



## Important Schemes and Programmes

### Brief Description

- India recently celebrated its **75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day** on August 15, 2021.
  - '**Nation First, Always First**' is the theme of India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations.
- The Prime Minister of India while addressing the nation mentioned various schemes and programmes to highlight the efforts taken by the government in recent times.
- We have tried to compile various key points of the PM Independence day address. A quick revision will help the aspirants to solve the question in UPSC CSE-2021 Preliminary Examination.

### World's Largest Vaccination Program

- India began the "**World's Largest Vaccination Program**" on January 16, 2021 in the fight against **COVID-19**, with the approval of two made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines; **Covishield** and **Covaxin**.
  - Covaxin is an inactivated vaccine whereas Covishield is a live vaccine.
- The government has launched the **Co-WIN application** for the registration of the citizens and to generate digital certificates of vaccination.

### Co-WIN and Digital Certificates

- Co-WIN** is a **cloud-based IT platform** which handles the minute details for India's Covid-19 immunisation programme, including **registering beneficiaries**, allocating vaccination centres, sending text messages with the name of their vaccinator to beneficiaries and **live monitoring of vials in cold storage**.
- The platform is owned by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHWA)**.
  - MeitY along with the **National Informatics Centre** are responsible for handling the tech infrastructure of the app.

### Amrit Kaal

- In his 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day speech, the Prime Minister of India referred to the **period of next 25 years as the Amrit Kaal** for India and her citizens.
- The purpose of Amrit Kaal is:
  - To better the lives of citizens
  - Lessen the development divide between villages and city
  - Reduce government interference in people's lives and
  - Have the latest technology so that India is not behind any country in the world.
- India started with the spirit of '**SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas**' and now **SabkaPrayas** (collaborative effort of all) is added as a very important aspect for the achievement of India's goals for development.

### Ujjwala 2.0

- Recently, the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or **Ujjwala 2.0** Scheme was

launched.

- **PMUY-I** was launched in May 2016 to provide LPG connections to poor households.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It is aimed to provide **maximum benefit to the migrants who live in other states** and find it difficult to submit address proof.
- A **financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection** will be provided to the BPL households.
- An **additional 10 million LPG connections** will be provided to the beneficiaries.

### **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**

- **AB PM-JAY** offers a **sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family** for secondary as well as tertiary care.
  - The Health Benefit Packages cover surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- The beneficiaries are identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data**.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the nodal agency for the implementation of PM-JAY.
- **Funding:**
  - 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature
  - 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand
  - 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.

### **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**

- **PMBJP** was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008 under the name **Jan Aushadhi Campaign**.
  - The campaign was revamped as PMBJP in 2015-16.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.
  - BPPI has also developed the [Janaushadhi Sugam Application](#).
- **Jan Aushadhi Kendras:** The BPPI also supports Janaushadhi Kendras as a part of PMBJP where **quality generic medicines are made available to all**.
  - The Kendras can be set up by doctors, pharmacists, entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups, NGOs etc. at any suitable place or outside the hospital premises.

### **PM SVANidhi**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched **PM SVANidhi**, for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- It was announced as a part of the **Economic Stimulus-II** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- The vendors can avail a collateral-free, working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year.
  - There is no penalty on early repayment of loan.
- **Microfinance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Company, Self Help Groups** are the lending institutions under the scheme.
  - It is the first time that these institutions have been allowed in a scheme for the urban poor due to their ground level presence and proximity to them.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission**

- The mission envisages **supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household** through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** by 2024.
- The **Jal Shakti Ministry** is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
- The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.
- In 2020, **Goa became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' State** in the country by successfully providing 100% FHTCs in the rural areas.

## Malnutrition

- It refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. It addresses 3 broad groups of conditions:
  - **Undernutrition:** includes wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age) and underweight (low weight-for-age).
  - **Micronutrient-related malnutrition:** micronutrient (important vitamins and minerals) deficiencies or excess.
  - **Overweight:** obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers).
- **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM):** The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) defines **severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** by very low weight-for-height or a mid-upper arm circumference less than 115 mm, or by the presence of nutritional oedema.

## Delimitation Commission in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Delimitation** is the act of fixing or **redrawing the limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies** (Assembly or Lok Sabha seat) in a country or a province having a legislative body.
- It is carried out by an independent high-powered panel known as the **Delimitation Commission whose orders cannot be questioned by any court.**
  - It is **appointed by the President** of India and works in collaboration with the [Election Commission of India](#).
- Under **Article 82** of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

## Blue Economy

- The Blue Economy encourages better stewardship of the **ocean or 'blue' resources.**
  - The concept was introduced by **Gunter Pauli in 2010.**
- It is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and ocean ecosystem health.
- **Blue economy covers three economic forms:**
  - Economy coping with global water crisis
  - Innovative development economy
  - Development of marine economy
- **India's Initiatives for Blue Economy:**
  - [Sagarmala Project](#)
  - [O-SMART](#)
  - [Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan](#)
  - National Fisheries Policy for promoting 'Blue Growth Initiative'

## Deep Ocean Mission

- In June 2021, the proposal of the Deep Ocean Mission was approved by the [Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs](#).
  - The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** is the nodal ministry implementing the mission.
- It will be a mission mode project to support the [Blue Economy](#) Initiatives of the Government of India.
- **India will become the sixth country** in the world to have the technology and expertise needed for such missions.
- The technology and expertise needed in such missions is now available with only five countries - US, Russia, France, Japan and China.
- India will now be the sixth country to have it.
- **Major Components:**
  - Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible.
  - Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services.

- Technological Innovations for Exploration and Conservation of Deep-sea Biodiversity.
- Bio-prospecting of deep sea flora and fauna including microbes and studies on sustainable utilization of deep sea bio-resources will be the main focus.
- Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration.
- Energy and Freshwater from the Ocean.
- Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.

## Cooperative Movement in India

- The **Cooperative Movement in India** began in the **last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**.
  - Several informal cooperatives existed by the names of **Devarai, Chit Funds, Kuries, Bhishies, Phads** etc.
- The first **Cooperative Credit Societies Act** was passed in **1904** and was later amended by the **Cooperative Societies Act, 1912**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** introduced the '**Phoenix Settlement**' as a cooperative in a socialistic pattern and the **Tolstoy Farm** as a rehabilitation cooperative settlement.
- After independence, cooperatives became an integral part of Five-Year Plans (FYPs).
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **The Constitution (97<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2011** added a new **Part IXB right after Part IXA (Municipals)** regarding the cooperatives **working in India**.
    - The word “cooperatives” was added after “unions and associations” in **Article 19(1)(c)** under **Part III of the Constitution**.
      - This enables all the citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of **fundamental right** of citizens.
    - A new **Article 43B** was added in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)** regarding the “promotion of cooperative societies”.
- Successful Cooperatives in India:
  - **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**
  - **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**,
  - **Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)**
  - **AMUL**
  - **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank**

## e-Commerce

- It is a business model that lets firms and individuals buy and sell things over the Internet.
- India's e-commerce revenue is growing at an annual rate of 51%, the **highest in the world**.
  - The Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow to **US\$ 200 billion by 2026**.
- Government Initiatives regarding e-Commerce in India:
  - **Draft e-commerce rules, 2021**
  - RBI permitted interoperability among Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) such as digital wallets
  - **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**

## Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- The scheme was introduced to provide **adequate and timely credit support to the farmers** for their cultivation and agricultural purchases.
  - KCC covers **post-harvest expenses, consumption requirements** of farmer households, **investment credit requirements** for agriculture and allied activities etc.
- KCC is implemented by **Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives**.
- The **KCC saturation campaign** provides KCC loans to farmers who have not been given such loans.
  - It comes with an **ATM-enabled RuPay debit card** for any number of drawals within the limit.

## Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO)



- An FPO is a **collectivisation** of (especially) **small and marginal farmers to form an effective alliance** to address the challenges of agriculture.
- The resource agencies like [NABARD](#) promote and nurture FPOs.
- The **Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs** is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
  - It provides financial assistance of up to Rs. 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 3 years.

## **PM KISAN**

- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of **Rs 6,000 per year** directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers.
  - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** and is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- The beneficiary identification is done by the State / UT Governments.
- **PM-KISAN Mobile App:** It is developed and designed by the [National Informatics Centre](#) in collaboration with the MeitY.
  - It facilitates the farmers to view the status of their application and check the history of credits to their bank accounts.

## **Kisan Rails**

- Kisan Rails are the first ever multi commodity trains.
  - The Indian Railways introduced the first Kisan Rail from **Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar)**.
- These trains with **refrigerated coaches will help in bringing perishable agricultural products** like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.
- It is a step towards realising the goal of [doubling farmers' incomes by 2022](#).

## **SVAMITVA Yojana**

- **SVAMITVA** stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.
  - **It is a Central Sector Scheme.**
- It aims to **provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India**.
- It is a scheme for **mapping the land parcels** in rural inhabited areas using **drone technology** and **Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS)**.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** is the nodal ministry.
  - The [Survey of India](#) is the Technology Implementation Agency.

## **UDAN 4.1**

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** was launched as a regional connectivity scheme in 2016.
  - It aims to **create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes** so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- **UDAN 4.1** focuses on **connecting smaller airports, along with special helicopter and seaplane routes**.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)**.

## **Gati Shakti**

- It is one of the initiatives **announced at the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day** by the Prime Minister of India.
- **Gati Shakti** is a Rs.100 lakh-crore project for **developing 'holistic infrastructure'**.
- It will help **raise the global profile of local manufacturers** and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide.
  - It also raises possibilities of new future [economic zones](#).
  - It will be a source of employment opportunities for the youth in future.

## INS Vikrant

- INS Vikrant, likely to be commissioned in 2022, is **India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)**.
  - Currently, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS **Vikramaditya**.
- The combat capability, reach and versatility of the aircraft carrier will **add formidable capabilities in the defence** in the country and **help secure India's interests in the maritime domain**.

## Gaganyaan

- Gaganyaan is a mission by **ISRO** in which three flights (**two unmanned, one manned**) will be sent into orbit.
  - It will circle Earth at a **low-earth-orbit**.
- The human spaceflight module of Gaganyaan will be launched after the second unmanned mission planned in 2022-23.
  - The manned mission will have **three Indian astronauts, including a woman**.
- **GSLV Mk III**, will be used to launch Gaganyaan.
- India's Other Upcoming Projects:
  - **Chandrayaan-3**
  - Shukrayaan Mission

## PLI Scheme

- The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** aims to **give companies incentives on incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.
  - It also aims to **encourage local companies** to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.
- The Scheme has also been approved for sectors such as automobiles, textiles, [pharmaceuticals](#), [IT hardware including laptops](#), [mobile phones & telecom equipment](#), [white goods](#), [chemical cells](#), [food processing](#) etc.

## National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

- The NEP 2020 aims at making **"India a global knowledge superpower"**.
  - It is only the **third major revamp** of the framework of education in India since independence (after NEP 1968 AND 1986).
- It replaces **the current 10+2 system by a new 5+3+3+4** curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- **Vocational Education** to start from Class 6 with Internships.
  - Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in **mother tongue/regional language**.
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a **4-year integrated B.Ed. degree**.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio** in higher education to be **raised to 50% by 2035**.
- **M.Phil courses will be discontinued** and UG, PG and PhD level courses will be interdisciplinary.

## Bru Agreement

- **Bru** or **Reang** is a community **indigenous to Northeast India**, living mostly in Tripura (as a **PVTG**), Mizoram and Assam.
  - In **Mizoram**, they have been targeted by groups that **do not consider them indigenous to the state**.
  - They fled Mizoram in 1997 and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.
- In June 2018, Bru community leaders signed an agreement with the Centre and the two state governments, providing for repatriation in Mizoram.
  - But most camp residents **rejected the terms of the agreement**.
  - In **Jan 2020**, the same parties signed a **quadripartite agreement** as per which the **Brus will now settle in Tripura**.

## Vehicle Scrap Policy

- It was first announced in the **Union Budget for 2021-22**.
- It aims at **reducing the population of old and defective vehicles**, bringing down vehicular air pollutants, improving **road and vehicular safety**.
- Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy government **commercial vehicles more than 15 years old** and **private vehicles which are over 20 years old** will be scrapped.

## Ethanol Blending

- **Ethanol** is one of the principal **biofuels**, which is naturally **produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts** or via **petrochemical processes** such as ethylene hydration.
- The **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)** aims at **blending ethanol with petrol**, thereby bringing it under the category of biofuels and saving millions of dollars by cutting fuel imports and decreasing carbon emissions.
- The Government of India has advanced the target for **20% ethanol blending in petrol** (also called **E20**) to 2025 from 2030.
  - Currently, 8.5% of ethanol is blended with petrol in India.

## National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.
- **102<sup>nd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provides constitutional status** to the NCBC.
- The members of NCBC are appointed by the President of India.
- **Article 340** deals with the need to, inter alia, identify those "socially and educationally backward classes", understand the conditions of their backwardness, and make recommendations to remove the difficulties they face.

## Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

- It was announced in May, 2020 along with an economic stimulus package worth Rs 20 lakh crores for achieving the mission.
- The Mission focuses on the importance of **promoting "local" products**.
- The Mission would be based on five pillars namely,
  - **Economy**
  - **Infrastructure**
  - **System**
  - **Vibrant Demography**
  - **Demand**
- The Mission is also expected to complement the **'Make In India Initiative'** which intends to encourage manufacturing in India.

## Mission Karmayogi

- **Mission Karmayogi' - the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)** is aimed at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- The **iGOT Karmayogi digital platform** provides the content drawn from global best practices.
- The scheme will cover 46 lakh central government employees, at all levels.
- NPCSCB will be governed by the **Prime Minister's Human Resource Council**, which will also include state Chief Ministers, Union Cabinet ministers, and experts.

## National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHM)

- The **Union Budget for 2021-22** has announced a NHM that will draw up a road map for using hydrogen as an energy source.

- It focusses on generation of hydrogen from green power resources.
  - It aims to link India's growing renewable capacity with the hydrogen economy.
- The usage of hydrogen will not only help India in achieving its emission goals under the [Paris Agreement](#), but will also reduce import dependency on fossil fuels.

## Food Fortification

- **Food fortification** refers to **deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients** so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply.
  - The [FSSAI](#) operationalized the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 for fortifying staples namely:
    - Wheat Flour and Rice (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid)
    - Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D)
    - Double Fortified Salt (with Iodine and Iron)
- **Biofortification** is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern [biotechnology](#). Examples of Biofortified crops:
  - Rice- CR DHAN 315 has excess zinc.
  - Wheat- HI 1633 rich in protein, iron and zinc.
  - Maize- Hybrid varieties enriched with lysine and tryptophan.
  - [Madhuban Gajar](#)

## Poshan 2.0

- **The Ministry for Women and Child Development** inaugurated **Poshan 2.0** and urged all [Aspirational Districts](#) to establish a **Poshan Vatika (nutrition garden)** during the [Nutrition Month \(Poshan Mah\)](#).
- It was announced in [Union Budget 2021-22](#) by merging supplementary nutrition programmes and the [POSHAN Abhiyan](#).
- **Poshan Vatika** will **ensure supply of nutrition** through **organically home grown vegetables and fruits** simultaneously ensuring that the soil must also remain healthy.

## **Aurobindo Ghosh**

- Sri Aurobindo Ghosh was a **philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist** who propounded the philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution.
- From 1902 to 1910 Aurobindo **partook in the struggle to free India and was known as a revolutionary nationalist**.
  - He helped in establishing the **Anushilan Samiti** of Calcutta in 1902.
  - The **Bande Mataram** was an **English language weekly newspaper** published from Calcutta (now Kolkata) founded in 1905 by Bipin Chandra Pal and edited by Sri Aurobindo Ghosh.
  - He was arrested in connection with the Alipore Conspiracy Case or Alipore Bomb Case in 1908.
    - This was in the wake of the attempt to assassinate the Chief Presidency Magistrate Douglas Kingford by **Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki**.
- In 1910, he fled British India and found refuge in the French colony of Pondichéry where he devoted himself for the rest of his life to the development of his **"integral" yoga**.
  - He founded a community of spiritual seekers which took shape as the Sri **Aurobindo Ashram in 1926**.