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# Daily News Juice

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THE HINDU

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# Colour Revolutions

## Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues

## Why in news?

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping appeal** - In the recent SCO meet, Chinese President Xi Jinping appealed to member nations to cooperate with each other in order to prevent foreign powers from destabilising their countries by inciting "colour revolutions".

- **Regional counterterrorism training centre** - Xi also offered to train 2,000 law enforcement personnel to set up a regional counterterrorism training centre.

## What are "colour revolutions"?

- **Popular Uprisings** - Colour revolutions refer to a series of popular uprisings. Most of such revolutions involved large-scale mobilisation, with demands for regime change.

- **Former Communist nations, North Africa and West Asia-** Such revolutions first began in former communist nations in Eastern Europe in the early 2000s, but are also used in reference to popular movements in the North Africa and West Asia.

- **Wear Colour or named after flowers-** Protesters often wear a specific colour, such as in Ukraine's Orange Revolution. The term has also been used to describe movements named after flowers like the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia.

- **Hong Kong** - In 2019, Beijing had said the protests in Hong Kong had taken on "colour revolution characteristics".

- **Allegations against West** - Moscow and Beijing argue that such revolutions have been orchestrated by the United States and its Western allies.

# Colour Revolutions

## Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues

### Popular colour revolutions

1. Ukraine
   - 2004 and 2005
   - Orange revolution

2. Kyrgyzstan
   - Tulip Revolution
   - 2005

3. Tunisia
   - Jasmine Revolution
   - 2011
   - It inspired a wave of protests in North Africa and the West Asia, which came to be known as the Arab Spring.

Q1. Consider the following pairs:
Country – Colour revolution
1. Ukraine – Orange revolution
2. Kyrgyzstan – Tulip revolution
3. Tunisia - Jasmine revolution
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) One pair
(b) Two Pairs
(c) Three Pairs
(d) None

# PM PRANAM scheme

## Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

- **Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana** - The Union government plans to introduce a new scheme – PM PRANAM, which stands for PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana.

- **Reduce chemical fertilisers** - The scheme intends to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers by incentivising states.

- **Reduce subsidy burden** - The proposed scheme intends to reduce the subsidy burden on chemical fertilisers, which is expected to increase to Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2022-2023, higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 1.62 lakh crore.

## Funds reappropriation

- **No Separate funds** - The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the "savings of existing fertiliser subsidy" under schemes run by the Department of fertilisers.

- **50% savings for States** - Further, 50% subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money.

- **70% for asset creation** - Out of this 50%, 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilisers and alternate fertiliser production units at village, block and district levels.

- **30% for participants** - The remaining 30% grant money can be used for incentivising farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organisations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertiliser use and awareness generation.

# Comparison of consumption

- **Compare consumption levels - ** The Union government will compare a state's increase or reduction in urea in a year, to its average consumption of urea during the last three years.

- **Integrated fertilisers Management System** - Data available on a fertiliser Ministry dashboard, iFMS (Integrated fertilisers Management System), will be used for this purpose.

# Old and New Pension Schemes

## Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Polity & Governance

### Old Pension Scheme

- **April 1, 2004** - The old pension scheme was discontinued on April 1, 2004, and replaced with the National Pension Scheme.
- **50% of last drawn salary** - In the old pension regime, pension was 50% of the last drawn salary of the employee and the entire amount was paid by the government.
- **Huge pension burden-** Under the Old pension scheme, governments had to bear huge burden of pensions every year.
- **Contrary to accounting logic** - The old pension scheme was also contrary to accounting logic. The expenses of pensions incurred on employees should be accounted when the benefit of services is received from them.

### New Pension Scheme

- **Date** - The national pension scheme (NPS) or contributory pension scheme is effective for the employees who joined on or after April 1, 2004.
- **Contribution** - Under this scheme, the employees contribute 10 per cent of their salary towards pension and the state government contributes 14 per cent.
- **PFRDA** - The amount is then deposited with fund registered under PFRDA where it is invested.
- **Pension out of savings** - The pension is paid to employees after their retirement from this deposited amount.

## State governments shifting to Old Scheme

- Chhattisgarh was the first state to announce the OPS.
- After that Jharkhand and Rajasthan also announced reverting to the old system.
- Now, Punjab is considering restoring the Old pension scheme.

## Implication of restoring Old pension scheme

- **Burden** - OPS will add to pension expenses of the State governments and worsen their financial condition.
- **Social Security** - State Government employees will get social security after retirement.

# Centralised vs decentralised power model

## Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Polity & Governance

### Plan of Union Government

- **Bye bye to Decentralized system-** The Union government seeks to give up existing decentralised, voluntary pool-based electricity market in favour of a radically different mandatory pool model on a pan-India basis.

- **MBED Mechanism** - The new model is called the Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism. Under this model, the Union Ministry of Power envisages centralised scheduling for dispatching the entire annual electricity consumption of around 1,400 billion units.

### How will system change?

- **Role of SLDCs in existing system**- Power is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, with the electricity grid being divided into state-wise autonomous control areas managed by the State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDCs), which in turn are supervised by Regional Load Dispatch Centres (RLDCs) and the National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC).

- As things stand, each control area is responsible in real time for balancing its demand with generation resources.

- **Central market operator in MBED** - The MBED model proposes to change this by putting in place a central market operator to dispatch the inter-state as well as intra-state generation plants.

## Opposition by State Governments

- **Reduce autonomy of States -** Experts say that new mechanism will impinge on the relative autonomy of states in managing their electricity sector, including their own generating stations, and make the discoms entirely dependent on the centralised mechanism.

- **Mismatch with emerging trends-** There are concerns that the new model could potentially clash with emerging market trends, given the increase in renewable energy in the overall generation mix and the increasing numbers of electric vehicles plugging into the grid – all of which necessitate greater decentralisation of markets.

- **Postponed** - Due to opposition of State governments, the transition to new system has been postponed.

## Rationale by Union Government

- **Single market** - The MBED mechanism is in line with the Centre's 'One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency, One Price' formula.'

- **Efficiency through Security Constrained Economic Dispatch** - The Centre's argument is that the current model of states doing scheduling is suboptimal. As part of this, an algorithm developed by the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) called the Security Constrained Economic Dispatch (SCED) is being cited as a solution, which is aimed at assisting regulators in making informed calls on scheduling decisions on a nationwide basis.

- **Promote cheap electricity** – It will ensure that the cheapest electricity generating resources across the country are supplied to meet the overall system demand.

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