

Government Schemes - January 2017

Central Government Schemes

Govt gets 45 initial bids for more than 200 regional routes

i. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received **45 initial proposals** coming in from **11 bidders** covering more than 200 regional routes under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) said by Civil Aviation Minister **P. Ashok GajapathiRaju** on January 18, 2017.

ii. These proposals will cover 65 airports out of of which 52 are unserved and 13 are underserved airports.

Union Cabinet Approves to Launch Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017

As a part of government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security the Union Cabinet has given its post-facto approval to launch **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 (VPBY 2017)** on January 24, 2017.

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** would be the implementing body of the scheme during the current financial year.
- The scheme aims to provide social security to elderly persons aged 60 years during their old age.
- Under the scheme, an assured pension with guaranteed rate of return of **8% per annum** would be provided for a period of **ten years**. Besides, the nominee would have an option for pension on a monthly / quarterly / halfyearly and annual basis.

Telangana and Assam Joins UDAY Scheme

i. **Assam and Telangana** signed a pact with the **Power Minister, PiyushGoyal** to join the **UDAY scheme** on January 4, 2017 in New Delhi in a bid to improve the performance of state run power distribution companies (DISCOM).

ii. Since the launch of the UDAY Scheme, the Power Ministry has signed Agreements with 18 states to join the Scheme.

Tamil Nadu Becomes 21st State to Join UDAY

The **Tamil Nadu** Government signed anMoU with the Ministry of Power on January 9, 2017 to join the **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)** scheme which aims at reviving the financial turnaround of debt stressed electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs). With the agreement Tamil Nadu has become the **21st state to join UDAY scheme**.

Entrepreneurship Development Scheme inaugurated in Mizoram

The **Entrepreneurship Development Scheme** (EDS) was launched under the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) by **Lalmalsawma** in Mizoram, Mizoram Chief Secretary on January 19, 2017.

- ◆ The State government has allocated **Rs.2 Crore** for New Economic Development Policy (NEDP)

Civil Aviation Ministry Announces First Flight under UDAN Scheme to Take off in February 2017

- i. The **Minister of State for Civil Aviation JayantSinha**, on January 19, 2017 announced that the under **UDAN (UdeDeshKeAamNaagrik) Scheme** is likely to take off in February 2017.
- ii. Presently there are 75 operational airport in the country and after the implementation of UDAN scheme 43 new airports will be added.

Cabinet approves Amendment in Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS)

Prime Minister ShriNarendraModi approved amendment in the **Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme** (M-SIPS) to attract investment in electronics manufacturing.

- The amendment aims to further incentivize investments in Electronic Sector and further move towards the goal of **'Net Zero imports' in electronics by 2020**.

State Government Schemes

Kerala CM Inaugurates e-Health Kerala scheme at Peroorkada Hospital

- i. The Chief Minister of Kerala, **PinarayiVijayan** launched the IT Project, **e-Health Kerala** which is named **JeevanRekha** on January 25, 2017 at Peroorkada Model Government Hospital.
- ii. The project has been developed by the Health Department in association with the state IT Mission. It aims to create a centralized database that will have the complete healthcare records of all the citizens in the state through the digitization of government hospitals.

Arunachal launches 'DulariKanya' scheme to check infant mortality

- i. **Arunachal Pradesh** launched '**DulariKanya**', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state.
- ii. **Governor V Shanmuganathan** launched the scheme, under which the government will deposit **Rs 20,000** in the bank account of a girl child, born in any government hospital.
- iii. It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains 18 years of her age.

Madhya Pradesh Launches Digital Dakiya Scheme For Digital Literacy

- i. **Madhya Pradesh** government inaugurated a first of its kind scheme of the country, **"Digital Dakiya"** in Indore on January 14, 2017 to **encourage cashless transaction** in the state.

ii .Under the scheme, a **Digital Postman** referred as Digital Dakiya would visit door to door in both urban and rural areas to **train households** specially women and elderly people about digitized transactions

Anandam Scheme Launched in Madhya Pradesh to Help Poor

i. Madhya Pradesh government lead by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched **Aanandam programme** of the newly-formed Aanand Department.

ii. Aim : To help the **poor and the needed person**.

iii. Aanandam scheme will help the poor people to get the **daily needs** like like jackets, sarees, blankets, utensils, school bags from the wealthy people. For this particular place is allocated in each district to collect this items.

Chandrababu Naidu Launches ArogyaRaksha Scheme to cover APL Families

Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched a new health scheme, **ArogyaRaksha Scheme** on January 1, 2017 at TummalapalliKalakshetram in **Vijayawada** to provide the medical treatment to the people of the Above Poverty Line at Rs. 1200 premium per annum.

Aim: To achieve the ambitious target of making the state among **top three best developed state** in the country by **2020** and **first best developed state by 2050**.

Features of ArogyaRaksha Scheme

The ArogyaRaksha Scheme would provide health insurance coverage to about **35 Lakh Above Poverty Line** families in the state.

- Under the scheme, an end-to-end cashless service would be rendered to a total of **1044 diseases** covered under the scheme. Unlike other insurance schemes pre existing disease will not be considered.
- To avail the ArogyaRaksha scheme benefits, every individual of the family would be required to pay **Rs. 100 per month** or **Rs. 1200 per annum** as policy premium.
- A total of **432 hospitals** including 80 government general hospitals have been enrolled for the implementation of the scheme.
- The scheme would provide an **insurance coverage** of up to **Rs. 2 Lakh per annum** and free treatment in any 432 corporate hospitals in the state.

The scheme is estimated to cost **Rs 160.56 crore** and the government would sanction the necessary allocations for the scheme in the budget session 2017-2018.

Telangana to Provide Monetary Help of Rs. 1000 to Single Women in State

i. The **Telangana Government** led by **Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao**, announced a new scheme on **January 6, 2017**, to provide financial assistance of **Rs. 1000 per month** to poor single women in the state.



ii. Making an announcement in the Legislative Assembly, the CM informed that the new scheme will be implemented from **April 2017** and necessary funds will be allocated in the upcoming budget.

Government Schemes - February 2017

Central Government Schemes

Sikkim becomes 22nd State to join UDAY

- i. India's first **fully organic state Sikkim** has joined the union government's Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) as **22 nd state** , the so called **UDAY** will in turn hand it an overall benefit of Rs 356 crore.
- ii. Upon this decision Sikkim has inked MoU with the union government under the Scheme UjwalDiscom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) for operational improvement of the state's Power Distribution Department.
- iii. The MoU will help in improving operational efficiency of the power distribution and reduction in AT&C and transmission losses to 15 per cent and 3.50 per cent, respectively, is possibly to bring in added revenue of around Rs 328 crore.

Commerce Ministry approves Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops

- i. The **Union Ministry of Commerce** under NirmalaSitharaman has approved the pilot **Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC)** on February 8, 2017 to protect the growers of plantation crops from the twin risks.
- ii. Firstly the risks of **yield loss** due to adverse weather parameters, pest attacks etc and secondly **income loss** caused by fall in international/domestic prices.
- iii. The Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC) is an improved version of Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme, 2003 which was closed on September 30, 2013.
- iv .RISPC will be implemented on a **pilot basis for two years** covering tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom and tobacco in eight districts in West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu by the commodity boards.
- v. On the basis of performance of the pilot project the Ministry will consider for extension of the scheme to other districts.

Cabinet approves Rs. 2,351.38 crore 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' for digital literacy

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the '**Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA)** on February 8, 2017 to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by **March 2019**.

- The outlay for **PMGDISHA is Rs.2,351.38 crore**.The project will be carried out in a phased manner. In the FY 2016-17, 25 lakh candidates will be trained under the programme. Further 275 lakh in the FY 2017-18 and 300 lakh in the FY 2018-19 would be trained.
- The programme would be implemented under the overall supervision of Ministry of Electronics and IT in active collaboration with States/UTs through their designated State Implementing Agencies, District e-Governance Society (DeGS), etc.
- To ensure that the programme covers overall geographical area, each of the 250,000 Gram Panchayats have been directed to register an average of 200-300 candidates.
- The scheme will enable the rural people to operate computers and other digital devices like tablets, smart phones, send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, undertaking cashless transactions, etc.

Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar Adopts Donja Village in Maharashtra For Transformation

i. Indian Cricket Icon **Sachin Tendulkar** is set to adopt his second village in **Maharashtra** for transformation after successfully transforming the lives of villagers

in **PuttamrajuKandriga in Andhra Pradesh** which he adopted in 2016 at an investment of about Rs. 6 crore.

ii. The RajyaSabha MP Sachin Tendulkar is adopting **Donja village in Osmanabad, Maharashtra** under the **SansadAdarsh Gram Yojna** to transform the undeveloped village into a model one.

iii. Tendulkar has sanctioned over **Rs 4 crore** from his **Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund** for development of Donja. The total amount will be spent on the **development of a school** which is over **70-years-old**.

iv .The school will also be replaced with a new school building, a water supply scheme, concrete roads, banking services, to set up micro cash-recycler ATMs and a sewage line attached to the same.

v. Five special village level meetings have been held since the village was adopted by Tendulkar in which the women were also given the opportunity to give their suggestions for the village transformation.

vi. Out of 610 households in Donja, 400 did not have toilets but after Tendulkar's adoption, nearly 231 toilets have been built and are in use.

SC Introduces Middle Income Group Scheme to Provide Legal Services at Affordable Rate

- i. The Supreme Court has introduced the **Middle Income Group (MIG) Scheme** for the middle income group people whose gross income is not exceeding **Rs. 60,000 per month or Rs. 7.5 lakh per annum**.
- ii. The **MIG Legal Aid Scheme** is a self-supporting scheme which aims to provide legal services to the middle income group who cannot afford the **expensive litigation** in the Supreme Court.
- iii. Under the scheme, middle class people who have the desire to avail the benefit of the Scheme shall have to fill up the form prescribed and accept all the terms and conditions contained within and thus can avail the services of the society for a **nominal amount**.

Key Features of the Scheme

- ◆ Under the scheme a Supreme Court **Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society (SCMIGLAS)** would be set up as a governing body.
- ◆ The society will have **Chief Justice-of-India** as Patron-in-Chief, **Attorney General for India** as Ex-officio Vice-President, **Solicitor General of India** as Secretary and other **senior advocates** of the Supreme Court as its members.
- ◆ The applicants will have to pay a sum of **Rs 500** to the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society (SCMIGLAS) as service charges.
- ◆ Besides, the applicant shall also have to deposit the fee as indicated by the Secretary which will be in accordance with the schedule attached to the scheme.
- ◆ The **Secretary** will also be responsible to **register the case** under the MIG Legal Aid Scheme and further proceed to forward the papers to the Advocate-on-Record or the Arguing Counsel or Senior Counsel for opinion.
- ◆ If **Advocate-on-Record** is satisfied with the case to be proceeded forward then only the Society will consider that the applicant is entitled to legal aid.
- ◆ If the advocate who is appointed under the scheme is found negligent in the conduct of the case entrusted to him then he will be required to return the brief together with the fee received by him from the applicant under the scheme.
- ◆ The society will not be responsible for the negligent conduct of the case and the entire responsibility will be that of the advocate. The name of the Advocate will be struck off from the panel prepared under the scheme.

CCEA approves 40,000-mw solar park scheme

The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) okayed revised norms for the Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects with the production target **enhancement to 40,000 MW from the present 20,000 MW**.

- The enhanced target capacity would ensure development of at least 50 solar parks each with a capacity of 500 MW and above in various parts of the country.



- In the recent **development smaller parks in Himalayan** and other hilly States where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of the difficult terrain, will also be considered under the scheme.

Government Clears that **BetiBachaoBetiPadhao** has no provision for cash transfer component

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has clarified that there is no provision for **individual cash transfer** component in **BetiBachaoBetiPadhao** scheme.
- The Scheme simply focuses on generating awareness about girl child and changing the mindsets and deep rooted patriarchy of the society and improve the efficiency of welfare services for girls.
- The clarification came after the report that some unauthorised sites, organisations, NGOs and individuals were distributing forms in the name of cash incentive under the scheme.
- The centre said that there is no cash incentive associated in any form for B3P scheme and distribution of such forms was completely illegal.

Cabinet approves **Extension of tenure of loans under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) of PMAY from 15 to 20 years**

- The **Union cabinet** led by PM Modi has given its approval on February 1, 2017 to extend the tenure of loans under the **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)** under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission from the current 15 years to 20 years.
- Besides the scheme has been introduced for the **middle income group (MIG)** category and an initial allocation of **Rs. 1000 crore** has been made at Budgetary Estimate stage in 2017-18 for the proposed CLSS for MIG.
- For **economically weaker sections of society/Lower Income Group (LIG)**, the scheme has been named as CLSS.
- The **Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs)** that have signed an MoU with the Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs), under the CLSS of PMAY (Urban) have also been directed to extend the necessary conditions of their MoU to CLSS for MIG with appropriate changes as applicable.
- The schemes aim to ensure greater participation amongst the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), LIG and MIG segment of the society to provide Housing for All by 2022.
- The interest subsidy would be disbursed to the home loan account of the beneficiaries by the PLIs

State Government Schemes

Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das launches UJALA scheme

- i. Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** launched energy efficient fans and LED tube lights under the '**UnnatJeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All**' (UJALA) scheme in the state.
- ii. The UJALA scheme is being implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a JV under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- iii. In Jharkhand, EESL plans to distribute more than 25 lakh LED tube lights and one lakh energy efficient fans to people on upfront payment. It is estimated that over 5.5 lakh consumers will benefit from the scheme.

Chief Minister SarbanandaSonowal Launches Chief Minister SamagraGramyaUnnayanYojana (CMSGUY) in Assam

Chief Minister of Assam, **SarbanandaSonowal**, launched **Chief Minister SamagraGramyaUnnayanYojana (CMSGUY)** in a function held at Sri SriMadhavdev International Auditorium of SrimantaSankardevKalakshetra in **Guwahati** on February 5, 2017 with an aim to develop all the villages to Assam in the next five years.

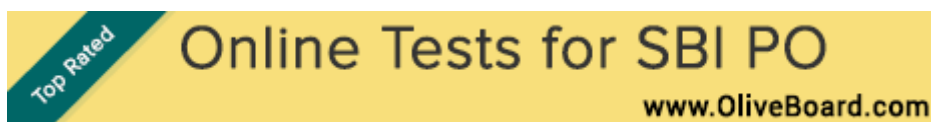
Aim: The CMSGUY scheme aims to bring a **revolutionary change** in the state by **doubling the farm income by 2022** which also marks the 75 anniversary of India's Independence.

- The total financial outlay of the CMSGUY scheme is **Rs. 30,000 crore**. It will be implemented in phased manner in the villages of Assam till **2021-22**.

About the CMSGUY Project

For the proper implementation of the scheme a **Mega Mission Society** has been constituted under the chairmanship of Sarbananda Sonowal.

- As per the Situation Assessment Survey done during 2002-03 to 2012-13, the report estimated that the farm income in Assam was only 0.88 percent as against national average of 5.2 per cent.
- The CMSGUY scheme would be launched in a time bound manner. It would cover each village of the state for complete rural transformation though massive investment so as to enhance rural productivity.
- It would include focused interventions in direct economic activities, logistic support including market linkages, and community support.
- Under the 5-year scheme, five teams will be constituted in each block which will work as a base to implement different missions of the programme. These teams will prepare development plans for them to be implemented in each village.
- A village knowledge centre will also be set up in each village as a part of the scheme. Besides, MGNREGA play ground will be built in each village.



- Out of the total outlay of Rs. 30,000 crore of the project, **Rs. 1.20 crore** has been planned as average investment to be made on each revenue village of the state.
- In the Union Budget 2017-18, an initial amount of **Rs. 500 crore** has already been provided by the Finance Minister to Assam Chief Minister.
- Assam Minister has proposed Rs 1000 crore as a Supplementary Demand and by the end of the financial year 2017 the CMSGUY will have Rs 1500 crore.

Government Schemes - March 2017

Central Government Schemes

Centre to build 1 crore houses under PMAY-G by 2019

In a written reply to question raised in Lok Sabha, **Ram Kripal Yadav - Minister of State for Rural Development** mentioned that Central Govt. has approved the construction of 1 crore houses under **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)** with the financial outlay of Rs 81,975 crore during the period of **2016-17 to 2018-19**.

- This decision is a part of Govt. efforts to achieve '**Housing For All by 2022**' mission set by PM Modi.

Moving towards 'Housing For All' by 2022:

Going by provisional figures of **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011**, approximately 4 crore rural households in India are face housing deprivation.

- After considering work done in this direction under **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)** and various State Govt. supported schemes since 2011, 2.95 crore houses still remain to be constructed for achieving the goal of 'Housing For All by 2022'.
- This approval to build 1 crore houses under PMAY-G by 2019 constitutes the first phase of action plan.

Kerala, Tripura & Arunachal Pradesh Takes States' List Under UDAY to 26

- The power ministry has informed that a total of **26 states** have now become the part of the **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)** with the recent entry of **Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh** and **Tripura** for the revival of debt stressed Discoms.
- While the state government of Kerala and Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd along with the government of India signed the UDAY scheme on March 2, 2017, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura joined the scheme on March 29, 2017.
- With the participation of the three states in the UDAY, they would have an overall net benefit

of approximately **Kerala-Rs 4,178 crore, Arunachal Pradesh-Rs 309 crore and Tripura-Rs 810 crore** due to cheaper funds, reduction in AT&C and transmission losses, interventions in energy efficiency during the turnaround period.

Government Approves Solar Energy Scheme for Small Powerloom Units

i. The Minister of State for Textiles, **Shri Ajay Tamta** informed the Lok Sabha on March 16, 2017 that the Government has approved a new scheme, **Solar Energy Scheme**, to provide financial assistance/capital subsidy to small powerloom units, for installation of **Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) plant**.

ii. Aim: To mitigate the problem of power cut/ shortage faced by decentralized powerloom units in the country so as to improve utilization, efficiency, productivity to face both the domestic and international markets competitively.

iii. The Scheme is meant for Units having **04, 06 & 08 powerlooms** and subsidies for different SPV plants will be given in the range of **Rs 2,25,000 to Rs 8,55,000** depending upon the capacity of the SPV plant (4KWP, 6KWP, 8 KWP).

iv. Besides, the Government of India shall provide financial assistance/capital subsidy to the extent of **50%, 75% & 90%** of the basic cost of the Solar Energy Plant (Cost of Solar Panel + Inverter + batteries) to the applicants of **General category, SC & ST** respectively.

v. The Scheme will come into force with effect from **April 1, 2017**.

Government Launches Rs. 52000 lakh Mission Fingerling to achieve Blue Revolution

i. The Union government has launched **Mission Fingerling** on March 11, 2017 to achieve **Blue Revolution** with the holistic development and management of fisheries in the country.

ii. The Blue Revolution programme focuses on creating an environment that envisages integrated and holistic development and management of fisheries for the socio economic development of the fishers and fish farmers.

iii. The main motive behind this programme is to enhance the fisheries production from 10.79 mmt (2014-15) to 15 mmt by 2020-21.

iv. The Department has identified **20 States** based on their potential and other relevant factors to strengthen the Fish Seed infrastructure in the country.

v. Total expenditure of about **Rs. 52000 lakh** has been identified by the government for the programme to establish **hatcheries and Fingerling rearing pond** to ensure the fish production of 426 crores fish fingerling, 25.50 crores Post Larvae of shrimp and crab in the country.

Centre Launches New Scheme TIES for Developing Export Linked Infrastructure

The Commerce and Industry Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched a new scheme named **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)** on March 15, 2017 for

developing **export linked infrastructure** and boost the competitiveness of India's shipments.

- **Aim:** TIES aims to **bridge the infrastructure gap** in India to ensure smoother movement of export cargo and also ensure quality standards and certification measures to **promote outbound shipment**.
- The scheme will have a total budgetary allocation of **Rs 600 crore** for **three** years with an annual outlay of Rs 200 crore.
- It will be implemented from **April 1, 2017** and span from 2017-18 till 2019-20.

Salient Features of TIES

An **inter-ministerial empowered committee** under the chairmanship of commerce secretary **Rita Teotia** has been constituted for sanctioning and monitoring of the project.

- The **10 member committee** comprises of commerce secretary, DGFT, NITI Aayog CEO, joint secretaries from DIPP, Home Affairs Ministry and Ministry of Development of North East Region.
- The scheme would provide assistance for setting up and upgradation of infrastructure projects with export linkages like the border haats, land customs stations, quality testing and certification labs, cold chains, trade promotion centres, dry ports, export warehousing and packaging, Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and ports/airports cargo terminuses
- Besides, TIES would also consider the **last and first mile connectivity projects** related to export logistics.
- Under the scheme, priority would be given to the projects involving significant contribution by the implementing agency and bank financing for achieving financial closure.
- Two states, **Rajasthan and Karantaka**, have already submitted project proposals under this scheme.

Centre Approves Rs 756 cr scheme for Treating Cataract Patients

i. The Union Health Minister J P Nadda has announced that an amount of **Rs. 756 crore** has been approved by the government under a scheme for the treatment of 786 lakh cataract patients over the period of 5 years.

ii. The aim of the scheme is to **eradicate** the blindness among people due to **cataract** by **2022**. The scheme is a part of the National Blindness Control Programme.

iii. Under the scheme the government would provide **Rs. 2000** financial assistance for **each cataract operation** which would include the cost of lenses as well.



State Government Schemes

LED Lights, Energy Saving Fans Distribution Scheme – launched by Virbhadra Singh

- i. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh **Virbhadra Singh** officially launched the **LED Lights, Energy Saving Fans Distribution scheme** on March 29, 2017. As the part of the scheme, LED tube lights and energy-efficient fans are distributed to promote energy saving.
- ii. The distribution of LED tube lights and energy saving fans is carried out under **Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All (UJALA) scheme**
- iii. The Himachal Pradesh government on September 2016, launched the UJALA scheme to distribute subsidized **CLF bulbs and LED lights**, which helped in saving energy worth about **Rs 200 crore** and the present initiative is an extension of that scheme.

Arunachal Pradesh Launches Adarsh Gram Yojana for Rural Poor

- i. The **Arunachal Pradesh** government has launched a new scheme **Adarsh Gram Yojana** that is in accordance with the basic philosophy of the Prime Minister “**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas**” (Collective Efforts Inclusive Growth).
- ii. The scheme aims to reach the poor people in rural areas of the state to serve them better.
- iii. Under the scheme, **123 villages** (comprising one village per circle) will be developed as ‘**Model Villages**’ during the fiscal year 2017-18.
- iv. The state government has allocated an amount of **Rs.93 crore** in the Budget 2017-18 for infrastructure development and for creating employment opportunities and community assets for the people of those villages.

Haryana Government announces Tirtha Darshan Scheme for Senior Citizen

Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced **Tirtha Darshan Scheme** on March 3, 2017 during the ongoing budget session of the Haryana Assembly. Under the scheme, senior citizens of **Haryana domicile** above the age of **60 years** will be able to go on a Pilgrimage within the country at government expense.

- ◆ The government would bear the entire cost of the tour of senior citizens belonging to **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families.
- ◆ In case of a couple, the expenses of the spouse belonging to BPL family would also be borne by the government. They would also be allowed to take an assistant along with them. In case of senior citizens of **non-BPL families**, the government would bear only 70 percent of the cost.

Delhi Govt Extends Midday Meal Scheme for Girls Up To Class 12

- i. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led **Delhi government** has come up with an initiative to extend

- the **mid-day meal facility** for the **girl students** upto **class 12** in all Delhi government schools.
- ii. Currently Delhi provides the facility to all the students of government schools including boys upto class 8 only.
 - iii. However, from **April 1, 2017**, the midday meal service will also include girl students from 9-12 also. Later the facility would also cover boys upto class 12.
 - iv. Delhi government has decided to set aside an amount of **Rs. 50 crore** for this purpose in its Budget for 2017-18 to be presented on March 8, 2017.
 - v. The initiative makes Delhi the “first state” in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12.

Tamil Nadu CM Palaniswami Launches Rs 1580 cr Housing Scheme

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **K Palaniswami** launched a **Housing Scheme** on March 9, 2017 for construction of concrete houses for the economically poor section of the society.

- ◆ The project is estimated at **Rs 1,580 crore** and will be implemented by the state government with **financial assistance from the Center**.
- ◆ While launching the scheme, CM Palaniswami gave away work orders to **five beneficiaries**.
- ◆ For the current fiscal 2016-17, concrete houses will be constructed for **50,170 beneficiaries** in town panchayat limits.

