

2021 Current Affairs for Prelims 2021

GOVERNANCE

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GOVERNANCE

1. National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

- Prime Minister of India **announced its implementation on 15th August 2020** with a vision to create a national digital health ecosystem.
- It **aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure** of the country.

Objectives:

- To establish state-of-the-art digital health systems, to manage the core digital health data.
- To establish registries at appropriate levels.
- To enforce adoption of open standards by all national digital health stakeholders.
- To create a system of personal health records easily accessible to individuals and healthcare professionals and services providers, based on individual's informed consent
- To promote development of enterprise-class health application systems.
- To adopt the best principles of cooperative federalism while working with the States and Union Territories for the realization of the vision.
- To ensure that the healthcare institutions and professionals in the private sector participate actively with public health authorities in the building of the NDHM.
- To ensure national portability in the provision of health services
- To promote the use of clinical decision support (CDS) systems by health professionals and practitioners.

The NDHM is envisaged to be **implemented in phase wise manner.**

- **Phase 1** to cover 6 UTs on pilot basis.
- **Phase 2** will cover additional States with expansion of the services.
- **Phase 3 will target nation-wide roll-out**, operationalizing and converging with all health schemes across India.

Currently, the NDHM is being implemented in 6 Union Territories- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Ladakh and Puducherry.**

2. Aadhaar Payment Bridge System

In news- Recently, a campaign called Rethink Aadhaar has published a report highlighting scams in the Aadhaar enabled Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs).

Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) System-

It is one of the unique **payment systems implemented by NPCI, uses Aadhaar number as a central key for electronically channelizing the Government benefits and subsidies** in the Aadhaar Enabled Bank Accounts (AEBA) of the intended beneficiaries.

Key features of APB system-

- Banks can upload/download transaction files through secured web access.
- Banks can get connect to NPCI either through NPCINet or Internet.
- APB System **supports ISO 20022 messaging standards.**
- APB System supports multiple intraday sessions.

- APB System provides Direct Corporate Access (DCA) to Government Departments and Agencies.
- Provides **online Dispute Management System (DMS)**.
- APB System **capable to handle 10 million transactions per day**.
- APB System can process both onus and offus transactions.
- APB System makes available enriched MIS to all the participants.

3. Skoch Challenger Award

In news- Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) received SKOCH Challenger Award for the transparency in governance.

Why was it conferred upon the MoPR?

MoPR received the Award for the transparency in governance category for **IT-led initiatives and transformational reforms** leading to outcome-based performance improvement, better transparency and **strengthening of the e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country**.

Important initiatives of MoPR:

- 1) **SVAMITVA Scheme** aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India, engaging the latest drone surveying technology, for demarcating the inhabitant land in rural areas.
- 2) **e-GramSwaraj** application provides **single window** with the **complete profile of the Gram Panchayat, including Sarpanch and Panchayat Secretary details**, demographic details of Panchayat, details of Panchayat Finances,
- 3) **On-line Monitoring Systems of Central Finance Commission (CFC) Funds Flow & Proper Utilisation**
- 4) **AuditOnline** for online audit of Panchayat accounts in order to strengthen the transparency and accountability at grassroots level.
- 5) **ServicePlus** is a secure solution for service delivery – makes all Government services accessible to the common man in his/her locality, through common service delivery outlets.
- 6) **Gram Manchitra-** Geo-Spatial Planning Application for facilitating and supporting Gram Panchayat users to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level .

About the SKOCH Challenger Award:

- These awards are distinctive for its approach of selection of awardees, which is not based on the nomination but on discovery.
- The SKOCH Challenger Award is considered India's Highest Independent Honour and is conferred after exhaustive research and expert evaluations.
- These Awards acknowledge people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

4. National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

In News- The 7-member National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is down to just one member after the retirement of its vice-chairperson in October and the non-filling of 5 other seats since May 2020.

About NCM-

- The Minorities Commission was detached from the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1984, and placed under the Ministry of Social Welfare.
- The National Commission for Minorities Act was enacted in 1992, and the Commission became a statutory body.

- NCM consist of Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five Members.
- The five Members including the Chairperson shall be from amongst the minority communities.
- To mark the adoption of the “Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities” by the UN in 1992, it observes the Minorities Rights Day every year on 18th December.
- It lacks the constitutional power to conduct independent enquiries or investigations in cases of the transgression of minorities’ rights, and especially in cases of communal violence.
- The annual report as well as the reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations be tabled before Parliament annually.

5. Digital Quality of Life Index 2020

In News- India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality, according to the Digital Quality of Life Report.

Key Points-

- It is global research on the quality of digital wellbeing in **85 countries** (81% of the global population).
- The study indexes the countries by looking at **five fundamental pillars that define the digital quality of life** namely, internet affordability, internet quality, electronic infrastructure, electronic security and electronic government.
- There are countries that have a better digital quality of life with a lower GDP per capita than expected.
- **Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia with relatively high GDP per capita are underperforming in providing better digital wellbeing** for their citizens due to low levels of internet quality and e-security.
- **7 out of 10 countries** with the highest DQL **are in Europe, with Denmark leading** among 85 countries.
- Scandinavian countries excel in offering high-quality digital wellbeing to their citizens.
- **Canada leads in American continents, Japan in Asia, South Africa in Africa and New Zealand in Oceania.**
- **India** stands at the overall **rank of 57** and in Internet Affordability stands at 9th place and outperforms countries like the UK, the USA and China.
- However in Internet Quality India is in 78th place and almost at the bottom of the pillar

6. Bhadbhut Project

In News- The Gujarat government recently awarded the contract for the Bhadbhut project in Bharuch, Gujarat.

What is the Bhadbhut Project?

- It is planned to be a **1.7-km causeway-cum-weir barrage with 90 gates, across the river Narmada**, 5 km from Bhadbhut village and 25 km from the mouth of the river, where it flows into the Gulf of Khambhat.
- The **barrage will stop most of the excess water flowing out of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from reaching the sea** and thus create a “sweet water lake” of 600 mcm (million cubic metres) on the river.
- The barrage will also have a **six-lane road that will connect the left and right banks of the river** and provide shorten the land distance between two large industrial estates in Surat and Bharuch.
- The project also **aims to prevent flooding** in years when rainfall is higher than normal.
- The **project is part of the larger Kalpasar Project**, which entails the construction of a 30-km dam across the Gulf of Khambhat between Bharuch and Bhavnagar districts.
- The reservoir is meant to tap the waters of the Narmada, Mahisagar and Sabarmati.
- However, the **barrage is expected to interfere with the migration and breeding cycle of Hilsa**, blocking their natural entry.

- Hilsa is a **marine fish which migrates upstream and arrives in the brackish water of the Narmada** estuary near Bharuch for **spawning** usually during the monsoon months of July and August.
- **Part of Aliya Bet**, an island in the delta of the Narmada and known for shrimp farming, is **likely to get submerged**.

Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP)-

- The SSP is a gravity dam on the Narmada River crossing Gujarat in India.
- It involves a series of large irrigation and hydroelectric multi-purpose dams.
- The project took form in 1979.
- The hydroelectric power of the SSP is to be shared by the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- The irrigation benefits would accrue to the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

7. Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

In news- Finance Minister in her budget speech mentioned about Minimum Government and Maximum Governance- which is covered by Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

About the DILRMP-

- The Government of India, in 2008-09, had launched DILRMP - erstwhile National Land Records Modernization Programme to digitize and modernize land records and develop a transparent and Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) in the country.
- The DILRMP has 3 major components- Computerization of land record, Survey/re-survey, Computerization of Registration.
- Vision of the Ministry of Rural Development: To complete computerization/digitisation of land records in entire country by the Financial Year 2023-24

8. Budget 2021

The Union Budget has been divided into two Parts i.e., Part A and Part B.

Six pillars of part A of the Budget-

- Health and Wellbeing
- Physical & Financial Capital, and Infrastructure
- Inclusive Development for Aspirational India
- Reinvigorating Human Capital
- Innovation and R&D
- Minimum Government and Maximum Governance

The Union Budget 2021-22 is the first budget of this new decade and also a digital one in the backdrop of COVID-19 crisis.

Fiscal Position:			
Item	Original BE 2020- 21	RE 2020 -21	BE 2021 -22
Expenditure	30.42 lakh crore	34.5 0 lakh crore	34.8 3 lakh crore
Capital Expenditure	4.12 lakh crore	4.39 lakh crore	5.5 lakh crore
Fiscal Deficit (as % of GDP)	-	9.5%	6.8%

Highlights of the budget:

Health and Sanitation:

- A new scheme, titled PM Atma Nirbhar Swasthya Bharat Yojana, to be launched to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare.
- Mission POSHAN 2.0 to improve nutritional outcomes across 112 aspirational districts.
- Operationalisation of 17 new public health units at points of entry.

Education:

- 100 new Sainik Schools to be set up
- 750 Eklavya schools to be set up in tribal areas
- A Central **University to come up in Ladakh.**

Infrastructure:

- Vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles – all vehicles to undergo fitness test in automated fitness centres every 20 years (personal vehicles), every 15 years (commercial vehicles).
- National Asset Monetising Pipeline launched to monitor asset monetisation process.
- National Rail Plan created to bring a future ready Railway system by 2030.
- 100% electrification of Railways to be completed by 2023.
- Metro services announced in 27 cities.
- National Hydrogen Mission to be launched to generate hydrogen from green power sources.
- Gas pipeline project to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (LPG scheme) to be extended to cover 1 crore more beneficiaries.

Tax:

- No IT filing for people above 75 years who get pension and earn interest from deposits.
- Reopening window for IT assessment cases reduced from 6 to 3 years. However, in case of serious tax evasion cases (Rs. 50 lakh or more), it can go up to 10 years.
- Duty on solar inverters raised from 5% to 20%, and on solar lanterns from 5% to 15%.

Economy and Finance:

- Proposal to allow States to raise borrowings up to 4% of GSDP this year.
- Plan to continue on the path of fiscal consolidation, achieving a fiscal deficit level below 4.5% of GDP by 2025-2026.
- Amendment to FRBM Act proposed to achieve targeted Fiscal Deficit levels.
- The Contingency Fund of India is to be augmented from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore through Finance Bill.
- Additional borrowing ceiling of 0.5% of GSDP will be provided subject to conditions.
- States expected to reach a fiscal deficit of 3% of GSDP by 2023-24, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- A Unified Securities Market Code to be created, consolidating provisions of the Sebi Act, Depositories Act, and two other laws.
- An IPO of LIC to debut this fiscal.
- Strategic sale of BPCL, IDBI Bank, Air India to be completed.

Agriculture:

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to be made available for APMCs for augmenting their infrastructure.
- 1,000 more Mandis to be integrated into the E-NAM market place.
- Five major fishing hubs, including Chennai, Kochi and Paradip, to be developed.
- A multipurpose seaweed **park to be established in Tamil Nadu.**

Employment:

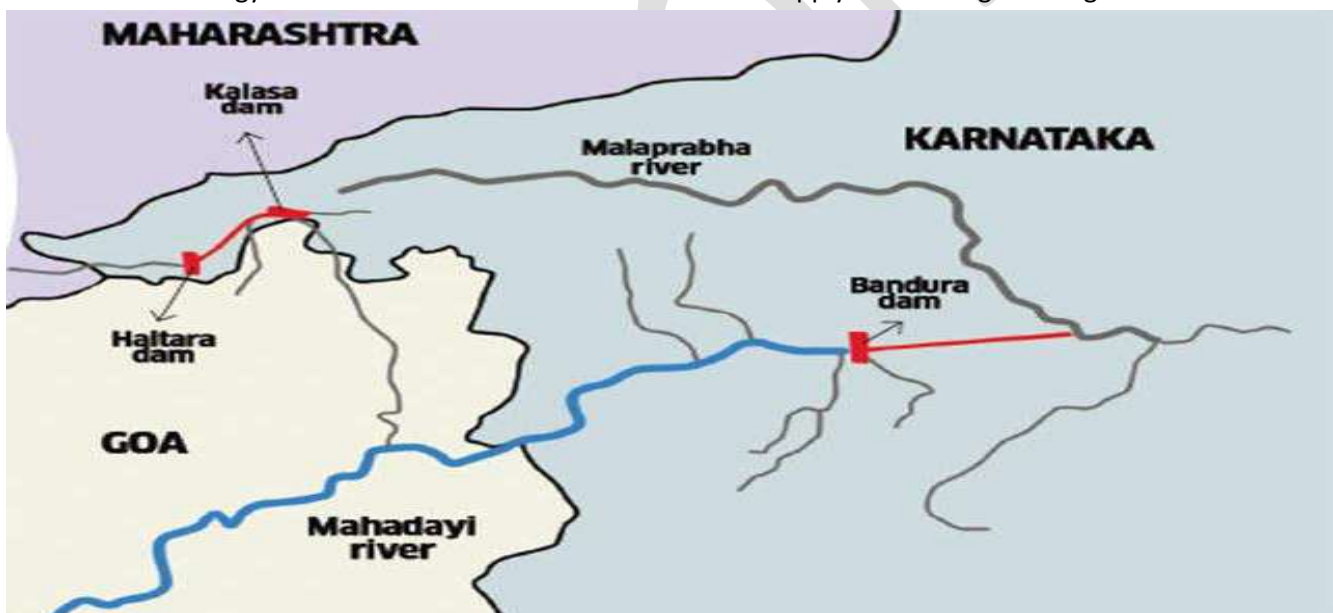
- A portal to be launched to maintain information on gig workers and construction workers.
- Social security to be extended to gig and platform workers.
- Margin capital required for loans via Stand-up India scheme reduced from 25% to 15% for SCs, STs and women.

9. Mahadayi project

In News- Mahadayi project cost skyrockets by 1,674% since inception.

About it-

- The Mahadayi dispute began in the 1980s when Karnataka decided to build a number of dams, canals and barrages to route the Mahadayi river water to the Malaprabha basin in order to meet the requirements of water-scarce districts of Bagalkot, Gadag, Dharwad and Belagavi.
- Karnataka approached the Union Ministry of Water Resources in 2002 for permission to divert 7.56 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water from the Mahadayi basin to the Malaprabha river, by building canals to link its tributaries Kalasa and Banduri.
- Permission was initially granted, then put on hold when Goa protested as the move would harm the sensitive ecology of the Western Ghats and affect its water supply for drinking and irrigation.



- Goa objected to Karnataka's decision and moved the Supreme Court in 2006.
- Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 2010 under Justice Panchal.
- In 2016, the tribunal rejected Karnataka's demand to divert 7.56 TMC of water from the Mahadayi basin.
- After protests in north Karnataka in August 2018 the tribunal announced final award which has pegged Karnataka's access to 13.4 tmc of Mahadayi River water for its consumptive use (5.4 tmc) and power generation (8.02 tmc).
- It awarded 1.72 tmcft and 2.18 tmcft to Kalasa and Banduri projects respectively.
- Goa was allowed to use 24 tmc for the state's municipal water needs, irrigation water requirements and industrial water demands.
- Maharashtra was awarded the lowest share of 1.33 tmc for meeting its in-basin needs with respect to five projects.

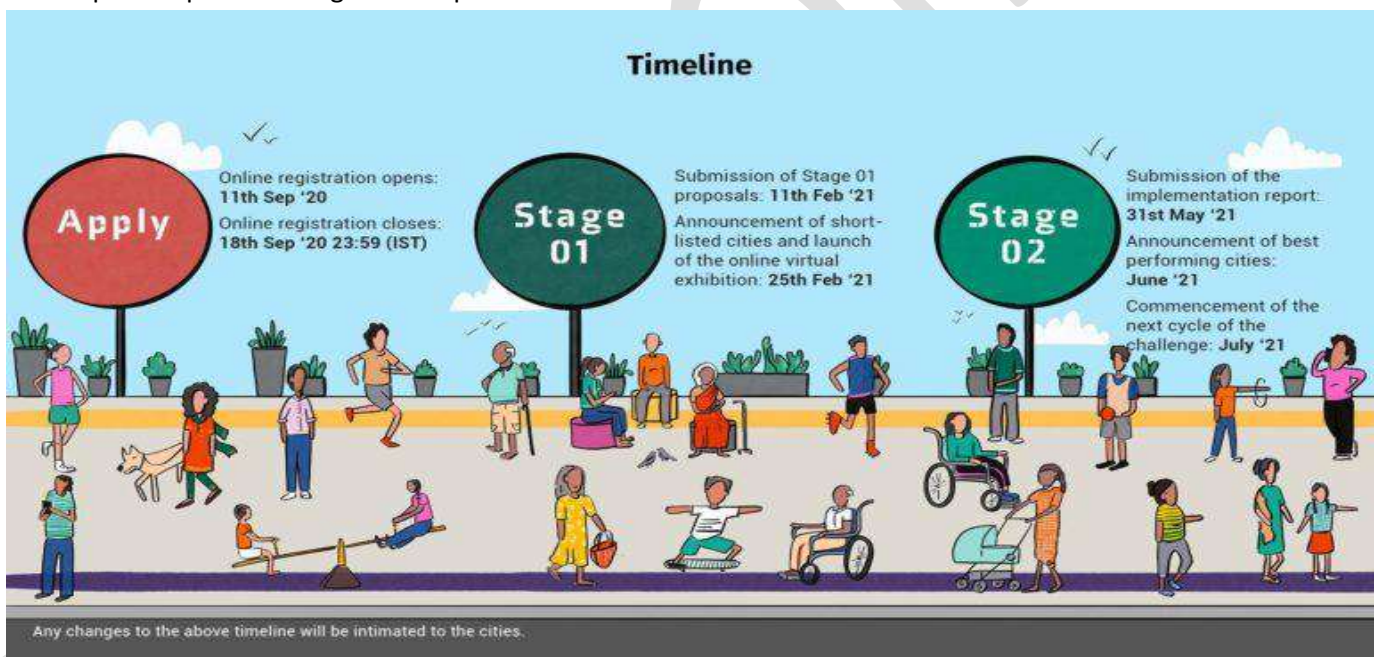
- It also directed the Central Government to set up Mahadayi Water Management Authority to implement its report and final decision.
- The Central government issued a gazette notification on 27 February 2020 permitting the Karnataka state to draw 13.42 tmcft of water from the Mahadayi river out of which 8 tmcft is for power generation.
- The application to release 258 hectares of reserve forest area for the Kalasa project and an application to release 242.51 hectares of forest area for the Banduri project is pending before the MoEF.

10. Streets for People Challenge

In news- The Streets for People Challenge is an initiative of the Smart Cities Mission to inspire cities to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures in response to COVID-19.

About Streets for People Challenge-

- The Challenge aims to create flagship walking initiatives in cities, which focus on placemaking and liveability.
- Cities will be required to reimagine their streets as public spaces through the lens of economic regeneration, safety, and child-friendly interventions initiatives, in order to ensure a green recovery from COVID-19.
- The India Programme of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) will be the knowledge partner, providing guidance through the preparation of resource material and facilitating online peer to peer learning workshops.



11. India urban data exchange (IUDX):

In news- MoHUA said that the open data platform for the 100 cities would be expanded to cover 500 cities by 2022 and all urban centres in the country by 2024.

About India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)-

- IUDX is a research project under smart cities mission being implemented by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- It will facilitate secure, authenticated and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, third-party authenticated and authorized applications and other data sources, data producers and consumers,

both within a city to begin with and scaled up across cities eventually at a national level, in a uniform and seamless way.

- IUDX will be an open source software platform for cities, industry and researchers to share Smart City data with each other that could be monetised in the future, similar to the UPI for bank accounts and digital payments.
- The two main enablement services working as IUDX are-
- **Authentication, Authorization, Accounting & Security (AAAS) Enablement Services:** These services would provide for identity, security, privacy, authorization, metering, payment support and other management related activities.
- **Data Exchange Enablement Services:** These will host the meta data catalog (data about the data) like schemas, information models, ontologies etc., and will be searchable.

12. National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)

In news- NUDM has been launched for transforming Urban Governance.

What is NUDM?

- With a renewed focus on Atma Nirbhar Bharat, **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched** the NUDM to streamline and coordinate efforts of the urban ecosystem by harnessing technology to leapfrog our urban transformation journey.
- **It aims to** build the shared digital infrastructure that will strengthen the capacity of the urban ecosystem to solve complex problems at scale and speed.
- NUDM has **articulated a set of governing principles, and inherits the technology design principles of the National Urban Innovation Stack (NUIS).**
- Objectives-
- **To create shared digital infra as public good in shape of state-of-the-art digital urban platforms,** building blocks, data infra to manage the core digital urban data, and the infrastructure required for its seamless exchange.
- **To catalyse an urban national open digital ecosystem (u-NODE)** that leverages NUDM to build new platforms, solutions and innovations.
- To create open standards and enforce adoption of open standards by all national digital urban stakeholders.
- To establish registries at appropriate level to create single source of truth in respect of urban assets, service delivery, urban data and actors
- To adopt the best principles of cooperative federalism while working with the States, Union Territories & ULBs for the realization of the vision
- To provide for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of governance at all levels and
- To strengthen existing urban systems and applications by ensuring their conformity with the defined standards and integration with the proposed NDHM.

Approach-

NUDM will be rolled out across three key pillars.

- **People: Mobilise,** enable and empower stakeholders across the urban ecosystem
- **Processes: Improve governance** through standards and frameworks for collaboration and impact
- **Platforms: Leverage technology** in service of an improved quality of life for every citizen

13. Protest Toolkit

In News- Activist Disha Ravi was recently arrested by the Delhi Police for a toolkit document that she shared with Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

What is the issue?

- On Sunday, 14 February, a magistrate in Delhi's Patiala House Court remanded 21-year-old climate activist Disha Ravi to five days of police custody in what is now being termed as the 'protest-toolkit case'.
- In this case, **Greta Thunberg shared a link to the toolkit on the farmers protest which was found to contain some pro-Khalistani elements.**
- The toolkit shared by the activists tries to explain the farmers' protest to those who don't know the reason behind the agitation.
- Dishas role came under suspicion by Delhi Police after climate activist Thunberg tweeted a toolkit document which the police alleged had led to the January 26 violence in New Delhi.

Decoding the 'Protest-Toolkit'-

- 'Toolkit' is a term activists use for a campaign information document.
- 'Toolkits' consist of a set of guidelines to ensure the achievement of certain shared goals.
- It is a valuable resource that can be used to sustain a campaign or movement, used mostly on the internet.
- While toolkits are readily used by government departments and private organisations, they have also gained momentum in social protests across the globe.
- For instance, detailed toolkits were used to effectively organise and manage the Occupy Wall Street protest (2011), pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong (2019), and anti-CAA protests in Delhi.

14. Meghraj: GI Cloud

In news- Ministry of Shipping has revamped its website recently and the new website is based on open source technology and is deployed on NIC cloud Meghraj.

What is Meghraj Cloud?

- In order to utilise and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious initiative - "GI Cloud" which has been named as "Meghraj".
- The focus of this initiative is to accelerate delivery of e-services in the country while optimizing ICT spending of the Government.
- This will ensure optimum utilization of the infrastructure and speed up the development and deployment of eGov applications.
- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing National Cloud services under the MeghRaj.

15. National Commission for Scheduled Castes

In news: A former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment and ex-BJP MP, Vijay Sampla, took charge as chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

About National Commission for Scheduled Castes:

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

- The Constitution provided for the appointment of a Special Officer under Article 338, designated as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The **65th Amendment Act, 1990** replaced the one-member system with a multi-member National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The **89th Amendment Act, 2003** replaced this Commission with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes from 2004.
- It is composed of the Chairman, **Vice-chairman and three other members.**

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.
- Its recommendation is not binding.**

16. Appointment of Regular CBI Director

In news: The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking appointment of a regular Director for the CBI in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)-

- The CBI is the **main investigating agency** of the GOI.
- It is **not a statutory body** though it derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.**
- Its important role is to prevent corruption and maintain integrity in administration.
- CBI is **exempted from Right to Information (RTI) Act** similar to National Investigation Agency (NIA), National Intelligence Grid (Natgrid), etc.
- CBI is headed by a Director, an IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of the rank of Director General of Police.
- The director is selected based on the CVC Act, 2003 for two years-term.
- It **works under the supervision of the CVC (Central Vigilance Commission)** in matters pertaining to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate cases in any state with the consent of the concerned state.
- The Supreme Court and High Courts can also order the CBI to investigate without state's consent.
- The Central Government shall **appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee** consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him (change made by Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)).
- As per Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014, where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

17. V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report

In news: The fifth annual democracy report by Sweden's V-Dem Institute, titled 'Autocratisation goes viral', has downgraded India from "the world's largest democracy" to an "electoral autocracy".

About 2020 report-

- V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) produced the largest dataset on democracy with almost 30 million data points for 202 countries from 1789 to 2020.
- **India holds 90th position in the democratic countries list.**
- Denmark stands on top.
- Hungary is now classed as an electoral authoritarian regime.
- Major G20 nations and all regions of the world are **part of the "third wave of autocratization"**.
- While India's score was at an all-time high at 0.57 (on a scale of 0-1) in 2013, it had declined to 0.34 by the end of 2020- a loss of 23 percentage points in seven years.
- India is, **in this aspect (censorship) now as autocratic as is Pakistan**, and worse than both its neighbors Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Report notes that civil society is being increasingly muzzled while organisations aligned with the "Hindutva movement" have gained freedom.
- The world is now left with 87 electoral and liberal democracies.

18. World's Highest Rail Bridge

In news: 'Marvel in Making'- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal had tweeted on the world's highest rail bridge arch on Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir.

About the Bridge-

- The 476 metre-long steel arch is set to be the "world's highest" railway bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It surpassed the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.
- The arch bridge is a part railway project connecting Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country.
- The ₹1,250-crore bridge will be 359 metres above the Chenab river bed.
- The overall length of the bridge is 1,315 metres.
- Construction of the first three phases of the project has been completed and the line is in operational use for running of trains between Baramulla-Banihal in Kashmir valley and Jammu-Udhampur-Katra in Jammu region.
- Three agencies, IRCON, KRCL and Northern Railway with extensive experience in the construction of rail lines are involved in this project.
- Railway bridge will be able to withstand up to 8 magnitude earthquakes and high-intensity blasts.
- It will be at a height 35 meters more than the Eiffel Tower in Paris and at five times the height of the Qutub Minar in Delhi.

19. Voluntary Code of Ethics

In news: Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on behalf of its members has agreed to observe the "Voluntary Code of Ethics" during all future elections including the ongoing General Elections to the Haryana & Maharashtra legislative assemblies.

About Voluntary Code of Ethics-

- All the major social media platforms and IAMAI came together and mutually devised this “Voluntary Code of Ethics” for the General Elections 2019.
- Voluntary Code of Ethics came into immediate effect on 20th March, 2019.
- During the 17th Lok Sabha election period (2019), social media platforms took action on 909 violative cases, reported by the ECI.
- **Social Media platforms will voluntarily undertake information, education and communication campaigns** to build awareness including electoral laws and other related instructions.
- Social Media platforms created a **dedicated grievance redressal channel** for taking expeditious action on the cases reported by the ECI.
- Accordingly, ECI can notify the relevant platforms of potential violations of **Section 126 of the R.P. Act, 1951** and other electoral laws.
- Platforms will ensure that all **political advertisements on their platforms are pre-certified** from the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees.

IAMAI-

- The Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) is a **not-for-profit industry body** registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It represents the interests of the online and mobile value added services industry .
- Its mandate is to expand and enhance the online and mobile value added services sectors.
- It is dedicated to present a unified voice of the businesses it represents to the government, investors, consumers and other stakeholders.

20. Olympics 2048 bidding by New Delhi

In news: Recently, the Delhi government pledged to launch a bid for the 2048 Olympic Games to mark 100 years of India's independence.

Key updates-

- A vision has been provided in the budget that the 2048 Olympic Games should be held in Delhi
- In the last decade, **India has considered hosting the sporting extravaganza twice**- it first pitched itself for the 2024 Olympics, with Delhi and Ahmedabad as possible candidates.
- In 2018, then Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis pitched Mumbai as a potential host for the 2032 Games.
- An **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** gets into discussions with the cities interested to host the Games.
- The panel vets the bids and engages with the governments and other stakeholders of the interested countries.
- Based on their observations, the **committee recommends a potential host, which the Executive Board then has to take a call on.**
- IOC, which is currently in the process of finalising the venue for the 2032 edition, hasn't yet invited bids for the 2048 event.
- IOC is a **non-governmental sports organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland** and is responsible for **organising the modern Summer and Winter Olympic Games.**

21. States Barring CBI Investigation

- The Centre said that eight states in the country have withdrawn general consent required by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct investigation in states.
- During the years 2016 to 2020, searches (raids) were conducted by CBI in the premises of 42 public representatives.
- Given that the **CBI has jurisdiction only over central government departments and employees** it can investigate a case involving state government employees or a violent crime in a given state only after that state government gives its consent.
- There are **two kinds of consent**: case-specific and general.
- Almost all states have given such consent, otherwise the CBI would require consent in every case.
- Withdrawal of general consent by State means CBI will not be able to register any fresh case involving a central government official or a private person stationed in these two states without getting case-specific consent.
- It also **means CBI officers lose all powers of a police officer as soon as they enter the state unless the state government has allowed them.**
- Withdrawal of consent by a State Government can be effected prospectively and not retrospectively.
- Further, the cases which are referred by the Constitutional Courts do not require the consent of the State.

22. Test-Track-Treat Protocol

- The Union Home Ministry issued Covid-19 guidelines and suggested to states to focus on Test-Track-Treat Protocol under **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, which will be effective from April 1 to 30.
- The **main focus** of the Guidelines is to consolidate the substantial gains achieved in containing the spread of COVID-19 in the past five months.
- As per the new guidelines, there is **no restriction on Inter-State and intra-State movement**
- State/ UT Governments shall take all necessary measures to promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviour in work places and in public, especially in crowded places.
- All **State/ UT Governments should rapidly step up the pace of vaccination**, to cover all priority groups in an expeditious manner.
- States and UTs, **where the proportion of RT-PCR tests is less, should rapidly increase it**, to reach the prescribed level of 70 percent or more.
- The new positive cases, detected as a result of intensive testing, need to be isolated/ quarantined at the earliest and provided timely treatment.
- As per the protocol, their **contacts have to be traced at the earliest**, and similarly isolated/ quarantined.
- Based on the positive cases and tracking of their contacts, **Containment Zones shall be carefully demarcated** by the district authorities, at the micro level.
- **Local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed Containment measures are strictly followed.**

23. National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)

In news: Recently, Centre asked States/UTs to increase the interval between two doses of COVISHIELD to 4-8 weeks based on NTAGI and NEGVAC recommendation.

About NTAGI -

- It was established by an order of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** in 2001.

- As India's **apex advisory body on immunization**, the NTAGI provides guidance and **advice to the MoHFW on provision of vaccination and immunization services** for the effective control of vaccine preventable diseases in the country.
- It fulfils a need for informing decision-making concerning the introduction of new vaccines and strengthening the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- It includes a **Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC)** which is tasked with undertaking technical review of scientific evidence on matters related to immunization policy and programmes.
- The NTAGI **shall evaluate licensed vaccines as well as prioritize other related interventions such as associated immune globulins and chemo-prophylactic agents and new technologies** for delivery, logistics, disease prevention.
- NTAGI recommendations may include guidance on route, dose and frequency of administration of the vaccine, population groups, circumstances in which a vaccine is recommended, strategies for introduction of the vaccine and adverse events associated with the vaccine.
- The NTAGI is **chaired by the Secretary of Health and Family Welfare (H & FW)**, while the Secretary of Department of Biotechnology and the Secretary of Department of Health Research, serve as the Co-chairs.
- Core membership is composed of Government of India representatives functioning in an exofficio capacity and independent experts.

24. Punjab to have its own Enforcement Directorate

In news- The state government of Punjab announced that the state will have its own Enforcement Directorate **to check illegal mining.**

About Punjab's Enforcement Directorate-

- It will be set up in the mining and geology wing of the Water resources department.
- The ED, to be headed by a senior police officer not below the rank of deputy inspector general of police (DIG).
- It would be assisted by 3 SP-level officers in the head office.
- Each of the 7 mining blocks would be headed by an officer not below the rank of a DSP, with 21 inspectors/sub-inspectors at the district level and 175 head constables/constables under them.
- The ED will have the mandate to develop strategies, measures and methods to effectively achieve these objectives in coordination with the director of mining, chief engineers dealing with mining and district level illegal mining enforcement committees.
- It will also develop actionable intelligence for the purpose and coordinate with agencies of the neighbouring states dealing with the issue of illegal mining.
- It will also facilitate prosecution of those indulging in illegal mining under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- The ED will also ensure that those involved in the sand and gravel business do not overcharge on the sale price ceiling prescribed in the mining policy.
- The police personnel in ED would be provided salary, equipment, arms, by the police department.
- Any special equipment, if required, would be provided from the District Mineral Foundation Funds.

Central Enforcement Directorate-

- It is a Multi-Disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** and **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**.
- Besides directly recruiting personnel, the Directorate also draws officers from different Investigating

Agencies, viz., Customs & Central Excise, Income Tax, Police, etc. on deputation.

- On 1st May, 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed, in the Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate', and another branch was opened at Madras.
- The administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from the Department of Economic Affairs to the Department of Revenue in 1960.
- For a short period of 4 years (1973 – 1977), the Directorate remained under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi** and is headed by the Director of Enforcement.
- There are five Regional offices at Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Delhi headed by Special Directors of Enforcement.

25. PRABANDH portal

In news- The Ministry of Education has developed an online module for compiling the data of out-of-school children identified by each state/UT and their mapping with **special training centres (STC)** on the PRABANDH portal.

Key updates-

- With this online module, they will facilitate age appropriate admissions of children in the age group of 6-14 years and those belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.
- For out of school children in the 16-18 years age group, financial assistance will be provided for the first time in the current session 2021-22, to continue their education through open/distance learning mode.
- The child-wise information of the identified out of school children and STCs will be uploaded at block level under the supervision of block source coordinator of the certain block research centre (BRC).
- The information regarding out of school children, STCs and their progress, as uploaded by the BRC is validated by the District Magistrate or an appropriate officer as authorised by the DM/DC.
- A quarterly progress report and a user manual are shared on the portal.

About PRABANDH portal-

- PRABANDH means PROject Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System.
- It is the portal of Dept of School Education of Ministry of Education under Samagra Shiksha.
- **Core objectives:**
 - To obviate the need for submitting hard copies, except where it is mandated otherwise.
 - To have transparency and accuracy in the System w.r.t Approvals, Releases, Financial Status.
 - To streamline the Financial Management System, to enable more accurate assessment of actual requirements of funds for implementation.
 - For efficient decision- making.
- In this portal States and UTs may view the Status of GoI Releases, approved outlays, coverage as per UDISE, school wise list of approvals, school wise gaps, cancellations in approvals etc. under Samagra Shiksha
- In addition, online submission of Monthly Progress Reports, physical as well as financial, can also be made by the respective State/UTs in the PRABANDH System.
- It also provides monthly status of physical and financial progress under the major interventions of the scheme, which automatically picks up data from the system based on monthly updates done by the States and UTs.

26. ADI PRASHIKSHAN Portal-

In news- Recently, the **Minister of Tribal Affairs** launched the ADI PRASHIKSHAN portal and inaugurated a three-day training programme on “Capacity Building Training of Master Trainers for ST PRI Members” as part of Azadi ka AmritMahotsav.

About ADI PRASHIKSHAN portal-

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry has developed the portal in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Its aim is to provide comprehensive information on training programmes held across the country.
- It is an initiative to reach the remotest area using information technology so that tribal communities are able to have access to their rights and benefits.
- It would act as a Central Repository of all training programs conducted by
 - Tribal Research Institutes
 - Different divisions of the Ministry
 - National Society for Education of Tribal Students
 - Centre of Excellences funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and
 - National Tribal Research Institute
- It will also catalyze and improve the processes of conducting training by making it online and accessible to all.
- Unified open platform will give users access to authentic knowledge products.

27. Digital news report, 2021

In news- India is **ranked at 31** in the 10th edition of **Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ)**'s Digital News Report 2021. The Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) provided logistical support for surveying the Indian market.

More information-

- India stood at 31 when it came to “trust in news” out of the 46 media markets surveyed and India has featured for the first time in its main report.
- The study found 73 percent of the respondents in India use smartphones to access news; 82 percent source news online and 63 percent acquire information solely from social media platforms like WhatsApp and YouTube.
- Only 38 per cent in India said they trusted news overall.
- In India, legacy print brands and government broadcasters scored high on trust levels among news consumers.
- Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news with 65 per cent, while the US had the lowest levels of trust at 29 per cent.
- As ACJ and RISJ interviewed only online news users and English-speaking affluent, younger, educated and city-dwelling population the survey cannot be considered as representing India.

Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ)

- It is a UK-based research centre and think tank.
- The Reuters Institute is the **University of Oxford's research centre** on issues affecting news media globally.
- The institute was founded in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford in **2006** to conduct scholarly and professional research on news media, operate the **Thomson Reuters**

Journalism Fellowship Programme, and host academic research fellows.

- The Fellowship Programme, founded in 1983, is jointly based at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and Green Templeton College.
- The RISJ is a **partner of the European Journalism Observatory**, a network of eleven language sites reporting media research from across Europe.

28. Task force for Mission Karmayogi

In news- Former Infosys CEO S D Shibu Lal was appointed chairperson of a three-member task force formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its ambitious "Mission Karmayogi".

About the task force-

- It has been decided to constitute a task force comprising leading experts to draw a clear road map for the guidance and operationalisation of the 'Karmayogi Bharat', the SPV.
- The task force will include Govind Iyer, Consultant at global management consulting group Egon Zehnder, and Pankaj Bansal, Co-founder and Group CEO of HR tech company PeopleStrong.
- The task force will be free to constitute working groups, co-opt additional members/experts/special invitees, and consult national and international leaders in the field.
- It shall submit its recommendations on organisational structure for the SPV aligning its vision, mission and functions; policy frameworks for HR, compensation, IT, procurement and oversight functions, and staffing plans for top management.
- The task force is expected to **complete its work within a period of six months** from the date of its constitution and submit its recommendations in the form of periodic/interim reports in respect of various terms assigned to it.

Mission Karmayogi-

The Centre has recently approved the 'National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building - Mission Karmayogi' to effect a transformational shift from rule based training to role-based capacity development of all civil services in the country so as to enhance citizen experience for government services and improve availability of competent workforce.

Mission Karmayogi is a nationwide programme to lay the foundation for capacity building of civil servants, it will help the officers to learn about the best practices across the world. It will have two paths, self driven, where the official can choose the field of interest, and guided, where officials will be provided with the wherewithal to perform their jobs effectively.

**MISSION KARMAYOGI:
RULES-BASED TO
ROLES-BASED**
National Programme for Civil Services
Capacity Building (NPCSCB)

- Shift from 'Rules-based' to a 'Roles-based' human resource management.
- Emphasise role of "On-Site learning" in complementing "Off-Site learning"
- Linking training and development of competencies of civil servants
- Transforming training institutions into Centres of Excellence
- Ministries to directly invest and co-create a common learning ecosystem
- Focus on massive scale training on e-learning

The six pillars of Mission Karmayogi:

1. Policy Framework.
2. Institutional Framework.
3. Competency Framework.
4. Digital Learning Framework.
5. The electrical Human Resource Management System.
6. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Karmayogi Bharat- a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)-

- To effectively roll out mission Karmayogi, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely Karmayogi Bharat, would be set up as a not-for-profit company.
- It will be set up under section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 as a 100% government-owned entity.
- The SPV will be responsible to deliver and manage design, implement, enhance and manage a digital platform and infrastructure.
- It will also manage and deliver competency assessment services, and manage governance of telemetry data and ensure provision of monitoring and evaluation.

29. Enforcing Contracts portal

In news- The “Enforcing Contracts Portal” was inaugurated by the Secretary (Justice) at the Department of Justice, Delhi.

Key updates-

- The Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index of the World Bank is a ranking system which is an indication of an economy’s position relative to that of other economies across 11 areas of business regulation.
- The “Enforcing Contracts” indicator is one such essential area that measures time and cost to resolve a standardized commercial dispute as well as a series of good practices in the judiciary.
- The portal is envisioned to be a comprehensive source of information pertaining to the legislative and policy reforms being undertaken on the “Enforcing Contracts” parameters.
- It includes the latest data related to the functioning and disposal of commercial cases in the Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata.
- It contains instructive videos related to e-filing, advocate registration; manuals on using the Electronic Case Management Tools(ECMTs) like JustIS app for judicial officers and e-Courts services app for use by lawyers and a repository of all related commercial laws for ready reference.
- The new portal also hosts online reporting by all High Courts regarding the Mediation and Arbitration centres in order to monitor and promote institutional mediation & arbitration by way of Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) of commercial cases.
- Currently, only the cities of Delhi and Mumbai are under the purview of the EoDB.
- Kolkata and Bengaluru **are likely to be included** in the Doing Business Report in future.

30. SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha)

In news- The Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.

Key updates-

- A pensioner portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information, access services and register complaints about redressal of grievances.
- SPARSH envisages the establishment of service centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB), have been co-opted as service centres along with several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners.
- The pensioners can approach various branches of these two banks for obtaining any service relating to their pension issues.

31. Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)

In news- The Union government has merged the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) with the Finance Ministry recently.

Why the merger?

- DPE has been merged with the Finance Ministry to give it better control over key state-owned firms, review their capital expenditure plans and chalk out measures relating to revival as well as closure of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- The move comes ahead of the significant privatisation roadmap being pursued by the government, including strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, Pawan Hans, Air India, which are expected to be completed in 2021-22.

More information-

- With this merger, the finance ministry will now have six departments, with five other departments being Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment and Public Asset Management and Financial Services.
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, the parent ministry of DPE, will now be called the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- As a result of the merger, key government companies like BPCL, ONGC, IOC, HPCL, Power Grid Corporation, Coal India, among others, will **now come under direct control of the Finance Ministry.**

About the Department of Public Enterprises-

- DPE is the nodal department for all the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and formulates policy pertaining to CPSEs.
- It lays down, in particular, policy guidelines on performance improvement and evaluation, autonomy and financial delegation and personnel management in CPSEs.
- It furthermore collects and maintains information in the form of a Public Enterprises Survey on several areas in respect of CPSEs.

History of DPE-

- In their 52nd Report, the Estimates Committee of 3rd Lok Sabha (1962-67) stressed the need for setting up a centralized coordinating unit, which could also make continuous appraisal of the performance of public enterprises.
- This led to the setting up of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in 1965 in the Ministry of Finance.

- Subsequently, as a result of the reorganization of the Ministries/Departments of the Union Government in September, 1985, BPE was made part of the Ministry of Industry.
- In May, 1990, BPE was made a full-fledged Department known as the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).

Its role-

As per the Allocation of Business Rules of the Government, the following subjects have been allocated to the DPE:

- Residual work relating to the erstwhile Bureau of Public Enterprises including Industrial Management Pool.
- Coordination of matters of general policy affecting all Public Sector Enterprises.
- Evaluation and monitoring the performance of Public Sector Enterprises, including the Memorandum of Understanding mechanism.
- Matters relating to Permanent Machinery of Arbitration for the Public Sector Enterprises.
- Counseling, training and rehabilitation of employees in Central Public Sector Undertakings under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- Review of capital projects and expenditure in Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- Measures aimed at improving performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises and other capacity building initiatives of Public Sector Enterprises.
- Rendering advice relating to revival, restructuring or closure of Public Sector Enterprises.
- Matters relating to the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises.
- Matters relating to the International Center for Public Enterprises.
- Categorisation of CPSEs including conferring 'Ratna' status.

32. UMANG app

In news- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics & IT enabled map services in "UMANG App" and signed a MoU with MapmyIndia.

Benefits of new features-

- Citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks and much more, at the click of a button.
- They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by MapmyIndia.
- Citizens will also be able to view the driving distance, get directions and turn by turn voice and visual guidance to locations, including traffic and road safety alerts during navigation.

Services-

UMANG app has already started to provide map functionality through MapmyIndia in the following services:

- **Mera Ration** - Through UMANG, users can identify and navigate to the 'Nearest Fair Price Shops' as shops are visible in the form of pointers on MapmyIndia integrated map.
- **eNAM** - Through UMANG, 'Mandi Near Me' service will help users to identify and navigate to the nearby mandis pointed on the map.
- **Damini** - '**Damini Lightning Alerts**' service is to provide lightning alerts to users by giving a visual of nearby areas where lightning has struck in the last few minutes. This alert mechanism provides the possibility of lightning strikes on map view.

To further increase usefulness to citizens, **the map functionality will be shortly enabled in many more services such as:**

- **ESIC** - Users can view ESIC centers such as hospitals/dispensaries on map view and navigate to them.

- Indian Oil - Service is to locate nearby retail and distributors of Gas stations as well as fuel filling stations.
- NHAI: Users can view the toll plazas and toll rates information while travelling.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) provides information corresponding to nearby police stations on the map.
- Pradhan **Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** (Meri Sadak) will help users to raise complaints of damaged roads (under PMGSY) by selecting the road on MapmyIndia platform.

About Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance(UMANG)-

- UMANG is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.
- It is a Government of India single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, providing access to high impact services of various organizations.
- The Prime Minister of India launched the UMANG App in 2017.
- It provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.
- As on date, UMANG provides about 1251 services from 257 Departments & 32 States.
- Citizens can also access their Digilocker Accounts from UMANG and give their feedback after availing any service through Rapid Assessment System (RAS) which has been integrated with UMANG.

About mapMyIndia-

- MapmyIndia, is a product of an indigenous company founded and headquartered in New Delhi, India, in 1995, which has digitally mapped the entire country.
- It helps users find relevant places nearby and see them on detailed building level maps.
- MapmyIndia's APIs enable app and technology developers to easily integrate India's own, indigenous, Atma Nirbhar maps into their apps.

33. Gaon Bura of Assam

In news- Recently the Assam Cabinet announced that Gaon Buras (village headman), village-level functionaries of the district administration, will henceforth be called 'Gaon Pradhans'.

Key updates-

- The institution of Gaon Bura in Assam dates back to the colonial era, when the British appointed the oldest person in the village as the head.
- The responsibilities initially included recording births, deaths, revenue collection, settling disputes, notifying circle officers if there is any encroachment on land, helping police investigate crime, etc...
- Post-independence, the government continued with the institution and made the Gaon Bura a formal part of the Assam Revenue and Disaster Management department.
- His responsibilities were increased, and eventually a small honorarium for the role was introduced.
- The Gaon bora became central to rural, village life and inevitably featured in a number of writings including novels and plays of the 19th century.
- Assamese litterateur Padmanath Gohain Baruah's popular social play is called 'Gaon Bura'.
- Though it was earlier a hereditary position, today it is a sought-after position that undergoes a competitive recruitment interview held by the district administration.
- A Gaon Bura is paid a monthly honorarium of Rs 9,000.
- One needs to be a Class X pass, and as per the new Cabinet decision, a minimum of 30 years of age (upper limit 65) is required to apply for the post.

- There are about 6,000 Gaon Buras in Assam, which include several women too.
- He/she is the one who can issue a 'GaonBura certificate', a certificate that determines one's permanent residency in a particular village.
- During the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the GaonBura certificate became crucial for women (who had no other documents) to establish linkages with their husbands and parents.
- The state government has reasoned that a number of young men (and women) become Gaon Buras, and thus, the word 'Bura' (meaning old in Assamese) is no longer appropriate.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, too, the Gaon Buras (and Buris) are the most important village-level functionaries.