



Year End Review- 2017: Ministry of I&B

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, which is entrusted with the responsibility to Inform, Educate and Entertain the masses, took various initiatives in the last one year to attain its objectives. The Information sector witnessed a plethora of initiatives in the form of International cooperation with Ethiopia, devising 360 degree multimedia campaigns, release of RNI annual report on Press in India, etc. Similarly, the Films sector witnessed successful completion of the 48th IFFI and the Broadcasting sector witnessed the launch of 24x7 DD Channel for Jharkhand.

The Initiatives of Ministry in different sectors are mentioned below:

Information Sector

- **Agreement on “Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media” was signed between India and Ethiopia.** The Agreement will encourage cooperation between mass media tools such as radio, print media, TV, social media etc. to provide more opportunities to the people of both the nations and create public accountability.
- **6th National Photography Awards** organized. Shri Raghu Rai conferred Lifetime Achievement Award. Professional Photographer of the year award to Shri K.K. Mustafah and Amateur Photographer of the year award to Shri Ravinder Kumar.
- Three Heritage Books on the occasion of **Centenary Celebrations of Champaran Satyagraha** released.
- **Set of books titled ‘Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani’** Books published in 15 Indian languages by Publications Division to enable development of cleanliness habit amongst children released.
- **“Saath Hai Vishwaas Hai, Ho Raha Vikas Hai” Exhibition** organized and was put up across state capitals for duration of 5-7 days showcasing the achievements of the Government in the last 3 years in various sectors.
- **100 Volumes of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi** released. The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi’(CWMG) is a monumental document of Gandhiji’s thoughts which he spoke and wrote from 1884, when Mahatma was a 15 year old boy, till his assassination on January 30, 1948.
- **RNI Annual Report - Press in India**, an Important Index of Print Media was released. The report gave a comprehensive analysis of the contours of the growth for the industry specially the growth amongst regional language publications.

Broadcast Sector

- **Analog signals in Phase III Urban Areas switched off.** "Authorized officers" under Sec 11 of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act can seize the equipment of the MSOs/Cable Operators, if they continues to carry analog signal in Phase III urban areas after 31st January, 2017.

Film Sector

- **Indian Panorama Film Festival** organized in Delhi. The festival opened with the Documentary film “Ima Sabitri” directed by Bobo Khuraijam and Hindi feature film “Pinky Beauty Parlour” directed by Akshay Singh. It also screened five iconic films in which Shri Om Puri has acted to commemorate him.
- **India & Ukraine to strengthen bilateral cooperation** through the medium of Film Festivals and utilizing the Film Facilitation Office platform established by India.
- **New category of visa for foreign filmmakers** created to ease issues related to their entry into the country. Both the Film Visa and the Film Facilitation Office (FFO) have been aimed to promote India as an attractive filming destination to the world.
- **64th National Film Awards** organized in Delhi. Kassav awarded Best Feature Film and Sathamnam Bhavathi awarded as Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment, Akshay Kumar given



BRAINY IAS

Best Actor award for the film Rustom, Ms. Surabhi awarded Best Actress for the Malayalam movie Minnaminungu-The Firefly Rajesh Mapuskar given Best Direction Award for Marathi movie Ventilator.

- Renowned Film Director & Actor Shri Kasinadhuni Viswanath to be conferred **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** for the year 2016
- The **48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2017** was organised in Goa. A Total of 196 Films from 82 Countries, over 64 India Premieres of International films, 3 world Premieres, over 28 Oscar submissions were screened, for the first-time ever Retrospective of James Bond film screened. A special section of Restored Classics, a special Focus on Canada curated by the Toronto International Film Festival showcased. A Retrospective of Lifetime Achievement Award given to Atom Egoyan, Indian Film Personality of the Year was awarded to Shri Amitabh Bachchan.



Year End Review of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Introduction:

1. The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has two wings, one relating to Statistics and the other Programme Implementation. The Statistics Wing called the National Statistical Office(NSO) consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the Computer centre and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The Programme Implementation Wing has three Divisions, namely, (i) Twenty Point Programme (ii) Infrastructure Monitoring and Project Monitoring and (iii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Besides these two wings, there is National Statistical Commission created through a Resolution of Government of India (MOSPI) and one autonomous Institute, viz., Indian Statistical Institute declared as an institute of National importance by an Act of Parliament.
2. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country. The statistics released are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Central and State Governments and non-official sources and studies. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods. Field data are collected through dedicated field staff. In line with the emphasis on the quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues concerning the compilation of national accounts are overseen Committees like Advisory Committee on National Accounts, Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics, Technical Advisory Committee on Price Indices. The Ministry compiles data sets based on current data, after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.
3. India is a subscriber to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and is currently fulfilling the Standards. The Ministry maintains an 'Advance Release Calendar' for its data categories covered under the SDDS, which is disseminated on the Ministries website as well as on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) of the IMF.

I. United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics



BRAINY IAS

- Adopted since June 2016, to enhance professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency in methods of collection and dissemination of Official Statistics;
 - Adoption of these principles would help build and retain trust of the public in Official Statistical System and honour citizens' users' entitlement of Official Statistics as 'public good'.
- II. Revision of Base Year of GDP and related Macro-economic aggregates**
- Macro-economic aggregates of National Accounts like GDP, Savings, Capital Formation, etc. released by CSO are indicators of the country's economic health;
 - Base Year of National Accounts revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2015.
 - Improvements in the Revised Series include:
 - Use of corporate sector data of Ministry of Corporate Affairs for about 5.5 lakh companies in mining, manufacturing and services sectors
 - Use of latest data of National Sample Survey
 - Improved coverage of Local Bodies and Autonomous Institutions
- III. Revision of Base Year of Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**
- IIP estimates revised periodically through Base Year Revision.
 - New series of IIP released on 12th May 2017 with change of Base Year from 2004-05 to 2011-12.
 - The structural changes in the industrial sector over the years are better captured in the revised series.
 - New series indices are more robust and representative with the change in methodology of drawing items / weights and factories.
- IV. Revision of Base Year of Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
- Revised series of CPI launched in January 2015
 - Base Year changed from 2010 to 2012
 - Basket of items and weighing diagram based on Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) of Consumer Expenditure Survey – consistent with International Practice.
 - Use of Geometric Mean of Price Relatives with respect to Base Prices for elementary indices – Also consistent with International Practice.
 - Sample size for house rent data doubled from 6,684 to 13,368.
- V. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**
- Large scale employment surveys in India have so far been conducted usually at 5-year intervals.
 - PLFS launched in April 2017 to obtain employment data at shorter intervals.
 - PLFS aims to –
 - Measure quarterly changes in statistical indicators of labour market in Urban Areas;
 - Generate annual estimates of labour force indicators in both Rural and Urban Areas.
 - PLFS will use the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technique, which involves direct entry of data in Tablets at the field level. This will lead to higher accuracy and faster processing of data.
- VI. Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill 2017**
- Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 is a Central Act that allows Central, State and Local Governments to collect statistics on socio-economic aspects;
 - This Act is not applicable to J&K.
 - To address this legislative vacuum, the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017 has been introduced in Parliament during Budget Session 2017.
- VIII. Revision of Advance Release Calendar of GDP Estimates**
- Before 2017, First Advance Estimates of GDP were usually released on 7th February, 3 weeks before the date of presentation of Union Budget
 - The First Advance Estimates of GDP constitute important inputs in formulation of Union Budget for the forthcoming year



BRAINY IAS

- With the date of presentation of Union Budget for 2017-18 advanced from 28th February to 1st February in 2017, MoSPI made available the First Advance Estimates of GDP on 6th January, 2017 well before the presentation of the Union Budget
- This revised release calendar will henceforth be adopted for subsequent years.

IX. Surveys of NSSO

- NSSO has been conducting large scale surveys on multi-purpose socio-economic subjects
- During last three years, NSSO conducted surveys on
 - Domestic Tourism Expenditure;
 - Household Consumption Expenditure on Services and Durable goods;
 - Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises in Manufacturing, Trade and Other services sector (excluding Construction); and
 - Enterprise focussed Survey of Services Sector

X. Standardisation of procedures, E-governance and Data Dissemination

- National Accounts Division of CSO and Survey Design & Research Division of NSSO have been certified ISO-9001:2008 compliant for quality of performance.
- Data Dissemination through website of Ministry brings an improvement in overall usability quotient and technical competence
- Recent adoption of the IHSN toolkit by MoSPI, as per International practice, for creating a web-based Survey Data Catalogue/ Micro Data Archive to disseminate NSS Survey, ASI and Economic Census Data.
- Bharatkosh, e-receipt portal gateway, has been set up for use by Indian users for dissemination of Unit level data of NSS, ASI and Economic Census. Introduction of online payment by non-Indians for supply of data is in the pipeline.
- NSSO has undertaken the work of digitisation of Urban Frame Survey (UFS) maps in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). This will help in improvement of identification and demarcation of boundaries for smooth data collection.

XI. Use of technology in data collection

- Computer Assisted Personnel Interviewing (CAPI) technique for data collection through tablets will be used in PLFS
- Web-portal for collection of data directly from data source for the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)
- Submission of online data for Consumer price Index (CPI) – By NSSO field offices for urban areas and by designated Post offices for rural areas
- These measures lead to reduction in time lag in compilation and release of data.

XII. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- In September 2015, UN adopted the Resolution on 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated 169 targets to be achieved by 2030
- India is one of the countries that are party to this resolution
- Comprehensive exercise for mapping of SDG Goals and Targets vis-à-vis national development strategies undertaken
- Draft framework of indicators has been developed and is under finalization
- Regional SDG Workshop, involving all States/UTs were held at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Chennai, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar

XIII. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- The Scheme is implemented as per the provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS
- Several amendments have been made in Guidelines of the Scheme to cater to the welfare requirements of the general public.



BRAINY IAS

- A few major amendments are:
 - Ceiling for contribution of Hon'ble MPs in case of calamity of severe nature raised from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore
 - Purchase of medical equipment costing not less than Rs 5 lakh made permissible for Government Hospitals
 - Purchase of equipment for skill development allowed
 - Financial assistance allowed for purchase of tricycle (manual/battery/operated/motorized), wheelchair (motorized/battery operated) and artificial limbs for differently abled deserving persons with disabilities
 - Purchase of ambulances for transporting sick/injured animals allowed
- Integrated MPLADS Portal for use of all the stakeholders developed that also provides an opportunity to the Citizens for suggesting the developmental works in their areas to the Hon'ble MPs.



Initial Coin Offerings

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2
- ✓ About initial coin offerings and its kinds
- ✓ Importance of ICOs

Recently:

- ❖ Global regulators have been issuing warnings about another market that's already sizzling hot – the one for Initial Coin Offerings or ICOs.
- ❖ The Indian IPO market is warming up too quickly.
- ❖ A couple of weeks ago, the European Securities and Markets Authority, Europe's SEBI, alerted investors that there was 'high risk of losing all their capital' on ICOs.
- ❖ A week before that, the US Securities Exchange Commission cautioned celebrities on endorsing ICOs after Paris Hilton and professional boxer Floyd Mayweather plugged them on Twitter.

What is it?

- More accurately known as token sales, ICOs raise money from public investors to bankroll a startup.
- But instead of the shares you acquire in an IPO, ICOs allot digital 'tokens' which represent an informal ownership share in the business they fund.

Two kinds of ICOs are active in the market.

- One type raises money to fund a new virtual currency or blockchain project that aims to mirror the runaway success of the Bitcoin or Ether.
- These ICOs hold out the lure that the tokens can be exchanged for the new virtual currency, once it takes off.



BRAINY IAS

- The other set of ICOs simply raise money to fund tech startups. Here, token sales replace traditional capital sources such as angel funding, crowdfunding, venture capital funding or even IPOs.
- The expectation is that the tokens will appreciate in value with the underlying business.
- The word 'informal' is key to understanding ICOs.
- While your rights in the case of shares bought in an IPO are legally protected by the elaborate securities market regulations of your country, the legal status of ICO 'tokens' is up in air because many countries, including India, haven't yet framed any regulations for them.
- Companies that raise money through IPOs are required to file and get approval for a detailed prospectus from regulators and provide ongoing disclosures to investors.
- ICOs, however, skirt all these rules and simply issue a white paper sketching out business plans.

Why is it important?

- Globally, there has been a silent boom in ICO fund-raising, with much of the action focused on Europe and North America.
- A recent report by Atomico, a European venture capital firm, noted that coin offerings had raised over \$3 billion since 2014, with the bulk of the money raised in the last one year.
- One of the reasons for the recent interest in ICOs is of course, the runaway rise in prices of virtual currencies such as bitcoins, which is up ten-fold this year.
- Then, of course, there's hope that the recent crop of ICOs will replicate past success stories such as Ethereum.
- The Ethereum project launched an ICO in 2014 to develop smart contract applications based on the blockchain technology.
- It has seen the value of its digital token — Ether — shoot up from \$1 to over \$480.

Why should I care?

- India is also seeing a flurry of startup action around the virtual currency and blockchain ecosystem.
- But if your interest is piqued, do note that ICOs operate in a regulatory limbo in India.
- The RBI has warned investors of the risks of dabbling in virtual currencies and is looking into whether it should regulate them.
- SEBI is yet to express its official views on ICOs.
- Given that SEBI's global counterparts are still grappling with the issue of whether to treat digital tokens as 'securities', it may be some time before there is any kind of regulatory framework for ICOs in place.

The bottomline

- Sure, virtual currencies and ICOs are a red-hot trend. But keep in mind that it's your real money that you'd be betting on them.





VAHAN- What and Why

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2,3
- ✓ About VAHAN and its importance

What is it?

- 'Vahan' is the name of the national vehicle registry, which intends to collate all the information available with road transport authorities for easy access by both citizens and regulators.
- Data available with over 90 per cent of all road transport authorities including RTOs and district transport offices have been computerised so far.
- Vahan now contains about 21.68 crore vehicle records in its repository.
- Vahan allows access to all details related to vehicles such as registration number, chassis/engine number, body/fuel type, colour, manufacturer and model and provides various online services to citizens.
- Driving Licence and related data are automated through a separate application called 'Sarathi'. The site is not fully operational yet, though some segments of it are up and running.

Why is it important?

- Vahan has been designed to capture all the information mandated by the Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988 as well as State Motor Vehicle Rules.
- It has been customised to suit the varied requirements of all States and Union Territories.
- This way, the system ensures access to such information from anywhere.
- Besides, centralisation of data through the creation of the State and National Registries under Vahan also helps address the needs of RTOs, police and motor insurers.
- The Police Department will also have access to the registry.
- The information available online can help in resolving crimes such as theft of vehicles and usage of fake registration numbers.
- Traffic-check points can cross-check the validity of the documents such as licences presented by motorists through hand-held devices.
- Enforcement activities such as issue of challan and settlement of penalty amount can also be carried out through Vahan.
- Banks, which may have given out loans for vehicle purchases, will also have access to the National/State Registry to track the status of vehicles under lien.
- Motor insurance companies have also been encouraged to upload data of insured vehicles on Vahan.
- When the process is completed, it will help in tracking vehicles that have not obtained an insurance cover or vehicles that have not renewed their covers.

Why should I care?

- With Vahan, multiple visits to the RTO, extensive paperwork, queues, middlemen and bribes, all of which are today a part of package if you own a vehicle, will be a thing of the past.
- Vahan helps carry out most of the RTO related transactions including payments, online.
- Other services such as transfer of ownership, change of address, issue and renewal of permits and fitness certificates are also available at the click of the mouse.
- The need for 'No objection certificate' for transfers will be eliminated since all RTOs will have access to the centralised data.

The bottomline



- Transferring your vehicle from one state to another or applying for a driving licence will become smooth once Vahan and Sarathi are up and running.



Limited KYC work

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 3
- ✓ About Virtual ID and its need
- ✓ Security concerns of government over issue of privacy
- ✓ Limited KYC work

Recently

- ❖ In an attempt to address security and privacy concerns around leakage of Aadhaar numbers and data, the Unique Identification Authority of India on Wednesday introduced two new measures - virtual ID and limited KYC.

What is virtual ID

- The virtual identity or virtual ID will be a random 16-digit number mapped to the Aadhaar number of a citizen, and will come with an expiration date.
- The VID will not be duplicable by agencies performing authentication of Aadhaar number, and hence will ensure safety of the Aadhaar number.

How can VID be generated?

- VID can be generated and revoked only by the Aadhaar number holder through channels such as the Aadhaar portal and the mAadhaar mobile app.
- The older VID gets canceled each time the Aadhaar number holder issues a new one.

Why is the government concerned about the issue of privacy?

- The issue of privacy of citizen data has picked up steam in the last week after The Tribune reported that an anonymous WhatsApp number was selling access to the entire Aadhaar database for as low as Rs 500.

How will the limited KYC work?

- The UIDAI has further introduced limited KYC (know your customer) process wherein only some entities, categorised as global authentication user agency (global AUA) will be allowed to store a citizen's Aadhaar number, while others, known as local AUAs will not be allowed to store Aadhaar numbers.
- These agencies will be given a UIDAI token specific to them, to enable them to uniquely identify their customers.



BRAINY IAS

- The UID token, a unique character for system usage, will be unique to every authentication request made by a global or local AUA.

Conclusion

- Currently, every agency that uses Aadhaar for KYC authenticates a user and often stores a person's Aadhaar number.
- In the absence of strong data protection and privacy laws, the issue of what can be done with stored citizen information is a grey area.
- The new measures do not specify what happens to the Aadhaar numbers that have already been stored by public or private entities. It also does not mention which AUAs would qualify as global or local.



Strategic Sale Of Public Enterprises

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2
- ✓ Strategic sale of public enterprises and its significance for economic development

Recently

- ❖ The government has decided to revive the strategic sale form for mobilizing funds from the sale of PSU shares. Strategic sale of a PSU is different from the ordinary disinvestment. This is because in the case of strategic sale, the control and a significant proportion of a PSU's share goes to a private sector strategic partner. According to the Department of Disinvestment, in the strategic sale of a company, the transaction has two elements:
 - Transfer of a block of shares to a Strategic Partner and
 - Transfer of management control to the Strategic Partner

What is the amount of shares to be transferred to the strategic partner?

- Understandably strategic sale aptly takes place when more than 51% of shares go to the private sector strategic partner. At the same time, it is not necessary that more than 51% of the total equity goes to the Strategic Partner for the transfer of management to take place. Or in other words strategic sale can take place even if the private sector partner gets less than 51% shares.
- According to the strategic sale guidelines in India, the Strategic Partner, after the transaction, may hold less percentage of shares than the Government but the control of management would be with him. For example, in a PSU, where the government holding 51%, and out of this, sale of 25% to the strategic partner while the government holding 26% share also is a case of strategic sale. Here, the remaining shares (49%) will be dispersed among the public.
- But the necessary condition is that the control of the firms should be with the strategic partner.
- Effectively, the two stakeholders of strategic sale are the government and the private sector partner. But at the same time, the interest of other related parties also to be considered. These parties are other shareholders and the employees.
- The history of strategic sale in India shows that it was an important way for privatization. In many cases, the private sector firms got more than 51% shares in the final stages. For example in the case of BALCO, VSNL, Hindustan Zinc Limited the strategic investor holds more than 51% shares.

BRAINY IAS

