

NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA)

Background:

Launched in 2014-15 under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**. Currently, it operates as a sub-scheme under the umbrella of **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMRKVY)**.

1. RAINFED AREA DEVELOPMENT (RAD)

- **Objective:** To promote **Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)** that are resilient to climate change.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - ₹2,119.84 crore released since 2014-15.
 - Covered **8.50 lakh hectares** and benefited **14.35 lakh farmers**.
 - Focuses on a holistic approach by integrating multi-cropping, horticulture, livestock, and fisheries to diversify risk.

2. PER DROP MORE CROP (PDMC)

- **Objective:** To enhance water-use efficiency at the farm level through **Micro-Irrigation** (Drip and Sprinkler systems).
- **Key Highlights:**
 - Approximately **109 lakh hectares** covered since 2015-16.
 - The government has set a target to bring an additional **100 lakh hectares** under micro-irrigation between **2025-26 and 2029-30** (Target: 20 lakh hectares per year).

3. SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (SHM)

- **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:** Launched in 2015 as a principal advisory tool for farmers.
- **Progress:** **25.79 crore Soil Health Cards** generated up to February 2026.
- **Impact:** Promotes balanced nutrient management and reduces the excessive use of fertilizers like Urea.
- **Data Point:** According to a **NITI Aayog (2025)** evaluation, 68.5% of surveyed farmers reported a significant improvement in soil health.

4. CLIMATE RESILIENT RESEARCH (ROLE OF ICAR)

- **NICRA (National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture):** Launched by ICAR in 2011 to develop and demonstrate location-specific climate-resilient technologies.
- **Results:** Between 2014 and 2025, **2,996 climate-resilient crop varieties** were released.
- **Vulnerability Assessment:** Out of 651 agricultural districts assessed, **310 districts** were identified as highly/very highly vulnerable, leading to the creation of District Agriculture Contingency Plans.

5. ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The NMSA framework directly supports the following UN SDGs:

1. **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Through sustainable food production systems.
2. **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Through water-saving technologies (PDMC).
3. **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Through adaptation and mitigation strategies against extreme weather events.

CRUCIAL FACTS FOR EXAMINATION:

- **Rainfed Agriculture:** Constitutes nearly **60%** of India's net sown area and contributes approximately **40%** of total food production.
- **NRAA (National Rainfed Area Authority):** An expert body that provides knowledge inputs for upgrading dry-land and rainfed farming.
- **Soil Fertility Mapping:** Being conducted in **6,954 model villages** to provide field-level nutrient information to farmers.

Conclusion: NMSA provides a consolidated approach to agricultural development by integrating soil health, water efficiency, and climate-resilient research to ensure long-term food security.

NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS 2025 (NPA-2025)

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards for 2025. This recognition is a key part of the government's strategy to incentivize local governance.

1. KEY STATISTICS & HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total Awardees:** 42 Panchayats selected nationwide.
- **Award Ceremony:** Scheduled for June 3, 2026, in New Delhi.
- **Top Performing States:**
 - **Karnataka:** 6 Awards (Highest in the country).
 - **Andhra Pradesh & Odisha:** 5 Awards each.
- **Financial Incentives:** Ranging from **₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore** per awardee, depending on the category and tier (Gram, Block, or District).

2. AWARD CATEGORIES & CLASSIFICATION

The awards are conferred under two primary frameworks:

A. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY PANCHAYAT SATAT VIKAS PURASKAR (DDUPSVP)

Recognizes Gram Panchayats based on their performance in **9 Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes:**

1. Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods.
2. Healthy Panchayat.
3. Child-Friendly Panchayat.
4. Water-Sufficient Panchayat.
5. Clean and Green Panchayat.

6. Self-Sufficient Infrastructure.
7. Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat.
8. Panchayat with Good Governance.
9. Women-Friendly Panchayat.

B. NANAJI DESHMUKH SARVOTTAM PANCHAYAT SATAT VIKAS PURASKAR (NDSPSVP)

Conferred to the overall best-performing Panchayats at the **District, Block, and Gram** levels.

3. NOTABLE WINNERS FROM TELUGU STATES (AP & TELANGANA)

Panchayat Name	Block / District	Category	Rank
Srungavaram (AP)	Nathavaram, Visakhapatnam	Good Governance	1
Bokkasam Palem (AP)	Srikalahasti, Tirupati	Women-Friendly	1
Chemmullapalli (AP)	Khajipet, Y.S.R. Kadapa	Poverty-Free Livelihoods	2
Kuppam (AP)	Chittoor	Best Block Panchayat	3
Gundamala (AP)	Kotha Patnam, Prakasam	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure	3
Mothukupalle (TS)	Kotepally, Vikarabad	Good Governance	3
Fasalwadi (TS)	Sangareddy	Women-Friendly	3

4. CRUCIAL FACTS FOR EXAMINATION

- **Scheme Framework:** These awards are a component of the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** under the "Incentivization of Panchayats" (IoP) scheme.

- **Assessment Tool:** The winners are selected based on the **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0** scores.
- **Viksit Bharat@2047:** The awards aim to reinforce the role of Panchayats in achieving national priorities at the grassroots level.
- **Top District Award: Sepahijala (Tripura)** secured Rank 1 in the Best District Panchayat category, receiving ₹5 crore.

CONCLUSION

For aspirants, special attention should be given to the **Rank 1** achievements of Andhra Pradesh in the "Good Governance" and "Women-Friendly" categories, as these are high-probability questions for regional and national exams.

JAN SURAKSHA SCHEMES - 11 YEARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY (2015 - 2026)

Launch Date: May 9, 2015 (Launched by PM Narendra Modi).

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Finance.

Objective: To provide affordable insurance and pension cover to the unorganized sector and vulnerable sections of society.

1. PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

This is a **Life Insurance** scheme.

- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged **18 to 50 years** having a bank/post office account. (Risk cover continues up to age 55).
- **Premium:** ₹436 per annum (less than ₹2 per day).
- **Benefit:** ₹2 Lakh payable on the death of the subscriber due to any cause.
- **Latest Stats (as of April 2026):**
 - Cumulative Enrolments: **27.43 Crore**.
 - Claims Settled: Over ₹21,500 Crore for 10.7 lakh families.

2. PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

This is an **Accidental Insurance** scheme.

- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged **18 to 70 years**.
- **Premium:** ₹20 per annum.
- **Benefits:**
 - Accidental Death or Total Irrecoverable Disability: **₹2 Lakh**.
 - Partial Disability: **₹1 Lakh**.
- **Latest Stats (as of April 2026):**
 - Cumulative Enrolments: **58.09 Crore**.
 - Claims Settled: Nearly ₹3,660 Crore for 1.84 lakh families.

3. ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

This is a **Pension** scheme aimed at the unorganized sector.

- **Administered By:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**).
- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged **18 to 40 years**. (Income tax payers are **not** eligible to join since Oct 2022).
- **Benefit:** Guaranteed minimum monthly pension of **₹1,000, ₹2,000, ₹3,000, ₹4,000, or ₹5,000** after attaining age 60, based on contributions.
- **Post-Death Benefit:** Pension is payable to the spouse, and upon the death of both, the accumulated corpus is returned to the nominee.
- **Latest Stats (as of April 2026):**
 - Cumulative Enrolments: **9.04 Crore**.
 - Female Representation: Approximately 49%.

KEY FACTS FOR EXAMINATION (EXAM FOCUS):

- **Mode of Payment:** Premiums/Contributions are deducted via '**Auto-debit**' from the subscriber's bank account.
- **Coverage Period:** The insurance cover is for one year, from **1st June to 31st May**.
- **Jan Suraksha Portal:** An online portal launched to simplify the digitisation of enrolments and claims.
- **Inclusion:** A significant focus of these schemes is to provide social security to **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** account holders.
- **Pro-rata Premium:** For PMJJBY, if a person joins mid-year, they pay a pro-rata premium based on the quarter of enrolment.

IOS SAGAR: INDIAN VESSEL'S VISIT TO BANGLADESH (MAY 2026)

Context: As part of the 'IOS SAGAR 2026' multinational deployment, the Indian Ocean Ship **IOS Sagar** arrived at **Chattogram**, Bangladesh, on May 08, 2026.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

- **Objective:** To strengthen maritime cooperation and professional ties between the **Indian Navy** and the **Bangladesh Navy**.
- **Escort Vessel:** Upon entering Bangladesh waters, IOS Sagar was received and escorted into the harbor by the Bangladesh Navy Ship **BNS Ali Haider (F17)**.
- **Key Activities:**
 - Tribute at the **Chattogram War Cemetery**.
 - Visit to the **Issa Khan Training Complex** and the **Bangladesh Naval Academy**.
 - Exchange of views on training practices and capacity building.
- **MAHASAGAR Initiative:** This visit aligns with India's vision of regional cooperation and mutual growth in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) under the **MAHASAGAR** initiative.

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY FOR EXAMINATIONS:

Term	Significance
IOS SAGAR	Indian Ocean Ship (Participating in Multinational Deployment).
BNS Ali Haider (F17)	The Bangladesh Navy frigate that received the Indian vessel.
MAHASAGAR	India's high-level virtual interaction for maritime security and cooperation in the IOR.
Chattogram	A major strategic port city in Bangladesh (formerly known as Chittagong).

MAHARANA PRATAP JAYANTI - EXAMINATION PERSPECTIVE

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Birth:** Born on May 9, 1540, at Kumbhalgarh Fort in Rajasthan.
- **Lineage:** He was the 13th King of the Sisodia Rajput clan of Mewar. He was the son of Maharana Udai Singh II and Rani Jaiwanta Bai.
- **Coronation:** He ascended the throne of Mewar in 1572 at Gogunda.

2. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: THE BATTLE OF HALDIGHATI

- **Date:** June 18, 1576.
- **Conflict:** Fought between the forces of Maharana Pratap and the Mughal army led by Raja Man Singh I (on behalf of Emperor Akbar).
- **Outcome:** Despite the Mughals having superior numbers, Maharana Pratap did not surrender and transitioned to guerrilla warfare. He lost his loyal horse, 'Chetak', during this battle.
- **Significance:** He is remembered in history for his refusal to accept Akbar's suzerainty and his lifelong struggle for the independence of his motherland.

3. GUERRILLA WARFARE

- He was an expert in using the Aravalli mountain ranges for strategic ambushes.
- His tactics later inspired other great leaders, including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

4. BATTLE OF DEWAIR (1582)

- Col. James Tod famously referred to this battle as the '**Marathon of Mewar**'.
- Maharana Pratap achieved a decisive victory here, reclaiming most of the lost territories of Mewar from the Mughals.

KEY FACTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

- **Capital:** Chavand served as his capital during his later years.
- **Famous Steed:** Chetak.
- **Contemporary Mughal Emperor:** Akbar.
- **Lunar Calendar:** His birth anniversary is also celebrated as per the Hindu calendar on Jyeshtha Shukla Tritiya.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE JAYANTI (POCHISHE BOISHAKH) - EXAMINATION PERSPECTIVE

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- **Titles:** Gurudev, Kaviguru, Biswakabi.
- **Nobel Prize:** He was the first Indian (and the first Asian) to win the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913** for his work '**Gitanjali**'.

2. ARCHITECT OF NATIONAL ANTHEMS

- He is the only poet to have composed the national anthems for two nations:
 1. **India:** Jana Gana Mana.
 2. **Bangladesh:** Amar Sonar Bangla (written in 1905 during the Bengal Partition).
- The national anthem of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Matha) was also heavily inspired by his compositions.

3. KEY INSTITUTIONS - SHANTINIKETAN

- Founded the **Shantiniketan** ashram in West Bengal in 1901.
- In 1921, it evolved into the **Visva-Bharati University**.
- **Current Affairs Update:** In 2023, Shantiniketan was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.

4. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Renunciation of Knighthood:** He returned his 'Knighthood' (Sir) title in 1919 as a protest against the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**.
- **Relationship with Gandhiji:** Tagore was the one who bestowed the title '**Mahatma**' upon Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. (In return, Gandhi addressed him as 'Gurudev').
- **Swadeshi Movement:** During the Partition of Bengal (1905), he used the 'Raksha Bandhan' festival as a symbol of unity between Hindus and Muslims.

5. LITERARY AND ARTISTIC LEGACY

- **Major Works:** Gitanjali, Gora, Ghare-Baire (The Home and the World), Chokher Bali, and The Post Office.
- **Art:** He took up painting at the age of 60 and created over 3,000 artworks.
- **Music:** His unique genre of music is known as '**Rabindra Sangeet**'.

QUICK FACTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

Attribute	Details
Nobel Prize Year	1913 (Literature)
University Founded	Visva-Bharati (Shantiniketan)
Notable Novels	Gora, Ghare-Baire, Gitanjali
Renounced Title	Knighthood (1919)
Birth Anniversary	Pochishe Boishakh (25th day of Boishakh month)

WEST BENGAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS - CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL ASPECTS

Following the swearing-in of Suwendu Adhikari as the new Chief Minister of West Bengal, here are the key constitutional and political points analyzed for competitive exams (UPSC, SSC, State PSC):

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

- **Constitutional Provision:** According to **Article 164** of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor.
- **Oath of Office:** The Governor administers the oath of office and secrecy to the Chief Minister and other members of the Council of Ministers.
- **Accountability:** The Council of Ministers, headed by the Chief Minister, is **collectively responsible** to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

2. SIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- **91st Constitutional Amendment Act (2003):** This amendment mandates that the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a State's Council of Ministers shall not exceed **15%** of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly.
- **Minimum Strength:** The number of Ministers, including the CM, shall not be less than 12.

3. WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - KEY STATISTICS

- **Total Seats:** 294.
- **Majority Mark:** 148 seats.
- **Role of the Governor:** The Governor's role is crucial during the formation of a new government or in the event of a constitutional crisis.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OTHER MINISTERS

- Other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the **advice of the Chief Minister**.
- In the recent reshuffle, leaders like Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, and Nisith Pramanik were inducted into the cabinet.

QUICK FACTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

Attribute	Details
State	West Bengal
New Chief Minister	Suvendu Adhikari
Relevant Article	Article 164
Appointing Authority	Governor of the State
Assembly Strength	294 Seats
Tenure	During the pleasure of the Governor (Usually 5 years)

STATIC GK CONNECTION (POTENTIAL EXAM QUESTIONS):

1. **Which Article deals with the appointment of the CM?** (Ans: Article 164)
2. **To whom does the CM submit his resignation?** (Ans: The Governor)
3. **To whom is the State Council of Ministers collectively responsible?** (Ans: State Legislative Assembly)

