



For success in a changing world

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 08-12-2025

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PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

- Scheme has expanded coverage; major components show strong progress (as of 31 Oct 2025).

About PMFME

Objective

- To **formalise the unorganized micro-food processing sector**, which constitutes nearly **98%** of India's food processing industry.
- Increase **access to credit, branding, technology, and market linkages**.
- Promote **One District One Product (ODOP)**-based value-chain development.

Key Components

1. Credit-linked Capital Subsidy

- **35% subsidy** on eligible project cost.
- Maximum subsidy: **₹10 lakh per unit**.
- Beneficiaries: Individual micro-enterprises + FPOs/SHGs/Cooperatives.

2. Support for FPOs / SHGs / Cooperatives

- Grant up to **₹10 crore** for setting up **common infrastructure** such as:
 - Cold storage
 - Sorting/grading units
 - Packaging centres
 - Incubation centres

3. One District One Product (ODOP)

- Each district identifies a food product (e.g., mango, pickle, jaggery, millet products).
- Ensures **cluster-based development** and common branding.
- Districts may also choose **non-ODOP products**, e.g., traditional foods and nutraceuticals.

4. Skill Training / Capacity Building

- Training under **NIFTEM&IIFPT** and State Food Processing Institutes.
- Entrepreneurship development, food safety, quality standards (FSSAI), packaging, marketing.

5. Branding & Marketing Support

- Shared branding for clusters.
- Support for **common packaging**, product design, branding campaigns.

Who Can Apply?

- Individual micro food processing units
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- Cooperatives
- Enterprises needing upgradation / technology intervention

Eligibility of Enterprises

- Should be **micro-enterprise** (Investment < ₹1 crore, Turnover < ₹5 crore).
- Must be **operational** and willing to undergo formalisation.

Funding Pattern

- **60:40** (Centre:State for most states)
- **90:10** (for NE states & Himalayan states)
- **100%** for UTs without legislature

Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Syllabus: GS-2; Statutory & regulatory bodies

Context

- DGCA granted *Indigo Airlines* a **one-time exemption** from Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms.

Historical Background

- The DGCA was **established in 1927** as the Directorate of Civil Aviation under the Department of Commerce.
- It became an **attached office under the Ministry of Civil Aviation** after Independence.
- It is India's primary agency responsible for aviation safety oversight.

Legal & Regulatory Powers

DGCA's powers come from:

1. **Aircraft Act, 1934**
2. **Aircraft Rules, 1937**

Under these, DGCA:

- Issues Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)
- Regulates airworthiness, flight safety, and operational standards
- **Enforces penalties for violations**

Organizational Structure

- **Director General** heads the agency.
- Has regional and sub-regional offices across India (e.g., Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru).
- Key divisions:
 - Air Safety Directorate
 - Airworthiness Directorate
 - Flight Standards Directorate
 - Regulation & Information Directorate
 - Training and Licensing Directorate

Key Functions

1. Licensing

Issues licenses for:

- Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL)
- Commercial Pilot License (CPL)
- Student Pilot License (SPL)

- Flight engineers
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AME)
- Air Traffic Controllers (part oversight)

2. Airworthiness Oversight

- Certification of aircraft and aeronautical products
- Maintenance standards compliance
- Aviation medical standards for crew

3. Flight Operations Oversight

- Monitoring crew training programmes
- Approving airline operations manuals
- Monitoring Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)
- Surveillance audit and surprise checks on airlines

4. Accident Investigation

- DGCA investigates **incidents**, while **AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau)** investigates major accidents.
- DGCA coordinates and implements safety recommendations.

Digital Initiatives

- **e-GCA Platform** (launched 2021):
 - Fully online process for licensing, approvals, passenger services.
 - Reduces delays and increases transparency.

DGCA vs AAI vs AAIB (UPSC Trick Area)

Agency	Function
DGCA	Safety regulation, licensing, airworthiness
AAI	Airport infrastructure & air traffic management
AAIB	Aircraft accident investigation

Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

Context

- NHAI received SEBI's in-principle approval for **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)**.

About InvIT

- A **collective investment vehicle** like mutual funds allowing investment in infrastructure assets.
- Has **Trustee, Sponsor, Investment Manager, Project Manager**.
- Regulated by **SEBI (InvIT) Regulations, 2014**.
- Sponsors transfer infra assets to the trust; investors get units.

Onchocerciasis

Syllabus: GS-3; General Science

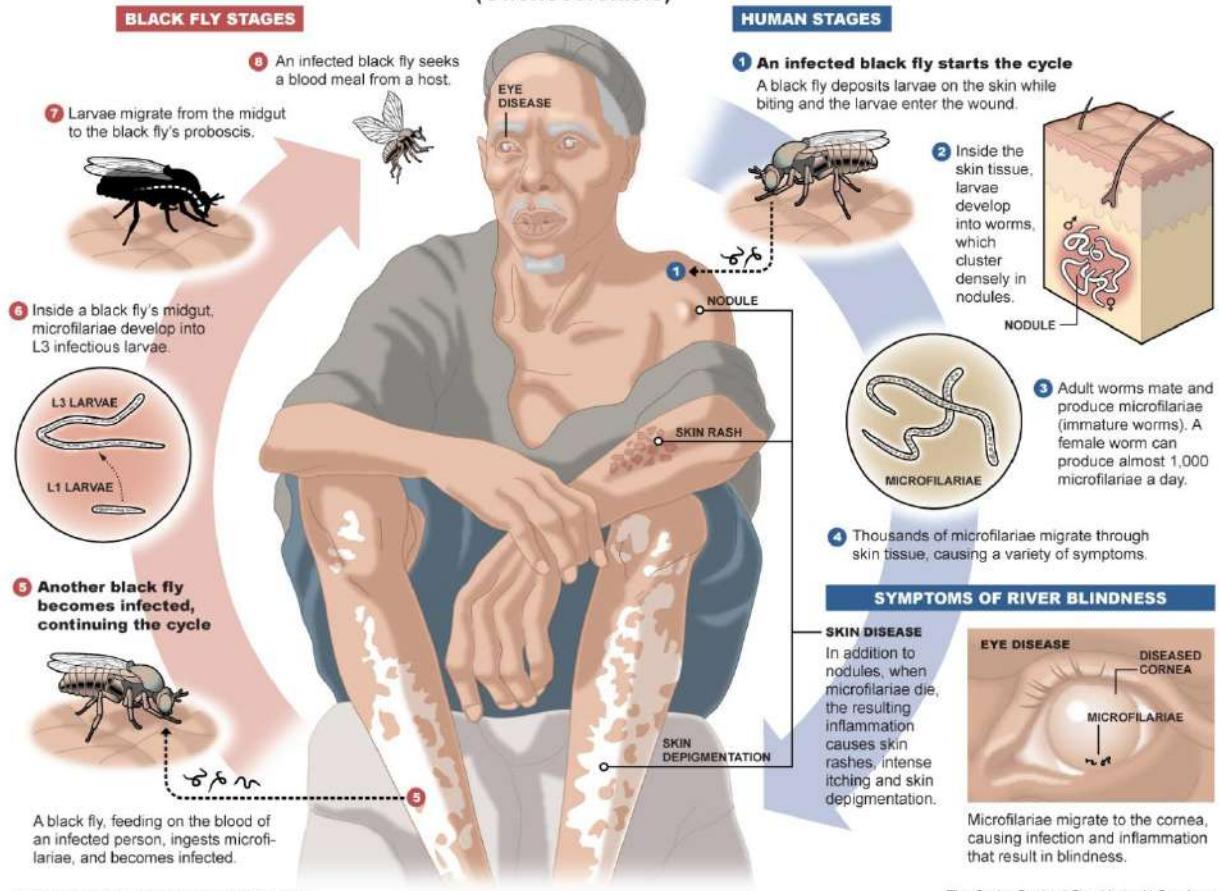
Context

- **Niger** becomes the **first African country** to eliminate onchocerciasis.

About Onchocerciasis

- Also called **river blindness**; caused by **Onchocerca volvulus** (parasitic worm).
- Spread through repeated bites of infected **Simulium blackflies** breeding near fast-flowing rivers.
- Not contagious person-to-person.
- Prevalent in **sub-Saharan Africa**, parts of **Brazil & Venezuela**.
- Causes skin rash, vision loss, and blindness (2nd leading infectious cause after trachoma).
- **Treatment: Ivermectin.**

The Life Cycle of River Blindness (Onchocerciasis)



Red-Breasted Parakeet

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Rare sighting at NIT Patna campus.

About Species

- Also called **Moustached Parakeet**.
- Scientific Name: **Psittacula alexandri**.
- Distribution: India, Nepal, SE Asia to Indonesia.
- Size: 33–38 cm.

- IUCN: Near Threatened.

