

# Social Development- Social Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives

## Chapter 3

### Short Answers

CSM-05: Compiled by Dr. Gadadhara Mohapatra

22

#### This chapter contains:

- Government Policies for Development and Arising Issues
- Social Welfare– Marginalised and Vulnerable Sections
- Women Empowerment schemes
- Child Protection in India
- Initiatives taken by National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
- Initiatives taken by National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
- Initiatives taken by National Commission for Minorities
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- Health Care Sector in India
- Social Inclusion
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Healthcare System strengthening Program
- LaQshya programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative)
- National Health Mission
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ADHM)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- Social Empowerment Measures
- National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms
- Social Audit

## Contents

1. Government Policies for Development and Arising Issues .....	5
1.1 Important Government Policies in Different Sectors of Economy .....	5
2. Social Welfare - Schemes to Empower Vulnerable Community .....	6
2.1 Social Welfare – Marginalised and Vulnerable Sections.....	6
2.2 Government Schemes for Different Vulnerable Sections.....	6
2.3 Scheduled Caste – Welfare Schemes .....	6
3. Women Empowerment schemes.....	9
3.1 List of Major Women Empowerment Schemes in India .....	9
3.2 Women Empowerment in India – Recent News.....	12
4. Child Protection in India.....	12
4.1 Context.....	12
4.2 Background .....	12
4.3 Existing Provisions.....	12
5. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).....	14
5.1 History and Origin .....	14
5.2 Economic Empowerment of STs .....	15
5.3 Central Government schemes for scheduled tribes .....	15
5.3.1 Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana .....	15
5.3.2 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).....	15
5.3.3 Coaching scheme for banking/secretarial services.....	16
5.4.1 Flow of credit to STs.....	16
5.4.2 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes .....	16
6. National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).....	16
6.1 Structure of NCBC .....	17
6.2 NCBC- Powers and Functions.....	17
6.3 Challenges associated with NCBC .....	18
7. National Commission for Minorities .....	19
7.1 National Commission for Minorities – Organisational structure and functioning.....	19
7.2 National Commission for Minorities – Important Facts.....	19
7.3 Which minority communities are governed by NCM?.....	19
Composition of NCM   National Minorities Commission .....	20
8. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 .....	22
8.1 The salient features of the Act.....	22

8.2 Provision for guardianship: .....	22
8.3 Incheon Strategy .....	23
9. Senior Citizens Act, 2007 .....	24
9.1 Senior Citizens Act: Objectives.....	24
9.2 Proposed Amendments to the Senior Citizens Act, 2007 .....	24
9.3 Need for a Senior Citizens Act.....	24
10. Health Care Sector in India .....	25
10.2 Central Government Schemes – Healthcare Sector in India.....	25
10.3 Ayushman Bharat.....	25
11. Social Inclusion.....	26
11.1 Directive Principles of State Policy are enshrined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. ....	26
11.2 Governance Structures: .....	27
11.3 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:.....	27
12. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan .....	29
12.1 What is Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? .....	29
12.2 Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.....	29
12.3 ODF ++ certification to all statutory towns.....	29
12.6 Action Plan Highlights .....	30
13. Health system strengthening program .....	31
13.1 Ayushman Bharat Yojana: .....	31
Establish Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs):.....	31
13.2 Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY): .....	31
Objective .....	32
14. LaQshya' programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative) .....	33
14.1 LaQshya' programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative) .....	33
Goal.....	33
14.2 Objectives of LaQshya programme-.....	33
14.3 Strategies – .....	33
15. National Health Mission.....	34
16. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ADHM) .....	35
16.1 Vision.....	35
16.2 PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission .....	35
16.3 Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission .....	35

17. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) – National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed its six years of successful implementation in August 2020.....	37
17.1 What are the benefits of the PMJDY scheme? .....	38
17.2 Benefits under the Scheme.....	38
18. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).....	39
18.1 Benefits of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana .....	39
18.2 Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana .....	40
18.3 Eligibility for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana .....	41
18.4 WHO & Household Air Pollution.....	41
19. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.....	42
19.1 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY): Latest Development & Achievement .....	42
20. Social Empowerment Measures.....	43
Social Empowerment – Senior Citizens.....	43
20.1 Atal Pension Yojana .....	44
20.2 Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana .....	44
21. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms .....	44
21.1 Objective of the National Mission?.....	45
22. Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Judicial Development – 5 Year Plan [2021-2026].....	46
22.1 Given below are the set targets to be achieved during this five-year plan:.....	46
23. Social Audit .....	46
23.1 Benefits .....	47
23.2 Status: .....	47
23.3 Challenges:.....	47

## 1. Government Policies for Development and Arising Issues

Government of India frames policies to tackle myriads of problems plaguing the country, in different spheres such as employment, health, women empowerment etc. This article provides the list of Government schemes in 5 major sectors

### 1.1 Important Government Policies in Different Sectors of Economy

Some of the important government policies are mentioned below, issue-wise:

Major Sectors/Issue	Government Policies/Government Schemes
<b>Public Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MGNREGA</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</li></ul>
<b>Education in India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)</li><li>• Samagra Shiksha Scheme</li><li>• Right to Education (RTE)</li><li>• Sukanya Samridhi Scheme</li></ul>
<b>Health in India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ayushman Bharat Programme</li><li>• National Health Mission</li><li>• National Rural Health Mission</li><li>• National Urban Health Mission</li></ul>
<b>Women Empowerment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One-Stop Centre Scheme</li><li>• Ujjawala Scheme</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana yojana</li></ul>
<b>Public Distribution/ Farmers' Welfare/Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Food Security Act (NFSA)</li><li>• <u>Minimum Support Price (MSP)</u></li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana</li></ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture</li><li>• Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## 2. Social Welfare - Schemes to Empower Vulnerable Community

Indian Constitution wants to establish a welfare state which is very clear from the Preamble and Directive Principles of State Policy. Path to establish a welfare state is by securing Indian citizens by providing political justice, social justice, and economic justice.

### 2.1 Social Welfare – Marginalised and Vulnerable Sections

Unorganised Sector  
Scheduled Class welfare  
Scheduled Tribe Welfare  
Backwards Classes  
Financial Inclusion  
Minority Welfare  
Differently-abled welfare  
Women and Child Development  
Senior Citizen Welfare  
Rural Poverty Alleviation  
Urban Poverty Alleviation

### 2.2 Government Schemes for Different Vulnerable Sections

Different Ministries have different programs to provide justice to different vulnerable sections of Indian society.

#### Unorganised Sector – Welfare Schemes

The Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure the welfare of workers have enacted the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008. This Act gives provision for the formation of the National Social Security Board which will help in formulating social security schemes which are given below

#### Life and Disability Cover

Health and Maternity Benefits  
Old age protection

### 2.3 Scheduled Caste – Welfare Schemes

Initiatives that are taken up by the Government of India for the empowerment of Scheduled Class are

Educational Empowerment – Provide scholarships from pre-metric level to PhD programs; provide coaching to students preparing for higher studies.

National Scheduled Class Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) – Financial assistance to those who live Below Poverty Line.

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) – Financial assistance to safai karamcharis and manual scavengers and their dependents.

Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) – States/UTs must formulate special component plans (SCP) and earmark funds for execution of the plan.

Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDC) – Funds are provided to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDC).

Venture Capital Fund – To promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes. The nodal agency is IFCI Limited.

Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme – The objective of this scheme is to provide funding for start-up entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 – Untouchability is a punishable offence.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 – Financial assistance is provided to States by the Centre to handle many social problems.

Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 – To eliminate dry latrines and manual scavenging.

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) – Started in 2015 to provide holistic development in villages having more than 50% scheduled caste population.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna – To provide hostel facilities for students studying at higher secondary to university level.

## **2.4 Scheduled Tribe – Welfare Schemes**

Provide education scholarships.

Under Article 275(1), the Central Government annually grants 100% aid to State governments.

Provide Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce.

Promote tribal culture by supporting Tribal Research Institutes and tribal festivals.

Backwards Classes – Welfare Schemes

There are multiple schemes which are given below.

Education Empowerment – Scholarships from pre-metric level to higher education.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana – To provide microfinance to women entrepreneurs

Swarnima Special Scheme – To promote self – dependence among women

Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the welfare of OBCs – Promote the involvement of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) to improve education and socio-economic condition of people coming under Backward Class and help them to start income generation activities on their own.

## **2.5 Community – Welfare Schemes**

There are plenty of schemes launched by the Government of India for the upliftment of the people belonging to Minority Community.

Nai Roshni – Scheme for women to provide leadership development training.  
Scholarship Schemes from pre-metric to higher education, for students belonging to minority communities.  
Seekho Aur Kamao – Objective is to provide skill development.  
Jiyo Parsi – Scheme to stop the decline of the Parsi population.  
Minority Cyber Gram – To introduce digital literacy skills among minorities.

## 2.6 Differently Abled – Welfare Schemes

There are schemes launched for the welfare of Differently-abled people. Some of the schemes are given below.

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan – To help persons with disability to have better access to transportation, Information and Communication  
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) – To ensure there is equal opportunities and social justice to people with disabilities.  
Senior Citizens – Welfare Schemes  
Details of some of the schemes launched for senior citizens are given below

Vayoshreshtha Sammans – Provide national awards for senior citizens, for rendering services to the elderly persons.  
Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme – Provide social assistance for old age persons.  
Women and Child Development – Welfare Schemes  
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana – It is a maternity benefit programme.

## 2.7 Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes

There are multiple schemes by the Government for poverty alleviation in urban areas. Some of the schemes are given below.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Provide housing for all.  
Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – Provide self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.  
Rural Poverty Alleviation Schemes  
Some of the schemes are given below

National Rurban Mission (NRuM) – Stimulate economic development in villages.  
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Provide housing for all.



### 3. Women Empowerment schemes

- Women Empowerment is the progression of women and, accepting and including them in the decision-making process. It also means providing them with equal opportunities for growth and development in society, and disapproving gender bias.
- Article 15(3) mentions the welfare of women and children and can be stated as “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.”
- Ministry for women and child development has collaborated with Facebook on November 19, 2019, to enhance digital literacy and online safety for women and children in India. The campaign categorized under the Global Literacy Program is named “We Think Digital”.
- Women and children are a vital part of Indian society. Also, these are the most vulnerable sections of India.
- This article provides a list of women empowerment schemes in India as listed under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This is an important topic for UPSC and other [government exams](#).

#### 3.1 List of Major Women Empowerment Schemes in India

- The important women empowerment schemes in India are listed below:

Women Empowerment scheme	Launch Year	Objectives
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination</li><li>• To ensure survival &amp; protection of the girl child</li><li>• To ensure education and participation of the girl child</li></ul>
One-Stop Centre Scheme	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.</li><li>• To Facilitate/Assist in filing First Information Report (FIR/NCR)</li><li>• To provide psycho-social support and counselling to women/girl</li></ul>

Women Helpline Scheme	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence.</li> <li>• To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies such as police/Hospitals/Ambulance services/District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)/Protection Officer (PO)/OSC.</li> <li>• To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes, and programs available to the woman affected by violence, in her particular situation within the local area in which she resides or is employed.</li> </ul>
UJJAWALA	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.</li> <li>• To facilitate the rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.</li> <li>• To provide rehabilitation services with both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counseling, legal aid and guidance, and vocational training.</li> </ul>
Working Women Hostel	1972-73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women.</li> <li>• To provide accommodation to children of working women, up to the age of 18 years for girls and up to the age of 5 years for boys.</li> </ul>
SWADHAR Greh	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To cater to the primary need for shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment, and care of women in distress.</li> <li>• To provide women with legal aid and guidance.</li> </ul>
Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)	1986-87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide skills that give employability to women.</li> <li>• To benefit women in the age group of 16 and above in the country.</li> </ul>

Nari Shakti Puraskar	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen the place of women in society.</li> <li>• To facilitate institutions that work towards the progress and development of women in society.</li> </ul>
Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create an environment for women where they have access to healthcare, quality, education, guidance, employment, etc.</li> <li>• To facilitate these opportunities at the block and district level in the country.</li> </ul>
NIRBHAYA	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate safety and security for women at various levels.</li> <li>• To ensure strict privacy and confidentiality of women's identity and information.</li> <li>• Provision for real-time intervention as far as possible</li> </ul>
Mahila E-Haat	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate entrepreneurship opportunities online for women.</li> <li>• To educate women on various aspects of online selling and helping them establish their venture.</li> </ul>
Mahila Police Volunteers	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An MPV will serve as a public-police interface in order to fight crime against women.</li> <li>• The broad mandate of MPVs is to report incidences of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.</li> </ul>

The government of India has taken the safety and empowerment of women and children into serious consideration. The growing injustice towards women had to be minimised, and these schemes are the solutions to the major problems related to women in India. Aspirants should also know that Women Empowerment Essay is a probable choice in UPSC Mains. So making use of these schemes, aspirants can easily draft a good Women Empowerment Essay.

There are multiple other [Government Schemes in India](#) launched for the betterment of people in the society and for the overall development of the country. Aspirants can visit the linked article and learn in detail about the various schemes and campaigns introduced by the Government.

### 3.2 Women Empowerment in India – Recent News

1. Speaking on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said at the United Nations that India recognises the centrality of gender equality and women’s empowerment in all aspects of developmental agenda. The minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani highlighted that more than 200 million women have been brought into the formal banking system through the Government’s Financial Inclusion Initiative. Innovative use of digital technologies has provided equal opportunity for women to access insurance, loans, and social assistance.
2. Microsoft on Wednesday announced recently it has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to impart digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India. This initiative is an extension of Microsoft’s partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country. The programme will curate a series of live training sessions and digital skilling drives to help create opportunities for young girls and women, particularly first time job seekers and those whose jobs may have been impacted by COVID-19, to join the future workforce
3. Women’s empowerment in India has received more attention in recent years, and one NGO is working to help disadvantaged Indian women achieve financial independence with one specific method: an all-women cab company. The Azad Foundation’s Women on Wheels program empowers impoverished women in India by providing them with a stable source of income and a safe environment where women can travel without fear of being harassed.

## 4. Child Protection in India

### 4.1 Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court has drawn the attention of the government to the problem of child pornography.
- In case of tragedies like the Surat Fire, a lot of victims were children.

## 4.2 Background

- UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child states that the State shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of punishment or discrimination on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child’s parents, legal guardians, or family members.
- However, child labor, malnutrition, stunting, etc are still affecting a large population of Indian children.
- As per the Women and Child Development Ministry, 242,938 children disappeared between 2012 and 2017. But according to Track Child, a government database, nearly 237,040 went missing between 2012 and 2014 alone.
- There is a lack of credible data available for missing children.
- Children are still working long hours performing hazardous and exhausting jobs for menial wages.

### 4.3 Existing Provisions

- In order to address the problem of child trafficking, Supreme Court recently ordered that In case of every missing child reported; there will be an initial presumption of either abduction or trafficking, unless, in the investigation, the same is proved otherwise and an appropriate FIR has to be registered.

- Legal measures to protect the right of the child are – Juvenile Justice Act, Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956 , Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, Article -21 A: The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age 6 – 14years, Article-45, Article-39(f), Article-243 G.
  - **Juvenile Justice Act** –The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2018 had been introduced in the Lok Sabha. Its aim is towards the amendment of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Read in detail about Juvenile Justice Act on the given link.
  - **Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act** – The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act or ITPA is a 1986 amendment of legislation passed in 1956 as a result of the signing by India of the United Nations’ declaration in 1950 in New York on the suppression of trafficking. The act, then called the All India Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (SITA), was amended to the current law. The laws were intended as a means of limiting and eventually abolishing prostitution in India by gradually criminalizing various aspects of sex work. Further details on the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act on the linked page.
  - **Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act** – The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994 has banned pre-natal sex-determination. very genetic counselling centre, genetic laboratory or genetic clinic engaged in counselling or conducting pre-natal diagnostics techniques, like in vitro fertilisation (IVF) with the potential of sex selection (Preimplantation genetic diagnosis) before and after conception comes under the preview of the PCPNDT Act and are banned. The main objective of the act is the arrest of the declining sex-ratio in India due to rampant female foeticide. Read more about Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act on the linked page. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) are institutional support available to protect and promote the rights of children.

#### **What is the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)?**

The NCPCR is a body that works towards achieving a child rights-centric approach in all the laws, programmes, policies and administrative mechanisms in India. It functions under the Ministry of Women & Child Development of the central government.

- It strives to ensure that all laws and policies in the country are in consonance with the rights of children as emphasised by the Indian Constitution as well as with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Aspirants can find detailed information on the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on the given link.

#### **4.4 Way Forward**

- Government has to ensure that credible data is available at all levels about missing, illiterate, and malnourished children.
- Special budgetary provisions have to be made for the promotion of child rights.
- Hostels and care homes have to be built to accommodate rescued children.
- Awareness about child labour and strict enforcement is the need of the hour.
- Our effort must be to ensure that every child reaches his/her full potential free from any and all forms of exploitation and abuse.

## 5. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

NCSC is a constitutional body that works to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC) in India. Article 338 of the constitution of India deals with this commission:

It provides for a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with duties to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for them, to inquire into specific complaints and to participate and advise on the planning process of their socio-economic development etc.

### 5.1 History and Origin

Initially, the constitution provided for the appointment of a Special Officer under Article 338. The special officer was designated as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

65<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1990:

It replaced the one-member system with a multi-member National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

The Constitution (65<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act 1990, amended Article 338 of the Constitution.

89<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 2003:

By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for SC and ST was replaced by two separate Commissions from the year 2004 which were: National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)- under Article 338-A.

Structure:

It consists of: Chairperson. Vice-chairperson. Three other members.

They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

Functions:

Monitoring and investigating all issues concerning the safeguards provided for the SCs under the constitution.

Enquiring into complaints relating to the deprivation of the rights and safeguards of the SCs.

Taking part in and advising the central or state governments with respect to the planning of socio-economic development of the SCs.

Regular reporting to the President of the country on the implementation of these safeguards.

Recommending steps to be taken to further the socio-economic development and other welfare activities of the SCs.

Any other function with respect to the welfare, protection, development and advancement of the SC community.

The Commission is also required to discharge similar functions with regard to the Anglo- Indian Community as it does with respect to the SCs.

Till 2018, the commission was also required to discharge similar functions with regard to the other backward classes (OBCs). It was relieved from this responsibility by the [102<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 2018](#).

Other Constitutional Provisions for Upliftment of the Schedule Caste

[Article 15\(4\)](#) refers to the special provisions for their advancement.

Article 16(4A) speaks of “reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State”.

Article 17 abolishes Untouchability.

Article 46 requires the State ‘to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Article 335 provides that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

Article 330 and Article 332 of the Constitution respectively provide for reservation of seats in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the legislative assemblies of the States.

Under Part IX relating to the [Panchayats](#) and Part IXA of the Constitution relating to the Municipalities, reservation for SC and ST in local bodies has been envisaged and provided.

## **5.2 Economic Empowerment of STs**

Scheduled Tribes (STs) are a group of tribes or tribal communities that are so defined under the Constitution of India. They are a traditionally disadvantaged group and the constitution guarantees them some privileges and benefits so that they can come out of their backward situation. STs make up 8% of the Indian population. They are deemed STs based on certain characteristics such as:

1. Primitive traits
2. Geographical isolation
3. Distinct culture
4. Shy of contact with outside communities
5. Economically backward

In this article, we discuss some schemes and provisions under the government of India for economic empowerment of the scheduled tribes.

### **5.3 Central Government schemes for scheduled tribes**

The central government has initiated various schemes for the economic, social, educational, health and overall development of the ST communities. Some of the schemes are described below.

#### **5.3.1 Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana**

- Launched in 1999, this scheme covers all aspects of self-employment such as organisation into self-help groups, credit, training, technology, marketing and infrastructure.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to provide sustainable income to the rural poor. It is envisaged to bring in all rural poor families under some micro-enterprise.
- The funding is shared between the centre and the states in the ratio 75:25.

#### **5.3.2 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

- Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development
- It aims at enhancing livelihood security of families/households by giving a minimum of 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in one financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to carry out unskilled manual labour.
- Primary objective of MGNREGA: augmenting wage employment
- Auxiliary objective of MGNREGA: bettering natural resource management through jobs that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so promote sustainable development.
- SC and ST households make up 20 percent of MGNREGA participants.

MGNREGA is an immensely powerful scheme for facilitating inclusive growth in rural India. The scheme offers livelihood security, social protection and democratic empowerment.

### 5.3.3 Coaching scheme for banking/secretarial services

The government provides job-oriented coaching and allied services for banking/secretarial services such as typing, stenography, secretarial work, etc. for OBC, ST and SC students.

### 5.4.4 Military training for SC/ST/OBCs

Military training is given for boys and girls for 3 weeks in winter and 4 weeks in summer at the Bhonsala Military School in Nasik.

### 5.5.5 Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST

Special coaching is given in residential schools to students belonging to these categories for removing deficiencies and as remedial coaching so as to enable them to appear for competitive exams for entry into professional medical or engineering courses.

## 5.4 Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)

These are tools for the speedy inclusion and socio-economic development of STs. They form a part of the annual plan of a state or UT.

### 5.4.1 Flow of credit to STs

- Weightage is to be given to ST and SC communities while planning at the block levels. Credit planning should be done favouring these communities.
- While deciding on loan proposals of these communities, the banks should treat them with utmost sympathy and consideration.
- While banks 'adopt' villages for intensive lending, care must be taken to ensure that such adopted villages have a substantial population of these communities.

### 5.4.2 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes

- Entrepreneurship Development Programmes are being conducted by the Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) exclusively for weaker sections of society. People belonging to STs are given motivation and training to equip them to set up small scale industries.
- The Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) offers consultancy services in managerial, technical, economic and other fields. For SC and ST entrepreneurs, a 50% concession of charges/fees is applicable.
- The Rural Artisans Programme also conducts promotional schemes and training programmes for rural SC and ST artisans to improve their technology and tools, upgrade skills and knowledge and help them set up trades.

## 6. National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) established on 14th August 1993 is a constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was formed under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. This Commission was formed as an initiative for investigating the conditions and difficulties of the socially and educationally backward classes and thus making appropriate recommendations.

Some of the highlights of NCBC are mentioned in the table below:

<b>NCBC full form</b>	National Commission for Backward Classes
<b>Year of formation</b>	14th August 1993
<b>NCBC Headquarters</b>	Delhi
<b>NCBC Chairman</b>	Bhagwan Lal Sahni



1. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was an outcome of the Indra Sawhney case (Mandal Commission) of 1992.
2. In the final verdict of the Mandal Commission, the Supreme Court of India had addressed the formation of NCBC as a statutory body. Know in detail about the [Mandal Commission and its effect](#) on the linked page.
3. Headquartered in Delhi, the National Commission for Backward Classes was established on August 14, 1993, under the NCBC Act of 1993.
4. NCBC, in the year 2015, proposed that a person having an annual family income of up to ₹15 lakhs and belonging to the OBC caste will be considered as a minimum ceiling for OBC.
5. It also recommended that OBC can be sub-divided into ‘backwards’, ‘more backwards’ and ‘extremely backward’ categories. As per NCBC, the number of backward castes in the year 2016 increased to 5013 in the Central list of OBCs.

### 6.1 Structure of NCBC

The National Commission for Backward Classes consists of five regulatory members which include the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other members with a tenure period of three years. The current regulatory members of NCBC are mentioned in the table below:

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)	
<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr. Bhagwan Lal Sahni
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Dr. Lokesh Kumar Prajapati
<b>Member 1</b>	Mrs. Sudha Yadav
<b>Member 2</b>	Mr. Kaushlendra Singh Patel
<b>Member 3</b>	Mr. Thalloju Achary

#### *Constitutional Provisions*

- 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.
- 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act inserted new Articles 338 B and 342 A.
- The amendment also brings about changes in Article 366.
- Article 338B provides authority to NCBC to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.
- Article 342 A empowers President to specify socially and educationally backward classes in various states and union territories. He can do this in consultation with the Governor of the concerned State. However, the law enacted by Parliament will be required if the list of backward classes is to be amended.

### 6.2 NCBC- Powers and Functions

1. To investigate and monitor all the matters of the socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law that are related to the proper working of the safeguards provided.
2. To participate and advise actively on the socio-economic development of the socially backward classes along with evaluating the progress of their development.

3. It annually presents the reports based on the working of the safeguards to the President. If any of those reports relate to any matter which is concerned with the State Government, a copy of that report is forwarded to the State Government.
4. NCBC is responsible for the protection, welfare, development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes.

**National Commission for Backward Classes – Benefits**

- Providing justice to the socially and educationally backward sections of society.
- Address the concerns of the backward classes and bring social equality in society.
- Help the backward classes people fight atrocities against them and ensure quick justice to them.
- Including a woman member from the backward classes in the proposed Commission is a welcome move.
- It would also not encroach upon the rights of state governments as they would have their own backward class commissions.
- It brings the NCBC on par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Aspirants can check out the relevant links provided below to prepare for the upcoming UPSC exam more comprehensively-

<a href="#">Reservation – Bringing Equality in Society</a>	<a href="#">Sub Categorization of OBC</a>	<a href="#">Quantifying the caste quotas</a>
<a href="#">National Commission for Scheduled Castes</a>	<a href="#">Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989</a>	<a href="#">National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</a>
<a href="#">National Commission for Minorities (NCM)</a>	<a href="#">National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)</a>	<a href="#">Minority Protection and India</a>
<a href="#">National Commission For Women</a>	<a href="#">National Human Rights Commission of India – NHRC</a>	<a href="#">Types of Constitutional Bodies in India</a>
<a href="#">Reservation demands: What’s the solution?</a>	<a href="#">Will reservation in the private sector stem Naxalism?</a>	<a href="#">Status of Tribal Population in India</a>

**6.3 Challenges associated with NCBC**

- Many states have not implemented 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs.
- Mere Acts will not do as they did not percolate down to the grassroots level, as recent data showed that only 7 out of 100 teachers in the Central Universities belonged to SC/ST and OBC categories.
- OBCs have a negligible presence in the Supreme Court and high courts.
- Skewed representation of OBCs in various committees, commissions, boards and other different forms of government.
- The recommendations of the commissions are not binding on the government.
- Critics argue about the scope of reservation when [NITI Aayog](#) is promoting public-private partnerships and privatization of public sector undertakings.

**6.4 Way Forward with NCBC**

- There is a need for a proper representation of the backward classes of the deprived sections to join the national mainstream.
- The government must make public the findings of the caste census and implement reservation accordingly.

- The sub-categorization of OBCs will ensure increased access to benefits such as reservations in educational institutions and government jobs for less dominant OBCs.
- Political parties should “rise above vote bank politics and work towards social justice”.

## 7. National Commission for Minorities

The National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body that was originally titled Minorities Commission. With the enactment of National Commission for Minorities Act 1992, the Minorities Commission (a non-statutory body) was renamed as National Commission for Minorities. The commission works for the development of the recognized minorities in India.

### 7.1 National Commission for Minorities – Organisational structure and functioning

The commission is mandated to have one chairperson, a vice-chairperson and 5 members. As of November 2020, only one vacancy of Chairperson is filled while others are vacant.

## 7.2 National Commission for Minorities – Important Facts

The following are some important points on NCM to be remembered by the IAS aspirants for UPSC Prelims examination:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Resolution 1978 envisaged the idea of setting up a National Commission for Minorities.
2. Until 1992, the Minorities Commission was a non-statutory body.
3. In 1984, the Minorities Commission was separated from MHA and was brought under the Ministry of Welfare.
4. Currently, the commission works under the Ministry of Minorities.
5. Linguistic Minorities do not come under the National Commission for Minorities’ Jurisdiction since the Ministry of Welfare Resolution 1988 was passed.
6. The first National Commission for Minorities was set up on 17th May 1993.

### 7.3 Which minority communities are governed by NCM?

The six religious communities notified as minority communities in India:

1. Muslims
2. Christians
3. Sikhs
4. Buddhists
5. Zoroastrians/Parsis
6. Jains (Notified as a minority on 27th June 2014.)

The important facts about the above-mentioned minority communities of India are listed below:

1. The combined population of the six minority groups is around 19.30 percent of the total population of India.
2. Out of six minority communities, Muslim is the largest one representing 14.2 percent of the population with 17.22 crores citizens belonging to the Muslim religion. (As per [Census 2011](#).)

3. The population figures of the remaining communities in descending order is given below:
  - Christians – 2.3 percent population (2.78 crores people)
  - Sikhs – 1.7 percent population (2.08 crores people)
  - Buddhists – 0.7 percent of the population (8.4 million people)
  - Jains – 0.4 percent of the population (4.5 million people)
  - Parsis – Around 57000 people (Not included in the census 2011)

#### 7.4 Functions of NCM

The National Minorities Commission performs the following functions:

1. It evaluates the progress of the development of minorities under both central and state governments.
2. It monitors the working of the constitutional laws enacted for the welfare of minorities, both by central and state governments.
3. It makes recommendations for the implementation of protective safeguards for the minorities.
4. It is the authorized body to look into complaints regarding deprivation of the rights and safeguards of the minority communities.
5. It initiates studies concerning minorities' issues arising from discrimination.
6. It conducts studies, research and analysis concerning issues related to the socio-economic and educational development of minorities.
7. It presents periodic or special reports concerning minorities and their issues to the central government.
8. It governs matters which the central government refers to.

#### Composition of NCM | National Minorities Commission

It has seven members:

1. A chairperson
2. A vice-chairperson
3. 5 members

#### **Term of Members of NCM:**

Each member of the commission **holds the office for three years** from the date of assumption of the office.

The points to remember about the composition of NCM:

1. Central government nominates members.
2. The members of the National Commission for Minorities are nominated from amongst the persons of eminence, integrity and ability.
3. As of November 2020, the National Minorities Commission's Chairman seat is vacant.
4. Shri Atif Rasheed is the vice-chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.

#### **The first Minorities Commission:**

1. The first chairperson of the Minority Commission was Justice Mohd. Sardar Ali Khan.
2. The first vice man of the Minority Commission was Shri B.S. Ramoowalia.

Note: The first five commissions were non-statutory bodies.

#### **The first statutory commission for minorities:**

1. The first chairman of the National Commission for Minorities was Justice Mohd. Sardar Ali Khan.
2. The first vice-chairman of the National Commission for Minorities was Shri B.S. Ramoowalia.

#### **Members of Present National Minorities Commission:**

1. Chairperson – Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi (Since 26.05.2017 – 25.5.2020)
2. Vice-Chairperson – Shri Atif Rasheed (5.11.2020 – 13.1.2022)
3. Shri Sunil Singhi (Since 29.05.2017 – 28.5.2020)
4. Ms. Sulekha Kumbhare (Since 30.05.2017 – 29.5.2020)
5. Shri Vada Dasturji Khurshed Kaikobad Dastoor ( Since 07.06.2017 – 6.6.2020)
6. Shri Manjit Singh Rai(Since 25.10.2017 -31.3.2020)

7. Shri Atif Rasheed(Since 14-1-2019-4.11.2020)

## 8. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 simply called the RPWD act, promotes and protects the rights and dignity of people with disabilities in educational, social, legal, economic, cultural and political spheres. The RPWD Act, 2016 was enacted in 2016 and came into force in 2017. The Act was enacted to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and connected matters.

### Why in the news?

The Delhi High Court has asked the DoPT to file an affidavit giving the total number of vacancies notified and reservations given in accordance with the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act for the Civil Services Exam (CSE) 2020.

### 8.1 The salient features of the Act

- The Act lays Responsibility on the appropriate governments to take measures and ensure that PWDs enjoy equal rights.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21. The Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- The 21 disabilities are given below:
  1. Blindness
  2. Low-vision
  3. Leprosy Cured persons
  4. Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
  5. Locomotor Disability
  6. Dwarfism
  7. Intellectual Disability
  8. Mental Illness
  9. Autism Spectrum Disorder
  10. Cerebral Palsy
  11. Muscular Dystrophy
  12. Chronic Neurological conditions
  13. Specific Learning Disabilities
  14. Multiple Sclerosis
  15. Speech and Language disability
  16. Thalassemia
  17. Haemophilia
  18. Sickle Cell disease
  19. Multiple Disabilities including deaf blindness
  20. Acid Attack victim
  21. Parkinson's disease
- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- Additional benefits have been provided for persons with benchmark disabilities and those with high support needs.
- All children with benchmark disabilities between 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.
- The act increased the reservation for people with benchmark disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- Stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings in a prescribed time frame along with [Accessible India Campaign](#).

### 8.2 Provision for guardianship:

- District Court or any authority designated by the State Government under which there will be a joint decision-making between the guardian and the persons with disabilities.
- Central & State Advisory Boards on Disability will be set up as policy-making bodies.
- The office of the Chief Commissioner of PwDs and the State Commissioner of disabilities will be strengthened and will act as regulatory bodies and Grievance Redressal Agencies and also monitor implementation of the Act. These Offices will be assisted by an Advisory Committee comprising experts in various disabilities.
- National and State Fund will be created to provide financial support to PwDs.
- Penalties for offences committed against PwDs.
- Designated special Courts to handle cases concerning violation of rights of PwDs.

#### **United Nations Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities (UNCRPD), 2006**

- Adopted by UNGA in 2006
- Came into force in 2008

### **8.3 Incheon Strategy**

- The Ministers and representative of members and associate members of the [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) (ESCAP) assembled at the High-Level Inter-Governmental meeting on the final review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 held at Incheon, Korea in October 2012. It adopted the Incheon Strategy “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
- The Incheon Strategy sets out the following 10 goals to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific:-
  1. Reduce [Poverty](#) and enhance work and employment prospects;
  2. Promote participation in political processes and in decision making;
  3. Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication;
  4. Strengthen social protection;
  5. Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities;
  6. Ensure gender equality and women’s empowerment;
  7. Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management;
  8. Improve the reliability and comparability of disability data;
  9. Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and harmonisation of National Legislation with the Convention;
  10. Advance sub-regional, regional and inter-regional co-operation.
- The Incheon Strategy contains the core indicators for tracking the progress of implementation at sub-regional and regional levels.
- In order to oversee the implementation of the Incheon Strategy, the UNESCAP has constituted a Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities.
- **Beijing Declaration** was adopted which outlines an action plan for the State parties to achieve the targets of the Incheon Strategy.

## 9. Senior Citizens Act, 2007

The Senior Citizens Act, officially called the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in 2007 by the Indian Parliament. This was landmark legislation initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is important from the point of view of both polity and social justice, which are part of the [UPSC syllabus](#). In this article, you can read more about the Senior Citizens Act.

### 9.1 Senior Citizens Act: Objectives

- The chief objective behind this law was to make the provision of maintenance and welfare to old parents and senior citizens more effective.
- This Act makes it legally obliging for adult children and heirs to provide for parents by way of a monthly allowance.
- This Act provides an inexpensive and speedy procedure to claim monthly maintenance for parents and senior citizens.
- According to this Act, parents could mean biological, adoptive or step-parents.
- Under this Act, there are also provisions to protect the life and property of such persons (elderly).
- Since enacting this Act, senior citizens who have transferred their movable or immovable property, on the condition that the transferee shall provide them basic amenities and take care of their physical needs refuse to do so, such a transfer of property shall be considered to have been made by fraud or by coercion or under undue influence. Such a transfer can be made void.
- Abandoning a senior citizen in any place is a criminal offence.
- The Act also provides for the state governments to establish at least one old age home in every district of the state, and also ensure adequate medical care for senior citizens.

## 9.2 Proposed Amendments to the Senior Citizens Act, 2007

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill 2018 is pending legislation. It proposes certain amendments to the act passed in 2007 with a view to reducing abuse of the elderly.

This amendment expands the definition of children to include daughter-in-law and son-in-law as well. It also proposes:

- Removal of the maximum ceiling of maintenance allowance
- Extension of the right to appeal to the respondents also
- Extension of benefit of revocation of transfer of property to parents also
- Reckoning of time limit for disposal of applications by the Tribunal from the date the application was received, etc.

### 9.3 Need for a Senior Citizens Act

- Indian society holds parents with the same regard as God, and their protection and care is of utmost importance. But the withering of the old joint family system and traditional values have led to the erosion of this principle.
- Currently, many elderly people are either abandoned entirely or have to live alone without adequate medical, social, financial and emotional support.
- Many face abuse including verbal and physical at the hands of their own families.



- By 2026, the percentage of senior citizens in the population is expected to rise to 12.4% as per a 2006 report of the National Commission on Population.

## 10. Health Care Sector in India

The size of Indian Healthcare sector is expected to reach \$ 280 billion by 2020 as per some reports. Healthcare industry in India comprises hospitals, medical tourism, health insurance, medical equipment, telemedicine, outsourcing, clinical trials, medical devices.

- 1.The multiple reasons for growth are increased diseases due to lifestyles, rising income, greater health awareness, improved access to insurance.
- 2.As per 2016 report India had reduced the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by around 26% since 2013.
- 3.The hospital industry is expected to reach approximately \$ 132 billion by 2022.
- 4.74% of expenditure in the healthcare sector comes from Private sector.
- 5.Medical tourism segment in India is growing at the rate of 18% and it is expected to reach \$ 9 billion by 2020.

## 10.2 Central Government Schemes – Healthcare Sector in India

Health is a state subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in delivery of health services through various schemes for primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

- 1.By 2025, the Government of India is planning to increase the expenditure on Health care to 2.5% of the GDP.
- 2.In the Union Budget 2020-21, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was allocated a budget of more than Rs 65,000 crores.
3. In Budget 2020-21, Government of India has approved the extension of National Health Mission with an allocated budget of around Rs 34,000 crores.
- 4.The National Nutrition Mission has set an objective of reducing the under nutrition, problems of stunting by 2%
- 5.The Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) – This is the largest health care program funded by the Government.
- 6.In the Union Budget 2020-21, PMJAY was allocated a budget of more than Rs 6400 crores.
- 7.As of Nov 2019, more than 63 lakh people have received free treatment under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY.
- 8.In the Union Budget 2020-21, Government of India allocated Rs 3,000 crores for Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

## 10.3 Ayushman Bharat

- 1.It is a centrally sponsored scheme for underprivileged families. It can potentially cover around 50 crore beneficiaries.
- 2.It provides coverage of up to Rs 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- 3.Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) will be established at the apex stage, chaired by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

4.The benefits of the scheme are portable throughout the country and a beneficiary covered by the scheme will be allowed to receive cashless benefits from any public/private hospital throughout the country.

## **11. Social Inclusion**

Social Inclusion refers to access to favourable opportunities in society to enhance one's life chances. Such opportunities comprise of education, employment, social services and social protection. The absence of these results in marginalization, poverty and material deprivation.

Constitutional Provisions:

Preamble seeks to secure to all its citizens-justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and equality of status and of opportunity. Part III of the Indian Constitution provides for 6 Fundamental Rights for Social Inclusion. These Rights are also available to persons with disabilities.

Article 15 (3) empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children in educational institutions and employment opportunities.

Article 15 (4) seeks to promote the educational advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, i.e., the OBCs, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in matters of admission of students belonging to these categories in unaided educational institutions.

Article 17 abolishes untouchability and its practice in any form.

### **11.1 Directive Principles of State Policy are enshrined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.**

Article 38 says that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing justice, social, economic and political.

Article 39 provides for the abolition of child labour and for equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

Article 41 provides for Right to Work to education, to public assistance.

Article 42 provides for just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

The 11th Schedule to Article 243 G says that Social Welfare including the welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded, and the 12th Schedule to Article 243 W says that

safeguarding the Interests of Weaker Sections of Society including the handicapped and the mentally retarded.

## **11.2 Governance Structures:**

Gol's Social Inclusion programmes is implemented by the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs.

### **11.3 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:**

It implements 42 schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. The Ministry seeks educational empowerment, economic empowerment and social empowerment under its various schemes. It is custodian of 2 Acts, aimed at curbing (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These are the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990, to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana provides hostel facilities for Scheduled Caste boys and girls in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. Economic empowerment of SC's is through the special central assistance to the scheduled castes sub-plan (SCSP). National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation has been established for economic empowerment of scavengers and manual scavengers.

### **11.4 Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan):**

Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities deals with the legislation governing different aspects of disability and welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

There are 3 statutory bodies under the Department.

1. Rehabilitation Council of India.
2. Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
3. National Trust.

National Handicapped Finance and Development Cooperation is the apex level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development. Accessible India campaign is a nationwide flagship campaign to ensure a barrier-free and conductive environment for Divyangjans all over the country.

### **11.5 Ministry of Tribal Affairs:**

- The scheduled areas are notified under Article 244 (1) of the Constitution.

- Article 244 (2) relates to those areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared Tribal Areas and provides for District Councils/Regional Councils for such areas.

It administers grants to states comprising of special central assistance to tribal sub-plan schemes, grants under Article 275 (1) grants for the Eklavya Model Residential Schools; vocational training centers ashram schools in Tribal Sub-Plan areas, minimum support price for minor forest produce. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was established under Article 338 A of the Constitution as an independent body to safeguard the rights of tribals.

#### National Policy for Older Persons:

Seeks to encourage individuals to make provisions for their own as well their spouse's old age; to encourage families to take care of their older family members and to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric caregivers and organizers of services for the elderly.

#### 11.6 Ministry of Women and Child Development:

Established in 2006 with the responsibility to advance the rights and concerns of women and children and to promote their survival, protection, development and participation in a holistic manner. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the custodian of several Acts relating to women and children.

Prominent among these is the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, and the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2011.

National Commission for Women and the National Commission for protection of Child Rights have been established under the aegis of MoWCD to safeguard the rights of women and protect children's rights respectively. NCW took up the "Violence Free Home - A Women's Right" campaign for awareness generation in Delhi. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 came into force on 14th November 2012, to provide protection to all children under the age of 18 years from offences of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

#### 11.7 Flagship schemes:

Umbrella ICDS, Women Empowerment Schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

- Umbrella ICDS comprises of 6 sub-components namely the Anganwadi services scheme, the Pradhan Mantri services scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, the National Creche Scheme, the Poshan Abhiyan, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Child Protection Scheme.
- The ICDS is aimed at improving the nutritional and child health status of children below the age of six years and pregnant and lactating mothers as also to reduce the mortality, morbidity and malnutrition.
- The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is to celebrate the girl child and her education.

#### 11.8 Conclusion

India's Social Inclusion programmes are comprehensive, and their implementation supervised by a number of independent Ministries with adequate resource allocations. Not only have

statutory legal provisions ben enacted, autonomous National Commissions have been established to protect the rights envisaged by the Indian Constitution to the vulnerable sections. The comprehensive implementation of National Policies will enable India to greatly empower her vulnerable population.

## **12.Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

### **12.1 What is Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?**

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is one of the most popular and significant missions in the History of India. This campaign was introduced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and was launched on 2nd October 2014 to honor Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of a clean country. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi received the award of “Global Goalkeeper” from the Gates Foundation for the initiative of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on September 25, 2019, in New York.

Initially, this Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign was run on a national level in all the towns, rural and urban areas.

### **12.2 Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0**

The government in the Union Budget 2021 allocated Rs 1, 41,678 crores for the Swachh Bharat Mission (U) 2.0. The components of SBM-Urban 2.0 are: New component – Wastewater treatment, including faecal sludge management in all ULBs with less than 1 lakh population

Sustainable sanitation (construction of toilets)

Solid Waste Management

Information, Education and Communication, and

Capacity building

Achievements expected out of SBM-Urban 2.0:

#### **12.3 ODF ++ certification to all statutory towns.**

ODF++ certification to all statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population. Water+ certification to half of all the statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population. Rating of at least 3-star Garbage Free to all statutory towns as per Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MO Hua’s) Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free cities. Bio-remediation of all legacy dumpsites.

## 12.4 Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Objective

The major objective of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is to spread the awareness of cleanliness and the importance of it. The concept of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is to provide basic sanitation facilities like toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness, and safe and adequate drinking water supply to every person. You may also read about Swachh Survekshan in the linked article.

## 12.5 Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Action Plan

The action plan for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is laid by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The vision is to triple the facility of sanitation by 2019. The major change to be implemented is in the Making of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) India.

## 12.6 Action Plan Highlights:

Improve the growth percentage of toilets from 3% to 10% by 2019  
Increase in the construction of toilets from 14000 to 48000 daily  
Launch of a National Level/State Level Media campaign through audio-visual, mobile telephony, and local programmes to communicate the message of awareness. Involvement of school children in the activities for spreading awareness on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.

## 12.7 Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 1.0

Coming to Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), it is under the Ministry of Urban Development and is commissioned to give sanitation and household toilet facilities in all 4041 statutory towns with a combined population of 377 million. The estimated cost is Rs 62,009 crore over five years with the center's share of assistance being Rs 14,623 crore. The Mission hopes to cover 1.04 crore households, give 2.5 lakh community toilet seats, and 2.6 lakh public toilet seats. It also proposes to establish solid waste management facilities in every town. At the core of this mission lie six components:

- Individual household toilets;
- Community toilets;
- Public toilets;

## 12.8 Municipal Solid Waste Management

Information and Education Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness;

Capacity Building. The Urban Clean India mission seeks to eradicate open defecation; convert insanitary toilets to flush toilets; eradicate manual scavenging, and facilitate solid waste

management. The mission emphasizes on ushering in a behavioral change among people, for healthy sanitation practices, by educating them about the damaging effects of open defecation, the environmental dangers spreading from strewn garbage, and so on.

To achieve these objectives, urban local bodies are being brought in and fortified to design, implement and operate systems to promote a facilitating environment for the participation of the private sector in terms of both capital and operations expenditure.

#### 12.9 Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural)

The Rural mission, known as Swachh Bharat Gramin, aims to make Village Panchayats open defecation free by October 2, 2019.

Removing obstacles and addressing critical issues that affect results is the new thrust of this rural sanitation mission, which aims to provide all rural households with individual latrines; and build cluster and community toilets on public-private partnership mode.

Considering the filth and unhygienic conditions in village schools, this programme lays special emphasis on toilets in schools with basic sanitation amenities.

Construction of Anganwadi toilets and management of solid and liquid waste in all Village Panchayats is the object of the Clean India mission.

## 13. Health system strengthening program

### 13.1 Ayushman Bharat Yojana:

In 2018, the Government of India launched the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme (as outlined by the National Health Policy 2017) to make healthcare services more accessible and affordable to citizens and aid the country in achieving its target of universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030. The following are the two key components of 'Ayushman Bharat':

**Establish Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs):** Launched in February 2018, the scheme aimed to provide extensive healthcare services to citizens closer to their homes by establishing 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)

**13.2 Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):** Launched in September 2018, the scheme aimed to offer secondary and tertiary care services to the vulnerable population in the society. The policy aimed to offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh (US\$ 6.63 thousand) per family per

year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to >10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (i.e., ~50 crore beneficiaries), which constitute the bottom 40% of India's population.

### 13.3 Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

#### Objective

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular. The scheme was approved in March 2006.

#### 13.4 Implementation

##### First Phase

The first phase in the PMSSY has two components - setting up of six institutions in the line of AIIMS; and upgradation of 13 existing Government medical college institutions.

It has been decided to set up 6 AIIMS-like institutions, one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh) at an estimated cost of Rs 840 crores per institution. These States have been identified on the basis of various socio-economic indicators like human development index, literacy rate, population below poverty line and per capital income and health indicators like population to bed ratio, prevalence rate of serious communicable diseases, infant mortality rate etc. Each institution will have a 960 bedded hospital (500 beds for the medical college hospital; 300 beds for Speciality/Super Speciality; 100 beds for ICU/Accident trauma; 30 beds for Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and 30 beds for Ayush) intended to provide healthcare facilities in 42 Speciality/Super-Speciality disciplines. Medical College will have 100 UG intake besides facilities for imparting PG/doctoral courses in various disciplines, largely based on Medical Council of India (MCI) norms and also nursing college conforming to Nursing Council norms.



## **14. LaQshya' programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative)**

### **14.1 LaQshya' programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative)**

After launch of the National Health Mission (NHM), there has been substantial increase in the number of institutional deliveries. However, this increase in the numbers has not resulted into commensurate improvements in the key maternal and new-born health indicators. It is estimated that approximately 46% maternal deaths, over 40% stillbirths and 40% newborn deaths take place on the day of the delivery. A transformational change in the processes related to the care during the delivery, which essentially relates to intrapartum and immediate postpartum care, is required to achieve tangible results within short period of time. Prerequisite of such approach would also hinge upon the health system's preparedness for prompt identification and management of maternal and newborn complications.

'LaQshya' programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).

**Goal** - To reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

### **14.2 Objectives of LaQshya programme-**

1. To reduce maternal and newborn mortality & morbidity due to APH, PPH, retained placenta, preterm, preeclampsia & eclampsia, obstructed labour, puerperal sepsis, newborn asphyxia, and sepsis, etc.
2. To improve Quality of care during the delivery and immediate post-partum care, stabilization of complications and ensure timely referrals, and enable an effective two-way follow-up system.
3. To enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries visiting the health facilities and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending the public health facility.

### **14.3 Strategies –**

1. Reorganizing/aligning Labour room & Maternity Operation Theatre layout and workflow as per 'Labour Room Standardization Guidelines' and 'Maternal & Newborn Health Toolkit' issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
2. Ensuring that at least all government medical college hospitals and high case-load district hospitals have dedicated obstetric HDUs (High Dependency Units) as per GoI MOHFW Guidelines, for managing complicated pregnancies that require life-saving critical care.
3. Ensuring strict adherence to clinical protocols for management and stabilization of the complications before referral to higher centers.

## **15. National Health Mission**

National Health Mission (NHM) was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission. It was further extended in March 2018, to continue till March 2020.

The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas for - Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases. The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

The National Health Mission seeks to ensure the achievement of the following indicators: -

Reduce MMR to 1/1000 live births.

Reduce IMR to 25/1000 live births.

Reduce TFR to 2.1

Prevention and reduction of anemia in women aged 15–49 years

Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non- communicable; injuries and emerging diseases.

Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure.

Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half.

Reduce prevalence of Leprosy to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts.

Annual Malaria Incidence to be <1/1000.

Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts.

Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <1 case per 10000 population in all blocks.

## **16. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ADHM)**

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.

### **16.1 Vision**

Universal Health Coverage ABDM shall create a seamless online platform “through the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems” while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.

### **16.2 PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**

The Prime Minister launched the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission in October 2021 in a major boost to enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the country. In this article, you can learn more about the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, its features and significance.

### **16.3 Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**

The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is the biggest all-India scheme to develop and improve the long-term public healthcare infrastructure in India.

The government has laid out a spending budget of Rs 64,180 crore for the FY 2021-22 to 2025-26.

This is in addition to the National Health Mission and it will fill the gaps in public health infrastructure in India, particularly in the critical care and primary care facilities in both urban and rural areas.

The scheme was launched from Varanasi and will be implemented in all the districts in India.

The scheme aims to make India ready to effectively manage any future pandemics and health emergencies.

It will support 17,788 rural health and wellness centres in ten high-focus states.

The mission also envisages establishing another 11,024 urban health and wellness centers in India.

Under this scheme, 134 types of tests will be done free of cost at the district level.

#### **16.4 Bharat Health Ayushman infrastructure Mission Objectives**

The objectives of the mission are as follows:

1. To ensure a robust public health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, capable of responding to public health emergencies or disease outbreaks.
2. To establish an IT-enabled disease surveillance system through a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels.

#### **16.5 Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission Components**

The mission has three components charted out. They are discussed in this section.

##### **16.6 Component 1: Setting up comprehensive surveillance of infectious diseases**

Under this, Integrated Public Health laboratories will be set up in all the 730 districts of the country.

Five regional branches and 20 metropolitan units of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) will be established at the state level.

Finally, at the national level, an Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) will be set up.

##### **16.7 Component 2: Creation of comprehensive diagnostics and treatment facilities**

District level interventions: Under this, new health and wellness centres will be opened in both rural and urban areas. Critical care hospital blocks will be started in every district with over 5 lakh population.

State-level intervention: 15 health emergency operation centres will be established.

National level intervention: Setting up of two container-based mobile hospitals; critical care hospital blocks in 12 GOI hospitals – the latter will also become mentor institutions for training & capacity building.

The containers or container-based mobile hospitals with a capacity of about 100 beds each will be placed in Chennai and Delhi and can be airlifted or taken by trains to the place of emergency.

### Component 3: Comprehensive pandemic research

District level intervention: Existing 80 viral diagnostics and research labs will be strengthened.

State-level intervention: 15 new bio-safety level III laboratories will be operationalized.

National level interventions: 4 new regional national institutes for virology will be set up; a regional research platform (digital) for WHO south East Asia Region will also be set up.

### *Conclusion*

The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is significant because India lacks an extensive healthcare system. The accessibility and affordability of healthcare has been distributed in a skewed manner and very much to the detriment of the marginalized sections of society. Hence, the new mission can prove to be beneficial in taking quality and necessary healthcare services to all sections of society.

## **17. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) – National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed its six years of successful implementation in August 2020**

Financial Inclusion is the delivery of financial services at an affordable cost to the vast sections of the disadvantaged and low-income groups, providing them with timely and adequate access to financial products and services. You can know further about financial inclusion on the linked page.

With the outbreak of Covid-19 in India, the Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman made an announcement to provide Rs. 500 per month to every Women Jan-Dhan Account Holders for the next three months. This announcement was made on 26th March 2020 as an

initiative towards the loss caused by the outbreak. A relief package worth Rs 1.70 lakh crore will also be provided by the government to tackle the financial difficulties arising from Covid-19 outbreak under the PM Garib Kalyan Scheme. The 21 days lockdown is expected to cost the Indian Economy a cost of around 9 lakh crores.

As of 3rd August 2020, it was reported that more than 40 crore bank accounts have been opened under the government's flagship financial inclusion drive.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a financial inclusion campaign which provides universal access to banking facilities. It also ensures to provide financial literacy with at least one basic banking account for every household in India.

### **17.1 What are the benefits of the PMJDY scheme?**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was introduced with a target of opening bank accounts for around 7.5 crores uncovered households in India by 26th of January, 2015. This scheme was successful in opening around 12.54 crore accounts by 31st January 2015 with deposits exceeding Rs. 10,000 crores. PMJDY scheme is also certified by the Guinness World Records for its achievements which states that most bank accounts opened in one week as part of the Financial Inclusion Campaign is 18,096,130 and was achieved by the Department of Financial Services, Government of India.

### **17.2 Benefits under the Scheme**

The scheme covers both the urban as well as rural areas and provides an indigenous Debit Card (RuPay card) to each of its account holders.

No minimum balance is required for opening an account under this scheme. The beneficiary can open his/her account in any bank branch or Business Correspondent outlet at zero balance.

It ensures to provide on Core Banking System (CBS) along with mobile banking using USSD facilities. A facility of call center and a toll-free number is available nationwide.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana provides each beneficiary with basic banking accounts with a debit card with inbuilt accident insurance.

Rs. 5,000 overdraft facility for Aadhar-linked accounts as well as a RuPay debit card with inbuilt Rs. 1 lakh accident insurance cover is one of the main features provided by this scheme.

For accounts that are opened between 15th August 2014 and 26th January 2015, a Life Insurance cover of Rupees 30,000 is provided to the eligible beneficiaries. Also, after remaining active for 6 months, the beneficiary will be eligible for an overdraft of up to Rs 5,000.

## **18. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a government scheme launched in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme originally envisaged the distribution of 50 million LPG connections to women below the poverty line. Later, it aimed to provide LPG connections to eight crore women by March 2020. However, this target was achieved seven months prior, in September 2019.

### **18.1 Benefits of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

The unclean cooking fuel causes deaths which are mostly due to non-communicable diseases including heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer. Providing LPG connections to families below the poverty line ensures universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. The scheme can be a tool for women empowerment in that LPG connections and clean cooking fuel can reduce cooking time and effort, and in most of India, cooking is a responsibility shouldered solely by women. The scheme also employs the rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas.

A relief package worth Rs 1.70 lakh crore was also announced by the government to tackle the financial difficulties arising from the Covid-19 outbreak under the PM Garib Kalyan Scheme.

#### **Some of the major benefits provided by Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are:**

It provides five crore LPG connections to families below the poverty line.

Financial support of Rs 1600 is provided by the scheme for each LPG connection for BPL households. The administrative cost of this support is borne by the Government. This subsidy is meant for the security fee for the cylinder, pressure regulator, booklet, safety hose, and other fitting charges.

Under the scheme, oil marketing companies also provide interest-free loans for refilling and purchasing stoves.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana covers all the BPL families that come under all forms of distributorship and distributes various sizes of cylinders (14.2 kg, 5 kg, etc.) as per the field situation.

The benefits of this scheme are also available for the people of all Hilly States including the NE States (who are treated as ‘Priority States’).

The scheme effectively addresses several difficulties faced by the people in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Tripura in accessing LPG for cooking purposes.

## **18.2 Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched for providing clean fuel to women below the poverty line. The use of unclean cooking fuel is harmful to human health. The aims of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are given below:

To empower women and protect their health.

To minimize health issues arising from the use of unclean fossil fuel and other fuel while cooking.

To control indoor pollution from the use of fossil fuel which causes respiratory issues.

To prevent degradation of the purity of the environment that is compromised by widespread usage of unclean cooking fuel.



### **18.3 Eligibility for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

Any applicant who fulfils the below-mentioned criteria is eligible to apply for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

The applicant must be a woman aged above 18 years. She must also be a citizen of India.

She should belong to a family below the poverty line and no one else from the household should own an LPG connection.

The overall monthly income of the family should not exceed a certain limit that is prescribed by the UT/State Governments.

The applicant's name should be in the list of SECC-2011 and should also match with the information provided in the BPL database of the oil marketing companies.

The applicant should not be registered under any other similar scheme provided by the government.

Apart from the above, the applicant should also submit a set of documents indicating her BPL status, identity, etc.

### **18.4 WHO & Household Air Pollution**

There are a few important facts that are mentioned by the World Health Organization (WHO) that mentions the impact of unclean cooking. These facts can be used by the aspirants to support the need for schemes like PM Ujjwala Yojana:

1. Around 300 crores people cook using open fires simple stoves that use kerosene, biomass (wood, animal dung and crop waste) and coal.
2. Around 40 lakh people die prematurely every year from illness that is attributed to household air pollution. One of the causes of household air pollution is inefficient cooking practices using polluting stoves paired with solid fuels and kerosene.
3. Particulate Matter (PM) found in household air pollution is the cause of half of the deaths due to pneumonia among children under 5 years.

WHO mentions the impact of household air pollution that is caused by unclean cooking fuel, on health. It mentions that of 3.8 million deaths due to this pollution:

1. 27 percent of deaths are due to pneumonia.
2. 18 percent of deaths are due to stroke.
3. 27 percent of deaths are from ischemic heart disease
4. 20 percent of deaths are from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
5. 8 percent of deaths are from lung cancer.

WHO also mentions the total number of people having access to clean fuel is expected to remain unchanged by 2030 leading to obstructing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves and the Climate Clean Air Coalition is an international initiative supported by WHO to improve air pollution and related health impacts.

## **19. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**

The Housing for All scheme was an initiative of the Indian government to establish housing facilities for slum dwellers. It was introduced by the Indian government's Ministry of Housing and urban poverty Alleviation. This is also known as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. It is for both people residing in urban and rural areas that fulfill certain criteria.

### **19.1 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY): Latest Development & Achievement**

The success of the Mission can be attributed to its robust financial model of which, Direct Benefit Transfer has been a key element.

On June 25, 2021, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the till date development and progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, on completion of six years of the scheme. The following data was released by the government authorities:

Acknowledging the diversity in housing demand across various income groups of the country, for the first-time interest subsidies on home loans have been given to Middle-Income Groups having annual income of up to Rs.18 Lakh under PMAY-U's Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme

(CLSS). Nearly 16 lakh beneficiaries belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group (LIG), and MIG have so far been brought under the fold of CLSS.

Due to the current investment being made in the housing sector, it has created almost an estimated 689 crore person-days of employment translating into around 246 lakh jobs, and led to the consumption of 370 Lakh metric -ton of cement and 84 Lakh metric-ton of steel.

A Global Housing Technology Challenge India (GHTC-India) was introduced in 2019 to identify and mainstream globally best available proven construction technologies that are sustainable, green and disaster-resilient. Following which, on January 1, 2021, the foundation of six Light House Projects (LHPs) was laid by PM Narendra Modi, which are being built under PMAY-U.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), a sub-scheme under PMAY(U) for urban migrants/ poor was launched by MoHUA. Investment under ARHCs is expected to create 11.74 crore person-days of employment with 3.89 crores direct and 7.84 crores indirect in nature. In terms of jobs, it works out to be a total of 4.19 lakh with 1.39 lakh direct and 2.80 lakh indirect jobs.

ANGIKAAR, a campaign for social change management was initiated by the ‘Housing for All’ (HFA) Mission on 29th August 2019. It has achieved the objective to build capacities of PMAY -U beneficiaries in adapting to change through door-to-door awareness on best practices in water & energy conservation, health, hygiene, sanitation and financial literacy.

## **20. Social Empowerment Measures**

Social Empowerment means all the sections of society in India, have equal control over their lives, are able to take important decisions in their lives, and have equal opportunities. Without empowering all sections of society equally, a nation can never have a good growth trajectory.

### **Social Empowerment – Senior Citizens**

Many senior citizens feel neglected and unwanted in the twilight years of their life. The government has taken measures to enable them to lead a respectable life with economic self-sufficiency. Some of the schemes for senior citizens are listed below.

### **20.1 Atal Pension Yojana**

It is a government-backed pension scheme in India, primarily targeted at the unorganized sector. All subscribing workers below the age of 40 are eligible for a pension of up to ₹5,000 per month on the attainment of 60 years of age.

### **20.2 Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**

It is a scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category. This is a Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the “Senior Citizens’ Welfare Fund”. The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency – Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### **20.3 Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**

This is a pension scheme for senior citizens. This is to enable old age income security and the welfare of Senior Citizens.

### **20.4 Social Empowerment – Disabled Group**

For the differently-abled, their disability often makes them feel that they are a burden on society. Their requirements for empowerment are very different thereby requiring programmes customized to suit their needs. Some of the schemes to help them lead to quality life are mentioned below.

1. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation schemes
2. Accessible India Campaign

## **21. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms**

*Justice, be it, Social, Economic or Political is the spirit of the Indian Constitution.* However, there is a delay in delivering speedy justice due to certain drawbacks and inefficiencies in the system. With the National Mission, the law ministry aims at tackling these issues and making the system more effective and efficient.

## **21.1 Objective of the National Mission?**

Increasing access by reducing delay and arrears in the system

Enhancing accountability through structural changes and setting performance standards and capacities

Discussed below is the vision and objectives of the mission introduced to enhance the judicial system by delivering quick and quality justice to the citizens and reinforcing their trust in law and their rights:

## **21.2 Setting up of Advisory Council for National Mission –**

For regular updates and to manage progress under the mission, an Advisory council was set up under the National Mission.

The Chairperson of this Council is the Union Minister of Law and Justice.

There are 13 other members of the Council, and the Secretary, Department of Justice as the Convener.

## **21.3 Creation of National Arrears Grid –**

This grid analyses the exact number of arrears in each court and oversee the reduction of such arrears; increase efficiency and optimal utilization of infrastructure

The national Arrears Grid maps the location and manning of each court along with their arrears and the facilities provided to the Presiding Officer

For proper management of data and statistics, computer experts, statisticians and software designers will be appointed for uniform data

## **21.4 Identification of Bottlenecks –**

Prioritization will be worked out. Cases of senior citizens, terminally ill people, pretrial and juvenile prisoners, women victims of violence were be given priority.

Retired judges and eminent lawyers will be appointed as ad-hoc judges for fast track trial Special courtroom, additional buildings and other infrastructure may be provided.

#### 21.5 Adoption of Innovative Measures for Expeditious Disposal –

The Presiding Officers will be provided with laptops with relevant software installed and cases related to a traffic violation and billable offences can be dealt with through video conferencing.

### **22. Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Judicial Development – 5 Year Plan [2021-2026]**

Since the CSS for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary and Gram Nyayalayas Scheme will now be running in Mission mode under the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, the Ministry of Law aims to amplify the development process.

#### **22.1 Given below are the set targets to be achieved during this five-year plan:**

Construction 4000 residential units for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts

Construction of:

3800 court halls

**1450 lawyer halls**

**1450 toilets complexes**

**3800 digital computer rooms**

Recurring and Non-Recurring grants to be provided for a period of 5 years to support the Gram Nyayalayas

Operationalization of Gram Nyayalayas in implementing states with an expenditure of Rs.50 crore

In order to monitor the initiatives being taken up under the mission, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Law:

An online monitoring system, wherein, the progress on construction of amenities and infrastructure will be managed

Nyaya Vikas-2.0 web portal and mobile application for monitoring the financial and physical progress

Gram Nyayalayas Portal to register the state-wise progress

### **23. Social Audit**

**Meaning:** Social Audit is the audit of a scheme jointly by the Government and the people, especially by those who are affected by the scheme or its beneficiaries.

**23.1 Benefits:** It is a powerful tool to promote transparency, accountability and people's participation in the schemes meant for them.

A social audit helps to narrow gaps between vision/goal and reality, between efficiency and effectiveness.

**23.2 Status:** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was the first Act to mandate Social Audit by the Gram Sabha of all the projects taken up in the Gram Panchayat.

Most States have set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and some have even begun to facilitate Social Audit in other programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Midday Meal Scheme and Public Distribution System.

### **23.3 Challenges:**

The lack of adequate administrative and political will in institutionalizing social audits to deter corruption has meant that social audits in many parts of the country are not independent of the influence of implementing agencies.

Social audit units, including village social audit facilitators, continue to face resistance and intimidation and find it difficult to even access primary records for verification.

People's participation has been minuscule due to the lack of education, awareness and capacity building among the common masses.

There is an absence of an independent agency to investigate and act on social audit findings.

### **23.4 Suggestions:**

Citizens groups need to campaign for strengthening social audits and make real progress in holding the political executive and implementing agencies accountable.

Team of social audit experts should be established in each district who are responsible for training social audit committee members (stakeholders).

**Training programmes should be created on social auditing methods** such as conducting and preparing social audit reports, and presentation at Gram Sabha.

**The system of social audits needs a synergetic endorsement** and a push by multiple authorities to establish an institutionalized framework which cannot be undermined by any vested interests.