

Schemes (2)

- PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana and food processing**
Body: Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Detail: PMKSY is a central sector umbrella scheme running since 2017-18, building farm-gate-to-retail infrastructure — mega food parks, cold chains, processing and preservation capacity, agro-processing clusters, food-testing labs and Operation Greens for TOP crops; aims to cut post-harvest losses, add value, raise exports and create rural jobs
Exam hook: Allied — PMFME (micro units, One District One Product, 35% subsidy), PLISFPI (scale and branding), FSSAI (food safety), APEDA (exports)
- PM-VBRY — employment-linked incentives for formal jobs**
Body: Ministry of Labour & Employment / EPFO
Detail: The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana is an employment-linked incentive scheme delivered through the EPFO framework, rewarding first-time employees and incentivising employers who create new formal jobs; over 80% of India's workforce is informal, without contract or social security
Exam hook: Contrast with MGNREGA/VB-G RAM G, a rights-based legal guarantee of 100 days of rural wage employment; allied schemes PMKVY (skilling), PM Vishwakarma (artisans), Mudra (self-employment credit) and the National Career Service

Welfare (6)

- World Hepatitis Day and the NVHCP**
Body: MoHFW / WHO
Detail: Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver; types A–E; A and E spread by contaminated food and water (faecal-oral), B, C and D through blood and body fluids; B and C cause chronic infection leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer; vaccines exist for A and B (the B vaccine also protects against D) but not C, which is curable with antivirals
Exam hook: World Hepatitis Day is 28 July; the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (2018) offers free testing and treatment, targeting elimination by 2030
- PM-JANMAN and PVTG welfare**
Body: Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Detail: Scheduled Tribes are notified by the President under Article 342; the NCST is a constitutional body under Article 338A; the Fifth Schedule applies to most states (Tribes Advisory Council) and the Sixth Schedule to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram (Autonomous District Councils); PVTGs are the 75 most vulnerable ST groups, identified on Dhebar Commission criteria — pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, stagnant population, extreme backwardness
Exam hook: PM-JANMAN launched 15 Nov 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Birs Munda's birth anniversary), covering 18 states and 1 UT through 11 converged interventions
- World Breastfeeding Week and child nutrition**
Body: Ministry of Women & Child Development / WHO
Detail: Colostrum is the antibody-rich first milk, to be given within one hour of birth; exclusive breastfeeding is advised for six months, then complementary feeding alongside breastfeeding to two years; stunting is low height-for-age (chronic), wasting is low weight-for-height (acute), and underweight is low weight-for-age
Exam hook: World Breastfeeding Week is 1–7 August; delivery through Anganwadi Centres under ICDS (1975), Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018) and the Poshan Tracker
- India's social security coverage crosses 100 crore (ILO)**
Body: ILO / Ministry of Labour & Employment
Detail: Coverage of roughly 101 crore people, over 68% of the population; EPFO provides provident fund, pension (EPS 1995) and EDLI under the EPF & MP Act 1952; ESIC provides medical care under the ESI Act 1948; Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY gives Rs 5 lakh health cover; e-Shram is the unorganised-worker database
Exam hook: Also APY, PMJJBY and PMSBY for pension and insurance, and the National Food Security Act 2013

- Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan**
Body: PMO / Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Detail: Launched 2 August 2026 with over one crore young participants from more than 28,000 locations, framing addiction as a medical and family issue rather than a matter of shame; supply reduction sits with the MHA under the NDPS Act, 1985 and the Narcotics Control Bureau (1986), demand reduction with Social Justice & Empowerment through the NAPDDR and the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (15 August 2020, 272 districts, nationwide from August 2023)
Exam hook: The 2019 AIIMS-NDDTC survey found alcohol the most used substance (about 16 crore), then cannabis (3.1 crore) and opioids (2.26 crore); India lies between the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle; helpline 14446
- PM-AJAY Adarsh Gram — 47,328 villages selected**
Body: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Detail: The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana, launched in FY 2021-22, merged the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Special Central Assistance to the SC Sub Plan and the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana into one scheme with three components — Adarsh Gram, grants-in-aid and hostels; the Adarsh Gram component seeks saturation of 50 monitorable indicators across 10 sectors through convergence; 47,328 villages selected, 3.28 lakh works and over 1.1 crore beneficiaries identified
Exam hook: Constitutional backdrop — Article 341 (SC list notified by the President, alterable only by Parliament), Article 17, Article 338 (NCSC), Article 46

Polity/Bodies (1)

- Panchayati Raj and the Atmanirbhar Panchayat push**
Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Detail: 73rd Amendment (1992) inserted Part IX (Art 243) and the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects); three tiers — Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti (block), Zila Parishad (district); Gram Sabha = all village voters (direct democracy, not elected); 5-yearly elections by the State Election Commission; reservation for SC/ST plus at least one-third for women
Exam hook: Finances flow via the State Finance Commission (Art 243-I)

Economy (5)

- ASUSE and India's unincorporated informal sector**
Body: MoSPI (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises)
Detail: Informal/unorganised = small unregistered units and the self-employed, with no formal contract or social security; over 80% of India's workforce; 'unincorporated' means not a registered company; the sector employs roughly 19% of non-farm workers but contributes only about 6% of GVA
Exam hook: Low productivity is the core problem — the case for formalisation via EPFO/GST registration
- India's record FY26 exports and the FTA push**
Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry / DGFT
Detail: Total exports a record US\$ 863.1 bn — merchandise \$441.8 bn plus services \$421.3 bn; merchandise = 'visible' goods trade, services = 'invisibles'; India runs a goods deficit but a services surplus, both recorded in the current account
Exam hook: Recent FTAs — UAE-CEPA, Australia-EFTA, EFTA-TEPA, UK-CETA; the Foreign Trade Policy is issued by the DGFT
- Public sector banks and the fall in NPAs**
Body: RBI / Ministry of Finance
Detail: NPA = a loan overdue beyond 90 days (RBI norm); GNPA is total bad loans, NNPA is net of provisions; classes are sub-standard, doubtful and loss; PSB GNPA has fallen to roughly 1.9% in FY26
Exam hook: Clean-up tools — AQR (2015), IBC (2016, through the NCLT), SARFAESI Act (2002), recapitalisation and NARCL; banks were nationalised in 1969 (14) and 1980 (6); RBI established 1935
- CPI base-year revision to 2024=100**
Body: NSO, MoSPI
Detail: The Consumer Price Index measures retail inflation across goods and services; base year revised from 2012 to 2024=100, with 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets plus 12 online sources; food carries the largest weight; core inflation excludes food and fuel
Exam hook: Under flexible inflation targeting (2016, amended RBI Act), the RBI targets 4% CPI inflation with a $\pm 2\%$ band through the MPC's repo rate; WPI covers wholesale goods only (DPIIT, base 2022-23)

• Samudra Manthan — the National Offshore Exploration Scheme

Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas / DGH

Detail: A Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore up to FY 2030-31 for offshore and deepwater exploration and production; India imports about 85% of its crude and roughly 50% of its natural gas; the country has about 26 sedimentary basins covering 3.36 million sq km, much of it offshore and under-explored

Exam hook: Policy path NELP (1999) to HELP (2016, revenue sharing and a uniform licence) to OALP, where bidders pick their own block using the National Data Repository

Environment (4)

• India's updated NDC under the Paris Agreement

Body: MoEFCC / UNFCCC

Detail: NDC = a country's climate pledge under the Paris Agreement (2015); India's three targets — 45% cut in emission intensity of GDP by 2030 over 2005, about 50% non-fossil installed power capacity (achieved 2025), and an additional 2.5–3 billion-tonne CO2 carbon sink

Exam hook: Flows from the Panchamrit pledges at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021) — 500 GW non-fossil capacity, 50% renewables, net-zero by 2070

• Flood management in the Ganga basin

Body: Ministry of Jal Shakti / CWC

Detail: India floods because monsoon rain is concentrated in a few months, Himalayan rivers carry heavy silt that raises riverbeds, the plains are flat, and floodplains are encroached; the Kosi is the 'Sorrow of Bihar', the Damodar the 'Sorrow of Bengal' (tamed by the DVC)

Exam hook: Flood forecasting by the Central Water Commission, rainfall warnings by the IMD; disaster response under the Disaster Management Act 2005 — NDMA (PM-chaired), SDMA, DDMA, NDRF; India-Nepal joint mechanisms because tributaries rise in Nepal

• Microplastics and marine litter on India's coast

Body: NCCR, Ministry of Earth Sciences (Chennai)

Detail: Microplastics are plastic fragments under 5 mm — primary (microbeads, industrial pellets) or secondary (broken-down plastic and synthetic clothing fibres); nanoplastics are under 1 micrometre; most sources are land-based via rivers and drains, plus abandoned fishing gear ('ghost nets'); plastic is non-biodegradable and bioaccumulates up the food chain

Exam hook: Monitored using the Clean Coast Index; the Gulf of Mannar is a Marine Biosphere Reserve

• Ujh Multipurpose Project and the Indus Waters Treaty

Body: Ministry of Jal Shakti / WAPCOS

Detail: Planned on the Ujh, a tributary of the Ravi, in Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir; will irrigate about 90,000 hectares across Kathua and Samba (J&K) and Pathankot and Gurdaspur (Punjab), supply drinking water to Kathua and generate power; complements the Shahpurkandi project in using India's full Ravi entitlement

Exam hook: Under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 (Karachi, Nehru-Ayub Khan, World Bank-brokered), the eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are for India's unrestricted use, the western Indus, Jhelum and Chenab largely Pakistan's, with India limited to non-consumptive use; disputes go to the Permanent Indus Commission, then a Neutral Expert or Court of Arbitration

Infra (3)

• Underwater archaeology and India's submerged heritage

Body: Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture

Detail: Underwater archaeology studies submerged remains left by sea-level rise, erosion, tsunamis and shipwrecks, using sonar, ROVs and photogrammetry; the ASI (founded 1861 under Alexander Cunningham) runs an Underwater Archaeology Wing; key sites are Dwarka and Bet Dwarka (Gujarat), Mahabalipuram (Pallava, a UNESCO site), Poompuhar (an ancient Chola port named in Sangam literature) and Karaikal

Exam hook: Governed by the AMASR Act 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972; globally by the UNESCO 2001 Convention favouring in-situ preservation over treasure hunting

• Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission

Body: PMO / Ministry of Culture

Detail: Born Narendranath Datta on 12 January 1863 (observed as National Youth Day) and died in 1902; disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa; delivered his celebrated address at the Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago, in 1893, opening 'Sisters and Brothers of America'; founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, headquartered at Belur Math, West Bengal
Exam hook: Taught the four yogas — Karma, Bhakti, Raja and Jnana; the call 'Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached'; service to the poor as Daridra Narayana

• National Handloom Day and India's handloom sector

Body: Ministry of Textiles

Detail: Observed on 7 August since 2015, marking the launch of the Swadeshi Movement at Calcutta Town Hall on 7 August 1905 after the Partition of Bengal; about 35 lakh handloom workers, over 70% of them women and about 88% of weaver households rural, per the Fourth All India Handloom Census (2019-20); India's largest cottage industry

Exam hook: GI-tagged weaves — Banarasi, Kanjeevaram, Pochampally, Chanderi, Muga (Assam), Pashmina; GI of Goods Act, 1999; Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985