment generator sector. It also has significant contribution on exports of textiles.



Knitted fabrics contribute to 27% of the total fabric production in India and 15% of knitted fabric is being exported.

Some of major clusters in knitted garment sector in India are Tirupur (Tamil Nadu), Ludhiana (Punjab), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Tirupur is the most important export cluster, followed by Ludhiana. More than 90% of the garment is manufactured in Tirupur are exported.

### PowerTex India Scheme

It is comprehensive scheme of Ministry of Textiles for power loom sector development. It aims to boost common infrastructure and modernise power loom sector in the country.

**Its 9 components are:** (i) In-situ Upgradation of Plain Power looms, (ii) Group Workshed Scheme (GWS) (iii) Yarn Bank Scheme, (iv) Common Facility Centre (CFC) (v) Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Power loom Weavers (vi) Solar Energy Scheme for Power looms (vii) Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market Development and Publicity for Power loom Schemes, (viii) Tex Venture Capital Fund and (ix) Grant-in-Aid and Modernisation & Upgradation of Power loom Service Centres (PSCs).

Notes

## Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

**Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana**  
PM JI-VAN yojana under process for creating infrastructure of 2G Ethanol Bio-refineries in the Country.

**Focus:**  
Providing viability gap funding for setting up Commercial Projects and promoting R&D in this field by providing grant on setting up demonstration projects.

**Budget**  
₹5,000 crore

**STUDY IQ**  
**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**2 March**

**Benefits of the scheme:**

- Doubling farmer income by providing remuneration on agriculture residues.
- Address environmental concerns caused due to burning of biomass & improve health of citizens.
- Create rural & urban employment opportunities.
- Crude import substitution by enhancing ethanol blending percentage progressively.
- Forex savings.
- Contribute to Swachh Bharat Mission by supporting the aggregation of non-food biofuel feedstocks such as waste biomass and urban waste.
- A tool to meet the targets envisaged in Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme for achieving 10% blending of Ethanol in Petrol on Pan India basis.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana. It has been launched as tool to create Second Generation (2G) Ethanol capacity in the country and attract investments in this new sector.

### Objectives

Provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Incentivise 2G ethanol sector and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing R&D in this area.

Supplement targets envisaged by Central Government under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme.

### Features of Scheme

Under it, 12 Commercial Scale and 10 demonstration scale 2G ethanol Projects will be provided a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support in two phases:

**Phase-I (2018-19 to 2022-23):** Six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported.

**Phase-II (2020-21 to 2023-24):** Six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported.

### Implementation

It will be implemented by Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) with total



financial outlay of Rs.1969.50 crore for period from 2019 to 2024.

Projects under it will reviewed by Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of MoP&NG and then will be recommended to Steering Committee of MoP&NG under chairmanship of Secretary, MoP&NG for final approval.

Ethanol produced by scheme beneficiaries will be mandatorily supplied to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to enhance blending percentage under EBP Programme.

### Benefits

Help Central Government to meet vision of reducing import dependence by way of substituting fossil fuels with biofuels.

Help to achieve Green House Gases (CHGs) emissions reduction targets through progressive blending/ substitution of fossil fuels.

Address environment concerns caused due to burning of biomass/crop residues and improve health of citizens.

Improve farmer income by providing them remunerative income for their otherwise waste agriculture residues.

Create rural and urban employment opportunities in 2G Ethanol projects and Biomass supply chain.

Contribute to Swachh Bharat Mission by supporting aggregation of non-food biofuel feedstocks such as waste biomass and urban waste.

Indigenize 2G Biomass to Ethanol technologies.

### Background

Central Government had launched EBP programme in 2003 for undertaking blending of ethanol in Petrol to address environmental concerns due to fossil fuel burning, provide remuneration to farmers, subsidize crude imports and achieve forex savings.

Under it, OMCs are allowed to blend upto 10% of ethanol in Petrol. Presently, EBP is being run in 21 States and 4 UTs of the country. Petroleum Ministry has set target to achieve 10% blending percentage of Ethanol in petrol by 2022.

The National Policy on Biofuel 2018 allows procurement of ethanol produced from molasses and non-food feed stock like celluloses and lignocelluloses material including petrochemical route.

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## CCEA approves continuation of several tertiary healthcare programmes



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of implementation of seven Tertiary healthcare programmes for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and e-Health upto 2020. It will complement and synergize with ongoing programs and schemes of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for implementation of various activities up to the district level. **These programmes are** (i) Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer facilities scheme (ii) National Program for Health Care of elderly (iii) National Program for Prevention and Management of Trauma and Burn Injuries (iv) National Program for Tobacco Control and Drug Addiction Treatment (v) National Mental Health Program (vi) National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment and (vii) Program for Strengthening of e-Health and Telemedicine Services.

### **Objective of this umbrella program of tertiary healthcare**

Provide support for creation of tertiary care health facilities in areas of cancer diagnosis and treatment, care for elderly, drug dependence, trauma and burn injuries, mental health and blindness and visual impairment.

It also aims at digitisation of health sector. It also seeks to create required infrastructure at the tertiary level and trained manpower in these programs for the country.

### **Significance**

It will strengthen tertiary level healthcare facilities for treatment through capacity building in terms of both infrastructure and human resources



It will generate considerable direct and indirect employment both for technical and non-technical professionals in the country.

It will improve access to good quality and affordable healthcare facilities through support for infrastructure development, equipment, strengthening capacities of healthcare professionals engaged in delivery of services and awareness generation.

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## Jal Amrutha: Karnataka launches water conservation scheme



Karnataka Government has launched Jala Amrutha, a community-driven movement (scheme) for water conservation in the state. It will be major water conservation scheme that will focus on drought-proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of waterbodies. It will see convergence of government departments, Panchayat Raj Institutions, NGOs, academia, and corporate sector.

### Jala Amrutha Scheme

It aims to make people aware of importance of conserving water and prompt them to come up with ways to avoid wastage of water.

State government has sanctioned grant of Rs 500 crore. Under it, state government aims to rejuvenate 14,000 waterbodies and building 12,000 check-dams in next two years.

It will deploy scientific approaches to water budgeting, water harvesting and water conservation through use of geospatial data, satellite imagery, topographical and geological data.

Water conservation strategy under it will comprises four components of water literacy, rejuvenation of waterbodies, creation of new waterbodies as well as development of watersheds and afforestation activities.

**Implementation:** It will be implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of State.

It will operate on four-tier institutional structure with planning and execution committees being set up at village, taluk, district and State levels.



State-level committee, headed by Chief Minister will be established for strategic monitoring, convergence, policy and programmatic guidance. This committee will design water conservation strategies for the State in consultation with all stakeholders.

### 2019: Year of Water

State government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water. Karnataka has the largest swathe of drought-prone land in the country next only to Rajasthan. Throughout year various activities and campaigns related to water conservation, protection and rejuvenation of waterbodies will be undertaken by government departments, educational institutions and NGOs.

Notes

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# Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana launched



## PRADHAN MANTRI SHRAM YOGI MAAN-DHAN YOJANA LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched mega pension scheme- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) for unorganised sector from Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It was announced in the Interim Budget 2019. It is voluntary and contributory pension scheme that will benefit as many as 10 crore workers in unorganised sector. It will be one of largest pension schemes of world (become largest in 5 years) in terms of subscriber targeted base.

### Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM)

It will provide assured monthly pension of Rs 3000 to employees of unorganised sector after 60 years of age based on their monthly contribution of small affordable amount during their working age.

**Intended beneficiaries:** Unorganised sector workers with monthly income upto Rs. 15,000 and belonging to entry age group of 18-40 years.

**Non-eligible:** Organized workers covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) are not eligible for it. Income tax payers are also not eligible.

**Workers of unorganised sector:** Home based workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, mid-day meal workers, street vendors, head loaders, cobblers, rag pickers, brick kiln workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, domestic workers, landless labourers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers and similar other occupations.

**Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber under it will receive minimum assured pension of Rs. 3000 per month after attaining age of 60 years.



In case of death during receiving pension (after 60 years), then his or her spouse will be entitled to receive 50% of pension as family pension. It will be only applicable to spouse.

In case of death before age of 60 years then spouse of beneficiary will be entitled to continue scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or may even exit the scheme

**Contribution of Subscriber:** Unorganised sector worker, joining this scheme is required to contribute prescribed contribution amount from age of joining scheme till the age of 60 years.

**Medium of contribution:** It will be through 'auto-debit' facility from savings bank account or from Jan- Dhan account of subscriber.

**Central Government's contribution:** Central Government will make prescribed age-specific contribution by the beneficiary on 50:50 basis.

Notes

STUDY IQ

# ISRO launches Yuva Vigyani Karyakram for school children



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched “Yuva Vigyani Karyakram” (Young Scientist Programme) for school children. It is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space on young children.

## Yuva Vigyani Karyakram

ISRO scientists will impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to children to arouse their interest in emerging areas of Space activities.

ISRO will be conducting “Catch them young” residential training programme of around two weeks duration during summer holidays for these children. Three students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus will be selected for this.

The selection will be based on academic performance and extracurricular activities. Students from rural area will be given special weightage. Students who have finished 8th standard and currently studying in 9th standard will be eligible.

## Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

It is national space agency of India headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was established in 1969.

It is managed by the Department of Space, which reports directly to Prime Minister of India.

Its vision is to harness space technology for national development while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration.



## Government to launch Gram Samridhi Yojana



**Game Changer**

- ▶ **Niti Aayog** has in-principle approved the scheme
- ▶ **Proposal** has gone to the Expenditure Finance Committee for clearance
- ▶ **Maximum cap** of subsidy to be given to a unit will be ₹10 lakh, apart from interest subsidy, if they avail of loans
- ▶ **Scheme** will be run at the cluster level where food processing units or individual players can apply for the subsidy online

**About 66% of unorganised food processing units are in rural areas and of these, 80% were family run**

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### Government to launch Gram Samridhi Yojana

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**5 March**



Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries will soon launch Gram Samridhi Yojana to bolster unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas. The scheme has outlay of Rs 3,000 crore and will be funded by World Bank and Centre. It has been approved by NITI Aayog and now it waiting for clearance of Expenditure Finance Committee, Ministry of Finance.

### Gram Samridhi Yojana

It aims at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units, upgrade technology in existing unit, improve management of units and give technical support.

**Intendent Beneficiaries:** Cottage industry, farmer producers' organisation and individual food processors. They will process local produce, package and market it.

**Features:** Under it, common facility centres and business incubators in rural areas will be set up. The incubator will provide infrastructure and services to support growth of new food businesses.

It will provide equipment and programs to help businessmen or entrepreneur launch new product through development, market launch and growth in sales. It will provide subsidy to them (max Rs 10 lakh per unit) apart from interest subsidy, if they avail of loans. It will be implemented at cluster level where food processing units or individual players can apply for the subsidy online.

**Funding:** World Bank will provide Rs 1,500 crore while Rs 1,000 crore will be borne by Centre while state governments will provide remaining Rs 500 crore.

**Phase implementation:** In the initial phase, it will be launched in four states viz. Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab for five-year period and thereafter replicated in other states.

**Significance**

It will help cottage industry, farmer producers' organisations and individual food processors to increase capacity, upgrade technology besides skill improvement, entrepreneurship development and strengthening farm-to-market supply chain.

It will help to achieve Government's set goal of doubling of farmers' income and employment opportunities in rural areas.

About 66% of unorganised food processing units are in rural areas and of these, 80% are family run.

Notes

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## Rice Knowledge Bank–Assam launched under APART project



Agriculture web portal Rice Knowledge Bank-Assam was launched recently as part of World Bank funded project- Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART). It is dedicated for enhancing knowledge on rice production techniques and technologies, best production practices and state agriculture facts.

### Assam Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB-Assam)

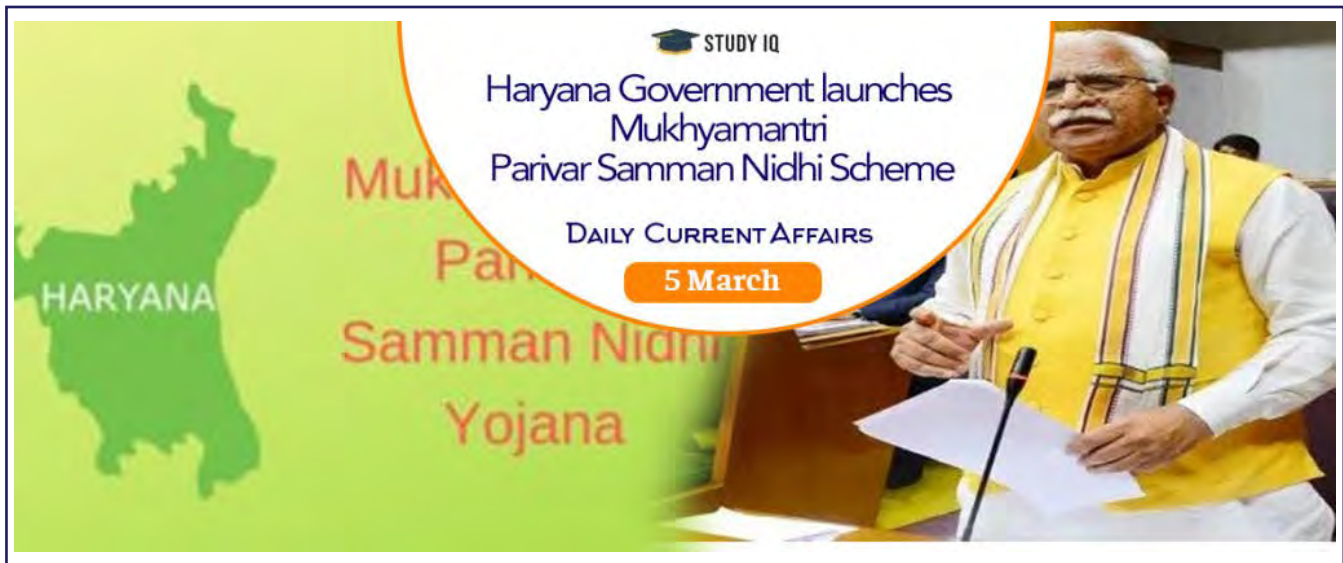
It has been developed by Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society (ARIAS), Assam Agricultural University (AAU) with technical assistance from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). It aims to bridge gap between research and on-field rice production practices. It will serve as digital extension service providing practical knowledge solutions, especially for small-scale farmers in Assam. It will showcase rice production techniques, agricultural technologies and best farming practices based on pool of knowledge from research findings, learning and media resources from AAU and IRRI.

### Significance

It will play key role to ensure transfer to knowledge on rice production techniques and technologies and best production practices to small and marginal farmers. It will empower farmers with better decision-making, reducing yield gaps and leading to increase in farmer incomes and improved sustainability. It will help to address challenges for agricultural development by supporting fast and effective transfer of technologies and knowledge from research laboratory to farmer's fields.



## Haryana Government launches Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi Scheme



Haryana Government has launched Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi, a scheme to provide financial and social security to farmers and workers in unorganised sector in the state. Its intended beneficiaries will be farmers cultivating up to five acres of land and families having income less than Rs 15,000 per month.

### Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi

Under it, each beneficiary family is eligible for financial assistance of Rs 6,000 every year. Each family will have to nominate member to avail this benefit.

**It has two categories:** Beneficiary under age group of 18 to 40 years and beneficiary under the age group of 40 to 60 years.

### First category

It has four options to avail financial assistance.

**First option:** Families can receive Rs 6,000 every year, which will be deposited in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 in bank account of head of the family.

**Second option:** Family has to nominate member to avail the benefit and he or she will get Rs 36,000 after completion of five years.

**Third option:** Nominated beneficiary will get pension of Rs 3,000 to Rs 15,000 per month after attaining age of 60 years, which will depend up on the age of the beneficiary at start of the scheme.

**Fourth option:** Nominated beneficiary will get Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 after five years. It will depend upon option selected by nominated beneficiary.

**Insurance Cover Component**

Nominated beneficiary can opt for options of insurance cover. Its premium of will be paid by state government.

It includes insurance of Rs 2 lakh on natural death and accidental death, insurance of Rs 2 lakh for permanent disability and insurance of Rs 1 lakh for partial disability.

**Pension Component**

If nominated beneficiary is also covered under Pradhanmantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan, then beneficiary after attaining the age of 60 years will be eligible for pension of Rs 3,000 per month. Its premium will be paid by the government.

**Second category**

Nominated beneficiary having age between 40 to 60 years, can receive Rs 6,000 every year, which will be deposited in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 in bank account of the head of the family.

Otherwise, nominated beneficiary can get Rs 36,000 after every five years.

Notes

## World Bank to fund National Rural Economic Transformation Project



### WORLD BANK TO FUND NATIONAL RURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Union Government has inked US \$250-million loan agreement with World Bank for funding National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP). This loan will be from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) with final maturity of 20 years and 5-year grace period

#### National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)

It is new sub-component under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.

It aims to help rural households shift to new generation of economic initiatives by developing viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products. It supports enterprise development programmes for rural poor women and youth by creating platform to access finance including start-up financing options to build their individual and collectively owned and managed enterprises.

It also involves developing financial products using digital financial services to help small producer collectives to scale-up and engage actively with the market.

It also supports youth skills development, in coordination with Ministry of Skill's Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Its key focus of is to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains.

It seeks to enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and generate employment.



## Transport and Marketing Assistance Scheme for Agriculture Products launched



Union Ministry of Commerce has launched Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme for Specified Agriculture Products. It aims providing financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products for boosting export of farm commodities to certain countries in Europe and North America. This scheme will be included in Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20).

### TMA Scheme for Specified Agriculture Product

**Objectives:** (i) Provide assistance for international component of transportation of agricultural produce to mitigate disadvantage of higher cost of exporting agriculture products. (ii) Promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products in the specified overseas markets.

**Coverage:** It will cover all exporters who are registered with relevant Export Promotion Council as per Foreign Trade Policy. It covers freight and marketing assistance for agricultural export by air as well as by sea (both normal and refrigerated cargo).

**Features:** Under it, financial assistance will be provided to exporters of eligible agriculture products to permissible countries as specified from time to time.

**For export of products by sea:** TMA will be based on freight paid for a full Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) containers.

**For export of products by air:** TMA will be based on per ton freight charges on the net weight of the export cargo, calculated on the full ton basis.

Government will reimburse certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce.

Level of financial assistance will be different for different regions and will be admissible for exports made through EDI (electronic data interchange) ports only.

The assistance will be admissible only if payments for exports are received in free foreign exchange through normal banking channels.

Assistance under it will be provided in cash through direct bank transfer as part reimbursement of freight paid.

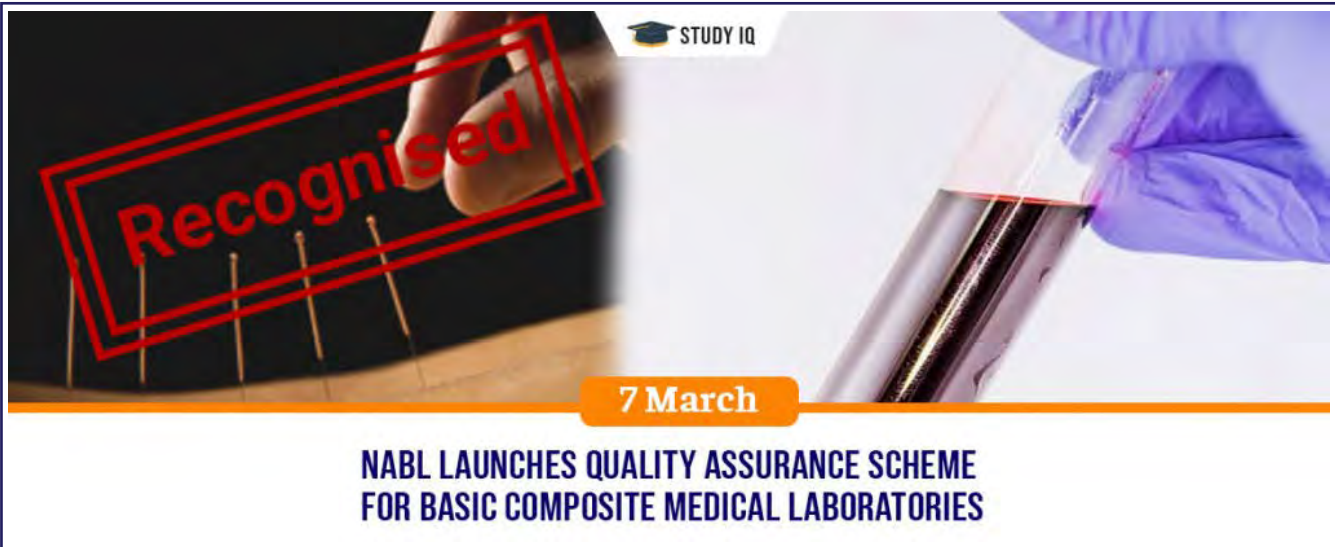
FOB (freight on board) supplies where no freight is paid by Indian exporters are not covered under it.

Products which will not avail these benefits under it sugarcane or beet sugar and raw sugar, molasses, resins, gums, butter and other fats, milk and cream, live animals meat, beverages, spirits and vinegar and tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.

Notes

STUDY IQ

## NABL launches Quality Assurance Scheme for Basic Composite Medical Laboratories



National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has launched Quality Assurance Scheme for Basic Composite Medical Laboratories for sensitizing small laboratories to basic doable quality practices.

### Quality Assurance Scheme for Basic Composite Medical Laboratories

It is voluntary scheme. It is applicable to only laboratories performing only basic routine tests like blood glucose, blood counts, rapid tests for common infections, liver & kidney function tests and routine tests of urine.

For availing benefits of this scheme, laboratories require minimal documentation and nominal fee for availing.

It also has provision for components of competence assessment for assuring quality and validity of test results.

Successful laboratories will be issued certificate of compliance to QAS BC scheme.

They will be also allowed to use distinct symbol on test reports as mark of endorsement of basic standard for defined time frame before which they will have to transition to full accreditation as per ISO 15189.

Through this scheme, patients can avail services of small labs in primary health centers (PHCs), community health centers (CHCs), standalone small labs, doctor's clinic, labs in small nursing homes will also have access to quality lab results.

### Significance

It will help to bring quality at grass root level of India's health system where laboratories follow imperatives of quality in all their processes.



It will help to inculcate habit of quality and facilitate laboratories to achieve benchmark accreditation of ISO 15189 over a period of time.

It will also give a much needed support to Ayushman Bharat Yojana which plans to set up 1,50,000 wellness centers which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.

### National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)

It is constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI) under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It is mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) signatory to International bodies such as International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and Asia Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (APAC) for accreditation of testing including medical and calibration laboratories.

It is also having APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Reference Materials Producers (RMP) and Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP).

NABL accredited laboratory results are accepted in more than 80 countries around the world.

Notes

## Uttarakhand Government launches Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana



Uttarakhand Government has launched Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana to provide milk to children at Anganwadi Centres. This scheme has been launched as part of state government drive to fight malnutrition in the state. There are as many as 18,000 children in Uttarakhand who suffer from malnutrition.

### Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana

Under it, 2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi kendras in the state will be given 100 ml milk twice a week for free

Moreover, flavoured, sweet and skimmed milk powder will be also made available to the 20,000 Anganwadi Kendras.

**Beneficiaries:** Children under six years of age that have been enrolled in Anganwadi centre.

**Benefits:** It will help in tackling malnutrition in the state. Build fit and healthy children by providing them with balanced diet at early age.

**Note:** The milk and milk powder for this scheme will be procured under State Government's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme. Under this scheme, state government has made available eight thousand cows of the field area to cattle guards of mountain. Besides cattle farmers are also provided with feed subsidy.

## UDAN: CCEA approves revival of un-served and under-served air strips

"Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik - Endeavour to make common people fly"  
Modi government's regional connectivity scheme

**UDAAN**  
launched

Air travel will be made affordable for common people

✈ First scheme of its type in the world.

✈ First flight of this scheme to take off in January 2017

**8 March**

**UDAN: CCEA APPROVES REVIVAL OF UN-SERVED AND UNDER-SERVED AIR STRIPS**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved extension of time and scope for revival and development of un-served and under-served air strips of Airports Authority of India (AAI), State Governments, Civil enclaves, CPSUs, helipads and water aerodromes. The revival of these un-served and under-served air strips will be carried out with budgetary support of Union Government under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).

### Benefits

It will allow small cities and towns to be connected on commencement of operation of flights to under-served and un-served airports.

It will also boost economic development of these areas as well as surrounding areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure development.

### UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme

It is flagship scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation to enable air operations on unserved routes, connecting regional areas, to promote balanced regional growth and to make flying affordable for masses.

It was launched in April 2017. It is key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was launched in June 2016.

**Objectives:** (i) Facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it cheap and affordable. (ii) Promote affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCD) by supporting airline operators through: Concessions and Financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support.

Under it, 24 airports in western region, 17 in northern region, 11 in southern region, 12 in east and six in north-eastern parts of country will be connected. Moreover, around 50 unserved and under-served airports will be also connected.



## Cabinet approves Scheme to Rebate State and Central Embedded Taxes for textile sector



### CABINET APPROVES SCHEME TO REBATE STATE AND CENTRAL EMBEDDED TAXES FOR TEXTILE SECTOR

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Scheme to Rebate all state and central embedded taxes on apparel and made-up textile segment. The decision also entails change in disbursal mechanism whereby rebate of all embedded state and central levies will be done through the scrip system. The revenue foregone estimate due to decision has been pegged at Rs 6,300 annually.

#### Background

Apparel and made-ups of textile sector have combined share of 55% (around US \$21 billion) in total Indian textile export basket. Made-up segment includes products like bed-sheets, blankets and curtains.

At present, these textile segments are supported under Scheme for Rebate of State Levies (RoSL). It is mainly to offset indirect taxes levied by states such as stamp duty, petroleum tax, electricity duty and mandi tax that are embedded in exports.

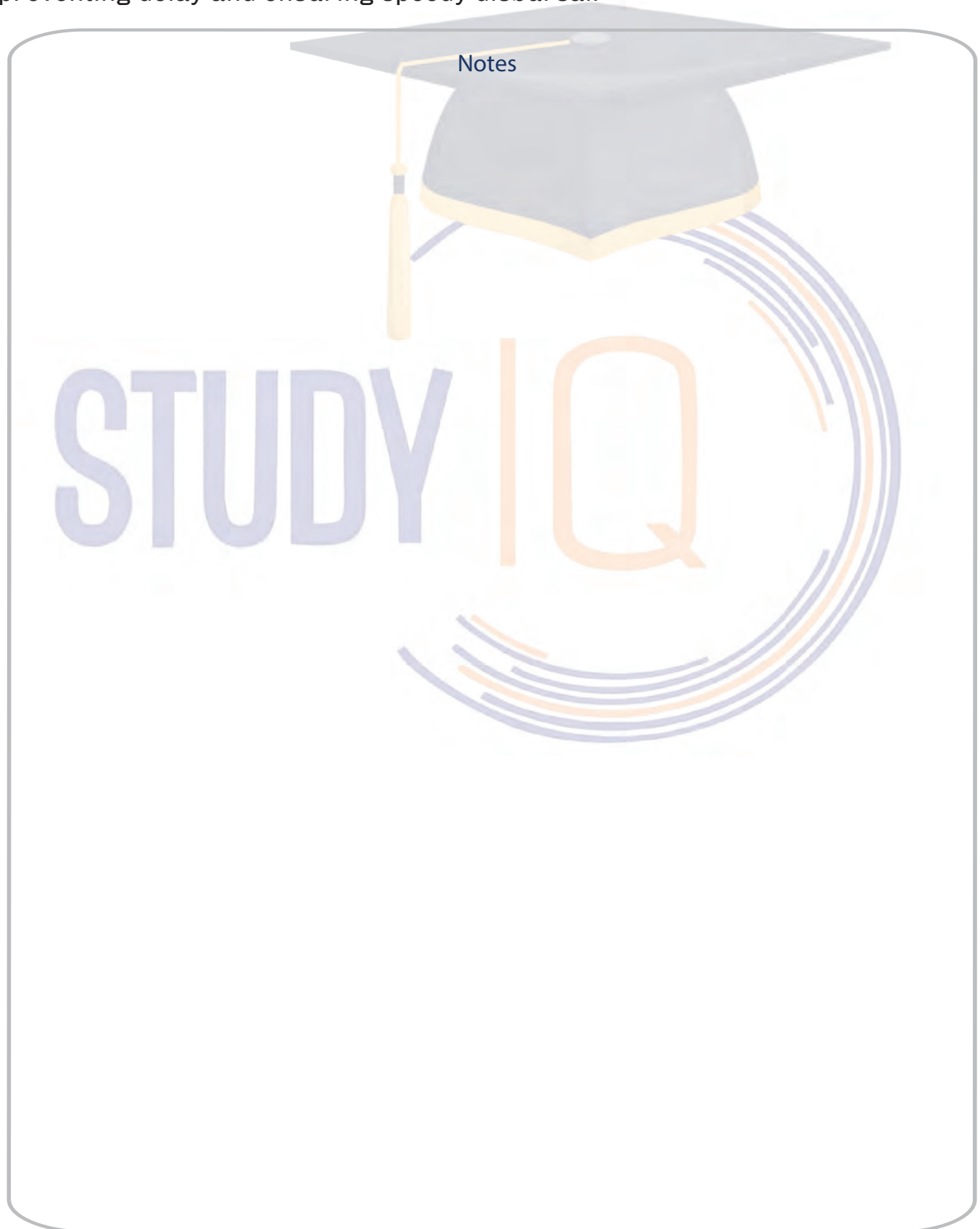
However, certain states as well as central taxes still continued to be present in cost of their exports making them less competitive in export markets.

Moreover, incentives for apparel and made-ups under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) were also not World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible anymore.

#### Benefits of tax rebates

It is expected to make the textile sector competitive as shipments from neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Vietnam enjoy zero duty access to EU, which is biggest export market for India's apparel sector.

It will make exports of apparel and made-up textile segment zero-rated, thereby boosting India's competitiveness in export markets. It will also ensure equitable and inclusive growth of textile and apparel sector. The IT-driven scrip system for rebate disbursement mechanism will also help in preventing delay and ensuring speedy disbursement.



## President launches Pulse Polio Programme for 2019



### PRESIDENT LAUNCHES PULSE POLIO PROGRAMME FOR 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind launched Pulse Polio programme for 2019 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old at the Rahstrapati Bhawan New Delhi. It was launched on the eve of 2019 National Immunization Day (observed on 9 March). This year more than 17 crore children of less than five years will be given polio drops to sustain polio eradication from the country under this programme.

#### Pulse Polio

It is immunisation campaign aimed at eliminating poliomyelitis (polio) in India by vaccinating all children under the age of five years against polio virus. It was launched in 1995. It fights poliomyelitis through large-scale vaccination programme and monitoring of emerging polio cases. Under it, children in age group of 0-5 years are administered oral polio vaccine drops during national and sub-national immunization rounds every year.

**Objective:** (i) Achieve 100% coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). (ii) protect children from crippling polio disease by conducting two nationwide mass polio vaccination campaigns and sub-national campaigns each year. (iii) Immunize children through improved social mobilization, plan mop-up operations in areas where poliovirus has almost disappeared and maintain high level of morale among public.

#### Elimination of polio in India:

India was declared polio free country by World Health Organization (WHO) on 27 March 2014, since no cases of wild polio been reported in for past five years. The last reported cases of wild polio in India were in West Bengal and Gujarat in January 2011.



### Polio virus

Poliomyelitis (polio) is highly infectious viral disease caused by human enterovirus called poliovirus, which mainly affects young children below age of 5.

Polio virus is member virus of Enterovirus C, in family of Picornaviridae. It is composed of RNA genome and a protein capsid.

There are three serotypes of wild poliovirus type 1, type 2, and type 3 each with a slightly different capsid protein.

**Note:** Type 2 poliovirus has been declared eradicated in September 2015, with last virus detected in India in 1999.

Type 3 wild poliovirus is also eradicated (not yet officially declared) as it has not been detected anywhere in world since November 2012.

**Transmission:** Polio virus is transmitted from person-to-person. It mainly spreads through faecal-oral route (e.g. contaminated water or food).

After entering body, it multiplies in intestine, from where it can invade nervous system and can cause paralysis.

It can spread rapidly through community, especially in areas of poor sanitation.

**Symptoms:** Its initial symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, vomiting, stiffness in neck, and pain in limbs. In some cases, it causes permanent paralysis.

**Treatment:** There is no cure for polio, but through mass immunization it can be prevented. Different types of polio vaccine are given multiple times to protects children for life from this crippling disease.

There are five different vaccines to stop polio transmission viz. Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Monovalent OPV (mOPV1 and mOPV3), Bivalent OPV (bOPV) and Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).

Notes

## President inaugurates Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship



President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On this occasion, he also presented 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards.

### Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)

It is unique initiative of President of India's Office to recognize, respect and reward grassroots innovations and foster a supportive ecosystem.

It was launched in 2015 and was previously known as Festival of Innovation (FOIN). Since then it is organized every year to celebrate country's innovation potential, particularly.

It is organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Secretariat) in association with National Innovation Foundation-India (NIFI) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).

It aims to provide provides platform to innovators for building linkages with potential stakeholders whose support can improve their prospects in coming years for the larger social good.

It also promotes lateral learning and linkages among the innovators to enrich the ecosystem for new India.

It celebrates ideas which stem from grassroots level including citizen at the last mile and also seek to reflect power of children's creativity.

It provides window to creative and innovative solutions for social development through grassroots innovations, student ideas and other technologies for rural development, agriculture, health, sanitation, women and child development, medical innovation and biotechnology for grassroots level.

## Cabinet gives 5 year's extension to Biomedical Research Career Programme



Union Cabinet has approved five year's extension for continuation of Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) and Wellcome Trust (WT)/ DBT India Alliance. The extension will be beyond its initial 10-year term (2008-09 to 2018-29) and will be now for new 5 year phase (2019-20 to 2023-24).

### Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)

It is implemented by Department of Biotechnology and UK-based biomedical research charity – Wellcome Trust.

It was launched in 2008 and has fulfilled its objectives of building and nurturing talent of highest global standards in cutting-edge biomedical research in India.

It has enabled high quality Indian scientists working abroad to return to India and has increased number of locations geographically within India where world-class biomedical research is undertaken.

It has also led to important scientific breakthroughs and applications to meet societal needs.

With five-year extension, DBT will increase its commitment to programme by two times, in comparison to that of Wellcome Trust.

The total financial implication due to extension will be Rs 1092 crore with DBT and WT contributing Rs 728 crore and Rs 364 crore respectively.

In the five-year extension phase, the programme will continue to capacity building and strengthening clinical research and address important health challenges for India.





## SSC & Bank Combo

~~Rs.15,000~~

~~Rs.8,600~~

**Rs.6,200**



## All Govt Exams

~~Rs.23,000~~

~~Rs.13,000~~

**Rs.10,000**



## SSC Exams

~~Rs.12,500~~

~~Rs.7,500~~

**Rs.5,700**



## Bank Exams

~~Rs.12,500~~

~~Rs.7,500~~

**Rs.5,700**



## SSC MTS Exam

~~Rs.12,500~~

~~Rs.7,500~~

**Rs.5,700**



## SSC Stenographer

~~Rs.12,000~~

~~Rs.7,000~~

**Rs.5,500**



## Bank SO-IT Officer

~~Rs.9,000~~

~~Rs.5,000~~

**Rs.3,600**



## SSC CGL-AAO

~~Rs.9,000~~

~~Rs.4,900~~

**Rs.3,600**

