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Contents

1. Khelo India Scheme and Enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) 2
2. Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) 5
3. National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan 7
4. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) 9
5. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) 11
6. Water Management and Conservation 13
7. Ayush-Based Medical and Wellness Tourism in India 16
8. PM Vishwakarma 20
9. National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) 23
10. e-Shram Portal 27
11. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) 31
12. PARIVARTAN Scheme 34
13. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) 37

1. Khelo India Scheme and Enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)

Prelims:

Government Schemes,

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government Policies & Interventions, GS Paper III- Human Resource Development

Current relevance:

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the revamped **Khelo India Scheme** and enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for the period **2026–27 to 2030–31.**



Highlights:

Pathway from Grassroots to Global Excellence:

1. **Aim:** To create a **seamless pathway** for talented youth from school playgrounds and **village sports fields to the Olympic podium.**
2. It seeks to ensure that **no sporting talent is left undiscovered** due to geography, economic background or lack of opportunity.
3. It is aligned with the **Khelo Bharat Niti 2025** and the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

New School-Level Programmes:

1. Two new initiatives have been introduced **Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS), Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalaya's (KIUV).**
2. These programmes aim to integrate **sports with mainstream education** and promote **early identification and systematic nurturing of young talent.**

Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs):

1. The introduction of the **Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs)** category alongside the existing **Khelo India Athletes programme** will expand the structured athlete development ecosystem by nearly ten-fold.

2. A strengthened talent identification framework involving **Talent Identification Development Committees, Zonal Committees, Talent Scouts, High-Performance Directors and High-Performance Managers** will ensure continuous identification and development of athletes.

Inclusive Sports Development:

1. Special emphasis has been placed on **women athletes**, **para-athletes**, **indigenous sports**, sports for peace, inclusion and community development.
2. The scheme also supports the **National Games** and the hosting of **major international sporting events** in India.

Modern Support Systems:

1. A **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)** will be established to standardize coaching qualifications and strengthen coaching capacity.
2. A **unified digital sports platform** will integrate athlete databases, infrastructure, competitions, coaching resources, talent assessments, funding, fit India participation.
3. The platform will enable **data-driven planning, transparent governance and personalized athlete development**.

About Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs):

1. The strengthened **ANSF Scheme (2026–31)** will provide funding for coaching, sports science, modern equipment, international exposure, coaching camps, foreign experts, participation in major international competitions.
2. It will also support **sports cooperation with countries of the Global South** and promote **India's indigenous sports internationally**.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2292439&reg=48&lang=2

2. Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

Prelims:

Government Schemes, Energy

Mains:

GS Paper III-Infrastructure

Current relevance:

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with a **total outlay of ₹5,070 crore** for the development of **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Projects** integrated with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)**.



Highlights:

1. **Objectives:**

   It is a **Central Sector Scheme** that promotes the development of **5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects integrated with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS).**

2. **Integrated Energy Storage Systems**

   The scheme mandates **co-located Energy Storage Systems** with a minimum storage capacity of two hours (10,000 MWh) to improve grid reliability.

3. **Central Financial Assistance (CFA):**

i. **₹1 crore per MW** will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects after successful commissioning.

ii. **Up to ₹50 lakh per project** will be provided for feasibility studies, including **bathymetry, hydrography, environmental studies, and other preparatory activities** required for project de-risking.

4. Promotes the productive utilization of existing **reservoirs and industrial ponds** while eliminating competition for scarce land resources. It also strengthens grid reliability through the integration of **Energy Storage Systems (ESS).**

5. **Sustainable Development:**

   i. The scheme is expected to reduce **around 10 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually.**

   ii. It is projected to generate approximately **16,000–17,000 full-time equivalent employment opportunities** across the project value chain.

   iii. It will promote **domestic manufacturing** of floatation systems, PV cells, modules, energy storage systems and other components, supporting the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

About Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV):

i. It is a solar energy generation system in which **solar photovoltaic panels are mounted on floating platforms over water bodies** such as reservoirs, lakes, dams, irrigation ponds and industrial ponds.

ii. The electricity generated by these floating solar installations is transmitted to the power grid through **underwater or floating cable systems**.

iii. India's **first Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** project was commissioned in **2015** at **Rajarhat, Kolkata, West Bengal**, marking the country's entry into floating solar power generation.

iv. India's **largest Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** project was commissioned in **2022** at **Rama Gundam, Telangana**, with an installed capacity of **100 MW**.

Source: PIB –

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2292433&reg=48&lang=2

3. National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan

Prelims:

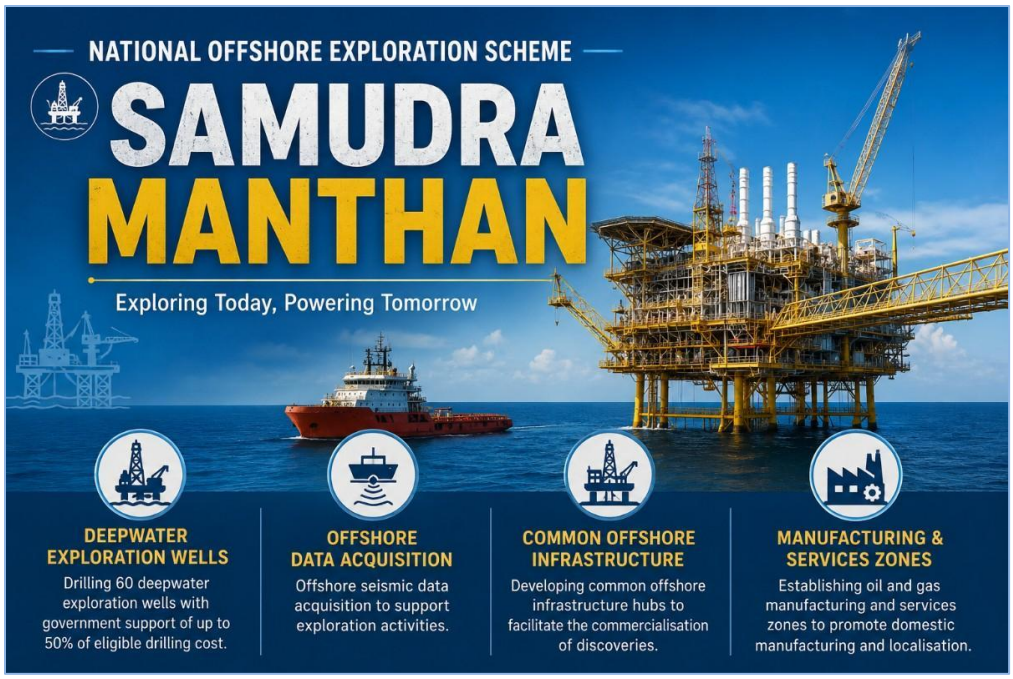
Energy, Government Schemes

Mains:

GS Paper III-Infrastructure

Current relevance:

The Union Cabinet has approved the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan** with a total outlay of **₹84,084 crore** to boost offshore oil and gas exploration and strengthen India's domestic energy security.



Highlights:

Objectives:

1. The scheme aims to catalyse more than **600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE)** of hydrocarbon reserves.

2. It seeks to stimulate investments across the **exploration and production value chain**, creating long-term opportunities for industry, innovation and economic growth.

Major Components of the Scheme:

1. The scheme provides for the **drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells,** with government support of up to **50% of the eligible drilling cost**.
2. The scheme supports **offshore seismic data acquisition** to strengthen hydrocarbon exploration activities.
3. It envisages the development of common **offshore infrastructure hubs** to facilitate the commercialisation of offshore discoveries.
4. The scheme also promotes the establishment of **oil and gas manufacturing and services zones** to encourage domestic manufacturing and the localisation of critical equipment and services.

Significance:

1. It aims to strengthen **India's domestic energy security** by encouraging exploration in deepwater and offshore regions.
2. To promote offshore exploration to overcome the challenges posed by **ageing oil and gas fields**.
3. Large-scale investments in offshore data acquisition and deepwater exploratory drilling are expected to reduce geological uncertainty, de-risk exploration activities, and stimulate greater private investment in the offshore exploration sector.

Source: THE HINDU - https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/cabinet-approves-84084-crore-for-offshore-exploration-scheme-samudra-manthan/article71291787.ece

4. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC)

Prelims:

Government Schemes, Indian economy

Mains:

GS Paper II-Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections, GS Paper III- Indian economy, Science & Technology

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** highlighted the success of **Smart-Waves Technologies Private Limited**, a Hyderabad-based electronics manufacturing company, as an example of how the **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC)** is promoting entrepreneurship, employment generation and technological self-reliance.



Highlights:

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC):

1. An initiative of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** that provides financial support to Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs for establishing and expanding technology-driven enterprises.

2. It was announced in the **Union Budget 2014–15** as a Social Sector Initiative to promote entrepreneurship through concessional finance and was officially launched on **2015** with an initial corpus of **₹200 crore.**
3. **IFCI Ltd.** was designated as **the sponsor and nodal agency** for implementing the Fund, which was created to support **innovation- and growth-oriented enterprises** established by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs.

Smart-Waves Technologies:

1. Established an advanced **Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS)** unit engaged in the design, development, testing, assembly and distribution of electronic circuit boards.
2. The company manufactures electronic circuit boards for **defence**, **aerospace**, **industrial products**, **automobiles**, **electric vehicles (EVs) and consumer electronics.**
3. **Financial assistance** under **VCF-SC** enabled the company to establish its **first manufacturing unit**, procure specialised equipment, strengthen research and development, recruit skilled professionals.
4. The support also facilitated the establishment of a **second manufacturing unit** with higher production capacity.
5. The enterprise has created employment opportunities for **128 people**, including **40 Scheduled Caste** and 88 non-Scheduled Caste employees, with **women** constituting more than **50% of its workforce.**
6. The company has strengthened its manufacturing capabilities, expanded its business operations, and established partnerships with organisations such as **HAL, BEL and ISRO**.
7. **Targeted financial assistance** under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) is **empowering Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs** to establish technology-driven manufacturing enterprises, create quality employment opportunities, promote innovation, and strengthen **India's technological self-reliance**.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2293020&reg=6&lang=1

5. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

Prelims:

Government Schemes

Mains:

GS Paper II-Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections, GS Paper III-Inclusive Growth

Current relevance:

The **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** completed one year of implementation on 1 August 2026, marking a significant milestone in promoting formal employment.



At a glance:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** was announced in August 2025. It is an **EPFO-linked, technology-driven employment scheme** that encourages first-time employment, incentivises employers to generate new formal jobs, expands social security coverage, and strengthens financial security for workers.

2. **Objectives:**
   i. Aims to generate over **3.5 crore employment opportunities**, including **1.92 crore first-time employees**, while expanding formal employment and social security coverage.
   ii. The scheme seeks to transform India's young workforce into a driver of **inclusive economic growth** by promoting organized sector employment through **EPFO registration**.
3. **Two-Part Incentive Framework:**
   i. **Part A – Incentive to First-Time Employees**
      Provides a **one-time incentive** to eligible first-time employees through a **two-installment mechanism**, while encouraging financial literacy and long-term savings.
   ii. **Part B – Support to Employers**
      Provides incentives to employers for creating and retaining additional formal employment, with **extended support for the manufacturing sector** due to its high employment-generation potential.
4. **Digital Governance:**
   i. The scheme is implemented through a **fully digital EPFO-linked** platform using **Aadhaar authentication, Universal Account Numbers (UANs),** and regular **Electronic Challan-cum-Return (EC**R) filings.
   ii. The scheme ensures transparent and accountable implementation through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** and a dedicated **PM-VBRY portal** that enables end-to-end scheme implementation and real-time monitoring of beneficiaries and sector-wise progress.
5. **Key Achievements:**
   i. Since August 2025, **more than 72 lakh first-time employees** have joined India's formal workforce under the scheme.

ii. **Nearly 30% of the scheme's beneficiaries are women**, reflecting increased female participation in formal employment.

iii. **More than 15 lakh beneficiaries** have received employment-linked incentives through PM-VBRY.

iv. The scheme has strengthened workforce formalization by expanding social security coverage and promoting employment generation across various sectors.

6. By promoting first-time employment and incentivising job creation, PM-VBRY is **strengthening India's formal employment ecosystem** while expanding social security coverage for the workforce.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=159386&ModuleId=3&reg=48&lang=1

6. Water Management and Conservation

Prelims:

Conservation, Government Schemes

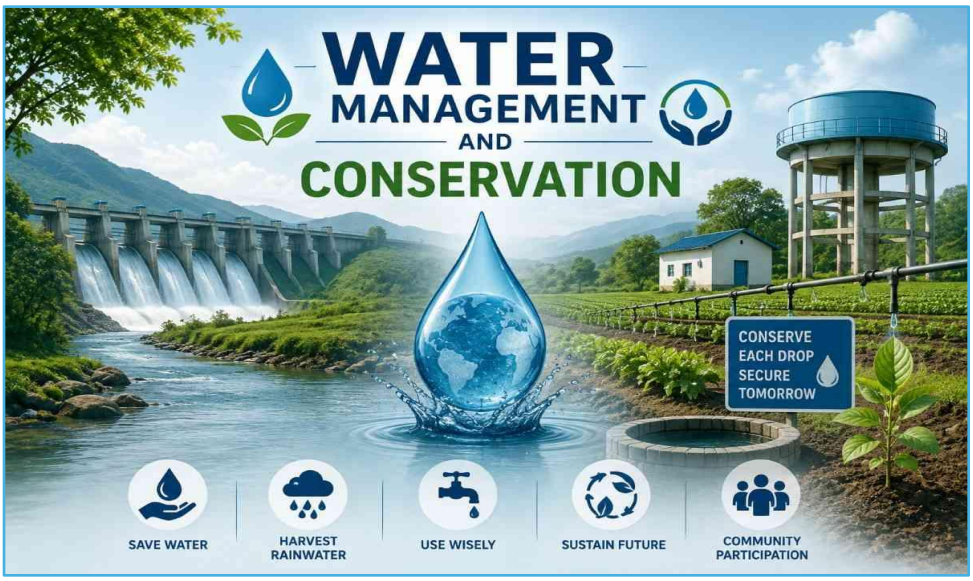
Mains:

GS Paper III-Conservation of Natural Resources

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** highlighted the Government's technology-driven initiatives for water management, groundwater conservation, irrigation planning, flood monitoring, and hydrological data management, while outlining the outcomes of schemes such as **Atal Bhujal Yojana, NAQUIM, PMKSY, and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari.**

Government Schemes



Highlights:

1. **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal):**
   i. It was implemented as a pilot scheme from 2020 to 2025 across Gram Panchayats in 80 districts covering **Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.**
   ii. The scheme focused on **community-led participatory groundwater management**, demand-side water management, and strengthening institutional and governance frameworks.
2. **Water Body Census & Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari:**
   i. The **Water Body Census** identified, enumerated and **geo-tagged more than 24.2 lakh** water bodies across the country.
   ii. Under the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB)** initiative, **more than 1.55 crore water conservation and groundwater recharge structures** have been constructed and geo-tagged.
3. **National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM):**
   i. **NAQUIM Phase 1.0** mapped the entire **25 lakh sq. km mappable area** of the country using **Remote Sensing (RS)** and **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**.

ii. **NAQUIM 2.0** uses advanced technologies to generate detailed scientific data for sustainable groundwater management.

4. **Real-Time Groundwater Monitoring:**

The **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** conducts near real-time groundwater monitoring through **Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs)** installed under the National Hydrology Project, State Governments, and the **Atal Bhujal Yojana,** enabling comprehensive groundwater assessment and management.

5. **Web-Based Digital Platforms:**

India-Groundwater Resource Estimation System (IN-GRES) provides a standardised web-based platform for groundwater resource assessment and supports schemes such as **MGNREGA, Atal Bhujal Yojana, and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.**

6. **Digital Dashboards:**

i. JSA: **Catch the Rain (CTR) Dashboard** monitors water conservation activities under the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**, recording **over 2 crore** conservation and artificial recharge works.

ii. **JSJB Dashboard** tracks groundwater recharge structures, with **more than 1.55 crore** works reported.

7. **Flood & Reservoir Monitoring:**

i. The **Flood Watch India app** uses **satellite data**, **mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring** to provide flood forecasts.

8. **Satellite & Remote Sensing Applications:**

The Ministry collaborates with **BISAG-N** and the **Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad)** to use **satellite and remote sensing technologies** for mapping and monitoring water resources.

9. **Digital Irrigation Monitoring:**

Under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**, **GIS applications, geo-tagging, and digital project monitoring tools** are used for planning, implementation, and monitoring irrigation infrastructure.

10. **Geo-Tagging of Water Bodies:**

    Under **PMKSY–Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), geo-tagging, GIS mapping, and unique identification codes** are used for monitoring **Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI)** and **Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR)** of water bodies.

11. **Water Information Management System (WIMS):**

    Developed under the **National Hydrology Project, WIMS** serves as a centralised platform for the **collection, storage, integration, and dissemination of hydrological data**, supporting evidence-based water resource management.

12. **Surface Water Assessment:**

    Advanced hydrological technologies are used for **river discharge measurement, water velocity assessment, rainfall monitoring, and basin-wise surface water resource assessment**, supporting informed planning and evaluation of water resource projects.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2293760&reg=48&lang=1

7. Ayush-Based Medical and Wellness Tourism in India

Prelims:

Government Schemes and Initiatives

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government Policies and Interventions, GS Paper III-Science and Technology

Current affairs:

The Government has outlined a **comprehensive strategy to promote Ayush-based tourism and Medical Value Travel (MVT)** through a national roadmap, a dedicated **Ayush Visa**, institutional collaboration, research support, quality assurance, international standardisation and financial assistance, with significant Ayush research and healthcare initiatives being undertaken in **Kerala.**



Highlights:

National Strategy for Ayush-Based Tourism:

1. The **Ministry of Tourism**, in consultation with other Ministries including the **Ministry of Ayush**, has formulated a **National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism.**
2. The initiative seeks to promote India's traditional systems of medicine as part of the country's medical and wellness tourism ecosystem.
3. A separate **Ayush Visa category** was introduced on **27 July 2023** to facilitate international visitors travelling to India for **Ayush-based treatments**.

Institutional Collaboration:

1. The **Ministry of Ayush** signed an MoU with the **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)** under the Ministry of Tourism to jointly promote **Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine.**
2. Medical Value Travel Summits were organised for the **Western Zone in Mumbai in 2024** and the **Southern Zone in Chennai in 2025** to strengthen India's position in this sector.

Ayush Research Ecosystem in Kerala:

1. **Homoeopathy Research**

   The **National Homoeopathy Research Institute in Mental Health (NHRIMH),** Kottayam, under the **Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)**, is currently undertaking 34 research programmes.

2. **Ayurveda Research**

   Two institutions under **the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** operate in Kerala:

   i. National Ayurveda Research Institute for Panchakarma (NARIP), Cheruthuruthy
   ii. Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Thiruvananthapuram

   Research activities include **Medico-Ethno Botanical Surveys, ethno-dietary studies, medicinal-plant phytodiversity inventories and medicinal-plant cultivation programmes.**

3. **Unani and Siddha Research**

   i. The **Clinical Research Unit of CCRUM at Edathala** provides healthcare services in geriatric, reproductive and non-communicable disease sectors.
   ii. The **Siddha Regional Research Institute (SRRI), Thiruvananthapuram**, focuses on scientific validation of traditional Siddha formulations, evidence-based clinical studies and standardisation of Siddha medicines.

About National Ayush Mission:

1. Under the **National Ayush Mission (NAM),** financial assistance is provided to Kerala through annually approved **State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs).**

2. Recurring assistance covers **medicines, contingencies and human resources**, while non-recurring grants support **construction, renovation, upgradation, equipment and strengthening of Ayush healthcare facilities.**

Medicinal Plants Research:

1. Under the Central Sector Scheme **'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants'**, the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** provides project-based financial support for medicinal-plant research to government and private universities, research institutions and organisations.
2. Research projects supported in Kerala include studies involving **Ayurvedic drugs, sustainable alternatives for rare medicinal plants, pharmacognostic and phytochemical research, and herbal extracts used in Ayurveda.**

Quality Assurance and Global Standards:

1. The **Ayush Vertical in CDSCO** facilitates issuance of the **WHO Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (WHO-CoPP)** for eligible Ayush drugs through joint inspections with State/UT Licensing Authorities and CDSCO.
2. **Ayush Quality Marks:**
    i. The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** awards the **Ayush Standard Mark** and **Ayush Premium Mark** based on third-party assessment against prescribed national and international quality standards respectively.
    ii. The **Ayush Quality Mark Programme**, launched in **2025,** seeks to strengthen quality assurance, consumer confidence and global competitiveness of Ayush products and services.
    iii. **77 Ayush healthcare organisations in Kerala** have received accreditation from the **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH).**
3. **International Standardisation:**
    i. **Ayurveda and Yoga** have been included under **Sectional Committee 2 of ISO/TC249**, covering international standards relating to terminology, quality and

safety of ingredients, extracts, finished products, Ayurveda-based dietary supplements and Yoga accessories.

Source: PIB-

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2296193&reg=6&lang=1

8. PM Vishwakarma

Prelims:

Government Schemes

Mains:

GS Paper I**:** Indian culture, GS Paper II: Government policies and interventions, GS Paper III: Indian Economy

Current relevance:

The Government of India invited **100 PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries** from the Delhi-NCR region as **'Special Guests'** to witness the **80th Independence Day** Ceremony at the Red Fort, Delhi, on 15 August 2026, recognising the contribution of traditional artisans and craftspeople to India's cultural heritage.



About **PM Vishwakarma Scheme:**

1. The Scheme was launched on **17 September 2023, on Vishwakarma Jayanti**, under the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** as its nodal ministry.
2. It is implemented by the **Ministry of MSME**, in convergence with the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** and the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**.
3. It is a **flagship Central Sector Scheme** of the Government of India that provides **comprehensive end-to-end** support to **artisans** and **craftspeople** engaged in **traditional trades** using their hands and tools.
4. The scheme covers **18 traditional trades**, including **Tailor, Carpenter, Goldsmith, Blacksmith and Locksmith**, among others.
5. **30 lakh traditional artisans and craftspeople** have been registered under the scheme.

6. Support includes **skill upgradation, modern tools, financial assistance, digital enablement and market linkages.**

Objectives:

1. Promote the **socio-economic empowerment** of traditional artisans and craftspeople.
2. Strengthen and preserve India's **traditional crafts and cultural heritage.**
3. Improve artisans' skills and access to **modern tools and financial support.**
4. Promote **digital enablement and market access** for traditional occupations.
5. Ensure **sustainable livelihood opportunities** for artisans.

Benefits & Support:

1. **Registration:** Traditional artisans and craftspeople are formally registered under the scheme, enabling them to access the various support benefits provided under PM Vishwakarma.
2. **Basic Skill Training:** Beneficiaries receive basic skill training aimed at **upgrading their occupational skills and improving their capabilities** in traditional trades.
3. **Toolkit Support:** Artisans are provided with **toolkits and modern tools** to support their traditional occupations and strengthen their work capabilities.
4. **Financial Support:** The scheme extends **financial assistance** to artisans to strengthen their livelihood activities and promote their socio-economic empowerment.
5. **Digital Enablement & Market Linkages:** Support for **digital adoption and market connectivity** helps artisans improve their access to markets and expand their economic opportunities.

Significance:

1. **Recognition of Artisans**: Participation in the Independence Day celebration acknowledges the contribution of traditional craftspeople to India's heritage.
2. **Women's Empowerment:** Inclusion of women artisans reflects efforts towards greater **economic participation and livelihood opportunities for women.**

3. **Cultural Preservation:** Supporting traditional trades helps preserve India's **artisanal knowledge and cultural heritage.**
4. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Skill, tools, finance and market support can strengthen the long-term economic sustainability of traditional occupations.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2299286&reg=3&lang=1

9. National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Prelims:

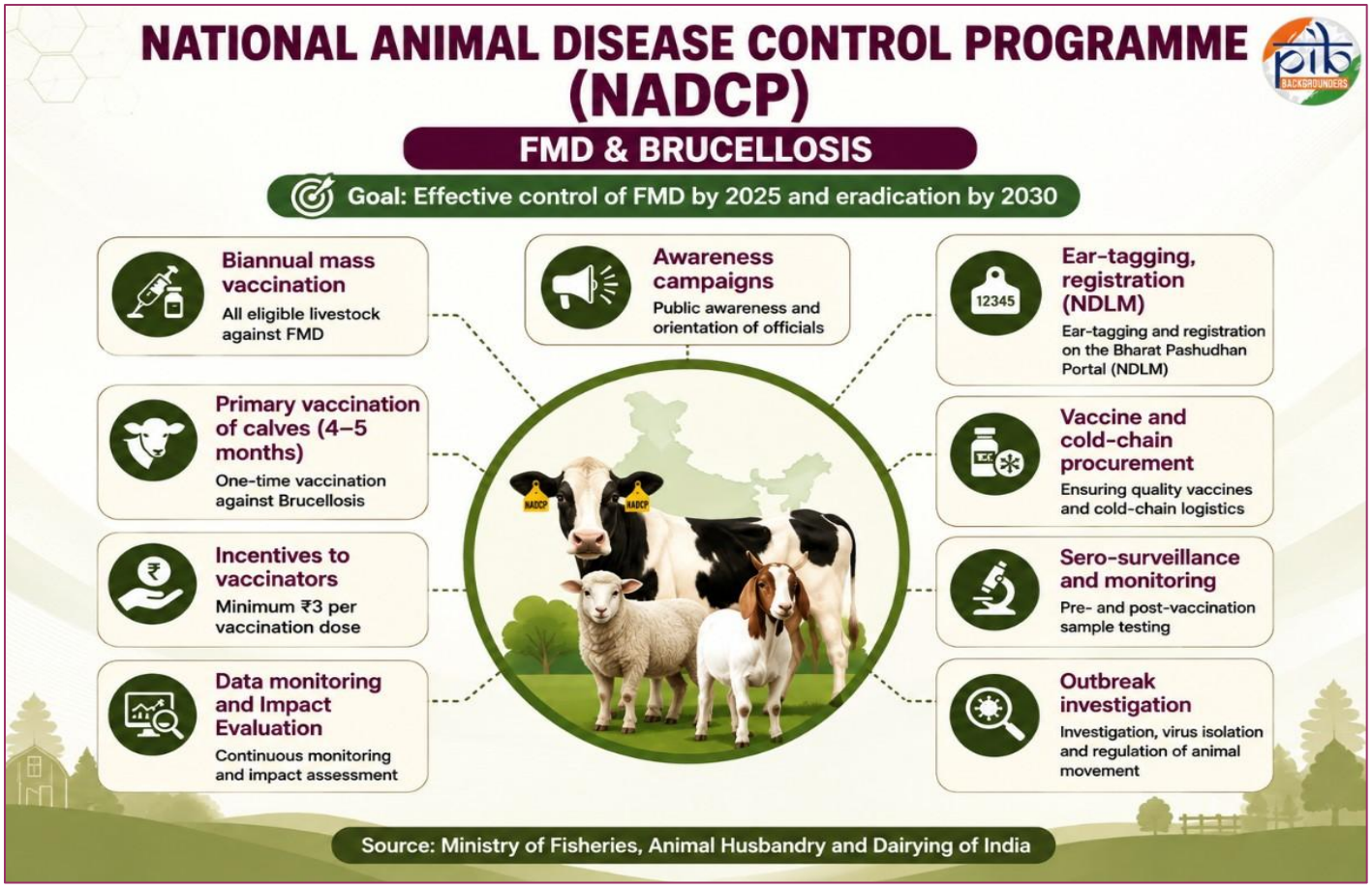
Government schemes and initiatives

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government policies and interventions; GS Paper III- Indian economy

Current relevance:

The **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP),** launched in **September 2019,** has significantly strengthened India's efforts to **control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis** through nationwide vaccination, surveillance and digital monitoring.



Highlights:

About National Animal Disease Control Programme:

1. NADCP was launched in **September 2019** as a nationwide livestock health initiative.
2. It aims to **control and eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis** through vaccination and surveillance.
3. It targets **100% vaccination** of eligible livestock against FMD **twice a year.**
4. For Brucellosis, **female bovine calves aged 4–8 months** receive a one-time vaccination during their lifetime.
5. The programme also supports disease surveillance, **cold-chain logistics, outbreak investigation, virus isolation** and typing, quarantine and animal-movement regulation.
6. NADCP has subsequently been subsumed along with other components under the broader **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP).**

Diseases Covered under NADCP:

1. **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD):**
    i. A **highly contagious viral disease** affecting cloven-hoofed animals such as **cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs.**
    ii. It reduces **milk production, growth, reproductive performance and working capacity** of draft animals.
    iii. It can also restrict access to **international markets.**
    iv. Major FMD serotypes mentioned are **O, A and Asia-1**, with Type O being the most common and widespread in India.
2. **Brucellosis:**
    i. A **bacterial reproductive disease** of cattle and buffaloes caused by *Brucella abortus*.
    ii. It primarily affects the **reproductive organs**, disrupting fertility and lactation and consequently affecting milk and meat production.
    iii. As there is **no curative treatment for bovines**, vaccination is the principal sustainable control measure.

Vaccination, Surveillance & Major Outcomes:

1. Cumulative FMD vaccination has reached **147.16 crore doses**, benefiting **8.04 crore farmers.**
2. Since 2024, FMD vaccination has also been extended to **pastoral sheep and goats**, including migratory populations in selected States and UTs.
3. Average protective immunity against FMD serotypes **O, A and Asia-1 reached 78.1%, 71.7% and 77.6%,** respectively.
4. Reported **FMD outbreaks declined from 132 in 2019** to **40 in 2025**.
5. No FMD outbreak caused by **Serotype Asia-1** was reported during the last three years covered by the source.
6. Brucellosis outbreaks declined from 22 in 2019 to 15 in 2025.

7. **Sero-surveillance** assesses antibody prevalence at the population level, while **sero-monitoring** tracks antibody levels over time to understand immunity.

Digital & Veterinary Infrastructure:

1. The **Bharat Pashudhan Portal** integrates livestock registration and FMD and Brucellosis vaccination records.
2. Each registered animal receives a unique **12-digit Tag ID.**
3. By July 2026, more than **39 crore livestock** had been registered, enabling **better traceability and real-time monitoring.**
4. MVUs provide doorstep veterinary services through the toll-free number **1962.**
5. Research support from **ICAR institutions** covers vaccine research, quality testing, disease modelling, surveillance and sero-surveillance.

Link with One Health & Pandemic Preparedness:

1. The **One Health approach** recognises the interdependence of **human, animal and environmental health.**
2. Strengthening detection and control of animal diseases can reduce **zoonotic disease transmission**, promote prudent antimicrobial use and improve pandemic preparedness.
3. In 2024, the Government launched the US$25 million Pandemic Fund Project on "**Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response."**
4. It strengthens **genomic and environmental surveillance**, laboratory infrastructure and cross-border collaboration.
5. It is supported by the **G20 Pandemic Fund** and implemented in partnership with the **ADB, FAO and World Bank.**

Significance:

1. Disease control protects farmers from economic losses arising from **lower milk yield, reproductive failure and trade restrictions.**

2. India's milk production increased from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to **247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25.**
3. Vaccination, surveillance and digital livestock identification together create a more **data-driven animal-health system.**
4. Improved livestock health contributes to **farmer livelihoods, food security and livestock productivity.**
5. Integration with the **One Health framework** strengthens India's capacity to address **zoonotic diseases and future pandemic threats**, while supporting a healthier and more competitive livestock sector.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2302242&reg=48&lang=1

10. e-Shram Portal

Prelims:

Government schemes

Mains:

GS Paper II: Government policies and interventions for vulnerable sections, GS Paper III: Indian Economy

Current affairs:

The **e-Shram Portal** completed five years on 26 August 2026. Launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** on 26 August 2021, it created India's first Aadhaar-authenticated National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).



Highlights:

About e-Shram Portal:

1. **Launch:** Launched on **26 August 2021** by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. **Developed by:** National Informatics Centre (NIC).
3. **National Database:** It created India's first Aadhaar-authenticated National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).
4. **Universal Account Number:** Every registered worker receives a unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN).
5. **Coverage:** It covers diverse groups such as **agricultural labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, migrant workers, street vendors, gig and platform workers** and other unorganised workers.
6. An unorganised worker includes a home-based worker, self-employed worker or wage worker in the unorganised sector, as well as an organised-sector worker who is not covered by ESIC, EPFO or Government employment.

Major Objectives:

1. **Welfare Convergence:** Improve social-security delivery by enabling convergence of welfare schemes across Ministries and Departments.
2. **Portability:** Facilitate **nationwide access and portability of social-security and welfare benefits**, particularly for migrant and construction workers.
3. **Evidence-Based Policy:** Enable secure sharing of worker data with government agencies through APIs, supporting effective welfare delivery and policymaking.
4. **National Database:** Develop a comprehensive database of India's **unorganised workforce**.
5. **Crisis Response:** Support **timely planning** and government response during **national emergencies and crises**.

e-Shram One-Stop Solution:

The portal evolved from a worker registry into a **unified service-delivery platform** with the launch of the **e-Shram One-Stop Solution on 21 October 2024**.

1. It integrates **welfare, employment, skilling and pension services** on a single digital platform.
2. It brings together **15 Social Security and Welfare Schemes**, including **PM-SYM, PMSBY, PMJJBY, NSAP, ONORC and PMAY-G**.
3. Workers can access the **National Career Service (NCS)** for employment opportunities.
4. **Skill India Digital Hub** provides access to skilling and apprenticeship opportunities.
5. **myScheme** helps workers identify government schemes for which they may be eligible.
6. Eligible workers can access **PM-SYM**, providing a minimum assured pension of **₹3,000 per month after attaining 60 years**, subject to eligibility.
7. Multilingual functionality in **22 languages**, powered by **Bhashini**, was introduced in **2025**.

Inclusion of Migrant, Construction & Gig Workers:

1. **Migrant Workers:** The portal provides for capturing **family details of migrant workers**, strengthening their inclusion in the database.
2. **Construction Workers:** Data can be shared with States and Union Territories to facilitate registration with respective **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Boards**.
3. **Gig & Platform Workers:** e-Shram enables their **identification and registration** within the national database of unorganised workers.
4. Around **11.5 lakh platform workers** have registered on the portal.
5. Such data can support the formulation and implementation of appropriate **social-security and welfare measures** for platform workers.

Registration & Eligibility:

1. **Eligibility:** Any unorganised worker aged **16 years and above** can register.
2. The worker must **not be an income-tax payer** or a member of EPFO or ESIC.
3. **Free Registration:** Registration is completely free of cost.
4. **Registration Channels:** Workers can register through the **e-Shram Portal, Common Service Centres (CSCs), State Seva Kendras,** or with assistance from State government field officials.
5. **Documents:** Registration requires an **Aadhaar number for e-KYC** and a mobile number, preferably linked with Aadhaar.
6. Registration is designed as a **one-time process.**
7. **Coverage:**
   - **Women** constitute **54.28%** of registered workers on the e-Shram Portal, while **men** account for **45.72%.**
   - **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra** have the highest registrations.

Significance:

1. **Digital Identity:** Provides unorganised workers with a nationwide digital identity through the **UAN and NDUW.**
2. **Inclusive Social Security:** Integrates multiple welfare and social-security services into a **single digital ecosystem.**
3. **Benefit Portability:** Particularly important for **migrant and mobile workers** requiring access to benefits across locations.
4. **Targeted Welfare:** A comprehensive worker database supports more targeted and transparent delivery of government support.
5. **Policy Planning**: Worker data strengthens evidence-based policymaking and crisis-response planning.
6. **Inclusive Growth:** e-Shram acts as a digital pillar for extending social protection to India's vast **unorganised workforce** and building a more inclusive, technology-enabled labour welfare system.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2303053&reg=6&lang=1

11. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)

Prelims:

Government Schemes

Mains:

GS Paper III – Food Processing and Related Industries

Current relevance:

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) organised the **PMFME Bazaar** on 24–25 August 2026 at **India Habitat Centre**, bringing together exhibitors from **25 States and Union Territories.**



Highlights:

PMFME Scheme:

1. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme was launched on **29 June 2020**.
2. It supports micro food-processing enterprises through **financial, technical and business assistance**.
3. Assistance enables entrepreneurs to establish **new units or strengthen existing enterprises**.
4. Under its **credit-linked capital subsidy**, assistance of **35% of the total project cost,** up to **₹10 lakh per unit**, is available.
5. The scheme supports improvements in processing machinery, production capacity, branding and market access.

PMFME Bazaar – Market Linkage Platform:

1. The Bazaar showcased India's **unique, ethnic and traditional food products**, ranging from millets and spices to pickles, snacks and beverages.
2. It brought exhibitors from **25 States and Union Territories** onto a common platform.
3. Participants included **micro enterprises, SHGs, FPOs, cooperatives and entrepreneurs**.
4. It facilitates interaction with **buyers**, development of **business connections** and exploration of **new markets**.
5. It demonstrates how local ingredients and traditional knowledge, combined with value addition and branding, can transform **regional food products into commercially viable brands.**

Case studies:

The cases highlighted at the Bazaar demonstrate different dimensions of **food-processing value addition:**

1. **Bihar – Makhana:** SHHE Foods developed products such as **makhana-infused cookies and convenient makhana packs**. With improved machinery, processing capacity increased from **100 kg/day to at least 1,000 kg/day**.
2. **Rajasthan – Jamun:** Tribalveda combines **tribal knowledge** and **Ayurveda** to produce preservative-free **jamun vinegar, cubes and strips**, involving around **3,000–5,000 tribal women** during the jamun season.
3. **Maharashtra – Soya:** Soya Rich processes soya into **soya milk and tofu**, including flavoured variants such as mint and smoked products.
4. **Odisha – Millets:** Malati Food Products undertakes **cleaning, grinding, processing and packaging** of different millet varieties.

Significance for Rural Economy:

1. **Formalisation:** Financial and technical assistance helps small enterprises move towards more organised business operations.

2. **Value addition:** Processing converts primary agricultural products such as makhana, jamun, soya and millets into higher-value products.
3. **Technology upgradation:** Capital subsidy facilitates investment in better machinery and processing capacity.
4. **Livelihood generation:** Enterprises can create employment and strengthen livelihoods, illustrated by Tribalveda's engagement with 3,000–5,000 tribal women.
5. **Market diversification:** Businesses are accessing wider markets through trade fairs, government portals and online platforms.
6. **Export potential:** Supported enterprises have reached markets such as Dubai and the USA, while others are exploring future exports.
7. **Regional heritage:** The model enables traditional foods, indigenous knowledge and local ingredients to acquire wider commercial reach.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2303426&reg=48&lang=1

12. PARIVARTAN Scheme

Prelims:

Government schemes

Mains:

GS Paper II: Government policies and interventions, GS Paper III: Environment and Pollution

Current relevance:

The PARIVARTAN Scheme, launched on 14 July 2026, has **gained momentum** with over **1,300 beneficiaries registered** on its portal.



Highlights:

About PARIVARTAN Scheme:

1. PARIVARTAN stands for the **Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions**.
2. **Launch:** The Scheme was launched on 14 July **2026.**
3. **Key objective:**
   i. **Reduce Vehicular Air Pollution:** Reduce **air pollution in Delhi-NCR**, particularly emissions from ageing and highly polluting commercial vehicles.
   ii. **Modernise Commercial Fleet:** Facilitate the replacement of BS-IV and older trucks and buses with **BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, or electric vehicles (EVs)**.
   iii. **Promote Cleaner Mobility:** Accelerate the transition towards cleaner and more efficient vehicle technologies through financial incentives and policy support.
   iv. **Improve Regional Air Quality:** Reduce transport-related emissions and contribute to a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable National Capital Region.
   v. **Support Fleet Renewal:** Make replacement of ageing commercial vehicles financially viable through **incentives and coordinated implementation** involving governments, financial institutions and automobile manufacturers.

4. **Geographical Coverage:** Covers eligible vehicles registered in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and NCR districts of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Institutional & Financial Framework:

1. Funding: The Scheme is funded through the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
2. **Implementation:** Implemented by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).**

Incentives for Vehicle Replacement:

1. **Interest Support**: **5% interest savings** on eligible vehicle loans for **five years.**
2. **Road Tax: 100%** Road Tax Waiver for **10 years.**
3. Registration Fee: Full waiver of registration fees.
4. Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have already issued notifications regarding these tax and registration concessions.
5. **OEM Discount:** At least **8% discount on the ex-showroom price** from participating automobile OEMs.

Implementation Progress:

1. **Beneficiaries:** More than **1,300 beneficiaries** have registered on the PARIVARTAN Portal.
2. **Financial Institutions: 42 banks and NBFCs** have been onboarded to provide interest subvention on eligible vehicle loans.
3. **Automobile Industry:** MoUs have been signed with **15 auto OEMs** to provide the prescribed discount to eligible beneficiaries.
4. The combination of **government support, institutional financing and OEM participation** facilitates vehicle replacement.

Awareness & Outreach Strategy:

1. A **multi-pronged awareness campaign** is being undertaken across Delhi-NCR to inform eligible vehicle owners about Scheme benefits and registration.

2. Outreach covers **print, electronic and digital media**.
3. Outdoor publicity is being undertaken at **fuel stations, transport nagars, toll plazas and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs)**.
4. The campaign aims to increase **beneficiary registration and participation** across the region.

Significance:

1. **Cleaner Vehicle Fleet:** Facilitates replacement of older **BS-IV or prior-norm commercial vehicles** with cleaner alternatives.
2. **Air Pollution Reduction:** Targets transport-related air pollution and vehicular emissions in Delhi-NCR.
3. **Electric Mobility:** Provides a dedicated one-time incentive for the purchase of electric vehicles.
4. **Financial Accessibility:** Combines **interest savings, tax exemptions, registration-fee waiver and OEM discounts** to reduce the cost of fleet renewal.
5. **Regional Approach:** Covers Delhi and NCR districts across **Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**, addressing transport emissions at the regional level.
6. **Multi-Stakeholder Model:** Integrates the roles of **Central Ministries, State governments, banks/NBFCs and automobile OEMs** in implementing cleaner mobility transition.

Source: PIB -

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2304373&reg=48&lang=2

13. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Prelims:

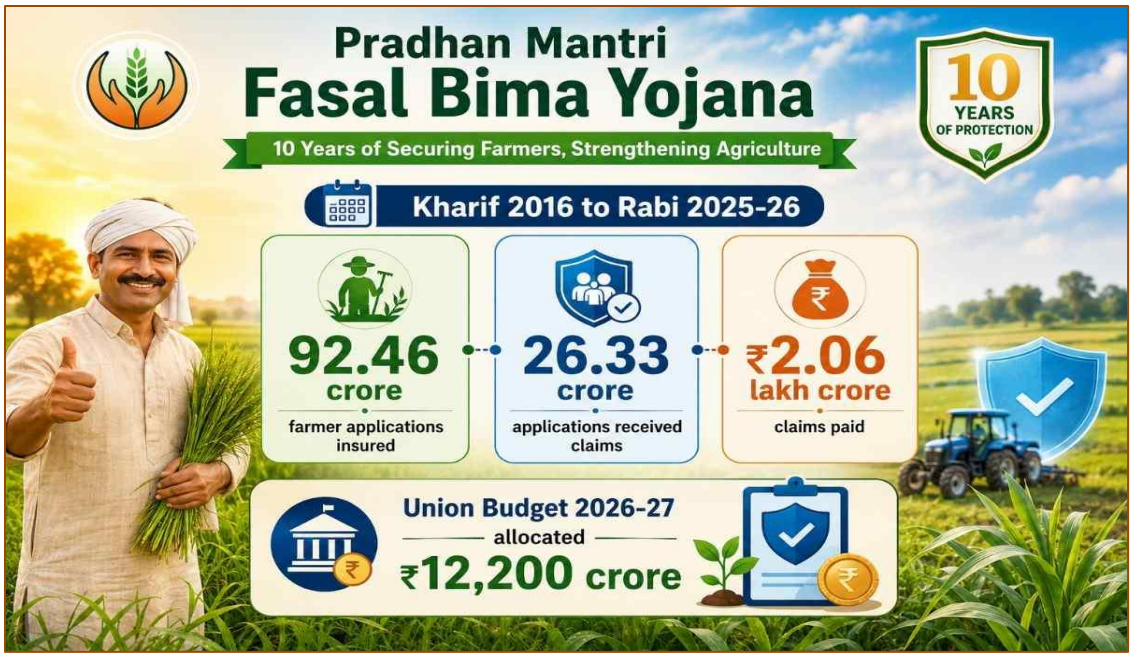
Agriculture

Mains:

GS Paper III: Agriculture

Current relevance:

The **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** has completed a decade as a major component of India's agricultural risk-management framework. From **Kharif 2016 to Rabi 2025-26**, more than **92.46 crore farmer applications** were insured, while over **26.33 crore applications received claims exceeding ₹2.06 lakh crore**. The Union Budget **2026-27 allocated ₹12,200 crore** for the scheme.



At a glance:

Framework & Coverage:

1. **Launched: 18 February 2016**; operational from **Kharif 2016**.
2. **Objective:** Provide affordable financial protection against **crop losses** and stabilise farmers' incomes against agricultural risks.
3. Coverage extends across the crop cycle, including:
   - **Prevented/failed sowing**
   - **Standing crop yield losses**
   - **Mid-season adversity**

- **Localised calamities**
- **Specified post-harvest losses**

4. Eligible farmers include **loanee, non-loanee, tenant and sharecropper farmers**, subject to prescribed conditions.
5. Non-loanee farmers can **voluntarily enrol** under PMFBY.
6. Around **50% of farmers, on average, enrolled voluntarily as non-loanee farmers** during the last decade.

Major risks covered:

1. **Standing Crops:** Drought, dry spells, floods, inundation, cyclones, hailstorms, lightning, pests and diseases.
2. **Prevented Sowing:** Eligible farmers may receive claims up to **25% of the sum insured** when adverse weather prevents sowing after expenditure has been incurred.
3. **Post-Harvest Loss:** Crops in **"cut-and-spread" condition** are covered for up to **14 days after harvesting** against specified cyclonic and unseasonal rainfall events.
4. **Localised Calamities:** Includes specified losses from **hailstorms, landslides, inundation, cloudbursts and natural fire**.
5. Losses due to **war, nuclear risks, riots, theft and other preventable risks** are excluded.

Maximum Farmer Premium:

1. Kharif foodgrain & oilseeds: **2%**
2. Rabi foodgrain & oilseeds: **1.5%**
3. Commercial & horticultural crops: **5%**
4. Remaining premium subsidy is shared by the **Centre and States in a 50:50 ratio**.
5. For **North-Eastern and Himalayan States/UTs**, the Centre-State subsidy contribution is **90:10**.

Technology-driven Crop Insurance:

PMFBY integrates multiple digital initiatives:

1. **NCIP – National Crop Insurance Portal:** Digital enrolment, subsidy administration, claim calculation and electronic claim transfers.
2. **DigiClaim:** Introduced from **Kharif 2022** for transparent calculation and settlement of claims through NCIP and **PFMS**.
3. **YES-TECH:** Uses **remote sensing and technology-based methods** for crop-yield estimation.
4. **WINDS:** Uses **Automatic Weather Stations and Automatic Rain Gauges** to generate hyperlocal weather data at Block and Gram Panchayat levels.
5. **CROPIC:** Uses **geo-tagged crop photographs** to monitor crop health and support damage and yield assessment.
6. **CCE-Agri App:** Digitally captures Crop Cutting Experiment yield data.
7. **Krishi Rakshak Portal & Helpline:** Provides the toll-free number **14447** for crop-insurance grievances.
8. **CLAP:** Digitally records individual farm-level crop losses arising from localised calamities.

Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS):

1. **RWBCIS complements PMFBY** by addressing risks specifically arising from adverse weather.
2. It is a **weather index-based insurance scheme**.
3. Claims are based on specified **weather parameters as proxies for crop damage**, rather than actual assessed crop-yield losses.
4. Operates through an **Area Approach** in defined **Reference Unit Areas (RUAs)**.
5. Trigger parameters include:
   - Deficit/excess rainfall
   - Dry spells
   - Extreme temperatures
   - Humidity

- Wind speed

6. It is particularly important for **fruits, vegetables and plantation crops**.
7. RWBCIS follows the same affordable farmer premium rates of **1.5%–5%, depending on crop type**.

Significance:

1. **Income Stabilisation:** Protects farmers against financial shocks arising from crop failure.
2. **Climate Resilience:** Provides protection against droughts, floods, cyclones and other climatic risks.
3. **Inclusive Insurance:** Extends coverage to **loanee, non-loanee, tenant and sharecropper farmers** subject to eligibility requirements.
4. **Technology Integration:** Digital tools strengthen accuracy, transparency and speed of insurance delivery.
5. **Food Security:** Greater farm resilience supports the continuity of agricultural production and thereby strengthens **national food security**.

Way Forward:

1. **Technology-based Assessment:** Deepen the use of **remote sensing, geo-tagging, digital CCEs and hyperlocal weather data**.
2. **Faster Claims:** Strengthen **NCIP, DigiClaim and PFMS-**based settlement mechanisms for timely compensation.
3. **Inclusive Enrolment:** Improve accessibility for non-loanee, tenant and sharecropper farmers.
4. **Data Integration:** Expand integration of State e-land records with NCIP for accurate validation of insured land.
5. **Grievance Redressal:** Strengthen farmer-facing mechanisms such as the **Krishi Rakshak Portal** and Helpline.

6. **Climate-smart Insurance:** Continue integrating crop insurance with India's broader transition towards climate-resilient agriculture and agricultural risk management.

Source: PIB-

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2304549&reg=48&lang=1