

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**Schemes of Government of India**

## **1. ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD (ONORC)**

### **Objectives**

1. National/inter-State and intra-state portability to all ration card holders under NFSA (National Food Security Act).
2. No poor person should be deprived of getting subsidised food grains under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another.

### **Salient Features**

1. The scheme was launched in 2019 with the following aim:
2. To ensure all beneficiaries, especially migrants get ration (wheat, rice and other food grains) across the nation from any Public Distribution System (PDS) shop of their own choice.
3. Under the existing system, a ration cardholder can buy food grains only from the PDS in the locality where he or she lives. This will change once the 'ONORC' system becomes operational nationally.
4. To reduce instances of corruption by middlemen and fraudulence in ration cards to avail benefits from different states.
5. To reduce the incidents of hunger deaths in the country, to further improve rankings in the Global Hunger Index.
6. The beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of their Aadhar based identification through the electronic point of sale (e-PoS) device.
7. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal (<http://www.impds.nic.in/>) provides the technological platform for the inter-state portability of ration cards, enabling a migrant worker to buy foodgrains from any Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the country.
8. Other portal ([annavitran.nic.in](http://annavitran.nic.in)) hosts the data of distribution of foodgrains through E-PoS devices within a state.
9. In Budget 2021-22, the government announced that ONORC scheme is being implemented in 32 States and Union Territories reaching about 69 crore beneficiaries (i.e. around 86% of the total beneficiaries).
10. The remaining four states and UTs (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal) will be integrated into the scheme in the coming few months.
11. Recently the Ministry informed the parliament that presently ONORC plan is enabled in 35 states and UTs covering about 77 crore beneficiaries in the country.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

**NOTE:** The Centre increased the borrowing limit of states to 5% of gross state domestic product (GSDP) in 2020-21 from 3%. However, incremental borrowing beyond 3.5% of GSDP is linked to reforms undertaken by the states, including:

1. Universalisation of ONORC
2. Ease of doing business
3. Power distribution reforms
4. Urban local body reforms

#### 2. Internet games

1. Online games often refer to games played over some type of computer network, such as the Internet.
2. A virtual game played simultaneously by multiple players
3. The sport most played by teenagers in the world

#### Social Impacts of Internet Games

1. Provide children with fun, enjoyment, teamwork, imaginative adventure.
2. Provides great load shedding during lockdown.
3. Helps reduce stress and anxiety.
4. Improves brain coordination and reflexes.
5. Artificial intelligence and machine learning increase productivity.
6. Internet gaming is increasing with direct investment.
7. Online chess is advanced.
8. Educational games are great
9. Online rummy is the reason many people lose money
10. PUBG game impact
11. Videogames have increased violent behavior.
12. Inducing suicidal feelings.
13. Lack of physical training
14. Eye damage
15. Some have received economic benefits.
16. Encourages anti-social behavior.
17. Sexual activities attract
18. Attracts drug users.
19. Online rummy is a form of gambling
20. Decreased interaction with others.
21. Changing perspective on the world
22. Obesity
23. Social isolation

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

24. Loss of money and excessive indebtedness
25. Cyber Crimes
26. Increase in bank robbery, theft, ATM robbery

**Activities**

1. Creating awareness
2. Allowing only Internet games suitable for children
3. Prohibition of online gambling games
4. Establishment of Counseling Centres
5. Checking advertisement images in online games
6. Getting helpline and police help
6. Tamil Nadu Government banned online gaming in November 2020. Fine Rs 5000  
 Fine Rs 5000 Punishment 6 months imprisonment.

**3. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)**

**Objectives**

1. Provide income support to all landholding eligible farmers' families (irrespective of the landholdings) in the country.
2. Supplement financial needs of farmers for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.

**Salient Features**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
2. Income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all land holding eligible farmer families across the country, in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- every four months.
3. The benefit shall be paid to only those farmers' families whose names are entered into the land records except for Forest dwellers, North-eastern states and Jharkhand which has separate provisions for land records
4. All PM-KISAN beneficiaries will be given the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) so that farmers can take easy loans from the banks.
5. This will help all such farmers to get short term loan for crop & animal/fish rearing at a maximum interest of 4% on timely repayment.
6. PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched on 1st Anniversary of PM KISAN to broaden the reach of the scheme.
7. Using this app, farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of name based on their Aadhaar card and also check history of credits to their bank accounts.
8. Scheme provides exclusion criteria for certain category of farmers.

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Exclusion**

1. All Institutional Land holders.
2. Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to following categories
3. Former and present holders of constitutional posts
4. Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
5. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices / Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi- Tasking Staff /Class IV/Group D employees)
6. All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/-or more (Excluding Multi-Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees) of above category
7. All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year
8. Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

**4. PM FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)**

**Objectives**

1. PMFBY aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of:
2. Providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events.
3. Stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
4. Encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
5. Ensuring credit worthiness of the farmers, crop diversification and enhancing growth and competitiveness of agriculture sector besides protecting the farmers from production risks.

**Intended beneficiaries**

1. All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in a notified area during the season who have insurable interest in the crop are eligible.
2. Initially, it was compulsory for loanee farmers. However, now it has been made voluntary for all farmers, including loanee farmers.

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Salient Features**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and it replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS. The Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is still continued.
2. Coverage of crops: Food crops (Cereals, Millets and Pulses); Oilseeds; Annual Commercial/ Annual Horticultural crops; Pilots for coverage can be taken for those perennial horticultural/commercial crops for which standard methodology for yield estimation is available.
3. Coverage of Risks and Exclusions

<b>Basic Cover</b>	<b>Add-On Coverage</b>	<b>General Exclusions</b>
Coverage of risks mentioned under this category is mandatory. The scheme provides to cover yield losses (sowing to harvesting) on an area based approach basis due to non-preventable risks like drought, dry spells, flood, inundation, wide spread pest and disease attack, landslides, natural fire due to lightening, storm, hailstorm, and cyclone.	Coverage of risks mentioned under this category is not mandatory. The State Governments/UTs, in consultation with the State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCCI) may provide coverage for Prevented Sowing/ Planting/Germination Risk, Mid-Season Adversity, Post-Harvest Losses (earlier this was mandatory), Localized Calamities, Attack by wild animals.	Losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks shall be excluded.

4. Area Approach basis: This principal assumes that all the farmers in a notified area i.e. 'Insurance Unit (IU)' face similar risks for a notified crop. The IU is notified by the State/UTs and is Village/Village Panchayat for major crops and or above Village/Village Panchayat for other crops

5. Rate of premium payable by the farmer:

<b>Kharif</b> -2.0% of sum insured (SI) or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.	<b>Rabi</b> -1.5% of SI or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.	<b>Commercial/ Horticultural crops (both annual &amp; perennial)</b> -5% of SI or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.
---	---	--

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

6. Central Subsidy: Initially the contribution of state and Centre was shared on 50:50 bases. However, it was restructured in 2020. And now the Central contribution is up to:
  - 30% for unirrigated areas/crops
  - 25% for irrigated areas/crops (districts having 50% or more irrigated area will be considered as irrigated area/district for both PMFBY/RWBCIS)
  - 90% for North Eastern States
7. Insured sum of crops: States/UTs can either choose scale of finance or district level value of notional average yield at MSP. Farm gate price will be considered for the other crops for which MSP is not declared.
8. Special efforts shall be made to ensure maximum coverage of Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST)/ Women farmers under the Scheme.
9. Allocation of business to Insurance Companies to be done for 3 years. Earlier the tenders floated by the States varied from 1 to 3 years periods.
10. States not to be allowed to implement the Scheme in subsequent Seasons in case of considerable delay by States in release of requisite Premium Subsidy to concerned Insurance Companies beyond a prescribed time limit. (Cut-off dates for Kharif and Rabi seasons will be 31st March and 30th September).
11. Provision of Penalties/ Incentives for States, Insurance Companies (ICs) and Banks for delay in settlement claims prescribed cut off date.
12. States have been allowed to set up their own insurance companies for implementing the scheme.
13. Mandatory capturing of Aadhaar number.

#### 5. PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY)

##### Objectives

1. Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).
2. Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani).
3. Integration of water source, distribution and its efficient use, to make best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices.
4. Improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent.
5. Enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).
6. Enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation Practices.

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

7. Attracting greater private investment in precision irrigation system.

**Salient Features**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
2. It is an inter-ministerial Scheme that has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP); and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
3. Water budgeting is done for all sectors namely, household, agriculture and industries.
4. Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) has been instituted under PMKSY in NABARD for funding and fast tracking the implementation of incomplete major and medium irrigation projects.
5. A dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under PMKSY has been set up to provide states financial assistance on concessional rate of interest.
6. National Steering Committee (NSC) under PM with Union Ministers of all concerned Ministries supervises and monitors the scheme.
7. National Executive Committee (NEC) under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog oversees the implementation of the scheme.

**ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFIT PROGRAMME (AIBP)**

1. Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The AIBP was launch in 1966- 97 to provide Central Assistance to major/ medium irrigation projects in the country.
3. Its objective to accelerate implementation of such projects which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stage of completion.
4. In October, 2020 the ministry launched a mobile app for Geo tagging of the component of projects under AIBP. This app was developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute of space applications geo-informatics (BISAG-N).

**PMKSY (HAR KHET KO PANI)**

1. Ministry Of Jal Shakti.
2. Creation of new water sources through minor irrigation (both surface and ground water).
3. Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme and Repair, Rennovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies are also being Implemented.
4. Strengthening carrying capacity of traditional water sources, construction of rain water harvesting structures (Jal Sanchay) Jal Mandir (Gujarat) Khatri, Kuhl (H.P), Zabo (Nagaland), Eri, Ooranis (T.N) Dongs (Assam) Katas, Bandhas (Odisha and M.P.)

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

5. Command area development.

#### **PMKSY (PER DROP MORE CROP)**

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. Promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinkles, pivots, rain- guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan).
3. Extension activities for promotion of scientific moisture conservation, Crop combination crop alignment, etc.
4. ICT interventions through NeGP - precision irrigation technologies, on farm water management crop alignment, etc. and also to do intensive monitoring of the scheme.

#### **PMKSY (INTEGRATED WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT)**

1. Department of land resources, Ministry of Rural Development.
2. DPAP, DDP and IWDP were consolidated under this component
3. Effective management of runoff water and improve soil and moisture conservation activities
4. Cluster approach in selection and preparation of project
5. Convergence with MGNREGS.

#### **DROUGHT PRONE AREAS PROGRAMME (DPAP)**

1. The erstwhile Rural Work Programme of 1971-72 was redesignated as the DPAP during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74).
2. The basic objective of the programme is to minimise the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to Drought proofing of the affected areas.
3. Central and states Government in the ratio of 75:25 share the cost.

#### **DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DDP)**

1. The DDP was introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1977-78. The objective of the programme is to control the desertification and restoration of ecological balance in the desert areas for development.
2. The Central share under each type of eco system: Hot Arid Non Sandy Areas (75%), Hot Arid Sandy Areas (100%), Cold Arid Areas (100%).

#### **INTEGRATED WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IWDP)**

1. This scheme is under implementation since 1989-90, and has come to this Department along with the National Wastelands Development Board.
2. The development of non-forest wastelands is taken up under this Scheme.
3. The scheme provides for the development of an entire micro watershed in an holistic manner rather than piecemeal treatment in sporadic patches.



## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

4. The thrust of the scheme continues to be on development of wastelands.
5. The basic objective of this scheme is an integrated wastelands development based on village/micro watershed plans.
6. These plans are prepared after taking into consideration the land capability, site condition and local needs of the people.
7. The scheme also aims at rural employment besides enhancing the contents of people's participation in the wastelands development programmes at all stages, which is ensured by providing modalities for equitable and sustainable sharing of benefits and usufructs arising from such projects.

#### 6. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN MAAN-DHAN YOJANA (PM-KMY)

##### Objectives

To provide social security to Small and Marginal Farmers in their old age when they have no means of livelihood and minimal or no savings to take care of their expenses.

##### Beneficiaries

1. Small and Marginal Farmers (Cultivable land up to 2 hectares as per land records of the concerned State/UT)
2. Entry Age between 18 to 40 years
3. Exclusions: Few categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status; Small and Marginal Farmers covered under any other statutory social security schemes such as National Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), etc.

##### Salient Features

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. This pension scheme is voluntary and contributory.
3. The monthly contribution by farmer ranges between Rs.55 to 200 to the Pension Fund, depending on the age of entry into the Scheme, with matching Contribution by the Central government.
4. The beneficiaries may opt voluntarily to exit the scheme after a minimum period of five years of regular contributions. On exit, their entire contribution with an interest equivalent to prevailing saving bank rates will be returned.
5. Assured pension of Rs. 3000/- month on attaining the age of 60 years.

##### Pension fund manager

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Enrolment**

1. Either through self-registration online or through the Common Service Centres (CSCs).
2. Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of the CSCs who are field level functionaries, have also been provided incentives for ensuring maximum enrolment.

**Grievance redressal**

There shall be an appropriate grievance redressal mechanism of LIC, banks and the government.

**7. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION (NFSM)**

**Objectives**

1. Increase the production of various crops included in the mission
2. Area expansion and productivity enhancement
3. Enhancing farm level economy
4. Creating employment opportunities
5. Restoring soil fertility and productivity

**Salient Features**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2007.
2. NFSM has been implemented on sharing basis between the Centre and the states on 60:40 basis for general category states & 90:10 basis for North East & hilly states.
3. Assistance is provided for inter alia stress tolerant/climate resilient varieties of food grains.
4. Initially it was launched for increasing the production of rice, wheat and pulses. However, now the mission comprises eight components.

**8. PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY)**

**Objectives**

1. To promote natural resource based integrated and climate resilient sustainable farming systems.
2. To reduce cost of agriculture to farmers through sustainable integrated organic farming systems thereby enhancing farmer's net income per unit of land.
3. To protect environment from hazardous inorganic chemicals by adoption of eco-friendly low-cost traditional techniques and farmer friendly technologies.
4. To empower farmers through their own institutional development in the form of clusters and group with capacity to manage production, processing, value addition and certification management.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

5. To make farmers entrepreneurs through direct market linkages with local and national markets.

#### Salient Features

1. **Fund sharing:** Funding pattern under the scheme is in the ratio of 60:40 by the Central and State Governments respectively. In case of North Eastern and Himalayan States, Central Assistance is provided in the ratio of 90:10 (Centre: State) and for Union Territories, the assistance is 100%.
2. **NCOF:** It is the monitoring body for PGS certification programme including authorization of RCs, selection of NABL accredited labs and random surveillance through the RCOFs.
3. **Convergence with other Central Sector Schemes** like MIDH, NFSM and with schemes of other ministries like MOFPI, SMES, MoRD, etc. for relevant components is highly encouraged.

#### 9. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS (KVK)

##### Objectives

1. To be a frontline extension in agriculture, and to serve as a single window mechanism for addressing the technology needs of farmers.
2. To demonstrate location specific technologies and build capacity of farmers.

##### Salient Features

1. The KVK scheme is a Central Sector Scheme. The KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and NGOs working in Agriculture.
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has created a network of 721 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country and more KVKs will be established.
3. KVKs lay strong emphasis on skill development training of rural youth, farm women and farmers.
4. Provide latest technological inputs like seeds, planting materials and bio-products.
5. Advise farmers on timely crop/enterprise related recommendations, including climate resilient technologies.
6. Diagnose and solve problems emerging from district agro-ecosystems and lead in adoption of innovations.
7. It is an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

**MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**  
**UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**10. ONE RANK ONE PENSION SCHEME**

**Objectives**

1. To provide uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their date of retirement.
2. To bridge the gap between the pensions of current and past ex-servicemen at periodic intervals.

**Salient Features**

1. The arrears will be paid in four, half-yearly instalments. However, all widows, including war widows will be paid arrears in one instalment.
2. Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension in 2013.
3. Personnel who voluntarily retire will not be covered under the OROP scheme.
4. In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.
5. Before OROP, ex-servicemen used to get pensions as per the Pay Commission's recommendations of the time when they had retired.

**11. PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA (PMVVY)**

**Objectives**

To provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.

**Eligibility**

It is open only to senior citizens (individuals who have attained an age of 60 years).

**Salient Features**

1. It is a guaranteed pension scheme being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India.
2. It promises regular pension payments at a monthly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly frequency in return for an upfront investment (called a purchase price).
3. It sets a minimum and maximum limit on investment at ₹1.56 lakh and ₹15 lakh respectively.
4. The scheme guarantees pension payouts for 10 years, with a return of principal at maturity.
5. Subscribers get an assured pension ranging from Rs 1000/- per month to Rs. 12,000/- per month, based on contribution.
6. The ceiling of maximum pension is for a family as a whole, the family will comprise of pensioner, his/her spouse and dependents.
7. If the investor die within 10 years, beneficiaries will get back principal.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

8. The scheme enjoys no tax benefits, except for GST exemption on principal.
9. Premature exit with a 2% penalty on principal is allowed in case of critical or terminal illness of self or spouse.
10. Loan facility is available after completion of 3 policy years. Maximum loan that can be granted shall be 75% of the Purchase Price.

#### **Recent changes**

1. The scheme's return has been aligned with the post office Senior Citizen's Savings scheme, with a cap of 7.75%. It will be reset every year.
2. Initially, it provided an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% for 10 years.
3. This scheme has been modified and extended upto 31 March, 2023.

## **12. PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA (PMMY)**

### **Objective**

Increasing access of finance to the unbanked but also bring down the cost of finance from the last Mile Financers to the micro/small enterprises.

### **Intended beneficiary**

Any Indian Citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm sector income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector and whose credit need is less than Rs 10 lakh.

### **Salient Features**

1. For implementing the Scheme, government has set up the Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA).
2. MUDRA is registered as a Company under the Companies Act 2013 and as a NonBanking Finance Institution with the RBI.
3. MUDRA has been initially formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Small Industries Development bank of India (SIDBI) with 100% capital being contributed by it. Presently, the authorized capital of MUDRA is 1000 crores and paid up capital is 750 crore, fully subscribed by SIDBI.
4. MUDRA supports the finance Institutions which are in the business of lending to micro / small business entities engaged in manufacturing, trading and service activities.
5. MUDRA loans are extended by banks, NBFCs, MFIs and other eligible financial intermediaries as notified by MUDRA Ltd.
6. The present authorised capital of MUDRA is at Rs. 5000 crore with a paid up capital of Rs.1675.93 crore. RBI has allocated an amount of Rs 20,000 crore from Priority Sector shortfall of Commercial Banks for creating a Refinance Corpus Fund.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

7. There is no subsidy for the loan given under PMMY.
8. Banks have been mandated by RBI not to insist for collateral security in the case of loans upto 10 lakh extended to the units in the Micro Small Enterprises sector.
9. To mitigate the issue of collateral and to provide comfort to the lending institutions, a Credit Guarantee Product is extended by creation of a Fund called “Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units” (CGFMU).
10. The Scheme is being managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC).
11. MUDRA Card is a debit card issued against the MUDRA loan account. The borrower can make use of MUDRA Card in multiple drawals and credits, so as to manage the working capital limit in cost-efficient manner and keep the interest burden minimum.

### 13. ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

#### Objectives

The subscribers would receive the fixed minimum pension at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.

#### Intended beneficiary

1. Open to all Indians between the age of 18 and 40 having a savings bank account in a bank or post-office.
2. It is mainly focused on citizens in unorganized sector.

#### Salient Features

1. It replaced the Swavalamban scheme.
2. The minimum period of contribution by any subscriber under APY is 20 years.
3. Subscribers can make contributions to APY on monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis.
4. Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.
5. Central Government’s co-contribution: 50% of the total contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower for a period of 5 years. The co-contribution could be availed only by the subscribers who:
  6. Have joined APY between 1 June 2015 and 31 March 2016
  7. Are not covered by any Statutory Social Security Schemes
  8. Are not income tax payers
  9. Subscribers can voluntarily exit before the age of 60 years from APY subject to certain conditions, on deduction of Government co-contribution and return/interest thereon.
10. In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years.

11. In case of death of subscriber, the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled for the same amount of pension till his or her death.
12. After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age of 60 years of the subscriber
13. It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. The Institutional Architecture of NPS would be utilised to enroll subscribers under APY.

#### 14. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA

##### Objectives

1. Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost.
2. Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach.

##### Intended beneficiary

Persons not having any other account

##### Salient Features

1. PMJDY was launched initially for a period of 4 years (in two phases) on 28th August 2014. In 2018, the scheme was extended with new features.
2. It is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
3. Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.
4. Benefits:
5. One basic savings bank account is opened for unbanked person.
6. There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts. Interest is earned on the deposit in PMJDY accounts. o Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holder.
7. Accident Insurance Cover of Rs 2 lakh is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
8. An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available.
9. PMJDY accounts are eligible for: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), MUDRA scheme.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### 15. NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS)

##### Objectives

1. To provide retirement income to all the citizens.
2. To institute pension reforms and to inculcate the habit of saving for retirement amongst the citizens.

##### Intended beneficiary

Any individual citizen of India (both resident and Non-resident) in the age group of 18-65 years (as on the date of submission of NPS application) can join NPS.

##### Salient Features

<b>Important Institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).</li> <li>▪ The National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) is acting as the Central Record keeper for the NPS.</li> </ul>
<b>Coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This pension programme is open to employees' public, private as well as unorganized sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Contribution by employee &amp; employer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The individuals contribute to their retirement account and employer can also co-contribute.</li> </ul>
<b>Designed on defined contribution basis</b>	The subscribers contribute to their account, there is no defined benefit that would be available at the time of exit from the system and the accumulated wealth depends on the contributions made and the income generated from investment of such wealth.

##### Tax Benefits

1. Contributions made towards the NPS are eligible for an additional tax deduction up to ₹50,000. This is over and above the ₹1,50,000 limit of deduction available under sec 80CCD (1) or tax deductions available to individuals who make contributions under NPS.
2. Government has increased the income tax exemption limit on withdrawal from NPS to 60%, from 40%, on exiting the scheme, effectively making withdrawal from the pension scheme 100% tax-free.

##### Partial withdrawal

1. Such Withdrawal can happen maximum of three times during the entire tenure of subscription if the subscriber has completed at least 3 years from the date of joining of the NPS.



## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

2. However, the 3 years rule is not applicable if the withdrawal is made for skill development, re-skilling or any other self-development activities.
3. S/he can withdraw 25% of the contribution for exigencies like health, marriage, house and education, etc.

#### Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN)

1. The subscriber will be allotted a unique PRAN which is portable and can be used from any location in India. PRAN will provide access to two personal accounts:
2. Tier I Account: This is a non-withdrawable account meant for savings for retirement.
3. Tier II Account: This is simply a voluntary savings facility. The subscriber is free to withdraw savings from this account whenever subscriber wishes. No tax benefit is available on this account.

#### Premature exit

1. A subscriber can exit only after completion of 10 years.
2. If the total accumulated corpus is less than or equal to Rs. 1 Lakh, the Subscriber can avail the option of complete Withdrawal.
3. However, if the accumulated corpus is more Rs. 1 Lakh only 20% of the accumulated funds can be withdrawn as lump sum and remaining 80% of the accumulated pension corpus of the Subscriber has to be utilized for purchase of an Annuity that would provide a regular monthly pension.

#### Other benefits:

1. NPS returns are market linked. It offers 3 funds to subscribers: Equities, Corporate Bonds, and Government Securities.
2. EEE tax status (tax exempt at entry, investment, and maturity) for the NPS (earlier it was EET) has been given.

**NOTE:** Opening multiple NPS accounts for an individual is not allowed under NPS. However, an Individual can have one account in NPS and another account in Atal Pension Yojna.

## 16. BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA

### Objectives

Umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.

### Salient Features

1. A total of around 24,800 kms are being considered in Phase I of Bharatmala which is to be implemented over a five years period of i.e. 2017-18 to 2021-22.

## MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA

### UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In addition, Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I also includes 10,000 kms of balance road works under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), taking the total to 34,800 km.

#### Bharatmala project category

- ✓ **Economic Corridors (9000km):** To unlock full economic potential.
  - ✓ **Inter Corridor and Feeder Route (6000km):** Ensuring holistic connectivity.
  - ✓ **National Corridor Efficiency Improvement (5000km):** Enhancing efficiency.
  - ✓ **Border Roads and international Connectivity (2000km):** Boosting Border Connectivity.
  - ✓ **Coastal Roads and Port Connectivity (2000km):** Leveraging Ports for Progress.
  - ✓ **Green Field Expressways (800km):** Express speeds for Express gains.
  - ✓ **Balance NHDP works (10,000 km):** Boosting all round connectivity.
- Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point.
  - Enhanced focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways.
  - Special attention to fulfil the connectivity needs of backward and tribal areas, areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, trade routes with neighbouring countries, etc.
  - National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) under Bharatmala Pariyojna which is aimed at enhancing the freight transportation in India through improving cost, time, tracking and transferability of consignments through infrastructure, procedural and Information Technology (IT) interventions.
  - NHAI has created a National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for attracting domestic and foreign investment for highways projects.
  - The project is executed through Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), NHAI, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Department (PWDs).