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## **Gopal Krishna Gokhale**

- Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a great social reformer and educationist who provided exemplary leadership to the freedom movement of India.

### **Gopal Krishna Gokhale:**

#### **Birth:**

- He was born on May 9, 1866 in Kotluk village in present-day Maharashtra (then part of Bombay Presidency).

#### **Thinking:**

- Gokhale worked towards social empowerment, expansion of education and Indian freedom struggle for three decades and rejected the use of reactionary or revolutionary methods.

#### **Role in Colonial Legislatures:**

- Between 1899 and 1902 he was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council and from 1902 to 1915 he served in the Imperial Legislative Council.
- While serving in the Imperial Legislative Council, Gokhale was instrumental in formulating the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909.

#### **Role in Indian National Congress:**

- He was associated with the Moderate Party of the Indian National Congress (INC) (joined in the year 1889).
- He became the President of INC in 1905 Banaras session.
- This was the time when wide differences arose between the 'Normal Dal' and the 'Garam Dal' led by Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and others. In the Surat session of 1907, these two factions separated.
- Despite ideological differences, in the year 1907, he campaigned for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai, who was imprisoned by the British in Mandalay jail in Myanmar.

### **Related Societies and other functions:**

- For the expansion of Indian education, in the year 1905, he established the Servants of India Society.
- He was also associated with 'Sarvajanik Sabha Patrika' started by Mahadev Govind Ranade.
- In the year 1908, Gokhale established the Ranade Institute of Economics.
- He started the English weekly newspaper 'The Hitavad'.

### **As Gandhi's Guru:**

- As a liberal nationalist, Mahatma Gandhi considered him a political mentor.
- Mahatma Gandhi wrote a book 'Dharmatma Gokhale' in Gujarati language dedicated to Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

# MPLAD Scheme

- Recently, the Ministry of Finance has amended the rules of the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), where the interest received will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Till now the interest received on this fund was added to the MPLADS account and could be used for development projects.

## Consolidated Fund of India:

- According to Article 266(1) of the Constitution, all revenues received by the government, such as customs duty, excise duty, income tax, estate duty, other taxes and duties and money received from the collection of loans given by the government, all of them are deposited in the Consolidated Fund.
- Similarly all loans taken by the government through public notification, treasury bills (internal debt) and foreign governments and international institutions (external debt) are deposited in this fund.
- All Government expenditure is met from this fund (except for extraordinary items which relate to Public Account Fund or Public Fund) and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without the authorization of Parliament.

## MPLAD Scheme:

- MPLAD is a central sector scheme which was announced in December 1993.

## Objective:

- Enabling MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets, mainly in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads etc. in their constituencies.
- Since June 2016, MPLAD funds have been used in the implementation of schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, water conservation through rainwater harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana etc.

## Execution:

- The process of MPLADS begins with members of parliament recommending works to the nodal district authority.

- The concerned Nodal District is responsible for implementing the works recommended by the Members of Parliament and details of the works executed and the amount spent under the scheme.

### **Working Method:**

- Under MPLADS, an amount of Rs 5 crore is disbursed to the Members of Parliament (MPs) in two installments of Rs 2.5 crore every year. The amount allocated under MPLADS is non-lapsable.
- Lok Sabha MPs are recommended to spend this amount in District Authority Projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while this amount is used by Rajya Sabha Parliaments in the territory from which they are elected.
- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend business anywhere in the country.

## **PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY Scheme**

- In order to financially secure the people of the unorganized section of the country, the government started two insurance schemes – PMJJBY and PMSBY and to meet the needs of old age, the government started APY.
- These schemes were inaugurated in May 2015 by the Prime Minister in Kolkata city of West Bengal.

### **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:**

#### **Plan:**

- It is a one year accident insurance plan which is renewed every year and provides insurance coverage for death or disability due to accident.

#### **Qualification:**

- This scheme is for those people in the age group of 18 to 70 years, who have an account with any bank from which premium is charged through auto debit facility.

### **Benefit:**

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, an accidental insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh is provided at an annual premium of Rs 12 and the sum insured is paid in case of accidental death.

### **Achievements:**

- At present more than 28.37 crore enrollments have been done under this scheme and a total amount of 1,930 crore has been paid for 97,227 claims.

### **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:**

#### **Plan:**

- It is a one year life insurance plan which is renewed every year and provides insurance coverage against death due to any reason.

#### **Qualification:**

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is available to those people in the age group of 18 to 50 years who have a bank account from which premium can be collected through auto debit facility.

#### **Benefit:**

- Under this scheme, on paying premium of Rs 330 per annum (less than Re 1 per day), life insurance of Rs 2 lakh is available. In this plan, along with accident, the sum insured is also available on normal death.

#### **Achievement:**

- The cumulative enrollment under this scheme is more than 12.76 crores and an amount of Rs 11,522 crores has been paid for 5,76,121 claims.

### **Atal Pension Yojana:**

#### **Background:**

- The scheme was launched in May 2015 with the aim of creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the underprivileged and workers in the unorganized sector.
- It is an initiative of the government to provide financial security to the people of the unorganized sector and to cover the future needs.

### **Administered:**

- The scheme is administered by 'Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority' through NPS.

### **Eligibility:**

- Any citizen of India aged between 18-40 years can join this scheme. In this plan, the contribution amount of the late joiner is high and the contribution amount of the early joiner is less.

### **Benefit:**

- It provides a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1000 to Rs.5000 to the subscribers on attaining the age of 60 years as per their contribution.

### **Contribution by Central Government:**

- The minimum pension shall be guaranteed by the Government, i.e. if the accumulated fund based on contribution earns less than the estimated return on investment and is insufficient to provide minimum guaranteed pension, the Central Government shall fund such inadequacy.
- Alternatively, if the return on investment is high, the subscribers will get enhanced pension benefits.

### **Payment Frequency:**

- Subscribers can contribute to Atal Pension Yojana on monthly/quarterly/half yearly basis.

### **Achievement:**

- So far more than 4 crore persons have subscribed to this scheme.

## **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):**

- It is a statutory authority established by an Act of Parliament to regulate, promote and ensure the orderly development of the National Pension System (NPS).
- It works under the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

### **Importance of Schemes:**

- These three social security schemes are dedicated for the welfare of the citizens which provide protection to human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.
- PMJJBY and PMSBY provide people with access to low cost life/accident insurance cover, while APY provides an opportunity to get regular pension in old age by boosting existing savings.
- The number of people benefited and enrolled in these schemes for the last seven years is a proof of its success.
- These low cost insurance plans and guaranteed pension plans ensure that the financial security which was earlier available to a select few, now reaches the last man in the society.

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