

1)The Union Cabinet has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4thMay 2018 to 31stMarch, 2020 under the Pradhan MantriVayaVandanYojana (**PMVVY**) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

PMVVY is a Pension Scheme exclusively **for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above**.The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme.

2)The Union Cabinet has approved the Cadre review and formation of **Group 'A' service** of the technical cadre of **Petroleum & Safety Organization (PESO)** in the name of Indian Petroleum & Explosives Safety Service (IPESS).PESO is a subordinate office under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP).The organization is serving the nation since 1898 as a nodal agency for regulating safety of substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.

3)In a major boost to the expansion of healthcare infrastructure in the country, the Union Cabinet Chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of **Pradhan MantriSwasthya Suraksha Yojana(PMSSY) beyond 12thFive Year Plan** to 2019-20.The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced in 2003 with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.The scheme has two components: Setting up of new AIIMS and upgradation of government medical colleges.

4)The Union Cabinet has given approval to accede to the Protocol

under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

It will be applicable to both smoking and chewing or smokeless tobacco (SLT) forms as negotiated and adopted under Article 15 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

5)The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the Umbrella Scheme, "**Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana**" in agriculture sector beyond 12th Five Year Plan for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- Betterment of agricultural base.
- Doubling of farmers' earnings.
- Development of appropriate agriculture infrastructure.
- Adequate market for sale of produce.

6)The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of **Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**. CCEA has also approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14th Finance Commission.

Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in the year 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population and below national average with respect to one or both of the backwardness parameters with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities.

7)**Algae Noctiluca scintillans:**

It is **green algae** which is behind the scintillating phenomenon observed in oceans when they glow **fluorescent blue** at night. The

Noctiluca algae is often reported to occur in patches or blooms in the Northern Arabian Sea. These striking green blooms often appear to glow at night due to a special phenomenon called bioluminescence, earning them the nickname 'sea sparkle'.

An Indo-US study has found that global warming is leading to large-scale fish kills in the Arabian Sea by fuelling the growth of this harmful bioluminescent algae.

