



## Scheme/ Apps launched in last 6 months

### Schemes/ Apps of July 2024

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has introduced the **eSankhyiki portal** to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience. This initiative aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.
- **Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy**, inaugurated the **NIRMAN portal in New Delhi**, aligning with **PM Modi's "Mission Karmayogi."** This CSR initiative by Coal India Limited aims to aid meritorious youth from its operational districts who cleared the UPSC Preliminary exams in 2024.
- In a significant move to accelerate the development of India's most challenging regions, **NITI Aayog** is set to launch the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' on July 4, 2024. This ambitious **3-month campaign** aims to achieve saturation in key indicators across **112 Aspirational Districts** and **500 Aspirational Blocks**, marking a new chapter in India's journey towards inclusive growth.
- In a landmark event for India's cultural diplomacy, the nation is set to host the **46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** from July 21-31, 2024. This prestigious gathering will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi, bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.
- The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and **TransUnion CIBIL** have launched **SEHER**, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India. SEHER aims to provide financial literacy content and business skills, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has constituted a three-member judicial commission to investigate the stampede that occurred during a Satsang in Hathras on 3 July 2024, resulting in 121 fatalities. Uttar Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel** issued the notification for this commission.
- India, a vibrant center of artistic expression, has a rich history of public art reflecting its cultural and spiritual diversity. **Project PARI (Public Art of India)**, initiated by the Ministry of Culture and executed by **Lalit Kala Akademi** and the **National Gallery of Modern Art**, seeks to blend India's millennia-old artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques.
- The government has designated the **Ministry of Minority Affairs as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee**, taking over from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. This change includes new rules and the nomination of officers from various ministries to the committee.
- The Government of India is set to launch the '**Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises**' (AgriSURE) to support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**, as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in agriculture and allied sectors. This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a **Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- The second regional event of the '**Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman**' campaign, under the aegis of **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)**, is scheduled to take place in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on the 16th of July 2024**. This event commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution and India becoming a Republic. The campaign aims to promote understanding of the Constitution and raise awareness about legal rights.
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is set to unveil a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the landscape of agricultural and animal husbandry research in India. The '**One Scientist-One Product**' programme, scheduled for launch on July 16, marks a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to advancing agricultural science and technology.
- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** announced the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' for boys in the state after announcing the '**Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana**' for girls. The latter aims to provide **monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to eligible women**. Speaking in **Maharashtra's Pandharpur** on the occasion of **Ashadhi Ekadashi**, Shinde reportedly said the state government does not differentiate between boys and girls and that the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' scheme will solve the **unemployment issue**.





- Under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, India has marked a significant achievement in the global coal mining sector. The **Gevra and Kumdanda coal mines**, operated by **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions among the world's largest coal mines. These mines, located in **Chhattisgarh's Korba district**, have been recognized as the **2nd and 4th largest coal mines** globally by **WorldAtlas.com**, producing over 100 million tons of coal annually and contributing about 10% to India's total coal production.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker** sets up the **Business Advisory Committee** for the new session. The Committee includes members such as **Sudip Bandhyopadhyay, Gaurav Gogoi, Dayanidhi Maran, PP Chaudhary, and Anurag Thakur, among others.**
- The **Gujarat state government** launched the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024**. The Gujarat state government introduced the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024** to provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers.
- **The Centre has introduced a revised Model Skill Loan Scheme, designed to provide financial support for skill development courses to the nation's youth.**

### Schemes/ Apps of June 2024

- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted its **Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee**, in accordance with the **Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment regulations of 2013**. The reconstitution, initiated by the **Chief Justice of India, appoints Justice Hima Kohli as the Chairperson**, alongside Justice BV Nagarathna as a Member and Dr. Sukhda Pritam as the Member Secretary.
- In response to the dynamic growth of Indian securities markets, **SEBI** has established a committee, **chaired by Usha Thorat**, former Deputy Governor of the RBI, to assess and propose enhancements to the ownership and economic framework of clearing corporations.
- On **June 5**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' campaign to commemorate the World Environment Day. He planted a **Peepal tree** sapling at **Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi**. He was accompanied by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** and **Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken a significant step towards enhancing pensioner services by forging partnerships with four prominent banks. These Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aim to establish **SPARSH service centers**, leveraging the System for **Pension Administration (RAKSHA)**, across 1,128 branches nationwide. SPARSH, a web-based system, facilitates streamlined pension processing and direct crediting to defense pensioners' bank accounts.

- **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan** lead the chart of **1.16 lakh farmers** who have voluntarily given up the benefits of the annual **Rs 6,000 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)** scheme across the country **from June 2023 to May 2024**. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had introduced a module in the **PM-Kisan mobile app** and website last year which enables farmers to voluntarily exit the scheme.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has slapped a **fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals** for allegedly operating a '**pump and dump**' scheme in scrip of **Svarnim Trade Udyog**. The markets regulator has also debarred them from the securities market and ordered disgorgement of **Rs 92.37 lakh with 12 per cent annual interest.**
- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, has said that the decision of **3 crore additional rural and urban houses** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** underscores the government's commitment to addressing the **housing needs** of our nation and ensuring that every citizen leads a better quality of life.
- The Assam government has taken a commendable step towards promoting girl education and addressing the issue of child marriage in the state. On June 12, 2024, Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the launch of the **Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM)** scheme, which was approved by the Assam government cabinet.
- On June 18, 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups as **Krishi Sakhis** in Varanasi. This initiative aims to enhance the skills of rural women in agriculture, recognizing their vital role in this sector.
- **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare**, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the **National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024**, on June 24. He was joined by **Smt. Anupriya Patel** and **Shri Jadhav Patraprao Ganpatrao**, Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare. The dignitaries also released IEC materials like **logo, posters, radio spots and audio visuals** for the campaign and distributed oral rehydration salts (**ORS**) and **zinc tablets** to children on the occasion.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh on June 24**, launched "**One Week One Theme**" (**OWOT**) campaign showcasing recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology.
- **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** said the centre of '**Bharatiya Gyan Parampara**' will be opened in every PM College of Excellence and necessary arrangements will be made in this regard. The PM College of Excellence is going to get **started from July 1** in all the **55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.**

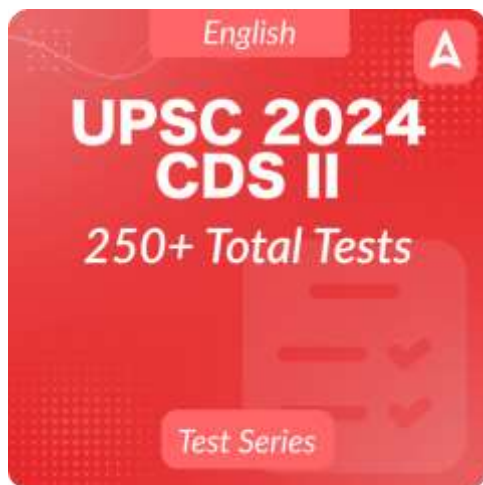




- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the **Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB)** initiative under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, running from **July 1 to August 31, 2024**. This initiative aims to bolster Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in tackling heightened cleanliness and health challenges during the monsoon season. It aligns with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's '**STOP Diarrhoea Campaign**', emphasizing comprehensive interventions and inter-departmental collaboration.
- In a recent report **American multi-national investment bank** and financial company **Morgan Stanley** has all praise for **PM Gati Shakti scheme**. The report highlights **increased and more targeted investments**, suggesting a continued emphasis on infrastructure spending in India's future.

### Schemes/ Apps of May 2024

- **India is embarking on Mission ISHAN**, aimed at consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur. This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers.
- In a concerted effort to combat the rising threat of fraudulent SMS, the **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)**, in collaboration with the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, has launched the **Sanchar Saathi Initiative**. This initiative aims to tackle the proliferation of deceptive messages targeting unsuspecting mobile users. Notably, the government has identified and blocked eight SMS headers frequently exploited by cybercriminals.
- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** has launched the **Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)** initiative to promote research and innovation in the field of ayurveda. This initiative aims to provide an opportunity for collaborative research between **CCRAS and the ayurveda drug industry**.



### Schemes/ Apps of April 2024

- The Union rural development ministry announced the revision of wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on March 27**, following clearance from the Election Commission amidst the ongoing Lok Sabha polls and the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in force.
- The **Delhi High Court** has appointed former judge **Najmi Waziri** to lead a committee focused on safeguarding the forests in the national capital. This decision follows concerns about various government departments not fully cooperating with efforts to protect these vital natural resources.
- **Bilquis Mir**, a canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir, is set to make history as the **first woman from India** to represent the country as a jury member at the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris. This prestigious appointment was officially conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the J&K administration.
- In FY24, small business loans under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** witnessed a record surge, crossing the **₹5 lakh crore milestone**, as per recent government data. Disbursements totaled **₹5.20 lakh crore**, a significant increase from ₹4.40 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year. Notably, nearly 70% of the beneficiaries of these loans are women.
- **NTPC Limited**, India's largest power company, is set to unveil a new version of its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, the **Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM)**. This program aligns with the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child)** campaign launched by the Government of India.
- The **Indian government has launched CDP-SURAKSHA**, a groundbreaking digital platform aimed at streamlining the distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the **Cluster Development Programme (CDP)**. This initiative comes amidst the significant contribution of the horticulture sector to **India's agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)**, with consistent growth in crop production over the years.
- At the 42nd **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** annual meet, **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** announced India's pledge to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030. This commitment aligns with global efforts to ensure the sustainability of space exploration.





**Schemes/ Apps of March 2024**

- In the landmark **Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India Case 2023, the Special Marriage Act of 1954** was challenged for its exclusion of same-sex marriages, citing a violation of Article 14 of the fundamental rights. Despite the Act allowing marriages between individuals of different religions, it did not extend this provision to same-sex couples. The committee, chaired by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, comprises six members including secretaries from key ministries.
- In a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a new species of wild cat thriving in the dense rainforests of Brazil. Dubbed the **clouded tiger cat (Leopardus pardinoides)**, this feline marvel has captivated the hearts of animal enthusiasts and conservationists alike, sparking renewed efforts to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity.
- **Microsoft Research Asia's AI team has introduced VASA-1**, an innovative AI application showcased in a **recent paper on arXiv**. VASA-1 converts still images into animated representations with synchronized speech or song, exhibiting realistic facial expressions.
- **The Himalayan Mountains, known as the "Third Pole" for their vast glaciers**, are experiencing significant changes due to global climate shifts. Glacial retreat leads to the formation and enlargement of lakes, posing risks like **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Monitoring these changes is challenging but essential for understanding environmental impacts and managing risks.
- **Reliance Jio, the telecom leader in India**, has outpaced China Mobile to become the **world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption**. With a **subscriber base of 481.8 million, including 108 million on its True5G Standalone network**, Jio's dominance underscores its position in the global telecom market.
- **NASA recently launched a groundbreaking space mission from New Zealand**, deploying the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket**. This innovative spacecraft utilizes solar energy for propulsion, marking a significant leap in space exploration technology.
- **Phi-3-mini marks a significant milestone in AI innovation**, offering unparalleled performance and efficiency. **Microsoft's latest small language model (SLM)** has surpassed benchmarks, demonstrating superiority over models of similar and larger sizes. Leveraged by prominent entities like India's ITC, Phi-3-mini showcases Microsoft's commitment to delivering cutting-edge AI solutions.
- In the latest advancement of China's space program, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a **three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft**. The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors.

- Telangana Chief Minister **A Revanth Reddy** has announced the launch of the **Indiramma Housing Scheme** starting March 11. The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society.
- During **DefConnect 2024** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme**. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.
- **Jharkhand** Chief Minister **Champai Soren** has launched a pioneering initiative, the '**Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana**' (**Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme**). This scheme, a first in India, aims to support and encourage widows to embark on a new journey of companionship by providing a financial incentive of Rs 2 lakh to those who choose to remarry.
- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry, and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, launched the '**e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi**' (**Digital Gateway**) of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone in India's journey to becoming a developed nation, 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047, with agriculture as its foundational pillar.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has sanctioned the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI - 2024)**. This scheme, spearheaded by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, aims to invigorate industrial **development in the North East Region**, fostering economic growth and job creation.
- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has greenlit the ambitious **IndiaAI mission**, allocating a substantial budget of **Rs. 10,371.92 crore**. This initiative aligns with the vision of bolstering AI innovation within India and leveraging AI for the nation's advancement. The mission aims to establish a robust AI ecosystem through a strategic public-private partnership approach.
- The **NAMASTE Scheme**, a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, aims to eliminate manual engagement of sanitation workers in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning operations. Implemented by the **NSKFD** for three years, the scheme prioritizes the safety and well-being of workers with a budget of 349.73 crores.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **'Mahtari Vandan Yojana'** in Chhattisgarh from Kashi, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to women in the state. PM Modi disbursed the first installment of **Rs 1,000 to 70,12,417 women** in Chhattisgarh. The state government has allocated **Rs 655.57 crore** for this purpose.
- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, introduces the **Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme** to enhance industry capabilities and align with global standards. Its approval follows a thorough review by the Scheme Steering Committee, considering the revised Schedule-M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rule, 1945.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ)** national portal during an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The portal signifies the government's commitment to extending credit support and empowering **one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities**.
- NITI Aayog launched the **'Vocal for Local'** initiative under its **Aspirational Blocks Programme** on March 13, 2024. This initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship, ultimately fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth.
- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, introduces the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024)**. This scheme aims to expedite the uptake of **electric vehicles (EVs)** within the country, fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly transportation ecosystem while bolstering the EV manufacturing sector.
- **Bank of Baroda**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the launch of the **bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme**. The scheme aims to raise deposits that will be **used to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors**, fostering India's transition to a green and sustainable economy.
- The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri **Anurag Singh Thakur**, has inaugurated a unique talent hunt event called **KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) in Chandigarh**. This nationwide programme, under the Khelo India mission, aims to identify talented athletes between the ages of 9 and 18 years, currently enrolled in schools across the country.
- The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the **PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020.

- In response to the urgent need to protect the endangered **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** population from extinction caused by collisions with high-powered power cables in **Gujarat and Rajasthan**, the Supreme Court of India has taken decisive action. A bench led by **Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra** has appointed an expert committee to address this critical issue while balancing conservation efforts with renewable energy goals.

### Schemes/ Apps of February 2024

- In a significant move towards the development and empowerment of approximately one crore tribals in Odisha, the state government, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has approved the launch of the **'LABHA' scheme**. LABHA, an acronym for **Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya**, is a 100% state-funded Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister **Udhayanidhi Stalin** recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. Named after the late Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the **'Kalaignar Sports Kit' initiative** is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state.
- **Tamil Nadu government**, under the leadership of **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, has taken a significant step towards improving public service delivery and expediting the implementation of various schemes through the launch of the **"Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril" (Bringing Services to Your Doorstep) scheme**. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the gap between the government and the public by ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach the grassroots level.
- In an era where digital devices have become an extension of our lives, the **Government of Karnataka** has taken a pioneering step towards fostering a healthier digital ecosystem. Recognizing the need to mitigate the adverse **effects of excessive online gaming**, the state has announced a groundbreaking **digital detox initiative** to create a responsible gaming environment. This move not only highlights the government's commitment to public health but also sets a precedent for digital wellbeing.
- In a monumental achievement, the **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal** has garnered over 1.45 crore youth registrations within a remarkable three-month period, attesting to its widespread popularity. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 31, 2023, the platform has swiftly become a crucial driver of youth development and engagement.





- In a concerted effort to fortify child protection measures, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has pioneered the development of two pivotal portals: the **Track Child Portal** and the **GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite Portal**. These platforms play a crucial role in tracking missing and found children, enhancing restoration and repatriation processes, and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable minors under the purview of the Juvenile Justice system.
- In a significant stride towards scientific progress, **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** has initiated two groundbreaking endeavors: **the establishment of the Human DNA Bank** and **the imminent completion of the Wildlife DNA Bank**. These initiatives, powered by cutting-edge technologies such as the Automated DNA Extractor Machine, epitomize India's commitment to innovation and indigenous manufacturing under the Make in India initiative.
- Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S P Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, virtually launched the **Kilkari programme** and **Mobile Academy**, aimed at strengthening public health infrastructure in **Maharashtra and Gujarat**. Kilkari provides timely audio messages on reproductive maternal, neonatal, and child health, while Mobile Academy offers training for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) via mobile phones.
- The Cabinet has given its approval for the upcoming telecom spectrum auctions, scheduled to take place later this year. The reserve price for the auctions has been fixed at **Rs 96,317 crore**. All available spectrum in various bands including **800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300, 2500, 3300 megahertz (MHz)**, and 26 gigahertz (GHz) will be up for auction. The decision aligns with recommendations from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and follows the government's commitment to holding annual spectrum auctions, as decided in September 2021.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Arjun Munda** introduced several key initiatives under the **Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** in New Delhi on 8th February 2024. These initiatives aim to benefit insured farmers and mitigate their risks.
- In a significant stride towards fostering entrepreneurship in **Tamil Nadu**, the MSME Minister, T M Anbarasan, launched two pivotal initiatives during an event organized by StartUp TN. These initiatives, the **Smartcard scheme** and the **StartUp Challenge website**, underscore the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups and fostering innovation in the state.
- In a groundbreaking move for the Northeast region, **Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim** announced the revival of the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)** for state government employees **hired on or after April 1, 2006**, during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention. This decision underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of its workforce.
- The government is preparing to extend the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme to **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** and **Anganwadi workers/helpers**. This initiative aims to provide free health coverage to these essential healthcare workers, aligning with the broader goals of the **AB-PMJAY scheme**.
- On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 Feb, 2024, the **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**, New Delhi, witnessed the launch of the **"Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal**. Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, initiated this significant step towards addressing gender disparity in science and technology fields.
- Hon'ble Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, **Shri S. Krishnan**, inaugurated the groundbreaking **SWASTHA project** and the state-of-the-art **ISO 5 and 6 Clean Room Facilities** at IIT Guwahati's Centre for Nanotechnology on 9th February 2024. Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Officiating Director, IIT Guwahati, and other dignitaries were also present at the event.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the National Conference on **APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card** in New Delhi. This conference aimed to emphasize the importance of the APAAR ID as a universally recognized document for students across the nation. Pradhan highlighted the significance of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) and their proliferation, both globally and within India, with 19 established DPIs in the country.
- In a significant move towards the welfare of laborers and street vendors in **Rajasthan**, Finance Minister Diya Kumari presented the state's budget on February 8, 2024, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal. This budget marks the presentation of the financial budget in Rajasthan after nearly 22 years. Notably, it includes special announcements for the youth, farmers, women, and the elderly.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, unveiled the realigned **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) scheme** and introduced a **Radio Jingle** for AHIDF in New Delhi. The Minister highlighted the significance of the scheme, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasized its realignment and extension for another three years.





- The **16th Finance Commission (FC)** convened its inaugural session with **Arvind Panagariya** at the helm to deliberate upon its **Terms of Reference (ToR)**. The commission aims to engage in comprehensive analytical endeavors and leverage expertise from prominent research institutions and think tanks specializing in fiscal federal relations.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduces the **'Sangam: Digital Twin'** initiative, calling upon industry leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, and innovators to join hands in reshaping infrastructure planning and design through cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts.
- Union Minister of Food Processing **Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras** inaugurated **"SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024,"** stressing the importance of such events in promoting networking, sharing knowledge, and aiding startups in accessing government schemes.
- MSME Minister **Narayan Rane** launched a special scheme for informal micro enterprises (IMEs), exempted from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. This scheme **enables IMEs to access collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh** under the government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The scheme, titled **'Special Provision for Informal Micro Enterprises under Credit Guarantee Scheme,'** aims to provide credit support to micro or nano enterprises. It seeks to moderate the credit risk perception associated with lending to IMEs, as stated by the MSME Ministry.
- The Union Cabinet has approved modifications to the **National Livelihood Mission (NLM)**, enhancing its scope with **new subsidy provisions**. These changes aim to bolster entrepreneurship in the livestock sector and improve fodder cultivation, alongside simplifying the livestock insurance program.
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, alongside Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, **Vishnu Deo Sai**, marked the inauguration of **211 PM SHRI schools in Raipur**. This significant event showcased the government's commitment to bolstering the education sector, particularly through schemes like PM SHRI.
- The Indian government has decided to extend its flagship scheme for **women safety until 2025-26** with a budget approval of **Rs 1,179.72 crore**. This decision aims to combat the rising incidents of crimes against women across the country, as evidenced by recent statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana** in Sambalpur, Odisha. The initiative, launched virtually across 9 cities, aims to empower beneficiaries of the **PM SVANidhi scheme** nationwide.

