

## CORPORATE OFFICE

### Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee  
Nagar Near Batra Cinema Delhi -  
110009

### Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2  
Uttar Pradesh 201301



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## GOBARDHAN SCHEME

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "GOBARDhan Scheme". This topic has relevance in the "Economy" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

### For Prelims:

What is Gobardhan Scheme?

### For Mains:

GS2: Economy

### Why in the news?

Recently, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, introduced a **Unified Registration Portal for GOBARDhan** to streamline the registration of CBG and biogas plants nationwide.

### GOBARDhan Scheme

- GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) is a significant initiative undertaken by the Government of India to **convert waste into wealth and promote a circular economy**.
- It aims to establish a robust **ecosystem for Biogas/ Compressed Biogas (CBG)/ Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) plants**, driving sustainable economic growth and addressing India's climate action objectives.
- The GOBARDhan scheme is a sub-scheme of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2.
- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, is the **nodal department** for GOBARDhan.

### Initiatives Enabling GOBARDhan Scheme:

- **Market Development Assistance (MDA):**
  - The **Department of Fertilisers** has implemented the Market Development Assistance (MDA) program to promote the production and adoption of organic fertilisers derived from GOBARDhan biogas plants.
  - A substantial Rs. 1451.82 Crore budget has been allocated for MDA over three years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26).
  - MDA aims to reduce the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and promote Integrated Nutrient Management across agricultural practices.
  - The program focuses on two key objectives: efficient organic waste management and enhancing soil organic carbon in agricultural soils, creating fertile conditions for organic farming.



### Objectives

- Efficient Organic Waste Management
- Soil Organic Carbon Enhancement
- Promotion of Organic Farming Practices

### Other Initiatives Enabling GOBARdhan:

- **Standardising bio-slurry:**
  - Bio-slurry, a byproduct of the biogas production process, has significant potential to increase the use of organic farming practices and provide economic benefits to farmers.
  - Efforts are being made to standardise the production and utilisation of bio-slurry to enhance its effectiveness as an organic fertiliser.
- **Inclusion of CBG plants in the AIF and AHIDF:**
  - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has included Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants in the Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).
  - This recognition and support from RBI contribute to the development and financial backing of CBG plants, further enabling the success of the GOBARdhan scheme.
- **Revisions in categorisation and recalibration of CBG plant categories:**
  - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has revised the categorisation and calibration of CBG plant categories.
  - This step ensures that CBG plants are assessed and regulated effectively, improving their efficiency and overall performance.
- **Revival of Waste to Energy Scheme:**
  - The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has revived the Waste to Energy Scheme, which complements the GOBARdhan scheme.
  - This initiative promotes converting various types of waste, including organic waste, into energy, further supporting the circular economy approach.

### Benefits and Impacts:

- **Clean Energy Transition:** The shift towards CBG/biogas contributes to India's clean energy transition, ensuring energy security, affordability, and reduced environmental impact.
- **Rural Employment Opportunities:** Establishing biogas plants creates job opportunities for semi-skilled and skilled labour, stimulating rural economies.
- **Women's Empowerment and Improved Health:** Access to clean fuel through CBG/biogas improves hygiene in villages, reduces the incidence of diseases, and benefits rural communities, particularly women.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** GOBARdhan is in line with India's goals of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and others.
- **Circular Economy:** GOBARdhan significantly contributes to the circular economy by converting waste into valuable resources and promoting a sustainable waste management system.

Sources: Press Information Bureau ([pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in))

### Q1. With reference to GOBARdhan Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, is the nodal department for GOBARdhan.
2. Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants are included in the Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).
3. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has revived the Waste to Energy Scheme, which complements the GOBARdhan scheme.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Help in managing the major solid waste in villages.
2. Promotion of linear economy
3. Improved hygiene and health
4. Providing employment in rural areas

**How many of the abovementioned are benefits of GOBARdhan?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Answer: (c)**

**Q3. Discuss the key initiatives and impacts of the GOBARdhan scheme in promoting a circular economy and achieving India's climate action objectives.**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

## **SCHEME FOR REMISSION OF DUTIES AND TAXES ON EXPORTED PRODUCTS (RODTEP)**

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)". This topic has relevance in the Economy section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*About (RoDTEP)?*

**For Mains:**

*GS 3: Economy*

*Need for the Scheme?*

**Why in the news:**

The Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) support, which was notified till 30th September 2023, is now being extended till 30th June 2024 at the same rates as the existing export items.

**About (RoDTEP):**

- The RoDTEP Scheme, officially known as the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products, is a crucial initiative that supports India's exporters.
- Under the RoDTEP Scheme, exporters receive rebates based on a certain percentage of the Freight On Board (FOB) value of their exports. These rebates are granted in the form of transferable duty credits or electronic scrips (e-scrips). The details of these e-scrips are digitally recorded and managed by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- The RoDTEP Committee, which operates under the Department of Revenue, plays a pivotal role in this scheme. Its primary responsibility is to assess and recommend the maximum rates for various export sectors eligible for benefits under the RoDTEP Scheme. This committee's work is vital in ensuring that the scheme effectively supports and promotes India's export industry.

**Objective:**

- The primary goal of the RoDTEP Scheme is to offer extensive assistance to exporters by reimbursing the duties and taxes incurred throughout the production and distribution processes of exported products. It's worth noting that RoDTEP encompasses taxes, duties, and levies at the central, state, and local levels, which are not reimbursed through any other existing mechanisms.

### Financial Allocation:

- In the financial year 2023-24, the Indian Government has allocated a substantial budget of Rs. 15,070 crores to bolster the RoDTEP Scheme. This allocation underscores the government's commitment to providing significant financial support to exporters through this initiative.

### Stakeholder Engagement:

- To kickstart its operations, the RoDTEP Committee has recently initiated engagement efforts with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Chambers of Commerce. This proactive approach ensures that key stakeholders in the export industry are involved and informed, fostering cooperation and effective implementation of the scheme.

### Need for the Scheme:

- The need for the RoDTEP Scheme arose from a significant challenge India faced in 2018 when the United States raised objections to five of India's export subsidy programs in the World Trade Organization (WTO). These five schemes were:
  - Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS)
  - Export Oriented Units (EOU)
  - Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP)
  - Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
  - Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)
- In October 2019, the WTO ruled that these schemes violated WTO agreements by providing prohibited export subsidies. The WTO panel recommended that the Indian government should withdraw these schemes to align with international trade regulations.
- In response to this WTO ruling and the need to comply with international trade rules, the Indian government introduced the RoDTEP Scheme. The RoDTEP Scheme was designed to be WTO-compliant, addressing the concerns raised by the WTO while still providing support to Indian exporters. This move aimed to ensure that India's trade practices remained in line with international trade regulations and to avoid potential trade disputes with other countries, especially the United States.

Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1961010#:~:text=The%20Scheme%20for%20Remission%20of,to%20the%20existing%20export%20items.>

### Q.1 The RoDTEP Scheme, a significant initiative to support India's exporters, primarily focuses on providing:

1. Direct financial incentives to exporters.
2. Infrastructure development for export industries.
3. Quality control measures for export products.

### How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: A

### Q.2 Analyze the multifaceted impacts of export promotion policies on a nation's economy, taking into account both short-term and long-term effects.

Rishabh