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☛ **Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana (PMAY)**

- This is scheme under housing for all by 2022 and in this budget government have target to build pucca house specially in rural area .
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the proposals for
 1. Extension of tenure of loans under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) (ii) Introduction of a new Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG” for targeting the MIG category.
 2. For rationalizing/introducing the processing fees payable to the PLIs for the loans sanctioned under these schemes.

⇒ **“SWAYAM” Platform will be launched to leverage Information Technology**

- the Government proposes to leverage information technology and launch SWAYAM Platform with at least 350 online courses.
- In his Budget Speech, the Finance Minister said this will enable students to virtually attend the courses taught by the best faculty; access high quality reading resources, participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn academic grades.
- Access to SWAYAM would be widened by linkage with DTH channels, dedicated to education.

⇒ **Combined railway budget**

- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley while presenting the General Budget 2017-18, in Parliament today, said

that this Budget is the First combined Budget of Independent India that includes the Railways.

- The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley in his Budget Speech said that, the Railways will focus on four major areas, namely, passenger safety, capital and development works, cleanliness and finance and accounting reforms.
- For passenger safety, a 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' will be created with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years, to be funded by seed capital from the Government, Railways' own revenues and other sources.
- Talking about the proposed steps for modernization and upgradation of identified corridors.
- Emphasizing the Government's focus on 'Swachh Rail', the Finance Minister informed that a series of steps are proposed to be taken to enhance

cleanliness in Railways, of which, an SMS based 'Clean My Coach Service' has already been started.

- Following step also will be taken
 1. End to end integrated transport solutions for select commodities to transport perishable goods, especially agricultural products.
 2. Competitive ticket booking facility to the public at large.
 3. As part of accounting reforms, accrual based financial statements will be rolled-out by March 2019.

• **'DARPGSEVA' to address issues related to public grievances and administrative reforms**

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has started its Twitter. The Twitter Seva will enable the DARPG to reach out to the common public and various stakeholders for facilitating redress of grievances and other issues of importance relating to the department.

- The mission of DARPG is to foster excellence in governance and pursuit of administrative reforms through improvements in Government policies as well as processes, promoting citizen-centric governance with emphasis on grievance redressal. Innovations in e-Governance are another mission of the Department apart from documentation and dissemination of best practices.

⇒ Oncology

- Centre of Integrative Oncology would be inaugurated at National Institute of Cancer

Prevention and Research (NICPR) by Ministry of AYUSH.

- The main objective of the Centre is to build collaborations in the areas of cancer prevention, research and care. The Centre would also offer 5 post-doctoral and 5 Senior Research Fellowships each year to deserving candidates to facilitate quality research in the country in the area of cancer research. The fellowship program would be launched at the inauguration.

⇒ **Facilities for Launching Satellites**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has all the requisite facilities for launching satellites using Indian launch vehicles at its launch complex located at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- These facilities comprise of
 - (i) two operational satellite launch pads,
 - (ii) Filling Control Centre (FCC) for propellant filling operations and
 - (iii) Mission Control Centre (MCC) & Launch Control Centre (LCC) for coordinating and conducting the launch operations during the countdown phase till the injection of the satellite into orbit.

- The various activities carried out towards the development of the Semicryogenic engine include-
 - (i) Indigenous realisation of 35 materials and 22 coating processes
 - (ii) Qualification of indigenous bearings for turbo pumps
 - (iii) Fabrication of the first hardware for three engine subsystems including low pressure

turbo pumps and one high pressure turbo pump through industry

- (iv) Design validation of the low pressure turbo pumps through cold flow trials.

Help to Farmers by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

- The Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) is operated to prepare biweekly weather based AAS bulletins for wider dissemination to the farmers at district scale through multimedia channels and also through SMS so as to plan farm operations accordingly.
- As per the recent National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) report, farming community of the country is using the GKMS service products for critical farm operations viz.
 - i) Management of sowing (Delayed onset of rains);

- ii) Changing crop variety (Delay in rainfall);
- iii) Spraying Pesticides for disease control (occurrence of rainfall);
- iv) Managing Irrigation (Heavy rainfall Forecast).

World Wetlands Day being celebrated at Bhoj Wetlands, Bhopal

- Theme of World Wetlands Day for 2017 - 'Wetlands for disaster risk reduction'
- World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2 each year to mark the Day the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971. India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and committed to the Ramsar approach of wise use of wetlands.

- Continued functioning of wetlands has acquired a new meaning in the age of increasing water and food security.
- Wetlands are the life support for a range of plant and animal life and as wetlands degrade, the existence of these life forms would be under stress.
- At the same time, it is for the security of human well-being, that wetland conservation acquires prominence.
- Wetlands support human well-being in a number of ways. As 'kidneys of landscape', wetlands receive flows of water and waste from upstream sources.
- They help stabilize water supplies, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines and recharge groundwater aquifers.
- The extensive food chain and biological diversity in wetlands make them 'biological supermarkets'.

- Wetlands have special attributes as cultural heritage of humanity, and have deep connections with our beliefs and practices.
- They are an important part of our natural wealth and “liquid assets”.Despite their tremendous value, wetlands are also one of the most rapidly degrading ecosystems.
- The theme of World Wetlands Day for 2017 is ‘Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction’.This theme has been selected to raise awareness on the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events on communities and in helping to build resilience.
- Wetlands are our natural buffers against increasing risk of floods, droughts and tropical cyclones.
- Wetlands can act as sponges, storing peak rainfall and releasing water gradually during lean season.

Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and Phailin of 2013 underline the role coastal wetlands as estuaries and mangroves can play in buffering communities from impacts of these cyclones and wave surges.

➤ **PRAGATI Exercise**

- PRAGATI aims at Pro-Active Governance and Timely implementation. The meeting provides a robust platform for clear understanding of the bottlenecks and issues involved in such projects/programme and for evolving measures for taking them ahead.
- Through such review meetings, various projects, public grievances, and programmes and schemes are discussed in detail and measures for fast tracking the same are evolved and implemented.

- Program specific monitoring is being done not state specific monitoring

Tribal Health Care Project

* The Tribal Health Care Research Program (THCRP) was started by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous organization under Central Government in 1982.

* The project involves studies of the living condition of tribal people including health Traditions The objectives of the project are as under:

- (i) Provide health care facility to tribal population;
- (ii) Promote healthy living among tribes; and
- (iii) Collect and document the folk claims and local health traditions to enable research etc.

DRDO Projects

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), an R&D Wing of Ministry of Defence, is primarily involved in design and development of strategic, complex and security sensitive systems in the fields of armaments, missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radars, electronic warfare systems, sonars, combat vehicles, combat aircraft, sensors, etc for the Armed Forces as per their specific Qualitative Requirements.

Project
National Open Air Range
Quick Reaction Surface To Air Missile (QR-SAM)
AIP system on P-75 submarines and development of deliverable lox system
Submarine Periscope

Technology Development of
Engine Fuel Control
System (EFCS)

• **Indigenous Technologies Developed by DRDO**

- Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas
- Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM)
- Surface to Surface Missile System
- Electronic Warfare System Shakti
- Hull Mounted Sonar- New Generation
- Varunastra Torpedo

- Commander's Thermal Imaging Sight for T-90
- NBC Protection System for BMP 2/2K
- Low Level Light Weight Radar Mk-II
- Multi Mission Maritime Aircraft
- Akash Weapon System
- 7 Ton Heavy Drop System
- Electro-Optical Fire Control System for Naval Ships
- Mareech- Anti Torpedo Decoy System
- Abhay Sonar

- Near Field Acoustic Characterization System (NACS)
- Advanced Indigenous Distress Sonar System (AIDSS) for Submarines.

• **BARAK Missile System**

- Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) and Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) are jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India and M/s Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI).

• Use of Bitcoins

- Promotion of Digital economy is an integral part of Government's strategy to clean the system and weed out corruption and black money.
- The earlier initiatives of the Government to promote financial inclusion and the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity were important precursors.
- However, RBI has cautioned the users, holders and traders of Virtual Currencies (VCs), including Bitcoins about the potential financial, operational, legal customer protection and security related risks that they are exposing themselves to.
- The creation, trading or usage of VCs including Bitcoins, as a medium for payment have not been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India.

➤ **BHIM**

- The BHIM App was launched on 30th December 2016. Salient features of BHIM App are as below:

i. Instant money transfer at all times.

ii. Direct transfer from one bank account to another.

iii. Scan and pay option by scanning QR code to make payment)

iv. Generation and sharing of personalised QR code

⇒ **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**

- The primary objective of PMSSY is to correct the region imbalances in availability of affordable/reliable tertiary level healthcare in the country in general, and, to augment facilities for quality medical education in under-served or backward States, in particular.
- In addition to setting up of AIIMS, PMSSY also envisaged up-gradation of several existing Government Medical Colleges/Institutions in different states in the country.

⇒ **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) has led to increased utilisation of Health Services among all groups**

- A study has been conducted by University of Maryland and National Council for Applied

Economic Research to assess whether the JSY scheme has been successful in addressing disparities in providing maternal healthcare services to the marginalized and poorer communities, by utilizing the data from the India Human Development Survey-1

- The findings of the study establish that JSY has led to increased utilization of health services among all groups but especially among the poorer and underserved sections in the rural areas thereby reducing the disparities in maternal care.
- The results of the study indicate that during the two IHDS rounds, institutional deliveries almost doubled
- The results of the study also indicate that the gap in access to healthcare between the marginalized group of women and those who are financially better-off has declined since the advent of the JSY program.

- JSY scheme has been implemented in all the States and UTs including Madhya Pradesh. JSY guidelines have been issued to all the States and UTs including Madhya Pradesh and the same are in public domain at the Ministry's website.

⇒ **BIMSTEC Meet**

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization
- comprising seven Member States namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The regional group acts as a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.

- The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.
- Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization.
- Starting with six sectors—including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries BIMSTEC was created with objectives to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the sectors.

India Successfully Test Fires Exo-Atmospheric Interceptor Missile

- India now joins a select group of nations having such an effective Ballistic Missile Defence System.
- Exo atmosphere interceptor missile is a system in which target missile can be destroyed in sky
- This missile used in targeting other missile from rival country toward India
- The nation is proud of this accomplishment made by DRDO. This is a significant milestone in boosting India's defence capabilities and will provide enhanced security against incoming ballistic missile threats.

Innovate to bring down cost of Power

- Shri Goyal, in his address, spoke on importance of sustainability, improving efficiency in cost effective manner. The Minister also released an e-compendium having extracts of papers to be presented in the conference along with learnings from 'near miss trips' from NTPC experience.
- Shri Goyal presented Business Excellence Awards to the top performing NTPC Stations Talcher Thermal, Rihand, Korba, Ramagundam and Vindhyachal. First ever generating unit of NTPC commenced generation at the flagship Singrauli power station, on the same day in 1982.

Budget for Science & Technology

- The Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Science Dr. Harsh Vardhan has expressed happiness for increased allocations for various departments relating to Science & Technology.

Complimenting the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on presenting a 'progressive looking Union Budget', he said that increased allocations for science & technology are in line with the thinking of the Government to put science and technology to use for the welfare of the people.

Department of Science & Technology(DST):

1. Initiatives for Advanced Manufacturing Technology ,
2. Waste Management Technology,

3. Bio Medical Devices and Science and Heritage Research Initiative,
4. Programme on Electric Mobility to be initiated in collaboration with DHI, Technology Development Programme with RDSO and MHRD for Indian Railways,
5. Collaborative and National Programme on Smart Grid and Energy Storage, Virtual Centers on Ultra Super Critical Technology for Clean Coal,
6. Continuing support to the Programmes on Building Energy Efficiency, Thrust on R & D on Solar Equipment and Characterization Labs for Solar Equipments and Cells.

• Department of Scientific & Industrial Research(DSIR):

1. Support to Individual Innovators, Technology Developers and Demonstration Projects of Industry and Support to Common Research and Technology Development Hubs for MSMEs by DSIR.
2. Support to National Lab Programme/Projects, Fast Track Translation Projects, S&T Intervention for Common People, Inter Ministerial/Agency Projects, New Millenium Technology Leadership Initiative, International S&T collaboration, Technology Incubation Center, Technology Park, building up of a Technology Development Fund by CSIR.

- **Department of Biotechnology(DBT**

(i) Harnessing the Blue Economy -proposed as the Institute of Ocean Biology;

(ii) Accelerating Discovery Research for Bio Pharma Product Development

(iv) Biotech KISAN for improved interventions for agriculture;

(v) Start Up Innovation Eco System;

(vi) Clean Energy;

(vii) Collaboration with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation(CEPI).

• **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme**

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that all courses upto Agricultural Graduate are being linked with employment and are being made profession oriented.
- This will be a big help for the students in earning their livelihood.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme was launched in the year 2016 to promote agricultural education under which 100 centres are being opened with a fund of Rs.5.35 crore.

PSLV-C37 Successfully Launches 104 Satellites in a Single Flight

- In its thirty ninth flight (PSLV-C37), ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- This is the thirty eighth consecutively successful mission of PSLV. The total weight of all the 104 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was 1378 kg.
- all the 104 satellites successfully separated from the PSLV fourth stage in a predetermined sequence beginning with

Cartosat-2 series satellite, followed by INS-1 and INS-2.

- The imagery from the Cartosat-2 series satellite will be useful for
 1. cartographic applications, urban and rural applications,
 2. coastal land use and regulation,
 3. utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps,
 4. change detection to bring out geographical and manmade features and various other Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) applications.

5. The data sets could be used for urban planning of 500 cities under the Amrut Planning Scheme. The government initiative of 100 smart city programme in which these data sets could be used for master plan preparation and detailed geospatial data preparation for rural roads and infrastructure development.
- The remaining 101 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (96), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1) and UAE (1).
 - This mission involved many technical challenges like realising the launch of a large number of satellites during a single mission

within the time frame sought by the customers from abroad.

• **Science express**

- Science Express is an innovative mobile science exhibition mounted on a 16-coach AC train which has been custom-built for Department of Science & Technology (DST) by Indian Railways.
- This unique mobile exhibition was first launched in October 2007 by DST. Since then, it has made eight tours of the country, travelling about 1, 42, 000 km and exhibiting at 455 locations.
- Climate Change is an important environmental issue, with many short-term and long term impacts.

- From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding,
- the impacts of climate change are not just global in scope and unprecedented in scale but they also more severely affect the poor and marginalized people.
- However, there is very little understanding about climate change and its impacts.
- The state-of-the-art exhibition on board the SECAS aims to create awareness among various sections of society as to how climate change can be combated through mitigation and adaptation.

- The Paris Agreement entered into force on November 4, 2016. The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change and to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- The broad themes covered in each exhibition of the coaches are:

Coach 1: Understanding Climate Change - Insights in the climate as a system, the greenhouse gas effect and the underlying reasons for climate change with key message that the current change in the climate is due to human activities.

Coach 2: Impact of Climate Change -How temperature rise, monsoon variations, sea level

rise are predicted to affect vital sectors like water, agriculture, forests and biodiversity, and human health and ways to reduce these.

Coach 3 & 4: Adaptation -Concepts of adaptation and examples from day to day life, adaptation strategies and stories from field. Adaptation options in urban and rural contexts and the adaptation actions India is taking.

Coach 5 & 6: Mitigation -Concept and definition with examples, emphasis on restoring balance, enhancing sinks and reducing emission through Renewable Energy (RE) technologies. Various programmes implemented by India and low carbon strategies and ambitious goal to increase RE footprint.

Coach 7: International Negotiations for Climate Change -Introduction to UNFCCC, IPCC and internationally agreed action & targets. Explaining concept of equity and common but differential responsibility, Kyoto protocol & other key outcomes of major COP, Paris Agreement, etc.

Coach 8: Positive Actions -What can one do at school, on roads, at home and in offices and focus on concept of lifestyle choices with the key message 'Increase your Handprint. Decrease your Footprint'.

Coach 9&10: Exhibition put up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India, covering themes like Biotechnology for bio-resources and nature conservation with

emphasis on Tiger Conservation and Chemical Ecology and India's research and development initiatives in field of Biotechnology.

Coach 11: Exhibition put up by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) showcasing select innovations, demonstrating the ingenuity of common people and an innovative project which uses augmented reality techniques. Exhibition on themes like Innovations in S&T, Science Education, DST Scholarships & Schemes, Technologies for rural development, etc.

Coach 12: A Kids Zone has been set up for children from Std. 4 and below to participate in fun-filled activities, games and puzzles in science, mathematics and environment.

Coach 13: The Joy of Science (JOS) Hands-on Lab in this coach is a space where students from Std. 5-10 can perform experiments and activities to understand concepts in environment, science and mathematics in an interesting manner. A training facility is also set up for orientation of teachers here.

Solar panels have been installed on the rooftop of Science Express coaches 11-13, as a collaborative effort of DST and CEL, for harnessing solar energy.

Government to Come up With its own Study to Assess Impact of Pollution on Human Health': Environment Minister

- The Government is to come up with its own study with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to assess the trends and impact of pollution on human health. Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Government is taking all necessary steps to mitigate air pollution.
- The Government is closely monitoring the trend of various air pollutants across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The Monitoring network comprises manual stations spread over 300 cities in 29 States and 6 Union territories.

- Apart from manual stations, there are 54 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations that cover 33 cities in 12 states. The monitoring network is being expanded to cover all metro cities and capital towns.
- The result of the monitoring shows that, while the levels of Particulate Matters have a fluctuating trend, the value of SO₂ is generally within permissible limits, while the value of NO₂ is fluctuating and slightly above the permissible limits.
- The value of Particulate Matter is the main concern and the Government has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate this problem in a systematic manner.

Making Digital Payments a Mass Movement in India

- It has been 58 days since the launch of NITI Aayog's two incentive schemes –
 1. Lucky Grahak Yojana and
 2. Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to promote digital payments and the public response has been quite encouraging.
- The initiative to make Digital Payments a mass movement in India through the two schemes has made headway across the country with more and more people adopting digital transactions.
- The winners have their own stories to tell it all as to how the switch over to digital payments has been helpful and how it has made the life easier for them.

- NITI Aayog launched two schemes on December 25, 2016 - Lucky GrahakYojna (LGY) for consumers and Digi-DhanVyaparYojna (DVY) for merchants to incentivize them and promote digital payments.
- The two schemes shall remain open till April 14, 2017. There are 15,000 daily winners qualifying for total prize money of Rs. 1.5 crore.
- Customers and merchants using RuPay Card, BHIM / UPI (Bharat Interface for Money / Unified Payments Interface), USSD based *99# service and Aadhaar Enabled Payment Service (AePS) are eligible for winning daily and weekly lucky draw prizes.

Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today approved the enhancement of capacity from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW of the Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects.
- The enhanced capacity would ensure setting up of at least 50 solar parks each with a capacity of 500 MW and above in various parts of the country.
- Smaller parks in Himalayan and other hilly States where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of the difficult terrain, will also be considered under the scheme. The capacity of the solar park scheme has been enhanced after

considering the demand for additional solar parks from the States.

- It would also contribute to long term energy security of the country and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reduction in carbon emissions and carbon footprint, as well as generate large direct & indirect employment opportunities in solar and allied industries like glass, metals, heavy industrial equipment etc. The solar parks will also provide productive use of abundant uncultivable lands which in turn facilitate development of the surrounding areas.
- All the States and UTs are eligible for benefits under the scheme. The State Government will first nominate the Solar Power Park Developer(SPPD)and also identify the land for the proposed solar park

• Homeopathy

- In India, homoeopathic medicines are regulated by Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules. All pharmaceutical industries are legally bound to comply with this rule, which, in turn, assures safety and quality of homoeopathic medicines.
- Further, these industries adhere to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) that further assure accredited production, packaging and distribution. In that sense, India has a relatively well-established regulatory framework for Homoeopathy.
- However, the implementation of these Acts and Rules are sometimes challenging at the end of the pharmaceutical industries, and despite their best efforts to comply, some practical challenges remain that come in their way.

- Homoeopathy is one of the most followed medical systems in India and its strength lies in the fact that its medicines are gentle, safe as well as cost-effective.
- In the era of growing adverse drug reactions and auto-immune and lifestyle-related illnesses, Homeopathy has a crucial role to play in the well-being of mankind.
- The use of homoeopathy is steadily growing in India and as per an analysis by Ministry of AYUSH.

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