

06 – 01 – 2022

News: Number of subscribers of Atal Pension Yojana has reached 3.68 cr so far: Govt

- Finance Ministry said, **over 65 lakh have been enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana** in the current financial year so far.

Atal Pension Yojana

- Atal Pension Yojana (APY, previously known as Swavalamban Yojana), is a **government – backed pension scheme in India**, primarily targeted at the **unorganized sector**.
- It was mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata.
- The scheme provides the subscribers with a **fixed pension** ranging between **Rs.1000 to Rs. 5000**.
- The pension is provided if he/she joins and contributes **between the age of 18 years and 40 years**.
- The contribution level varies as per the conditions which is **low if the subscriber joins the scheme early** and might increase if he/she joins late.

News: UJALA completes 7 years; Over 36 crore 70 lakh LEDs distributed across the country so far

- Launched on 5th January, 2015, Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme has completed 7 years.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED's for All (UJALA)

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED's for All (UJALA) was **launched in 2015 with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs and to nullify the high-cost of LEDs** that acted as a barrier previously in the adoption of energy-efficient systems.
- UJALA is implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under Ministry of Power.**
- The scheme was implemented to set up a phase-wise LED distribution.
- The objective is **to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment that will reduce electricity bills and preserve the environment.**
- It is the **world's largest domestic lighting project.**

Achievements

- Through the UJALA initiative, over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across India. This has resulted in an estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kWh per year, avoided peak demand of 9,394 MW, and an estimated Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction of 38 million tons of CO₂ annually.
- The reduced electricity bills add to a household's disposable income and lifetime savings, thus improving the quality of life, generating prosperity in local communities and in expanding energy access to all.
- Apart from this, the Government of India initiated the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA) in 2018, which was aimed at the promotion of social harmony by appraising rural communities of various government welfare schemes and initiatives. As a part of it, villages with poor households were able to buy LED bulbs for a special price under UJALA programme.

News: Six One District One Product brands launched under the PMFME scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras and Minister of State, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and senior officials of NAFED today launched six, One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI)**.
- The PMFME Scheme is currently being **implemented in 35 States and Union Territories (UTs)**.
- Recently, it was decided by the Government of India to **merge PM Formalisation of Micro-food processing Enterprises (PMFME) with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) scheme**.

- The merging of schemes would help the Self Help Groups (SHGs) who are involved in micro-entrepreneurship activities will make them financially empowered and help families of SHGs live a dignified life.

Features

One District One Product (ODOP) Approach

- The States would identify food products for districts keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.
- The ODOP could be a perishable produce based or cereal based or a food item widely produced in an area. E.g. mango, potato, pickle, millet based products, fisheries, poultry, etc.

Other Focus Areas

- Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts.
- Capacity building and research: Academic and research institutions under MoFPI along with State Level Technical Institutions would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.
- Upgradation of Individual Micro Food Processing Units: Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of upgrading their units can avail credit-

linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.

- Seed Capital to SHG: Initial funding of Rs. 40,000- per Self Help Group (SHG) member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.
- It is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.

News: 10.74 lakh birds flock to Chilika Lake

- As per the Water Bird Status Survey-2022 conducted in the Chilika, 10,74,173 water birds (107 species) and 37,953 individuals (76 wetland dependent species) were counted in the entire lagoon.
- Last year, the count in the Chilika was over 12 lakh.
- Members who were part of the census also reported sighting the Mongolian gull.

- The census was undertaken jointly on Tuesday by the Odisha State Wildlife Organisation, the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- A total of 106 personnel, including bird experts from government and non-government organisations, were deployed.

Chilika Lake

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100km.
- It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest brackish water lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef.
- Chilika lake hosts 20% of the seagrass found in India. It has got the highest concentration of Seagrass in India.
- It has been listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent. The lake is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.

- The Nalabana Island or the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary, inside the lake, continued to be the most favoured destination for the birds.
- The lake is an ecosystem with large fishery resources. It sustains more than 150,000 fisher-folk living in 132 villages on the shore and islands.
- The lagoon hosts over 160 species of birds in the peak migratory season. Birds from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea and other remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of Kazakhstan, Central and southeast Asia, Ladakh and Himalayas come here. These birds travel great distances; migratory birds probably follow much longer routes than the straight lines, possibly upto 12,000 km, to reach Chilika Lake.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It was a designated Montreux Site but delisted from it due to the actions of Gov.