

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 10-08-2024

### Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

*Cabinet recently approves an amendment in Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana for providing financial support to Advanced Biofuel Projects.*

- **PM JI-VAN Yojana** - Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana.
- It is a scheme aimed at promoting the production of **cellulosic ethanol or 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation (2G) bioethanol** from lignocellulosic biomass and another renewable feedstock.

*Lignocellulosic biomass (LCB) is a heterogeneous polymeric material that is made up of carbohydrates, lignin, and other components.*

- **Launched in** - 2019.
- **Timeline** - 5 years. (recently extended upto 2028-29).
- **Implemented by** - Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Objectives**
  - Establishing commercially viable projects for 2G ethanol production,
  - Providing farmers with a direct income source from their agricultural waste, and
  - Addressing environmental pollution concerns.
- The initiative is supported financially through **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**.

*Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is a financial support mechanism by the government to encourage private sector participation in infrastructure projects that are financially unviable but have significant economic and social importance.*

- The ethanol produced by the scheme beneficiaries will be mandatorily supplied to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to benefit under the Ethanol

Blending Programme (EBP).

## Recent amendments

- The modified scheme extends timeline for implementation of scheme by **5 years** i.e. till 2028-29 and includes advanced biofuels produced from lignocellulosic feedstocks.
- Bolt-on plants & Brownfield projects would also now be eligible to leverage their experience and improve their viability.
- To promote multiple technologies and multiple feedstocks, preference would now be given to project proposals with new technologies and innovations in the sector.

## Reference

[PIB | Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana](#)

## Investor Education and Protection Fund

*The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, recently proposes simultaneous and successive nominations of up to 4 nominees.*

- The fund is designed to promote investor education and safeguard the interests of investors, and it is responsible for making refunds of unclaimed shares and dividends.

*Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund collects unclaimed deposits from banks in India including savings, fixed deposits, current accounts, and more, that have been inactive for 10 years or longer.*

- **Established in** - 2016.
- It is established under Section 125 of the ***Companies Act, 2013***.
- The unpaid or unclaimed amounts belonging to a company's investors are pooled and credited into the IEPF.
- **Administered by** - IEPF Authority consisting of a chairperson, a chief executive officer and such other members, not exceeding 7, appointed by the Central Government.
- The IEPF Authority maintains separate accounts and other relevant records relating to the funds as prescribed after consultation with the ***Comptroller and Auditor-General of India***.

- The funds of the IEPF are the amount accumulated/credited to the IEPF as per the provisions of the Act.
- The IEPF Authority will utilize and spend the money of the IEPF funds only for the purposes mentioned in the Act.
- **Audited by** - The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India will audit the accounts of the IEPF.
- The IEPF Authority will forward the audited accounts with the audit report annually to the Central Government.
- The IEPF Authority will also put together its annual report for every financial year, giving a complete summary related to its activities during the year and forward the copy to the Central Government.
- The Central Government will lay down the annual report by the IEPF Authority and the audit report given by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India before each House of the Parliament.

## Reference

[IEPF | About IEPF](#)

## MDR-TB & XDR-TB

*India is getting ready to roll out BPaL (bedaquiline, pretomanid, and linezolid) regimen for all multi/extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis patients.*

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by a germ called ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***.
- Tuberculosis is spread from human to human through the release of droplets from the lungs or airways of an infected person. air when a person sneezes, coughs, or breathes.
- This spread can happen through, coughing, sneezing, singing, playing a wind instrument, and talking (to a lesser extent).

	MDR-TB	XDR-TB
<b>Definition</b>	Multi-Drug resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is resistant to at least two of the main "first-line" drugs used to treat TB.	TB may also be extensively drug-resistant (XDR-TB) which are strains that are resistant to two or more of the "2 <sup>nd</sup> -line" drugs.

<b>Causes</b>	It is a form of TB disease caused by a strain of <b><i>M. tuberculosis</i></b> complex, resistant to rifampicin and isoniazid.	It is a more serious form of MDR-TB that does not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs.
<b>Treatment</b>	MDR-TB is treatable and curable with second-line drugs like Bedaquiline.	It often leaves patients without any further treatment options.
<b>Status</b>	In 2022, an estimated 410,000 people developed MDR-TB globally, however, the treatment success rate for MDR-TB is still low.	The global cure rate for XDR-TB is much lower at 20% and it is associated with a 44% death rate.
<b>Diagnosis</b>	DST (culture or molecular method) is necessary for early diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB or XDR-TB.	DST (culture or molecular method) is necessary for early diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB or XDR-TB.

## Reference

[The Hindu | New Treatment regimen for drug-resistant TB](#)

## PMAY-U 2.0

*Recently, the Union Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister, approved Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0.*

- **About-** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 Scheme
- **Nodal agency-** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Goal-** Provide all-weather pucca houses to eligible urban beneficiaries.
- **Purpose-** Construct, purchase, or rent affordable houses.
- **Target-** 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.
- **Duration-** 5 years.
- **Implementation-** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for all components except ISS (Central Sector Scheme).
- **Credit risk guarantee**
  - Corpus fund raised from ₹1,000 crore to ₹3,000 crore.
  - Management Transfer from National Housing Bank (NHB) to National Credit Guarantee Company (NCGTC).
- **Eligibility criteria-** EWS, LIG, Middle Income Group (MIG) families with no pucca house.
  - **EWS-** Up to Rs.3 lakh/year.

- **LIG**- Rs.3 lakh to Rs.6 lakh/year.
- **MIG**- Rs. 6 lakh to Rs.9 lakh/year.
- **Scheme coverage**- All statutory towns (Census 2011 and subsequent), Notified Planning Areas, and others under state legislation.

## PMAY-U 2.0 Components

- **Beneficiary-led construction (BLC)**- Financial aid for EWS families to build new houses on vacant land.
- States/UTs may provide land rights (pattas).
- **Affordable housing in partnership (AHP)**- Financial aid for EWS to own homes built with various partnerships.
- **Affordable rental housing (ARH)**- Provide rental housing for urban migrants, workers, and others.
  - Convert government-funded vacant houses to ARH.
  - Construct and maintain rental housing by private/public agencies.
- **Interest subsidy scheme (ISS)**- 4% interest subsidy on home loans up to ₹25 lakh.

## References

1. [PIB | PMAY-U 2.0](#)
2. [The Hindu | PMAY-Urban 2.0](#)

## Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)

*Gujarat, with over 70 AES deaths recently, could benefit from Bihar's experience in managing this deadly disease.*

- **About**- AES, including Japanese Encephalitis (JE), is a neurologic condition caused by various pathogens like viruses, bacteria, fungi, and toxins.
- **Other names**- Known as 'Chamki Fever' or Litchi Virus in India.
- **Outbreaks**- JE outbreaks typically align with the monsoon period due to increased mosquito density, while other encephalitis viruses, especially enteroviruses, occur year-round as waterborne diseases.
- **Affected age group**- Primarily affects children under 15 years.
- **Symptoms**- Sudden fever, neurological issues like confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma.
- **Endemic zones**- Predominantly found in Bihar, Assam, eastern UP, West Bengal, and some areas of Tamil Nadu.

- **Litchi link-** Outbreaks in North and East India have been associated with children consuming unripe litchis on an empty stomach, leading to hypoglycemia and severe health issues.
- **Prevention-** Improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and reduce mosquito density.
- **Vaccination-** Since 2013, the Government of India has included 2 doses of JE vaccine in the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) for children at 9 months and 16-24months.

## References

1. [Down to Earth | Acute Encephalitis Syndrome \(AES\)](#)
2. [NIH | Acute Encephalitis Syndrome \(AES\)](#)

