

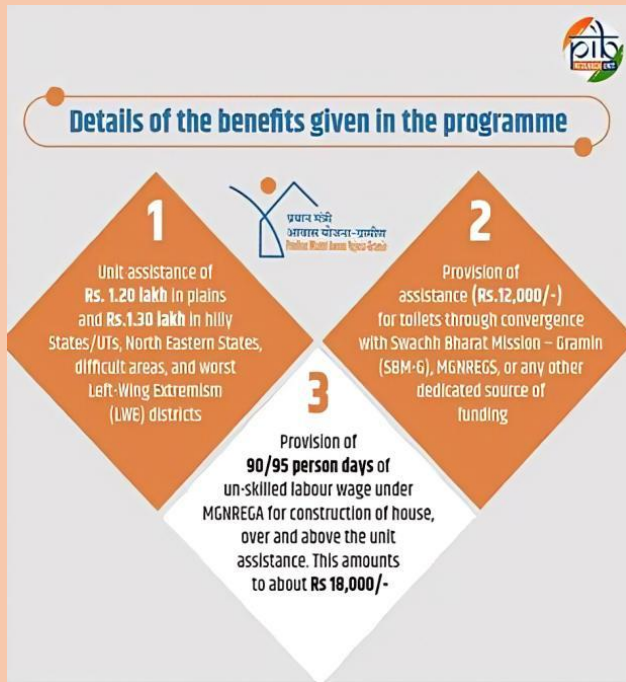
PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : PIB

Context :



Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) is a flagship scheme of the Government of India aimed at providing "**Housing for All**" by the year 2024. Launched on **April 1, 2016**, it replaced the previous **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)**. The primary objective of PMAY-G is to provide **pucca houses** with basic amenities to **homeless and households living in kutchha or dilapidated houses** in rural areas.

Objectives of PMAY-G:

- 1. Affordable Housing for All:** To ensure that every rural family has a permanent house with basic amenities by 2024.

- 2. Social Inclusion:** To include marginalized sections of society by prioritizing them in the beneficiary list.
- 3. Convergence with Other Schemes:** To integrate with schemes like MGNREGS, Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), and others for holistic development.
- 4. Job Creation:** To generate employment opportunities, especially through unskilled labor under MGNREGS.

Key Features of PMAY-G:

1. Financial Assistance:

- **Plain Areas:** ₹1.20 lakh per house.
- **North Eastern States and Hilly States (including J&K and Ladakh):** ₹1.30 lakh per house.
- **Funding Pattern:**
- **NER and Himalayan States (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, J&K):** 90:10 (Centre: State).
- **Other States:** 60:40 (Centre: State).
- **Union Territories without Legislature:** 100% funded by the Centre.

2. Labour Assistance:

- Beneficiaries are entitled to **90/95 man-days of unskilled labor wages** under MGNREGS.

3. Sanitation Facility:

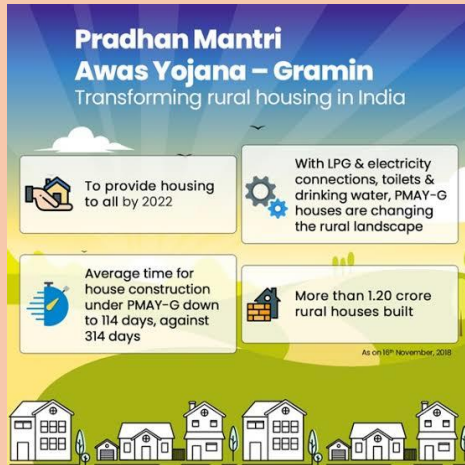
- Financial support of **₹12,000 for toilet construction** through SBM-G, MGNREGS, or other funding sources.

4. Targeted Beneficiaries:

- 5. Beneficiaries are identified based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data and verified by Gram Sabhas.**

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

6. Priority is given to **SC/ST, minorities, and marginalized communities.**



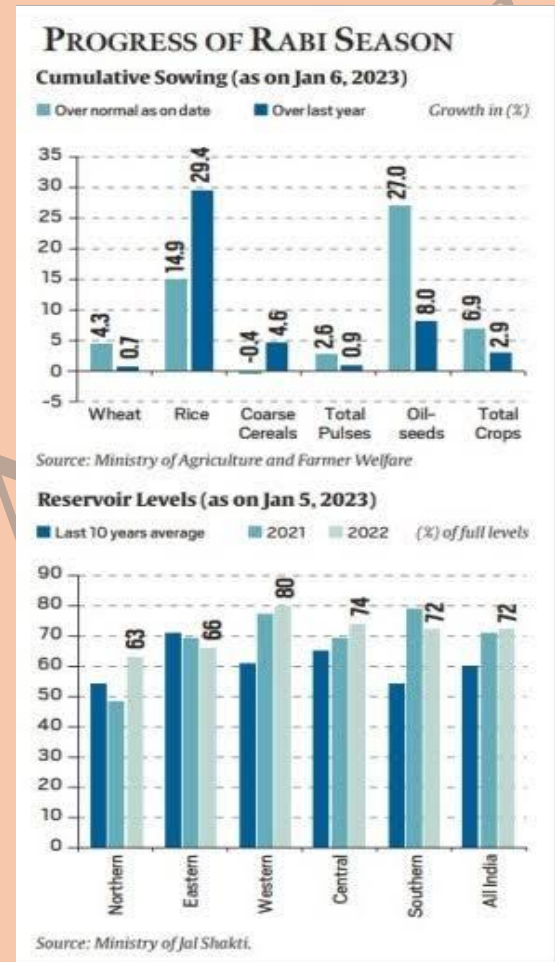
Implementation and Progress:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of PMAY-G for the period **2024-25 to 2028-29** to construct an additional **2 crore rural houses** with a financial outlay of **₹3.06 lakh crores**.
- Since its inception, the **central share of ₹2,49,569.76 crore** has been released to States/UTs.

Achievements of PMAY-G:

- Increased Rural Housing:** A large number of **pucca houses have been constructed**, providing shelter to rural families.
- Job Generation:** Created employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for unskilled labor.
- Improved Living Conditions:** The availability of toilets and sanitation facilities has improved public health.

4. **Economic and Social Impact:** Enhanced social dignity and security of vulnerable households.



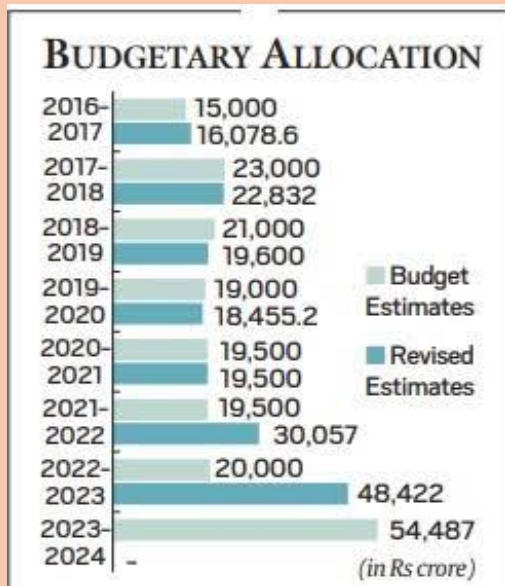
Challenges :

- Land Availability:** Acquiring suitable land for housing remains a challenge.
- Awareness:** Rural beneficiaries need better awareness of the scheme's benefits.
- Monitoring and Transparency:** Ensuring timely construction and quality of houses is essential.
- Convergence of Schemes:** Effective coordination among schemes like **SBM-G**

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

and MGNREGS is crucial for comprehensive rural development.

PMAY-G is a transformative step toward realizing the dream of "Housing for All" by 2024. By providing financial support and integrating rural development schemes, it addresses both housing and employment challenges in rural India. The continued focus on effective implementation and timely completion of houses will significantly contribute to rural upliftment and social equity.



Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), consider the following statements:

1. The unit assistance under PMAY-G is the same for both plain areas and hilly states.
2. The funding pattern between the Centre and the States for North Eastern and Himalayan States is 90:10.

3. Beneficiaries under PMAY-G are also entitled to unskilled labor wages under MGNREGS.
4. Financial support for toilet construction is provided exclusively through the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The unit assistance under PMAY-G is ₹1.20 lakh for plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh for North Eastern and Hilly States (including J&K and Ladakh).
2. **Statement 2 is Correct:** The funding pattern between the Centre and States for North Eastern and Himalayan States is 90:10.
3. **Statement 3 is Correct:** Beneficiaries are entitled to 90/95 man-days of unskilled labor wages under MGNREGS.
4. **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** Financial support of ₹12,000 for toilet construction can be availed through SBM-G, MGNREGS, or any other dedicated funding source.

Hence, the correct answer is **(b) 2 and 3 only**.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Mains Model Question:

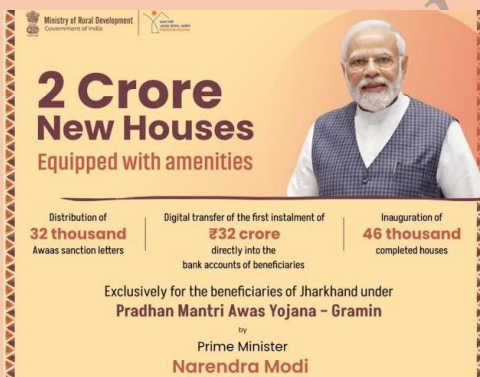
Q. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) aims to provide "Housing for All" by 2024. Critically examine the key features, achievements, and challenges associated with the scheme. Suggest measures to enhance its implementation. (300 words)

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched on April 1, 2016, with the objective of providing "Housing for All" by 2024. It aims to construct pucca houses with basic amenities for rural households living in kutcha or dilapidated structures, thereby improving their quality of life. The scheme provides financial assistance of ₹1.20 lakh per house in plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh per house in North Eastern and Hilly States. The funding pattern is 90:10 between the Centre and the States for North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 for other states, and 100% Centre funding for Union Territories without a legislature. Beneficiaries are identified based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data and are verified by Gram Sabhas to ensure transparency and social inclusion.



The scheme converges with other welfare initiatives to maximize its impact. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), beneficiaries are entitled to 90 or 95 man-days of unskilled labor wages, which not only aids in house construction but also generates rural employment. Additionally, the scheme promotes sanitation through convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), providing ₹12,000 for toilet construction. This holistic approach addresses both housing and hygiene needs.

Despite significant achievements, including the construction of over 2.5 crore houses and substantial rural employment generation, the scheme faces challenges related to land availability, fund disbursement delays, lack of awareness among beneficiaries, and issues related to quality and monitoring of construction. To address these challenges, the government must streamline fund flow through digital platforms, enhance community participation for better monitoring, and conduct awareness campaigns to inform beneficiaries about their entitlements. Capacity building at the local level is also crucial to ensure effective implementation.



PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

PMAY-G is a transformative step toward rural development and social equity. Addressing the existing challenges with innovative solutions will ensure the realization of the goal of "Housing for All" by 2024.

Topic : India's Trade and Economic Outlook

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Economy

Source : PIB

Context :

- India's headline CPI inflation fell to a seven-month low of 3.6% in February 2025, driven by lower food prices
- India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.5% in 2024-25, with Q3 growth at 6.2%
- Global growth faces risks from trade tensions, with OECD lowering forecasts to 3.1% (2025) and 3.0% (2026)
- Global oil prices fell 15% since mid-January 2025 to below US\$ 70
- Manufacturing employment grew at the second-fastest rate since the PMI survey began
- Exports grew by 10.4% in Q3 2024-25, adding 2.5 percentage points to GDP, despite a 10.9% year-on-year decline in February 2025
- India's exports grew 0.1% to \$395.6 billion (April-Feb 2024-25), driven by electronics, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals
- India's foodgrain production is set to reach 330.9 million tonnes (+4.8%) in 2024-25, with record wheat output at 115.4 million tonnes (+1.9%)
- Toll collections and E-way bills recorded double-digit growth
- Under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, 10.09 lakh households had rooftop solar installations as of March 10, 2025

The Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience amid escalating global trade tensions and persistent geopolitical uncertainties. Despite the challenging global environment, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) March 2025 bulletin highlights robust economic fundamentals driven by strong domestic demand, prudent policy interventions, and targeted government spending. While challenges like foreign portfolio outflows and currency depreciation persist, the economy remains on a stable growth trajectory. This article delves into the key aspects of India's trade and economic outlook, supported by data-driven insights from the RBI bulletin.

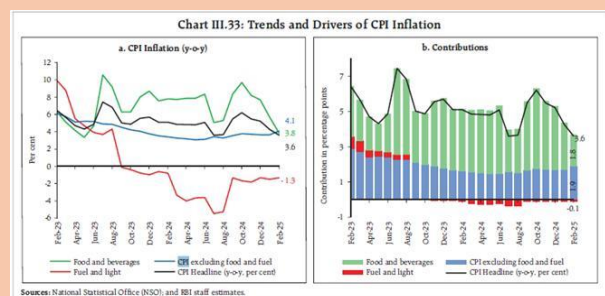
Economic Growth and Resilience

India's GDP growth for the financial year 2024-25 is projected at **6.5%**, according to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) Second Advance Estimates. In the third quarter of FY 2024-25, the GDP growth rate rebounded to **6.2%** from **5.6%** in the second quarter, driven primarily by higher private consumption and increased government spending. The robust performance of sectors like construction, trade, and financial services has been instrumental in maintaining economic momentum despite global uncertainties.

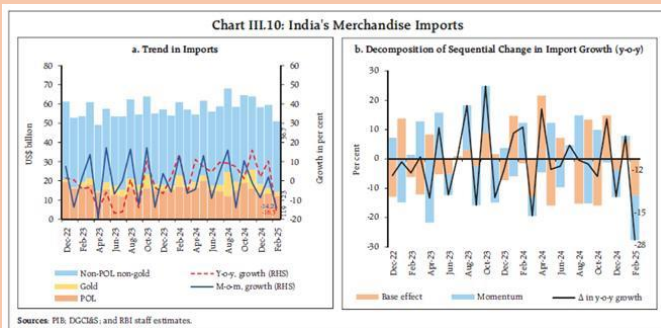
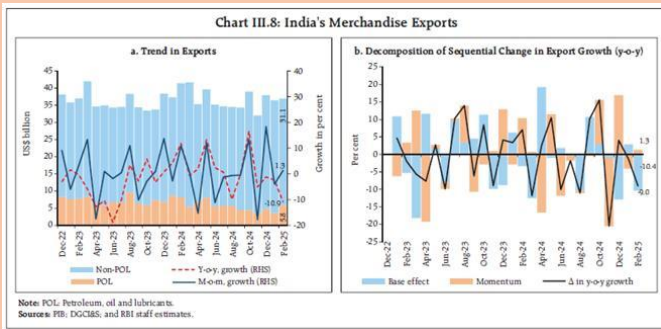
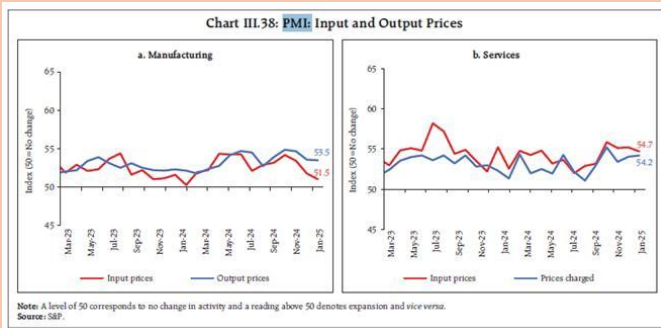
Key Growth Drivers:

- Private Consumption:** Increased consumer spending has fueled economic activity.
- Government Spending:** Strategic investment in infrastructure has provided a robust stimulus.
- Sectoral Contributions:** Construction, trade, and financial services have played pivotal roles.

One of the major factors supporting GDP growth is the government's focus on **infrastructure development**. Increased allocations for road construction, railway modernization, and urban infrastructure have spurred economic activity and created employment opportunities. Furthermore, rising household consumption, driven by increased disposable incomes, has strengthened demand across various sectors.



PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)



rising US interest rates and economic uncertainties, emerging markets like India have faced capital flight.

- **Challenges Arising from FPI Outflows:**
 - **Stock Market Volatility:** Sustained outflows have caused fluctuations in equity markets.
 - **Currency Depreciation:** The rupee has weakened against the US dollar, reflecting global economic risks.
 - **Investor Sentiment:** Concerns over geopolitical tensions and inflation have fueled outflows.

Despite these pressures, domestic institutional investors have stepped up, increasing their holdings and stabilizing market ownership structures. The RBI has played a crucial role in managing liquidity through **open market operations (OMOs)**, **daily repo auctions**, and **dollar/rupee swaps**. These interventions have helped maintain market stability despite capital outflows, though the long-term stability of the rupee will depend on global economic developments and interest rate dynamics.

However, challenges remain, particularly in the form of external headwinds like trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainties. The RBI's proactive monetary policies and liquidity management measures have been crucial in sustaining growth during turbulent times.

Foreign Portfolio Outflows and Currency Risks

Foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows have posed challenges to India's financial markets, leading to pressure on both **stock markets and the rupee**. As global investors increasingly seek safer assets amid

Measure	Description	Auction Date	Amount injected (in ₹ crores)
OMO Purchase	Through NDS-OM	January 2025	38,825
OMO Purchase auction		January 30, 2025	20,020
		February 13, 2025	40,000
		February 20, 2025	40,000
		March 12, 2025	50,000
Term Repo Auctions	56-day VRR auction	February 07, 2025	50,010
	49-day VRR auction	February 14, 2025	75,003
	45-day VRR auction	February 21, 2025	57,951
USD/INR Buy Sell swap auction	Tenor: 6 months	January 31, 2025	Approx. 44,000 (USD 5.10 Billion)
	Tenor: 3 years	February 28, 2025	Approx. 88,000 (USD 10.06 Billion)
		Total	Approx. 5,53,809

Inflation Trends and Management

Headline inflation in India has shown signs of moderation, with the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** falling to a **seven-month low of 3.6% in February 2025**. This decline is mainly due to reduced vegetable prices and improved supply chain

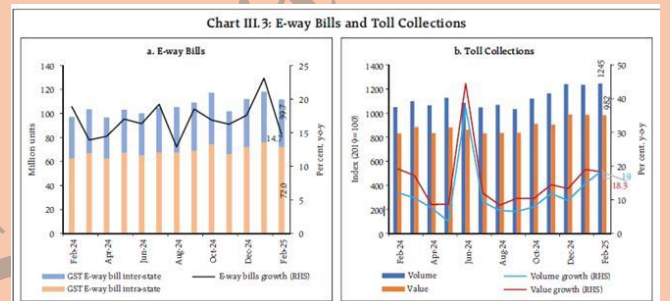
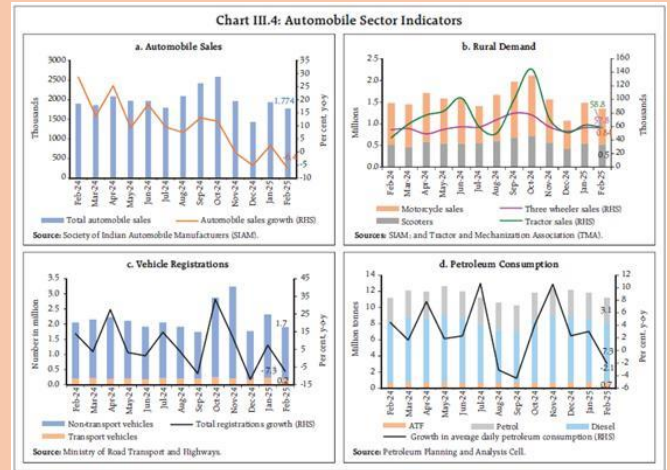
PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

efficiency. The government's continuous efforts to stabilize food prices and improve agricultural output have significantly contributed to this trend.

Reasons for Inflation Moderation:

- o **Improved Agricultural Production:** Enhanced foodgrain production has stabilized prices.
- o **Supply Chain Efficiency:** Better logistics management has reduced bottlenecks.
- o **Government Intervention:** Targeted policies have helped curb excessive price rises.

However, **core inflation** (excluding food and fuel) rose to **4.1%**, indicating underlying price pressures driven by higher input costs and rising demand in services. This divergence between headline and core inflation points to persistent structural challenges that need continuous policy attention. The RBI has maintained a **balanced monetary policy stance**, focusing on ensuring adequate liquidity while curbing excessive inflationary pressures.

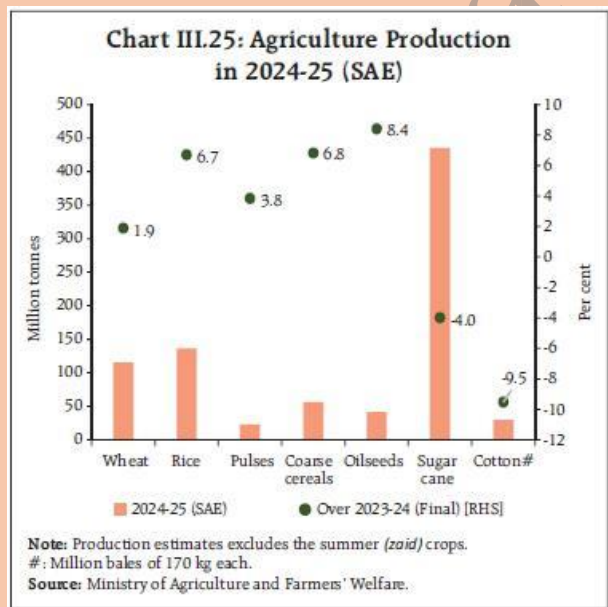


Employment and Labor Market Dynamics

The labor market in India has exhibited positive trends, especially in manufacturing and services. Manufacturing employment grew at the **second-fastest rate** since the inception of the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey**, indicating strong industrial activity. The services sector also recorded significant employment growth, driven by increased demand in sectors like IT, retail, and hospitality.

Positive Employment Trends:

- o **Manufacturing Growth:** Revival in industrial activity has boosted job creation.
- o **Services Sector Expansion:** Strong consumer demand has fueled employment in retail and services.



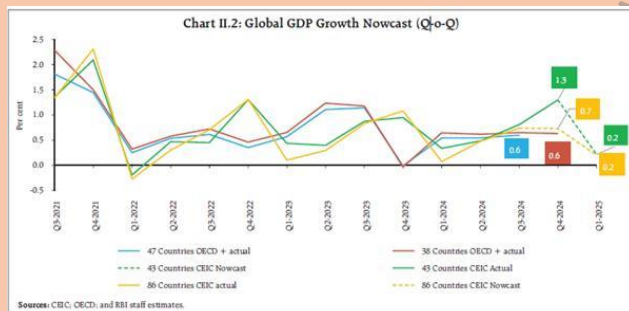
PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

- **Urban Unemployment Decline:** Urban joblessness fell to a **historic low of 6.4%**, reflecting better economic opportunities.

However, the quality of jobs remains a concern, with a significant portion of new employment being informal or contractual. Addressing job quality and enhancing skills training are crucial to sustaining long-term employment growth.

Trade and External Sector Performance

India's trade dynamics reflect a complex interplay of global demand and domestic production trends. From **April 2024 to February 2025**, exports grew marginally by **0.1%** to **\$395.6 billion**, but merchandise exports declined by **10.9% year-on-year** in February due to weak global demand and base effects.



- **Export Sector Performance:**
 - **Top-Performing Sectors:** Electronics, rice, and ores showed positive growth.
 - **Weak Performing Sectors:** Petroleum products, engineering goods, chemicals, and gems & jewellery witnessed significant declines.

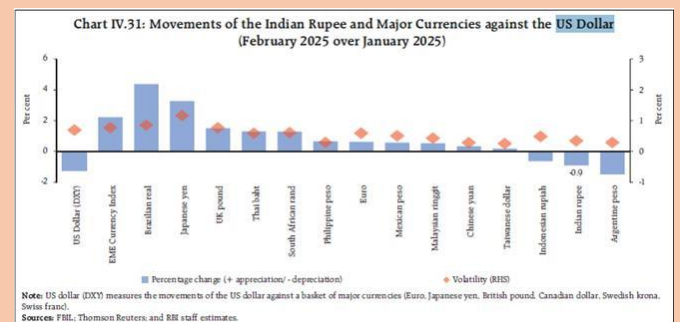
Imports, on the other hand, increased by **5.7%** to **\$656.7 billion** during the same period, driven by gold, electronics, and petroleum imports. However, imports fell by **16.3% in February 2025**, primarily due to reduced demand for oil and gold.

Key Import Trends:

- **Gold and Oil Imports:** Decline in these commodities contributed to a narrowing trade deficit.
- **Electronics and Machinery:** Continued strong imports reflect domestic investment demand.

Financial and Monetary Policy Interventions

The RBI has actively managed liquidity through **open market operations (OMOs)**, **daily repo auctions**, and **dollar/rupee swaps** to stabilize the financial environment. These measures have successfully balanced liquidity management despite capital outflows and currency pressures.



RBI's Policy Measures:

- **Liquidity Management:** OMOs and repo auctions ensured adequate liquidity in the banking system.
- **Currency Stabilization:** Dollar/rupee swaps helped reduce volatility.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

- **Inflation Control:** Targeted measures to keep core inflation in check.

Sector-Specific Developments

Agriculture has been a strong performer, with foodgrain production estimated at **330.9 million tonnes** for 2024-25, marking a **4.8% increase** from the previous year. The increase is driven by a **6.8% rise in kharif production** and a **2.8% rise in rabi output**. This has ensured adequate food supply, contributing to inflation control and rural prosperity.

The **automobile sector**, however, showed mixed performance. Car and motorcycle sales declined in February 2025 due to weaker demand, while **tractor sales** saw double-digit growth, reflecting a strong rural economy. In infrastructure, toll collections and **E-way bills** witnessed robust growth, indicating increased movement of goods and sustained economic activity.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the recent economic trends highlighted in the RBI Bulletin (March 2025), consider the following statements:

1. India's GDP growth rate for FY 2024-25 is projected to be 6.5%, primarily driven by construction, trade, and financial services.
2. The CPI inflation fell to a seven-month low of 3.6% in February 2025, mainly due to reduced fuel prices.
3. Despite global economic uncertainties, India's exports grew significantly by 10% during April 2024-February 2025.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has used Open Market Operations (OMO) and dollar/rupee swaps to manage domestic liquidity.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 4 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 3 and 4 only

Answer:

B) 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** India's GDP growth rate for FY 2024-25 is projected at 6.5%, driven primarily by growth in construction, trade, and financial services.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The fall in CPI inflation to 3.6% in February 2025 was mainly due to reduced vegetable prices, not fuel prices.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India's exports grew marginally by 0.1% from April 2024 to February 2025, and merchandise exports declined by 10.9% YoY in February 2025.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The RBI has used Open Market Operations (OMO) and dollar/rupee swaps to stabilize domestic liquidity amidst global financial challenges.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the key economic challenges faced by India in the current global scenario as highlighted in the RBI Bulletin (March 2025). How has the government addressed these challenges, and what more can be done to ensure sustained economic growth?

The RBI Bulletin (March 2025) highlights several economic challenges that India is currently grappling with amid a volatile global scenario. One of the

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

primary challenges is managing economic growth despite global trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainties. India's GDP growth rate for FY 2024-25 is projected at 6.5%, driven by robust private consumption and government spending. However, sustaining this growth amid persistent foreign portfolio outflows and currency depreciation remains a challenge. The withdrawal of foreign investments has put pressure on the rupee, while domestic investors have stepped up to stabilize market ownership structures.

Another significant challenge is inflation management. While headline inflation has moderated to a seven-month low of 3.6% in February 2025, core inflation remains high at 4.1%, indicating underlying price pressures. The moderation in food prices, particularly vegetables, has provided relief, but rising costs in services and manufacturing sectors continue to pose a threat. The RBI has been proactive in managing liquidity through open market operations, daily repo auctions, and dollar/rupee swaps to stabilize the financial environment.

Trade dynamics present another critical challenge as merchandise exports declined by 10.9% year-on-year in February 2025, primarily due to weak global demand. Imports, although rising during most of the year, saw a fall in February, narrowing the trade deficit. This fluctuation reflects global economic uncertainties and the need for India to strengthen its export competitiveness.

The government has taken significant steps, including boosting infrastructure investment and improving agricultural productivity, to drive domestic demand. However, more targeted interventions are needed to enhance export performance and curb core inflation. Strengthening

the manufacturing sector, diversifying export markets, and ensuring financial stability will be vital in maintaining sustained economic growth in the face of global challenges.

Topic : Transforming India's Agricultural and Dairy Sectors

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Economy

Source : PIB

Context :

The Union Cabinet approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) with an additional budget of ₹1,000 crore.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) to boost the livestock sector, with an additional outlay of ₹1,000 crore.

The Union Budget 2025-26 has emphasized agriculture as the foremost engine of India's development.

On January 1, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26.

On January 1, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of One-time Special Package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) for the period from 01.01.2025 till further orders.

The Union Cabinet, on November 25, 2024, approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) with a total outlay of Rs.2481 crore.

On October 3, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the rationalization of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) operating under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's into two-umbrella Schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-KVKY), and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).

On October 3, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds with a financial outlay of Rs 10,103 crore.

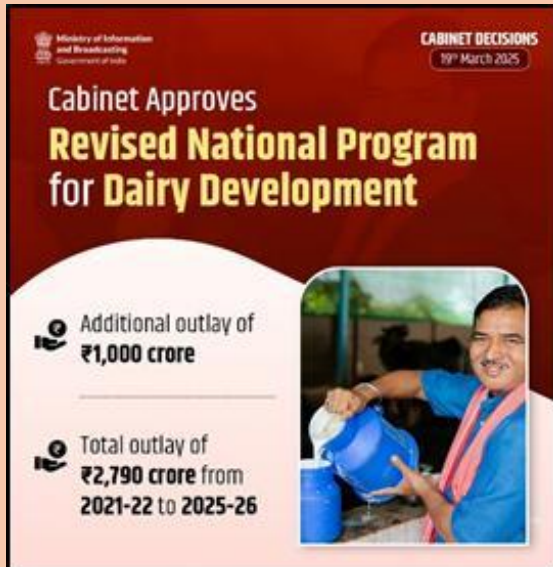
The Government of India has been consistently focusing on modernizing agriculture and dairy sectors to enhance productivity, boost farmer incomes, and ensure rural development. With agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy, recent cabinet policy decisions and budgetary allocations signify the government's commitment to transforming these crucial sectors. This comprehensive analysis delves into the latest initiatives, including schemes, budgetary provisions, and their expected outcomes.

1. Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD)

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Revised NPDD** with an additional budget of **₹1,000 crore**, raising the total outlay to **₹2,790 crore**

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26).



- **Objectives:**
 - Improve **milk procurement, processing capacity, and quality control.**
 - Enhance **market access** for farmers to secure better pricing through value addition.
 - Strengthen the **dairy supply chain**, promoting rural income and development.
- **Key Components:**
 - **Component A:** Improving dairy infrastructure and supply chain.
 - **Component B: Dairying through Cooperatives (DTC)** in collaboration with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).**
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Establishment of **10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies.**

- Generation of **3.2 lakh employment opportunities**, with **70% benefiting women.**

2. Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)

- An additional outlay of **₹1,000 crore** was approved, taking the total to **₹3,400 crore.**
- **Objectives:**
 - Boost **livestock productivity** and breed improvement.
 - Ensure **scientific conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.**
- **Key Additions:**
 - **Heifer Rearing Centres:** One-time assistance of **35% of capital cost** to set up **30 housing facilities for 15,000 heifers.**
 - **Support for High Genetic Merit (HGM) Heifers:** **3% interest subvention** on loans to purchase HGM IVF heifers.
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Enhanced incomes for **8.5 crore dairy farmers.**
 - Increased participation of **women and marginal farmers.**

3. Key Provisions in Union Budget 2025-26

The Union Budget 2025-26 has positioned agriculture as a primary driver of economic growth, emphasizing **productivity enhancement, farmer income augmentation, and rural infrastructure development.**

Key provisions include:

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)



a. Agriculture Sector:

- **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:**
 - Targets **100 low-productivity districts**.
 - Focuses on **crop diversification, irrigation, and storage improvements**.
 - Likely to benefit **1.7 crore farmers**.
- **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses:**
 - A **six-year mission** focusing on **Tur, Urad, and Masoor**.
 - Emphasis on **climate-resilient seeds and protein enhancement**.
 - Price assurance through **NAFED and NCCF procurement**.
- **National Mission on High Yielding Seeds:**
 - Develops **pest-resistant and climate-resilient seed varieties**.
 - **Commercial availability of 100 seed varieties** since July 2024.
- **Cotton Productivity Mission:**

- Aims to boost **cotton yield and sustainability** over five years.
- Promotes **extra-long staple cotton**.

b. Animal Husbandry and Dairying:

- **National Livestock Mission (NLM):**
 - Focuses on **employment generation and productivity enhancement** in meat, milk, egg, and wool production.
 - **Allocated ₹324 crore** for 2024-25.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):**
 - Promotes **private investments** for establishing **dairy processing and value addition infrastructure**.
 - Revised outlay of **₹29,610 crore**.
- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP):**

Agriculture Sector Provisions			
<p>11 Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new scheme targeting 100 low-productivity districts. • Focus on enhancing agricultural productivity and diversification, irrigation, and storage improvements. • Likely to benefit 1.7 crore farmers. 	<p>12 Rural Prosperity and Resilience Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-sector initiative to address underdevelopment in agriculture, allied activities, livestock, and fisheries through financial, technical, and knowledge-based interventions. • Focus on 100 agricultural districts. 	<p>13 Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A six-year mission with focus on Tur, Urad, and Masoor. • Emphasis on climate-resilient seeds and protein enhancement. • Assurance of price realization through procurement by NAFED and NCCF for four years. 	<p>14 Comprehensive Programme for Vegetables and Fruits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of vegetable and fruit production with focus on crop diversification, irrigation, and storage improvements. • Focus on seed quality, processing, and marketing to benefit small and medium farmer producer organizations.
<p>15 National Mission on High Yielding Seeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing resilient high yielding, pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties. • Commercial availability of 100 seed varieties released since July 2024. 	<p>16 Cotton Productivity Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A five-year mission to improve cotton productivity and ensure sustainable growth. • Focus on extra-long staple cotton and climate-resilient varieties. • Agreement with the private sector for seed and input supply. 	<p>17 Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Loan Limit Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank limits under the National Mission for Agricultural Extension and Support Services (NMAESS) will be enhanced to ₹20 lakh for KCC. • Expected to benefit 7.7 crore farmers, including small and marginal farmers. 	<p>18 One Acre Plant in Assam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new pilot plant with annual productivity of 1.7 lakh tons of rice, wheat, and pulses to enhance food security and rural production.

- Launched in 2019, targets the eradication of **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis by 2030**.
- Over **99.71 crore vaccinations** administered, benefiting **7.18 crore farmers**.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

4. Major Agricultural Schemes and Missions

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):**
 - Extended till **2025-26** with a total outlay of **₹69,515.71 crore**.
 - **Risk coverage** from natural calamities for farmers across India.
- **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF):**
 - Aims to **promote chemical-free farming and soil health enhancement**.
 - Implemented with a **financial outlay of ₹2,481 crore**.
- **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds):**
 - A **seven-year mission** (2024-25 to 2030-31) with an outlay of **₹10,103 crore**.
 - Aims to **boost oilseed production from 39 to 69.7 million tonnes**.

5. Financial Inclusion and Support

- **Grameen Credit Score:**
 - A framework to cater to **Self Help Group (SHG) members and rural credit needs**.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Loan Limit Enhancement:**
 - Raised from **₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh**, benefiting **7.7 crore farmers**.
- **Customized Credit Cards for Micro Enterprises:**
 - **₹5 lakh limit** for enterprises registered on the **Udyam portal**.
 - Target to issue **10 lakh cards in the first year**.

5. Transformative Impact on Farmers and Rural Economy



The recent policy measures and budget allocations aim to achieve the following:

- **Economic Empowerment:**
 - Increased income through enhanced **agricultural productivity and livestock management**.
- **Sustainability:**
 - Emphasis on **natural farming and climate-resilient seeds**.
- **Inclusive Growth:**
 - Targeted support for **women and small-scale farmers**.
 - Promoting **cooperative movements** to benefit marginalized groups.
- **Skill and Infrastructure Development:**
 - Initiatives to improve **market access, storage, and processing facilities**.
 - Skill development programs to enhance **farmer awareness and technical know-how**.

The Indian government's initiatives towards transforming the agricultural and dairy sectors reflect a **strategic and holistic approach** to enhancing productivity, income, and rural prosperity. By

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

addressing challenges related to **infrastructure, finance, and sustainable practices**, these policies aim to build a **self-reliant and resilient rural economy**. The significant financial outlays and targeted schemes underscore the government's **commitment to modernizing agriculture**, thus enabling India to maintain its global leadership in **agriculture and dairy production** while empowering farmers at the grassroots level.

Prelims Practice Question :

With reference to the recent policy decisions and budgetary provisions for the agricultural and dairy sectors in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) aims to establish 10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies and generate over 3 lakh employment opportunities, with a majority of them benefiting women.
2. The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) aims to increase oilseed production from 39 million tonnes to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.
3. The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana focuses on enhancing cotton productivity and promoting extra-long staple cotton.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

1. Statement 1 is correct:

- The Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) does aim to establish **10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies** and generate **3.2 lakh employment opportunities**, with around **70% benefiting women**.

2. Statement 2 is correct:

- The **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)** targets an increase in oilseed production from **39 million tonnes to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31**.

3. Statement 3 is incorrect:

- The **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** does not focus on **cotton productivity**. Instead, it targets **100 low-productivity districts** with an emphasis on **crop diversification, irrigation, and storage improvements**.
- The **Cotton Productivity Mission** is a separate initiative aimed at boosting **cotton yield and sustainability**.

Hence, the correct answer is (a) **1 and 2 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Q. Discuss the recent initiatives taken by the Government of India to boost the agriculture and dairy sectors. How do these initiatives address the challenges faced by farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices?

The Government of India has launched several initiatives to boost the agriculture and dairy sectors, focusing on enhancing productivity, ensuring farmer

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

welfare, and promoting sustainability. One of the key initiatives is the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD), which aims to establish 10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies, generating over 3 lakh employment opportunities, with a significant focus on empowering women. This initiative seeks to enhance milk production and strengthen rural livelihoods by integrating modern dairy practices.



Another significant step is the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), aimed at increasing oilseed production from 39 million tonnes to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31. This mission addresses India's heavy reliance on edible oil imports by promoting domestic cultivation through improved seed varieties, efficient irrigation, and sustainable farming practices. By focusing on self-sufficiency, the mission aims to reduce the import bill and support farmers with better price realization.

The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana focuses on 100 low-productivity districts, aiming to improve crop diversification, irrigation, and storage infrastructure. This initiative helps farmers overcome challenges related to water scarcity, poor yield, and

post-harvest losses. Additionally, the launch of the Cotton Productivity Mission seeks to enhance the production of extra-long staple cotton through better agronomic practices and quality inputs, thereby supporting textile industry demands.

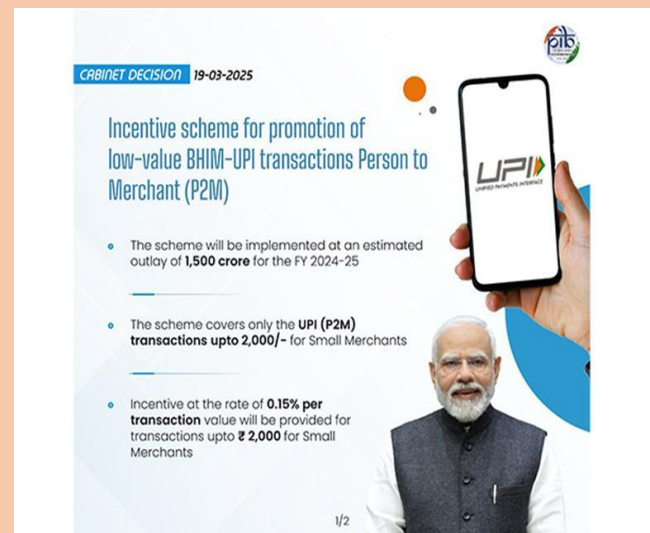
These initiatives collectively address core challenges such as low productivity, import dependency, and lack of modern infrastructure. By integrating technology and farmer-centric policies, the government aims to create a more resilient and sustainable agricultural ecosystem, promoting both rural development and national self-reliance.

Topic : Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (P2M)

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Economy

Source : Indian Express

Context :



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the **Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (Person to Merchant or P2M)** for the financial year 2024-25. The initiative aims to boost

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

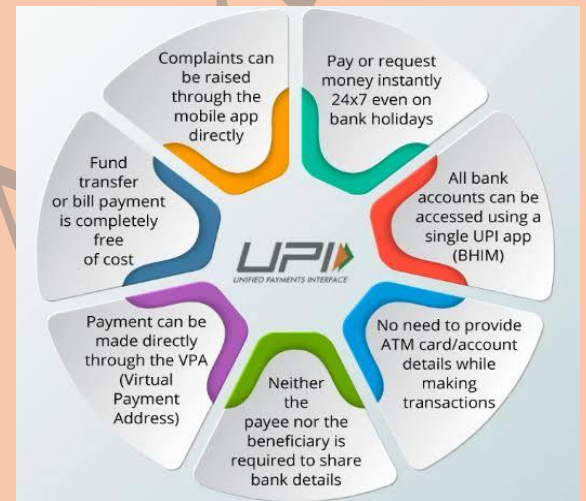
digital transactions among **small merchants**, fostering a **less-cash economy** and promoting **financial inclusion**.

Key Features of the Scheme:

- **Financial Outlay:**
 - The scheme has an estimated financial outlay of **₹1,500 crore**.
 - Implementation period: **April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025**.
- **Coverage:**
 - Targets **small merchants** by promoting **UPI transactions up to ₹2,000**.
 - Applies to **Person to Merchant (P2M)** transactions, focusing on **low-value payments**.
- **Zero MDR Policy:**
 - Both **small and large merchants** enjoy **zero Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** for transactions up to **₹2,000**.
 - Only **small merchants** receive an **incentive of 0.15% per transaction value**.
- **Incentive Disbursement:**
 - **80% of the admitted claim amount** by acquiring banks will be released without conditions.
 - The remaining **20%** will be contingent on meeting specific performance criteria:
 - **10% of the claim** will be granted if the **technical decline rate of the acquiring bank is below 0.75%**.
 - Another **10%** will be provided if the **system uptime exceeds 99.5%**.

Benefits of the Scheme:

- **Encourages Digital Payments:**
 - The scheme is designed to enhance the adoption of **digital payment methods** among **small merchants**.
 - Eliminates **additional charges**, making digital transactions more appealing and accessible.
- **Economic Formalization:**



- Supports the government's vision of a **less-cash economy** by digitizing small-value transactions.
- Enables **efficient cash flow management** and **financial inclusion**.
- **Reliability and Efficiency:**
 - Ensures **round-the-clock availability** of digital payment services by linking incentives to **system uptime**.
 - Encourages acquiring banks to maintain **high service standards**, minimizing **technical declines**.
- **Customer Convenience:**

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

- Offers **seamless, secure, and fast payment facilities** without extra charges.
- Reduces reliance on cash transactions, promoting a **cashless economy**.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- **Promoting BHIM-UPI:**
 - Strengthens the indigenous **BHIM-UPI platform**, aiming to reach **20,000 crore transactions** in FY 2024-25.
- **Robust Payment Infrastructure:**
 - Encourages stakeholders to build a **secure digital payments ecosystem**.
 - Enhances the **penetration of UPI in Tier 3 to Tier 6 cities**, especially in **rural and remote areas**.
- **Innovative Payment Solutions:**
 - Promotes **UPI 123PAY** for feature phone users and **UPI Lite/UPI LiteX** for offline transactions.
 - Expands the **reach of digital payment solutions** to underserved regions.

Background and Context:


Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)

WHERE BHIM IS AHEAD

- BHIM works on feature phones too, including on low-budget ones that lack Net connectivity. Just dial *99# and follow instructions. Currently, Free Charge, Oxigen and Paytm allow feature phone users to use their services, while Mobikwik is working on a similar feature.
- Since the app is UPI-based and linked directly to bank account, one does not need the same app for making payments. In order to receive money from a BHIM app user all one needs is a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) activated bank account.
- Allows users to track debit card transactions on the app, unlike other mobile wallets. The others only help you track expenses you have done using the wallet.
- Allows you to transact directly from your bank account, unlike other wallets, in which users need to add money first.
- While in cases of Paytm and other wallets, you need to transfer the wallet money to your bank manually, BHIM ensures that the money you receive from others in your wallet is transferred directly to your bank account.

WHERE BHIM LAGS

- Allows users to link only one bank at a time to the phone.
- Works only on the mobile number registered with your bank account.
- Unlike the existing mobile wallets that also support some local languages, BHIM works only in Hindi and English. The app will, however, be launched in regional languages soon.
- BHIM can be currently downloaded only from Google Playstore, and will be available on iOS soon. All other wallets are already available on iOS.
- While other bank wallets, including SBI Buddy and PNB Kitty, allow users to view statement of transaction details of both credit and debit cards, BHIM allows you to view only debit card transactions.
- The transaction limit of BHIM App is ₹20,000 now. SBI customers can avail an enhanced transaction limit upto ₹1,00,000 per month post KYC verification. The wallet limit for PNB customers is ₹50,000 per month.



- **Policy Changes:**

- The government has been promoting **digital payments** as part of its strategy to **enhance financial inclusion**.
- Earlier, MDR charges on digital transactions ranged up to **0.90% for debit cards** and **0.30% for UPI P2M transactions**.
- In **January 2020**, MDR on **RuPay Debit Cards** and **BHIM-UPI**

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

transactions was eliminated through legislative amendments, encouraging digital adoption.

failures, improving customer experience.

• Past Government Support:

- The government has provided incentives to acquiring banks to reduce the financial burden of promoting **digital payments**.
- In recent years, the payout for promoting **RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI transactions** has increased significantly, reflecting the government's commitment to a **digital payment ecosystem**.

Significance and Impact:

• Boost to Digital Economy:

- The scheme is crucial in **increasing digital payment adoption** among **small merchants**.
- It reduces the financial burden on merchants by maintaining a **zero MDR regime**.

• Economic Formalization and Ease of Business:

- Encourages **economic formalization** by digitizing small transactions.
- Supports the **Digital India mission** by fostering **financial inclusion and reducing cash dependency**.

• Service Reliability:

- Linking incentives to **technical performance** ensures **service continuity**, which is essential for building **public trust** in digital transactions.
- Encourages banks to maintain **high uptime and minimal technical**

Prelims

Practice

Question:

With reference to the **Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (P2M)**, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme incentivizes UPI transactions up to ₹2,000 made only by large merchants.
2. The scheme provides a 0.15% incentive per transaction for low-value payments made through BHIM-UPI.
3. The reimbursement of 20% of the admitted claim amount to acquiring banks is contingent upon maintaining high system uptime and low technical decline rates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer:

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The scheme incentivizes UPI transactions up to **₹2,000 made by small merchants**, not large merchants.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The scheme provides an incentive of **0.15% per transaction value** for low-value payments made through **BHIM-UPI**.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The reimbursement of 20% of the admitted claim amount to acquiring banks is conditional on maintaining high system uptime (greater than 99.5%) and low technical decline rates (less than 0.75%).

Therefore, the correct answer is (b) 2 and 3 only.

Mains Model Question:

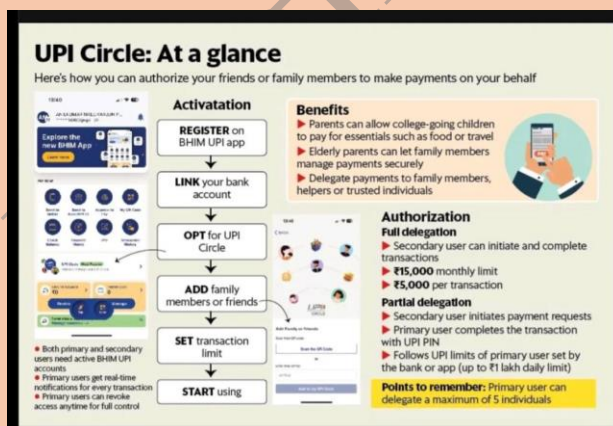
Q. Discuss the significance of the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (P2M) approved by the Union Cabinet for the financial year 2024-25. How does it contribute to the Government's vision of a digital and less-cash economy?

The Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (P2M) approved by the Union Cabinet aims to encourage the adoption of digital payments among small merchants. The scheme, with an estimated outlay of ₹1,500 crore for the financial year 2024-25, provides incentives for low-value transactions (up to ₹2,000) made through the BHIM-UPI platform. It offers a 0.15% incentive per transaction to acquiring banks, which in turn benefits small merchants by promoting seamless and cost-effective digital payment solutions.

The scheme plays a pivotal role in promoting financial inclusion by enabling small merchants, particularly in rural and remote areas, to adopt digital payment methods without incurring additional costs. As these merchants are often price-sensitive, incentivizing low-value transactions encourages them to embrace UPI as a viable payment option. Furthermore, the scheme aligns with the government's vision of a less-cash economy by formalizing transactions and creating a digital financial footprint.

By fostering the growth of digital payments, the scheme also contributes to strengthening the digital infrastructure and maintaining high system uptime and minimal technical declines. This ensures reliable and uninterrupted digital payment services, thereby enhancing user confidence in the UPI system. Additionally, the scheme supports the government's goal of achieving a target of 20,000 crore transactions in FY 2024-25, thus significantly boosting the digital economy.

Overall, the Incentive Scheme for Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions is a crucial step towards realizing a digitally empowered India. It not only benefits small merchants but also supports the broader objective of transitioning to a cashless economy, ultimately fostering transparency and efficiency in financial transactions.



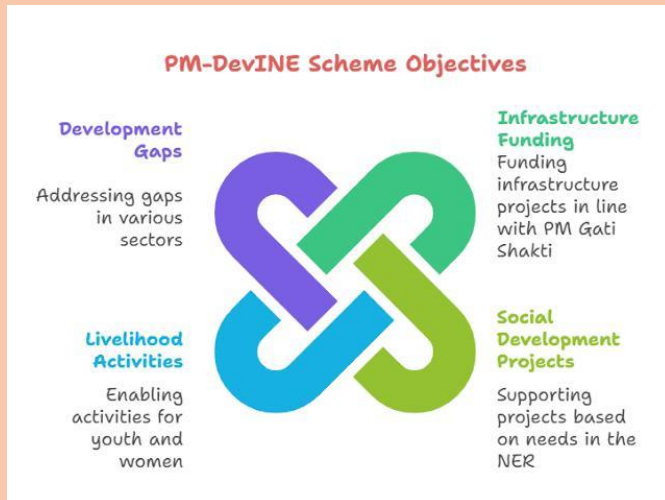
PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : PM-DevINE

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and

Source : The Hindu

Context :



The **PM-DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region)** is an ambitious scheme aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region (NER) of India. The scheme focuses on enhancing infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism, and livelihood opportunities, thereby fostering balanced regional development.

Key Features of PM-DevINE:

- **Implementation and Monitoring:**

- The projects under PM-DevINE are executed by the respective **State Governments or Implementing Agencies (IAs)** of the NER.
- The primary responsibility of monitoring lies with the **State Governments/IAs**, but the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** also closely monitors the progress.

- Monitoring is conducted at multiple levels, with officials from the Ministry and the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** conducting regular inspections of select projects.
- To ensure efficient monitoring, **Field Technical Support Units (FTSUs)** have been established in all eight North Eastern states. These units regularly interact with project IAs and maintain a project database on the **Gati Shakti Portal** of MDoNER.

- **Quality Control and Inspections:**

- To maintain quality standards, **Project Quality Monitors (PQM)** and **Third Party Technical Inspection (TPTI) Units** have been engaged. These units help in quality control and technical validation of the ongoing projects.
- The projects also undergo inspections by reputed institutes such as **IITs and NITs** for technical vetting of **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)**. This process ensures that the projects are **sustainable, eco-friendly, and aligned with targeted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Projects are sanctioned only after being vetted by institutes of repute and recommended by **State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC)** and **Empowered Inter-Ministerial Committee (EIMC)**.

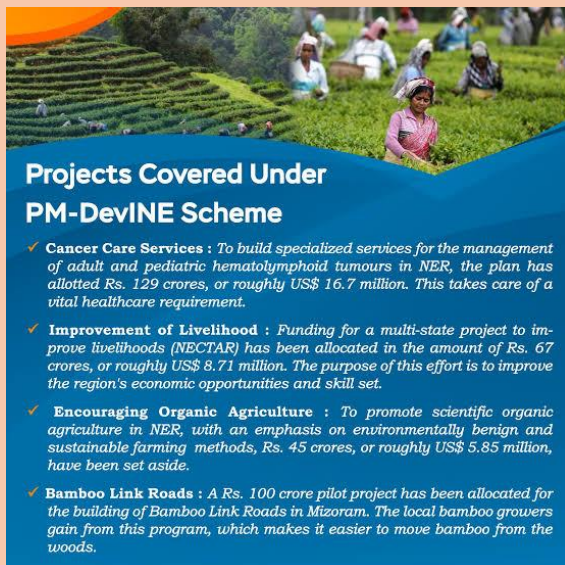
Focus Areas of PM-DevINE Projects:

- **Education and Health:** Projects related to improving educational facilities and

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

healthcare infrastructure are prioritized to enhance the human development index in the NER.

- **Tourism and Connectivity:** Strengthening connectivity through road and rail projects while promoting tourism helps boost local economies.
- **Livelihood and Employment:** The scheme also focuses on creating livelihood opportunities to reduce unemployment and enhance the economic well-being of the region.



Significance of PM-DevINE:

1. **Balanced Regional Development:** The scheme addresses the developmental disparities between the North Eastern Region and other parts of India.
2. **Enhanced Infrastructure:** By improving connectivity, healthcare, and educational facilities, the scheme contributes to holistic development.
3. **Employment Generation:** Projects related to tourism and local enterprise development

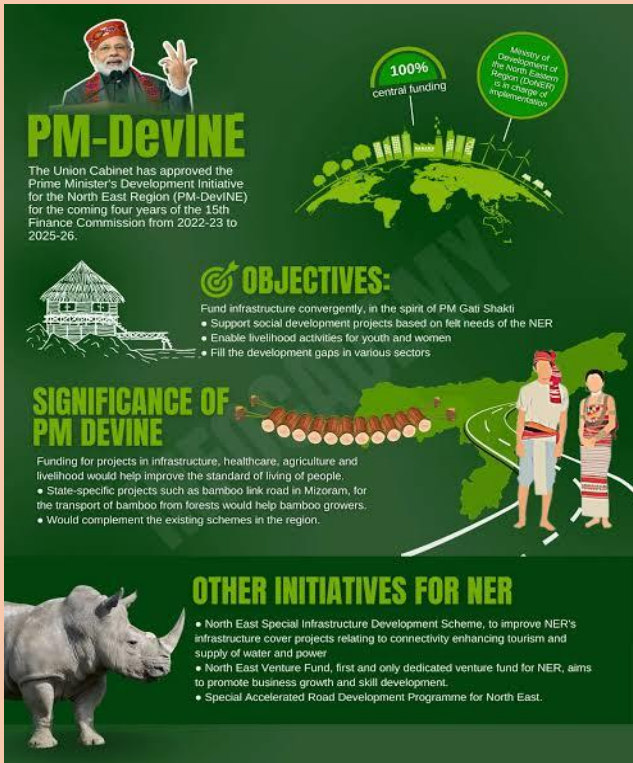
directly or indirectly improve employment opportunities.

4. **Sustainability and Environmental Protection:** Projects are carefully vetted to ensure minimal environmental impact and alignment with sustainable practices.
5. **Transparent Monitoring Mechanism:** The involvement of technical support units and third-party inspections ensures transparency and accountability.



PM-DevINE is an essential initiative for the inclusive growth of the North Eastern Region, addressing its unique challenges and unlocking its developmental potential. Through its focus on infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, and livelihood generation, the scheme aims to integrate the region more effectively with the mainstream economy. By emphasizing sustainability and transparent monitoring, PM-DevINE is set to transform the socio-economic landscape of the North East, paving the way for a prosperous and connected future.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)



Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the PM-DevINE scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The projects under PM-DevINE are executed solely by the Central Government.
2. The scheme focuses on enhancing infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism, and livelihood opportunities in the North Eastern Region (NER).
3. Project Quality Monitors (PQM) and Third Party Technical Inspection (TPTI) Units are involved in quality control and monitoring of the projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because the projects under PM-DevINE are executed by the **State Governments or Implementing Agencies (IAs)** of the North Eastern Region, not solely by the Central Government.
- Statement 2 is correct as the scheme focuses on **infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism, and livelihood opportunities** to enhance the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region.
- Statement 3 is correct as **Project Quality Monitors (PQM)** and **Third Party Technical Inspection (TPTI) Units** are engaged to ensure quality control and transparent monitoring of the projects.

Hence, the correct answer is **b) 2 and 3 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the significance of the PM-DevINE scheme in promoting sustainable development and economic growth in the North Eastern Region (NER) of India.

The PM-DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East) scheme plays a vital role in promoting sustainable development and economic growth in the North Eastern Region (NER) of India. This initiative aims to address the developmental gaps and challenges faced by the region, particularly

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

in terms of infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism, and livelihood generation.

CABINET DECISIONS
12-10-2022

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)

Cabinet approves PM-DevINE scheme for the remaining 4 years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26

- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding
- Will be implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- Will have an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore

1/2

CABINET DECISIONS
12-10-2022

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)

Cabinet approves PM-DevINE scheme for the remaining 4 years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26

Objectives

- Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti
- Support social development projects
- Enable livelihood activities for youth and women
- Address development gaps

2/2

One of the significant aspects of the scheme is its emphasis on sustainable and eco-friendly development. The projects sanctioned under PM-DevINE are carefully vetted to include sustainability plans and targeted Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). They also secure necessary statutory clearances, such as environmental and forest approvals, ensuring that development does not come at the cost of ecological balance.

The implementation of PM-DevINE projects is decentralized, with state governments and implementing agencies taking the lead. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC) actively monitor the progress through various mechanisms, including Field Technical Support Units (FTSU) and Project Quality Monitors (PQM). This approach not only enhances transparency but also ensures that the projects meet high-quality standards.

Furthermore, the scheme focuses on creating employment opportunities and fostering economic growth by investing in crucial sectors. By improving connectivity and infrastructure, it facilitates better market access and mobility, thereby boosting tourism and local economies. Additionally, investments in healthcare and education uplift human capital, contributing to the overall well-being and socio-economic progress of the region.

In conclusion, PM-DevINE serves as a strategic initiative to bridge the developmental disparities in NER while fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. Its emphasis on quality control, local participation, and multi-sectoral development makes it a transformative force in the region's growth trajectory.