

Current Affairs search results for tag: government-schemes

1. Government of India launches 'My Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme to encourage customer bill requests (Aug. 25, 2023)

The government of India is launching a scheme called '**Mera Bill Mera Adhikar**', which is an '**Invoice Incentive Scheme**'.

An Overview of the News

- The scheme called 'My Bill My Right' aims **to promote the practice of customers requesting bills for all their purchases. This initiative is being launched in collaboration with various state governments.**
- The scheme includes two grand prizes of Rs 1 crore each, which will be awarded to the lucky winners every quarter. In addition, there will be 800 lucky draws with prize money of Rs 10,000 each, as well as 10 draws on a monthly basis with prizes of Rs 10 lakh each.
- To participate, bills with a minimum value of Rs 200 can be submitted through the mobile application 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar', which is available on both iOS and Android platforms.
- Bills can also be uploaded through the web portal '**web.merabill.gst.gov.in**'.
- The pilot phase of the scheme is scheduled to **begin on September 1, 2023**. Initially, it will be launched in specific regions, namely **Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu**, as well as in the states of **Assam, Gujarat, and Haryana**.

2. Cabinet approves PM-eBus service scheme (Aug. 21, 2023)

Cabinet-approves-PM-eBus-service-scheme

The cabinet under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the "PM-eBus Seva" initiative.

An Overview of the News

- The PM-eBus Sewa scheme aims to augment city bus services by deploying 10,000 e-buses through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 57,613 crore, with support of Rs 20,000 crore from the central government.
- The scheme will facilitate bus operations for 10 years.

Targeting deprived areas:

- The scheme covers cities with more than three lakh inhabitants based on the 2011 census.
- Preference will be given to underserved cities that lack organized bus services.
- Inclusion: Union Territory Capitals, North Eastern Region, and Hill States.

Employment Generation:

- Anticipated Direct Employment Generation: 45,000 to 55,000.
- It is resulting in the deployment of around 10,000 e-buses for city bus operations.

Plan Division:**Section A - City Bus Detail (169 Cities):**

- This component focuses on scaling up city bus operations by introducing 10,000 e-buses through the PPP model.
- It also includes upgrading depot infrastructure and building power infrastructure (eg, substations) for e-buses.

Section B - Green Urban Mobility Initiative (181 Cities):

- This section emphasizes green initiatives such as bus priority systems, multimodal interchange facilities, automatic fare collection systems based on National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), and charging infrastructure.

Operational Support:

- States and cities are responsible for managing bus services and operator payments.
- **Central Government Support: Subsidy as per the scheme provisions.**

E-Mobility Promotion:

- The scheme is set to take forward e-mobility by offering comprehensive support to electricity infrastructure behind the meter.
- In addition, cities will receive assistance for the development of charging infrastructure as part of the Green Urban Mobility initiative.
- This holistic support will accelerate the proliferation of energy-efficient electric buses and encourage innovation within the e-mobility sector, ultimately fostering a more robust supply chain for electric vehicles.

Environmental Benefits:

- Transition to electric mobility: reduction of noise, air pollution, and carbon emissions.
- The anticipated shift to bus-based public transport will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Union Cabinet approves “PM Vishwakarma” Central Sector Scheme (Aug. 17, 2023)

Union-Cabinet-approves-“PM-Vishwakarma”-Central-Sector-Scheme

Union Cabinet approves new Central Sector Scheme 'PM Vishwakarma' to support traditional artisans and craftsmen of rural and urban India

An Overview of the News

- The "PM Vishwakarma" scheme has a financial allocation of Rs 13,000 crore for a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).
- Its main objective is to support traditional artisans and craftsmen, both rural and urban, who work with manual skills and tools.

Preservation of Tradition:

- The objective of the scheme is to maintain the Guru-Shishya Parampara (guru-shishya parampara) of passing on traditional skills within the families of artisans and craftsmen.

Enhancing Quality and Access:

- One of the goals is to enhance the quality and expand the reach of artisan-made products and services.
- The scheme envisages the integration of these artisans into both the domestic and global value chains.

Benefits for Artisans:

- Artisans and craftsmen will get official recognition through a "PM Vishwakarma" certificate and an identity card.
- Financial assistance will be provided, with a credit available up to Rs. 1 lakh (1st installment) and Rs 2 lakh (2nd installment), which includes a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- Opportunities for skill improvement, toolkit incentives, incentives for digital transactions, and marketing support are also part of the plan.

Business Coverage:

- Initially, the scheme will cover eighteen traditional trades under the "PM Vishwakarma" umbrella.
- These trades include carpenter, boat builder, gunsmith, blacksmith, hammer and tool kit maker, repairman, hearse, potter, sculptor (sculptor, stone carver), stonecutter, cobbler (charmkar)/shoemaker/ Footwear Artisans, Masons, Basket/Mat/Broom Makers/Coir Weavers, Doll and Toy Makers (Traditional), Barbers, Malabars, Washermen, Tailors, Fishing Net Makers

4. Government of India launched 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign' (Aug. 17, 2023)

To mark the completion of 75 years of independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) was celebrated as a people-led initiative.

The Government of India launched the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign' to continue the AKAM festival.

An Overview of the News

- Various activities were organised in and around Delhi from 9th to 15th August 2023 in line with the campaign's theme.
- Establishment of Amrit Vatika: 'Amrit Vatika' was created at each station to revive the environment and rejuvenate the earth ('Vasudha Vandhan'), planted 75 saplings of native species to symbolise the nation's connection with nature.
- Panch Pran Pledge: All the participants took the 'Panch Pran pledge, emphasising the commitment to the environment and sustainable living.

Air Force Station Arjangarh:

- Establishment of 'Amrit Vatika' at Baba Mangal Das Park, Aya Nagar.
- Ved Pal (Consultant & Municipal President) cooperated with station authorities for a successful event.

Bovapur Village near Air Force Station Hindon:

- 'Amrit Vatika' was built around 'Amrit Sarovar' near Air Force Station Hindon.
- Joint Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Prabhat Kumar assisted the station officials.

Air Force Station Palam:

- The drive was carried out at the Indo-Korean Friendship Park near the station.
- In association with Sunil Kataria, Delhi Cantonment Board.
- 'Veeron Ka Vandan' initiative on 15th August 2023 in honour of freedom fighters.

Felicitation Program:

- Participation of retired personnel from the Armed Forces, Central, and State Police.
- Highlighting the importance of the campaign, a felicitation program was organised.

5. Jammu to Spearhead India's first Cannabis Medicine Project (July 26, 2023)

Jammu-to-Spearhead-India's-first-Cannabis-Medicine-Project
CSIR-IIIM Jammu is all set to lead India's first cannabis medicine project, a pioneering initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

An Overview of the News

- This Cannabis Medicine project, initiated in collaboration with Canadian firm IndusScan, aims **to explore the medicinal potential of cannabis to benefit patients with neuropathy, cancer and epilepsy, known for its abuse potential.**
- The collaboration between CSIR-IIIM Jammu and IndusScan is historic and of great importance to J&K and the country as a whole. It has the potential to revolutionise drug production in India, enabling the country to produce and export drugs that were earlier sourced from abroad.
- The project will play a vital role in raising awareness about the diverse medicinal applications of cannabis, especially in providing relief to patients suffering from fatal diseases and various other ailments.
- In the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), once all the necessary approvals are received, the initiative will be launched to market high-quality drugs suitable for the treatment of neuropathy, diabetic pain and others.
- enable production. This will encourage self-reliance in the pharmaceutical sector.

CSIR-IIIM (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine):

- It is located in Jammu, India, and is a part of the Council of **Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**
- CSIR-IIIM focuses on **research in medicinal chemistry, natural products, herbal medicines, drug discovery and integrative medicine.**
- The institute aims to develop innovative solutions to health challenges by combining traditional knowledge with modern scientific techniques.
- CSIR-IIIM collaborates with national and international research organisations, academic institutions and pharmaceutical companies to further its research goals and contribute to India's scientific progress and healthcare sector.
- Chief Scientist, CSIR-IIIM Jammu - **Dr. Zabir Ahmed**

About Medical Cannabis

- The FDA approved cannabis-derived drugs such as Marinol/Nabilone and Cesamet to effectively manage nausea and vomiting in patients.
- **Sativex, another FDA-approved drug, uses cannabis to treat neuropathic pain and spasms, bringing** relief to those suffering from these conditions.
- Epidiolex containing cannabidiol has shown promising results in the treatment of **epilepsy, offering new possibilities for patients with the condition.**
- Besides the United States, other countries are also exploring various medical applications of cannabis, taking advantage of its potential to treat various health conditions.

6. For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023 (July 25, 2023)

Rajasthan-Platform-Based-Gig-Workers-Bill,-2023

The Rajasthan government has introduced the Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023, making it the first state in India to ensure social security assurance for gig workers.

An Overview of the News

- As part of this initiative, Rajasthan platform based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be set up to support gig workers in the state.
- The Welfare Board will enable gig workers to register with all state aggregators, thereby ensuring better access to opportunities and benefits.
- An integrated fee deduction mechanism will be set up within aggregator apps, and non-compliance with the provisions of the Bill will attract a fine of ₹5 lakh for the first offence and ₹50 lakh for subsequent offences.
- Gig workers will be empowered with a standardized unique ID applicable across all platforms, giving them access to various social security programs and allowing them to effectively raise grievances.
- Gig workers will be represented on the board, giving them a say in decision-making processes related to their well-being.
- India's gig workforce is expected to reach 23.5 million by 2030, and recognizing their importance, the Social Security Code (2020) has a dedicated section for gig workers, ensuring they receive social security benefits.

About Rajasthan

- It is bordered by five other Indian states: Punjab to the north; Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the northeast; Madhya Pradesh in the southeast; and Gujarat in the southwest.
- Rajasthan is also home to three national tiger reserves, Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.
- The state was formed on 30 March 1949 when Rajputana was merged with the Dominion of India.

Capital- **Jaipur**

District - **33 (7 Circle)**

Governor - **Kalraj Mishra**

Chief Minister - **Ashok Gehlot (INC)**

Legislative Assembly - **Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (200 seats)**

Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**

Lok Sabha - **25 seats**

Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court: **Augustine George Masih.**

7. Delhi launches first 'Water ATM' to provide clean water in water-scarce areas (July 25, 2023)

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently inaugurated the city's first 'Water ATM', which aims to provide clean water to areas lacking piped water supply.

An Overview of the News

- The 'Water ATM' initiative aims **to reduce dependence on water tankers and ensure that underprivileged sections of society have access to the same quality of reverse osmosis (RO) water as more affluent areas.**
- The Delhi government, through the Delhi Jal Board, plans to **tackle water scarcity by setting up 500 RO plants with integrated 'water ATM machines'** in areas facing water supply issues.
- **Each of the 500 RO plants** will have a **capacity of 30,000 litres** and will be strategically located depending on the availability of tubewells. The government will **provide the necessary land, and the cost of ₹10 lakh per plant** will be borne by the Delhi Jal Board.
- Beneficiaries of this initiative will receive **RFID cards from DJB**, which will give them **access to a daily free water quota of 20 litres. Usage beyond this limit will attract a charge of 8 paise per litre.**
- The initiative is led by **Delhi's Water Minister, Saurabh Bhardwaj** and aims **to ensure free and safe access to clean drinking water for residents of areas facing water scarcity.**

8. Odisha CM approves Mission Shakti scooter scheme (July 25, 2023)

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme, a scheme designed to **provide interest subsidy to beneficiaries on bank loans up to Rs 1,00,000 to buy scooters.**

An Overview of the News

- The initiative targets Mission Shakti federation leaders and community support staff, providing affordable access to two-wheelers. This is expected to increase their efficiency, effectiveness and reach within the community.
- The scheme aims to **benefit about 75,000 community support staff members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and about 1,25,000 federation leaders associated with SHGs.**

- For the **next five years**, the state government has allocated a **budget of Rs 528.55 crore** to implement the Mission Shakti scooter scheme while ensuring wider reach. The goal is to empower a large number of Community Support Staff and Executive Committee (EC) members across the state.

Mission Shakti:

- It was launched on **8 March 2001** by **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik**.
- It is a state sponsored program that empowers women in Odisha through **Self Help Group approach**.
- The program emphasises the importance of SHGs and their federations in providing social security and driving social action in various areas such as **health, nutrition, sanitation and gender-related issues**.
- Mission Shakti provides a platform for women to **achieve economic independence and promote collective development, furthering their empowerment in the society**.

About Odisha

- Formation - **1 April 1936**
- Capital - **Bhubaneswar**
- Governor - **Ganeshi Lal**
- Chief Minister - **Naveen Patnaik**
- Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**
- Lok Sabha - **21 seats**

9. Nai Manzil Scheme (July 23, 2023)

Nai Manzil Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme (CSS), was launched on 8 August 2015 with 50% funding from the World Bank.

An Overview of the News

- It primarily **targets minority youth who do not have a formal school-leaving certificate, such as school dropouts or those educated in community institutions such as madrassas**.
- Nai Manzil Scheme offers a combination of skill development training along with formal education up to class VIII or X. This comprehensive approach enables the beneficiaries to find better employment opportunities and better livelihood.
- The initial target of the scheme was to benefit 1,00,000 beneficiaries, and the ministry allocated 99,980 slots for the purpose. So far 98,712 beneficiaries have been successfully trained under the scheme.
- The government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of all sections of the society including minorities, with special focus on the economically

weaker and less privileged persons. These schemes are run by several ministries like Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Textiles, Culture, Women and Child Development and Rural Development.

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements schemes exclusively for the empowerment of six centrally notified minority communities across the country. The objective of these schemes is to raise their socio-economic and educational status.

10. Union Minister released 'Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India' (July 22, 2023)

Sri-Lankan-President-Ranil-Wickremesinghe's-two-day-visit-to-India

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released 'Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India', a compendium of 75 ODF Plus best practices to promote innovation and cross learning, during the National Convention of Rural Wash Partners Forum (RWPF).

An Overview of the News

- The anthology, titled "Swachhta Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India", showcases innovative approaches, measures to overcome bottlenecks, awareness raising efforts and special campaigns implemented by various States/UTs to achieve the targets of SBM-G Phase-II.
- The Union Minister emphasised the importance of the compendium as a resource for the States and stakeholders working towards achieving ODF Plus. They believe that this serves as an inspiration for others to replicate successful practices.
- This collection was developed by the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin IEC team and contains stories for each thematic pillar of SBMG Phase-II.

The stories in the anthology have been selected based on the following key criteria:

- **Innovation:** Demonstrating innovative approaches used to achieve ODF Plus, such as community participation and leadership that ensured ODF Plus Model Village status for Suanlo village in Bhingarpur Gram Panchayat, Khordha District, Odisha, or how live models of ODF Plus assets (to effectively manage solid and liquid waste) helped Shravasti district in Uttar Pradesh achieve ODF Plus status.
- **Overcoming Obstacles:** Highlighting the challenges faced and how they were overcome, such as Tamil Nadu's innovative mass cleaning initiative in Madurai's suburban panchayats.
- **Raising Awareness:** Describing measures taken to raise awareness about cleanliness, such as the "Wash Vani" magazine promoting positive WASH behaviour by children in government schools in Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Special campaigns:** Discussion on special campaigns launched to achieve ODF Plus, such as Gujarat's "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (Clean Coast, Safe Sea)" campaign, which focuses on regular beach cleaning to protect the environment.