

## Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- The Centre is set to launch the **fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**, a major rural road scheme.
- **This phase aims to connect 50,000** habitations with populations over **250** in plain areas and over **100** in special category states with all-weather roads.
- This initiative is part of the **Ministry of Rural Development's 100-day plan**.
- **About Scheme:**
  - **Launched year** - 25th December, 2000
  - **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Rural Development
  - **Aim** - to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages
  - **Budget allocation** - Rs 19,000 crores in the 2023-24 budget
  - **Implementing Agency** – National Rural Infrastructure Development Corporation
  - **Funding pattern:** It was central sector scheme since its inception in 2000. But from 2015 – 16, it is being implemented as centrally sponsored scheme.
    - **Centre: States – 60:40**
    - **Centre: North – eastern, hilly states and UT of J&K – 90:10**
    - **Centre: UT – 100:00**

## ADB Approves Support for Rooftop Solar Systems in India

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **\$240.5 million** in loans to finance rooftop solar systems in India that will help the government expand energy access using renewable energy.
- The financing will support the **Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF)** for the **Solar Rooftop Investment Programme**. **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will provide funds from its Clean Technology Fund and Ordinary Capital Resources. Loans will be available through the State Bank of India and the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
- **Current Status of Rooftop Solar Power in India:** As of December 2023, India has about 11.08 GW of installed rooftop solar capacity, with only 2.7 GW in the residential sector. Gujarat leads with 2.8 GW, followed by Maharashtra with 1.7 GW.
- **Potential:** Over 250 million households in India have the potential to install up to 637 GW of rooftop solar power, according to the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
- **Significance of Rooftop Solar Schemes:**
  - **Reducing technical and operational burden:** Electricity is generated close to where it is consumed, reducing the need for long-distance power supply and system losses.
  - **Achieving Panchamrit targets:** Rooftop solar can help India meet its goal of sourcing 50% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.
  - **Energy Security:** The International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook predicts that India will experience the largest energy demand growth over the next 30 years. Rooftop solar can contribute to meeting this demand sustainably.

## Money Bill

- The Supreme Court has agreed to hear petitions challenging the Union Government's use of the **Money Bill** route to pass certain bills in Parliament.
- **About Money Bill:** A Money Bill is defined under **Article 110 of the Indian Constitution**. It includes provisions related to:
  - Imposing, abolishing, remitting, altering, or regulating any tax.
  - Regulating the borrowing of money or providing guarantees by the Government of India.
  - **The Speaker of the Lok Sabha** has the final say on whether a bill is a Money Bill or not.
  - According to **Article 109**, a **Money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha**.

## Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2024

- UNESCO has published the **Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2024**, focusing on education and climate change.
- This report is part of UNESCO's '**Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action**,' which monitors and reports on **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and other **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- **Key Findings:**
  - **Disruption of Education Systems:** In the past 20 years, schools were closed in at least 75% of extreme weather events, affecting over 5 million people.
  - **India-Related Findings:** A study in India found that heavy rainfall during the first 15 years of life negatively affected vocabulary at age five and mathematics and non-cognitive skills at age 15.
  - **Education's Role in Climate Change:** Education's role in combating climate change is underrepresented in international agendas. SDG 4 was addressed in only 2 out of 72 transnational climate initiatives.
- **Impact of Climate Change on Education:**
  - **Infrastructure and Life:** Direct impacts include the destruction of educational infrastructure and injuries or loss of life among students, parents, and school staff.
  - **Displacement:** Indirect impacts include the displacement of people and adverse effects on livelihoods and health.
  - **Climate-Induced Education Vulnerability:** Marginalized populations and low- or lower-middle-income countries are more vulnerable to the educational impacts of climate change.
  - **Educational Outcomes:** Exposure to heat significantly harms children's educational outcomes, such as reducing test performance.

### Operation Nanhe Farishtey

- Over the past seven years, the Railway Protection Force has rescued **84,119 children** under '**Operation Nanhe Farishtey**'.
- **About 'Operation Nanhe Farishtey':** This mission is dedicated to **rescuing children** in need of care and protection across different **Indian Railway Zones**.

### U-Win portal

- **The U-Win portal** is a new digital platform by the Indian government aimed at managing **childhood vaccinations**.
- It is currently part of a pilot project in **64 districts**, **focusing on pregnant women and children**.
- The portal is set to formally **launch on August 15, 2024**.
- The portal also aims to reduce the number of **"zero-dose" children by 2030**.
- **Implementation:**
  - **ASHA Workers:** Community health workers like Reena Patel are pivotal in registering children on the portal.
  - **Real-Time Registration:** Ensures no child misses their vaccinations, with SMS alerts sent to parents about due dates and nearby health centers.
  - **Portability of Data:** Vaccination records are accessible nationwide, facilitating vaccinations even when families travel.

### Srijan Portal

- **Ministry of Defence** has notified the **fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** consisting of 346 items on **Srijan Portal**.
- **About Portal:**
  - **Purpose:** Non-transactional online portal for promoting indigenization in defence production.
  - **Aim:** Partner the private sector in indigenization efforts of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and the Armed forces.
  - **Ministry:** Ministry of Defence.
  - **Launch Year:** 2020.
  - **Functionality:**
    - DPSUs, OFB, and SHQs can display items they have imported or plan to import, with each item having a significant import value.
    - The Indian industry can show interest in items they can design, develop, and manufacture either independently or through a joint venture with OEMs.