YOJANA SUMMARY

SOCIAL SECURITY

MAY 2022

CATCH THE RAIN

- National water mission's (NWM) campaign *"Catch the Rain"* with the tag line *"Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls"* is to nudge the stakeholders to create appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to climatic conditions and sub-soil strata before monsoon.

- This campaign drives to check dams, water harvesting pits, rooftops RWHS, etc.

- To facilities these facilities these activities, **states have been requested to open "Rain Centers" in each center**.

- These rain center will have a dedicated mobile phone number and will be managed by an engineer or a person well trained in RWHS.

EMPOWERING DIVYANGJAN

India has been known across the world as having a composite and inclusive culture since ancient times. It has taken multiple steps to bring persons with disabilities (PwD) into mainstream.

Steps Taken

1. **For Attitudinal change**

   The prime minister coined the term "Divyangjan" with a view to change the social attitude towards them and recognize their potential.

2. **Institutions Created**

   Department pf Empowerment of persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) was curved out under the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. **Legal Framework**

   - India is a party of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
   - Government enacted the **rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016**. This law is one of the best examples of inclusiveness, which broadens the horizon of rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities.
   - This **Rights guarantee** equality, protection from cruelty, exploitation and violence, the right to live with family and community, access to justice, accessibility to voting, legal capacity, etc.
   - **Reservation in seats** has been increased from 3% to 5% for persons with benchmark disabilities.
   - Reservation in the government/government-aided higher educational institute has been increased 3% to 4% under this act.

4. **Disability Identity**

   - The Ministry has notified the guidelines for the assessment of the extent of specified disabilities in a person in 2018. These guidelines provide a **composition of medical authority for disability certification**.
   - With a view to have a uniform and hassle-free mechanism for the certificate of disability and creating a national database for PwDs, the Government has launched the **Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Project since 2015-16**.

5. **Creation of Barrier Free Environment**

   - Creating a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities is the key to their inclusion.
   - Govt launched the **Accessible India Campaign** in December 2015, which focuses on accessibility in built-up environment, transportation system, and ICT ecosystem.
   - The Ministry of Information Broadcasting has issued guidelines in September 2019 for making **TV viewing accessible for persons with hearing impairment**.

- o   So far, 19 private news channels are telecasting partially accessible news bulletins.
- The Ministry has also developed **Sugamya Bharat App**, a mobile application for crowdsourcing problems related to accessibility.

6. **Providing Quality Childhood Intervention Early**

- DEPwD has set up **14 early Intervention Centers**. These centers are equipped with facilities for screening at-risk cases, providing therapeutic services and preparatory school for enhancing the cognitive and physical abilities of such children.
- In order to encourage students with disabilities to pursue education at all levels, Government is providing **scholarships for Pre-Matric, Post-Metric, Higher class education**.
- In addition, the department is also **providing free coaching facilitie**s to students with disabilities to enable them to prepare for competitive examinations for Group A, B and C posts and entrance examinations for various professional courses.
- The **New Education Policy 2020** is in tune with the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 and has the ingredients for inclusive education.
- The Government has also set up the **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre** in Delhi to promote the use of sign language and also to develop human resources in the field.
  - o   The institute has also signed an MoU with NCERT **for converting the school curriculum of class I to XII into Indian sign language**.
  - o   The institute already developed a sign language version of the curriculum of Class I to V.

7. **Addressing Psychosocial Disabilities (Mental Illness)**

- DEPwD in September 2020 launched a *24x7, toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline* for guiding persons with mental illness and their families to address their mental health concerns.
- The Department also net up the **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation** (NIMHR) at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.

8. **Promoting the Participation of PwD in Sports**

India won 19 medals including 5 gold medals in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. DEPwD has set up a **Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior** to promote sports among PwDs.

9. **Promoting the Participation of PwD in Art and Craft Stream**

DEPwD has created a new platform ***"Divya Kala Shalcti"*** for showcasing the potential of PwDs in performing fine arts.

10. **Other Steps**

- Though relief to the disabled is a **state subject by virtue of Entry 9 of the State list**, the Central Govt has been supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs in this regard.
- One of the flagship schemes of the Department is the **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances** (ADIP) scheme.
  - o   Under this, aids and assistive devices are distributed to Divyagjan to improve their mobility so that, apart from carrying out daily living activities, independently.
- DEPwD through its flagship scheme namely, **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme** has been supporting the NGOs to run various projects such as special education with residential facilities for children with hearing, visual, intellectual disabilities, their vocational training, etc.

Traditional Medicine

- Traditional System of Medicine is a set of knowledge, skills (ability to employ empirical knowledge), and practices based on theories, beliefs, and experiences of different cultures, whether they are used for the maintenance of health and for the prevention, diagnosis, improvement, or treatment of physical or mental illness.

- According to a World Health Organization report about **80 per cent of the world population uses traditional medicine base**.

Traditional Medicine in India

- The traditional medicine systems in India include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Ragpa, and Homeopathy which is known as **Aayush**.

- The diverse activities ranging from the provision of prophylactic care to the management of disease and the effective implementation and integration of o Ayush system to the public healthcare during the pandemic has garnered global attention to Ayush systems.

- This has enabled the signing of the Host Country Agreement for the **establishment of Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar**.

- The work on effective integration of Ayush was expedited after the formation of **Ministry of Ayush in 2014.**

- The **National Ayush Mission (NAM)** Is an example of such elaborate integration where in **Ayushman Bharat-Health and wellness Centers** (HWCs) are being established across the country.

- Another effort can be seen in the integration of Ayush systems in the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS).

- The Ministry of Ayush had issued *A National Clinical Management protocol* **based on Ayurveda and Yoga for Management of Covid-19.**

- It incorporated the traditional Ayurveda knowledge base, experience from clinical practices, and emerging trends of ongoing clinical studies to facilitate decision making for Ayush practitioners to manage Covid-19.

- The Ministry of Ayush and AIIMS, together, establishing the **Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS** is a remarkable initiative in this regard.

- Similarly, efforts are underway to set up **Integrated Ayush Cancer Care facilities at Jhajjar**.

- The Ayush Ministry has also **collaborated with the UK's London School** of conduct a study on *Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera) for promoting recovery from Covid-19*.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- According to a new assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), rising temperatures will lead to catastrophic weather extremes in the coming years.

- The report states that **human activity is unambiguously to blame** for more severe events such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts. **Attaining net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is a must**.

- As outlined in the Paris Agreement, it was required to keep the global temperature changed to 1.5^0 C. The report mentions that a global warming increase of 1.5^0 C above pre-industrial levels could be reached by 2030-possibly sooner.

What Should Be India's Response For Sustainable Development?

Energy Sector

- Due to its strong reliance on coal, **India has risen to become the world's seventh- argent greenhouse gas emitter**, despite the fact that per capita and per unit of greenhouse gas emissions in India remain the lowest among the other developing countries by worldwide standards.

- To lower the carbon intensity of the electricity sector, energy efficiency must be combined with technical improvements.

- Renewable energy production and regional energy trading must be bolstered.

- For sustainable economic growth, India should work to upgrade transmission and distribution systems, and promote clean technology and renewable energy development.

Disaster Preparedness

- According to **Climate Vulnerability Index**, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Bihar are highly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts, and cyclones.

- It also says that **more than 80 per cent of India's population lives in districts highly vulnerable to extreme hydro-met disaster**s.

- A district-by-district climate action plan is essential because most Indian districts are vulnerable to extreme weather occurrences.
    o However, only 63 per cent of Indian districts have a District Disaster Management Plan.

Green Finance

- With the cost of the climate crisis rising exponentially, **India would require green finance** for adaptation-based climate action. Developed countries must reclaim trust at COP26 by delivering the **USD 100 billion promised since 2009** and committing to increasing climate finance over the next decade.

- In addition, India must collaborate with other countries to establish **a Global Resilience Reserve Fund**, which could function as a form of climate insurance.

- Over 400 financial institutions with a combined asset value of over USD 130 trillion (through the *Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero*) have pledged to align their portfolios to net-zero by 2030.

- This new coalition demonstrates that financial institutions understand the business case for climate action.

- **Green financial investments** might provide a significant contribution to the financial assistance for the essential transformation over the next 10 years. India should attract more such investments.

Emission Trajectory

- India's emissions trajectory compatible with a 2^0C future.

- India's **500 GW renewables capacity target by 2030**, as well as the **overall Indian economy's high degree of energy efficiency**, are among the highlights in the National Statement the Prime Minister at COP26 Summit in Glasgow.

- To grow, India requires its own fair amount of carbon space. This is possible in two ways:

    o Either the west can provide necessary scale of money or clean technology to allow India to swiftly deploy renewable energy to fuel its development or

    o The west must substantially reduce its emission to allow for rising Indian emission in the future years.

Changing Rainfall Patterns & Water Availability

- Changing rainfall patterns combined with rising temperatures may cause soil moisture and water retention capacity to deteriorate.

- By 2050, changes in rainfall and glacial melt are expected to increase discharge in the region's major rivers. River flows are expected to fall significantly later this century, resulting in severe water shortages.

- Our water sector projects should be developed and planned to help communities and economies cope with the effects of climate.

Forest & Agricultural Productivity

- Our focus should significantly be on **managing land use and forests for carbon sequestration**.

- Approximately <u>one-third of the region's greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the conversion of forests to agricultural land</u>.

- Natural disaster and extreme events will also have an impact on agriculture. Monsoon rains will continue to have a substantial impact on agricultural production.

- Crop yields will decline dramatically as a result of climate change-induced water stress. This will raise the prices for vital agricultural crops. This, in turn, **will lead to increased malnutrition in the resign by 2050 if current trends continue**.

- One of the most cost-effective strategies to <u>minimize greenhouse gas emissions is to improve forest and agricultural land management</u> and <u>integrate water development along with storage creation</u>.

- We must pave the road for the **creation of competitive and livable cities with lower carbon footprints**.

- The sustainable transport initiative encourages governments to invest in low-carbon, safe, and economical public transportation network.

Climate Fintech

What is Climate Fintech?

- Fintechs are the digital financial technology catalyzing decarbonization throughout the world, which provide their consumers with innovative ideas, green financial solutions, and services to help them minimize their carbon footprints.

    o The **merging of three areas**— *climate, finance, and technology* - is known as sustainable Fintech.

Significance of Climate Fintech

- Climate Fintech is an important intermediary in the financial services industry, mobilizing resources, and influencing behavior.

- They provide farms with great tools for monitoring, measuring, and migrating their environmental impact. It also assists the business in tracking and offsetting their environmental impacts by reducing greenhouse das emissions in the atmosphere.

- The ultimate purpose of climate fintech is to **redirect financial flows towards decarbonation**.

Conclusion

- As per the **Global Climate Risk Index**, India is amongst the top 10 most vulnerable countries.

- The need of the hour is to ensure our renewable energy goals. Also, emissions-intensive industries must be decarbonized.

- More effort is needed to **reduce emissions in heavy industries such as iron and steel, chemical, and cement** etc.

- We require more carbon sinks or carbon-storing ecosystem such as forests, oceans, and wetlands.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

- India is one of the youngest countries in the world – it is projected that till 2050, half of the world's population growth will come from nine countries including India.

- A major part of India's population— **around 158 million consists of children in the age group of 0-6 years**.

- India is home to 472 million children upto the age of 18 year and comprising 39 per cent of the country's population.

- There are roughly 30 million orphaned and abandoned children in India – that is almost 4% of the youth population.

- In 2017, of the 30 million orphaned children, there were only 470,000 children in the institutionalized care. And, only a fraction finds their way into family care because **adaptation rates in India are abysmally low**.

Adoption In India

- The Government's **Central Adoption Resources Authority (CARA)** statistics show that in 2017-18, there were only 3276 adoptions in-country adoption.

- **Adoption laws in India are strict**, leading to exceptionally low numbers of adoptions taking place. Also, **there aren't enough children available for adoption** because the ratio of abandoned children to children in in care is lopsided.

- The District Child Officer should be taking the street children to a **Child Care Institution (CCI)**, and if their parents are not found, then they should be placed for adoption.

- The National Commission for Protec Rights (NCPCR) data shows that there are 5850 CCIs in India. However, **not all CCIs in India are registered under the law**.

  o Children in unregistered institutions are vulnerable to poor care, physical violence, sexual abuse, and trafficking.

- The Government should also devote greater resources on setting up more CCIs along with a strategy to move millions of children off the streets to institutionalised care and supportive family.

Disability and Adoption

- According to a data shared by CARA, **only 40 children with disabilities were adopted between 2018 and 2019**.

- Domestic adoptions of children with special needs are dwindling with each assign year. At the same time, foreigners adopting children with special needs is steadily rising.

- The **cultural aversion towards children with special needs** results most of them being referred to overseas prospective optive parents.

Steps Taken By India To Promote Adoption

Institution Created

- The year 2015 saw a moment of transition in the adoption process with the introduction of the **Central Adoption Resource Authority** (CARA), an **autonomous and statutory body of MoWCD**.

- It acts as a **centralised digital database of adoptable children** and prospective parents. It functions as the **nodal body for the adoption** of Indian children and is mandated to <u>monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions</u>.

- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the **1993 Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption**, <u>ratified by India in 2003</u>.

- In 2018, CARA allowed **individuals in a live-in relationship to adopt children from and within India**.

Legal Framework

- Adoption practices in India are primarily governed by
  - the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and
  - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (JJ Act).

- Until the JJ Act, the Guardians and Wards Act (GWA), 1980, was the only means for non-Hindu individuals to become guardians of children.

- The Ministry of Women and Children Development has submitted **that Hindu adaptation** (under HAMA) **which happens directly between relatives does not get to CARA** and thus data regarding such adoptions is not available.

- In this backdrop, the committee has recommended that the process of adoption needs to be simplified.

- The panel recommends that the issue of children with special needs requires special focus in terms of highlighting and advocacy at various platforms.

Shelter Homes

- Government has established Shelter Homes for providing institutionalised care to these children.

- However, in 2018, a social audit report by NCPCR on shelter homes had revealed that out of the 2,874 children's homes, <u>only 54 were found to be complying with the JJ Act</u>.

Important Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved 3 important Umbrella Schemes to be implemented in mission mode. These are- <u>Mission Vatsalya, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Shakti</u>.

- **Mission Vatsalya:** The objective is to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India; foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronised ecosystem for development of children; assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the JJ Act 2015; and achieve the SDG goals.

- **Mission POSHAN 2.0:** It is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme which seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. It seeks to optimise the quality and delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

- **Mission Shakti:** This scheme envisages a unified citizen-centric. lifecycle support for women through integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment. Mission Shakti has <u>two sub schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'</u>.

- o The **Sambal sub-scheme** consists of the existing scheme of **One Stop Centre** (OSC), **181 Women Helplines**, and **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** (BBBP). Besides, a new component of **Nari Adalats has been added** as women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution.

- o The **"Samarthya"** sub scheme is for empowerment of women, consisting of existing **schemes of Ujjwala**, **Swadhar Greh, and Working Women Hostel**. In addition, the **National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers** and the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** (PMMVY), are also subsumed in 'Samarthya'.

- **PM CARES for Children Scheme** – It was launched in May 2021 to support children who have <u>lost both the parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents or surviving parent to Covid-19</u> during the period starting from 11 March 2020.

- The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children in a sustained manner, and enable their well-being.

- The PM CARES for Children Scheme inter-alia provides support to these children through convergent approach, gap funding for ensuring education, health, monthly stipend from the age of 18 years, and lumpsum amount of Rs 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age.

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana** (PM-JAY) - PM-JAY provides a cover of Rs 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation, across public and private empanelled hospitals in India. In case of child identified for support under PM CARES for Children, he/she shall be entitled to the cover of Rs 5 lakh.

SAFETY NET FOR FARMERS

Statistics

- Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy accounting for **primary livelihood of approximately 52 per cent population** and a chief source of raw materials for many major industries.

- The share of agriculture and allied sectors in total GVA (Gross Value Added) of the economy has a long-term trend of 18 per cent which improved to 20.2 per cent (2020-21) and 18.8 per cent recently.

- Farming in India is **dominated by marginal and small farmers** who account for <u>nearly 86 per cent of all the farmers</u> in the country, but <u>own just 47.3 per cent of the crop area</u>.

- Small farmers are generally economically impoverished, <u>earning only 39 per cent of what medium holders earn, and only 13 per cent of what large holders earn</u>.

Condition of Farmers as per the National Sample Survey

- Additionally, according to the National Sample Survey (77th Round, 2019), **50.2 per cent of Agri-households in India are in debt** and an **average household has debt equivalent to 60 per cent of its annual income**.

- The survey also showed **increasing fragmentation of holdings** vis-à-vis increasing number of small farmers. The average size of household <u>ownership holding has declined to 0.592 hectare in 2013, and further to 0.512 hectare in 2019</u>.

> International Labour Organization (ILO) defines social security as the protection that a society (Government) provides to under-privileged/disadvantaged groups to ensure access to healthcare and to guarantee income security.

Steps Taken By The Govt

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

- The **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** 2005 was passed by the Parliament as a legal social security measure that <u>guaranteed the right to work</u>.

- Accordingly, a scheme Mahatma Gandhi NREGS was launched in a demand-driven model to provide livelihood security to rural households.

- Basically, it is an employment programme that <u>guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every household</u> whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

- In case of non-offering of work, the beneficiary is <u>eligible for unemployment allowances to be paid by the state</u> as per the provision of MGNREGA.

- A major chunk of resources is spent on works related to **natural resource management which ensure higher income to farmers** by enhancing both the area under cultivation and yield of crops.

- The creation of durable community and individual beneficiary assets have helped the underprivileged to have access to an alternative sustainable livelihood.

- Solid waste management works have led to cleaner villages, higher incomes, and more diversified livelihoods for the poor.

- During 2021-22, MGNREGA recorded:
  - 15.54 crore active workers;
  - 352.91 crore person-days generated;
  - 51.85 crore DBT transactions;
  - 7.18 crore households benefitted; and
  - 2.27 crore individual category works.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- DAY-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a unique social security scheme that aims to reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.

- The Mission **aims to mobilise 8-10 crore rural poor households into SHGS** and provide them long-term support such that they diversify their livelihoods, and improve the incomes and quality of life.

- Under a sub-component of DAY-NRLM (**Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana or MKSP**), women farmers are being empowered by making systematic investments to create sustainable and diversified livelihood opportunities for them.

Lending a Helpline Hand

- The Government launched a path-breaking income support scheme for farmers in 2019. Named as **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** (PM-KISAN), the scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.
  - Under the Scheme, **financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per annum is provided** to all landholding farmer families across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria related to higher-income strata.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana** (PMKMY), aims to provide a **social security net for the small and marginal farmers** by way of pension.

   o   A minimum fixed pension of Rs 3,000 per month is provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers on attaining the age of 60 years.

   o   The Scheme is voluntary and contributory in nature with an entry age of 18 to 40 years.

- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a uniquely designed social security scheme under which financial assistance is provided to farmers in distress due to loss/damage to crops arising out of natural calamities.

Blue Revolution

- Fishery sector provides **livelihoods to about 16 million fishers** and fish farmers at the primary level and **almost twice the number along the value chain**.

- Department of Fisheries implemented a **'National Scheme of Welfare of Fisherman'** for a period of five years.

- It was one of the components of the comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme, **'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'**, which has ended on 31 March 2020.

- Currently, the Department of Fisheries is implementing a flagship programme called 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

- The ambitious scheme aims sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector. It includes some key provisions for social security and welfare of fishers and fish farmers.

- Livelihood and nutritional support are provided to socio-economically backward active traditional fishers families during the fishing ban/lean period.

DIGITAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Various Steps

- The Government's initiatives such as Digital India, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) aim to actively transform India into both a **knowledge-based economy and a digitally-empowered society**.

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) resulted in a massive increase in financial inclusion.

- Further, fintech is expanding on the achievement of financial inclusion by providing a variety of payment and transaction possibilities.

- According to the National Payments Corporation of India, till March 2022, UPI had processed 5.04 billion transactions, amounting to Rs 8.88 trillion.

- The Union Cabinet approved a scheme called "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" in 2017 to promote digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households.

- Through the combination of **Jan Dhan bank accounts** and **mobile phones** and the **establishment of digital identity through Aadhaar**, the poor can now receive benefits directly into their bank accounts.

- To mark the country's 75th anniversary of independence, Scheduled Commercial Banks are proposing the establishment of 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUS) in 75 districts across the country.

- The Prime Minister launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in September 2021 to create a digital health repository for all Indians.

- There has been an unprecedented expansion of telemedicine during the pandemic. Till the end of September 2021, around 125 crore remote consultations have been completed under the **eSanjeevani portal**.

- A **National Tele Mental Health Programme** has been developed to improve access to high-quality mental health counselling and treatment services.

  o This would feature a network of 23 world-class tele-mental health centres, with NIMHANS serving as the nodal centre and the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) providing technical support.

- Digital delivery of services has simplified the manner in which citizens interact with the government.

- **CSCs are the world's largest digital service delivery network**, with a broad reach in rural areas up to Gram Panchayat and Block level.

- The **UMANG mobile app** (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is all-in-one single, unified, secure mobile app that provides access to high-impact services of various GoI Departments and State governments.

- The UMANG application has already started providing the following functionalities:

  o **Mera Ration**: helps users identify and navigate to the nearest Fair Price Shops.

  o **eNam**: Through the 'Mandi Near Me' service on UMANG, users can identify and navigate to the nearby mandis pointed on the map.

  o **'Damini Lightning Alerts'** service gives users a visual of nearby places where lightning has struck in the recent few minutes to offer lightning alerts.

- Further, services like **DigiLocker** aim to give citizens access to all their lifelong documents in a single digital wallet.

- For Indian farmers, the **deployment of 'Kisan drones'** and the push for technology driven agriculture would be beneficial in ensuring quality produce.

- The use of the state-of-the-art drones for the purpose of spraying fertilisers, and monitoring yield and produce would aid the farmers in producing high-quality yield with reduced levels of labour.

- An e-portal for a digital ecosystem for skilling and livelihood known as **DESH STACK** will aid in skilling, up-skilling, and reskilling.

SPORTS AS A LUCRATIVE CAREER

- The achievements of Indian players in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics transformed the perception towards sports as a profession.

- Also, government is taking various steps to promote sports in our country.

Various Steps Taken

Funds for Training of Athletes

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has finalised the Annual Calendar of Training & Competitions for 33 Sports disciplines and earmarked a sum of Rs 259 crores for the financial year 2022-23 as assistance to various National Sports Federations.

- Under the revised norms, the monetary assistance for National Championships has been increased for High Priority, Priority, and Indian Traditional Sports, and for General category sports.
- For encouraging the NSFs to host international tournaments in the country, the monetary assistance has been enhanced to Rs 1 crore from the earlier Rs 30 lakh.

Various Awards

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna:** Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna is given in the memory of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. It is the biggest sports award in India. Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand was the first recipient of the Khel Ratna award in the year 1991-92.
- **Arjuna Award:** Arjuna Award was instituted in 1961. It is the **second-highest sporting** honour after Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna. This award is given for best performance in sports over four years.
- **Dronacharya Award:** The Dronacharya Award was instituted in the year 1985. It is given to **only those coaches** who have provided excellent training work at the domestic and international levels for three consecutive years.

Cash awards for Olympic medal winners

- A day before the Olympics, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a cash award of Rs 75 lakh for each gold medal winner, Rs 40 lakh to the silver medal winner, and the bronze medal winners will receive Rs 25 lakh.
- IOA has also recommended a sum Rs 1 Lakh to each athlete representing the country at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Conclusion

- India, in the last few years has made steady progress in the field of sports. This tremendous potential needs to be showcased at a global platform.
- It's time we inspire young talent, give them top-notch infrastructure and training of the highest level.
- We need to inculcate a strong spirit of participation in sports that enables players to demonstrate their true potential. Only then can India realise its dream of becoming a sports super power.
- The **Khelo India programme** has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

National Sports Policy

- To promote sports and encourage talented youth, the Government formulated a new National Sports Policy in 2001.
- Its objective was to scale up the achievements by widening the sports base.
- The National Sports Policy, 2001, aimed to advance the twin objectives of "broad-basing" and "achieving excellence" in sports in collaboration with the State Government, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and the National Sports Federation.