






Daily Current Affairs 1 April 2025



 **Solve** 

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 1 April 2026

Q1. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for workers in the unorganized sector.
2. The Central Government provides a matching co-contribution equal to the subscriber's contribution.
3. It is available to all workers, including those covered under the EPFO, ESIC, or NPS (Government funded).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. This means workers choose to join and must make regular monthly contributions to remain active in the scheme.
- Statement 2 is correct: A unique feature of this scheme is the matching contribution by the Government of India. For example, if a worker contributes ₹55 per month, the Central Government also deposits ₹55 into the subscriber's pension account.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The scheme is specifically designed for unorganized sector workers. An individual is not eligible if they are already covered under organized social security nets like the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), or the National Pension System (NPS).
- The primary objective is to provide a social security net to those who have no other form of retirement savings or job-linked pension benefits.
- Upon reaching the age of 60 years, the subscriber receives a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000.

Information Booster:

- Administrative Authority: The scheme is overseen by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- Pension Fund Manager: LIC acts as the Pension Fund Manager and is responsible for the actual pension payout.
- Family Pension: If the subscriber dies during the receipt of the pension, the spouse is entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension, provided the spouse is not already a beneficiary of the scheme.

Additional Information:

- **Organized Sector (Option 3 related):** Includes workers with regular salaries and benefits like EPF. PM-SYM excludes these individuals to focus resources on the vulnerable unorganized workforce like street vendors and domestic helps.
- **EPFO/ESIC/NPS:** These are statutory social security frameworks. Since they already provide retirement or medical benefits, their members are legally barred from enrolling in PM-SYM to prevent duplication of government subsidies.
- **Enrollment Data:** By March 2026, over 52.5 lakh people had enrolled in the scheme, reflecting high trust in the government's digital enrollment infrastructure.

Q2. What is the entry age eligibility and the maximum monthly income limit for a worker to join the PM-SYM scheme?

- (a) 18 to 35 years; Income up to ₹10,000
- (b) 18 to 40 years; Income up to ₹15,000
- (c) 21 to 45 years; Income up to ₹20,000
- (d) 18 to 50 years; Income up to ₹15,000

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (b) 18 to 40 years; Income up to ₹15,000

Explanation:

- **Entry Age:** To enroll in the PM-SYM scheme, a worker must be between 18 and 40 years of age. This ensures a long-term contribution period before the pension begins at age 60.
- **Income Criteria:** The scheme is targeted at low-income earners. A worker's monthly income must be ₹15,000 or less to be eligible.
- **Target Group:** It covers workers like street vendors, agricultural labourers, construction workers, and those in similar occupations in the unorganized sector.
- **Retirement Age:** The pension payout starts only after the subscriber completes 60 years of age.
- **Exclusion:** Any worker who is an Income Tax payer is also ineligible for the scheme, reinforcing its focus on the economically weaker sections.

Information Booster:

- **Contribution Table:** The monthly contribution varies based on the entry age. An 18-year-old pays the lowest (₹55), while a 40-year-old pays the highest (₹200) because they have a shorter time to build the fund.
- **Documentation:** For enrollment, a subscriber only requires an Aadhaar Card and a Savings Bank Account/Jan Dhan Account with an IFSC code.

Additional Information:

- **18 to 35 years (Option a):** This is a narrower window; the government expanded it to 40 years to include more middle-aged workers who lacked savings.
- **Income up to ₹20,000 (Option c):** This exceeds the threshold; the ₹15,000 limit ensures that the subsidy reaches those most in need of a safety net.
- **18 to 50 years (Option d):** An entry age of 50 is too late for the current contributory model of the PM-SYM, as it wouldn't allow enough time for the corpus to grow.

Q3. Which of the following groups are specifically targeted as beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme?

- (a) Civil Servants and Bank Employees
- (b) Workers in the Software and IT sectors
- (c) Street vendors, domestic workers, and agricultural labourers
- (d) Income tax-paying professionals

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c) Street vendors, domestic workers, and agricultural labourers

Explanation:

- **Unorganized Workforce:** PM-SYM is specifically designed for the unorganized sector, which constitutes a massive portion of India's workforce but often lacks job security.
- **Included Occupations:** Beneficiaries include street vendors, rickshaw pullers, construction workers, ragpickers, domestic workers, washermen, and agricultural labourers.
- **Social Security Gap:** These workers typically do not have access to retirement benefits like gratuity or provident funds, making a guaranteed pension crucial for their old-age financial security.
- **Small Business Owners:** It also includes small shop owners and other self-employed individuals with low monthly earnings.
- **Aims:** The scheme aims to reduce the stress of the future and ensure economic stability for these vulnerable groups after they can no longer perform heavy physical labor.

Information Booster:

- **Self-Certification:** The enrollment process is simplified through self-certification of being an unorganized worker and meeting the income criteria.
- **Facilitation:** The Common Service Centers (CSCs) across the country act as the primary points for registration to help workers who may not be tech-savvy.

Additional Information:

- **Civil Servants (Option a):** They are part of the organized sector and generally covered under the National Pension System (NPS) or older pension frameworks.
- **Software/IT Workers (Option b):** Generally fall under the organized sector with income levels usually exceeding the ₹15,000 limit.
- **Income Tax Payers (Option d):** Are explicitly excluded as they are considered to have a higher financial standing.

Q4. Through which primary digital infrastructure can an unorganized worker enroll in the PM-SYM scheme as of 2026?

- (a) Directly at any local Police Station
- (b) Only through Commercial Banks
- (c) Common Service Centers (CSCs) and the official PM-SYM portal
- (d) Through the Income Tax department's e-filing site

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c) Common Service Centers (CSCs) and the official PM-SYM portal

Explanation:

- **Digital Accessibility:** The government has made enrollment straightforward and accessible to ensure maximum reach in rural and urban areas.
- **CSCs:** Workers can visit any of the Common Service Centers (CSCs) located across India. The staff at CSCs assist with the digital registration process, which is helpful for workers with limited literacy.

- Online Portal: For those with internet access, enrollment can be done online through the official PM-SYM/Maandhan portal.
- Auto-Debit: Once registered, the monthly contribution is automatically deducted via an auto-debit facility from the subscriber's linked bank account.
- Mobile App: The "UMANG" app and other government-backed mobile applications also support the scheme's management and registration.

Information Booster:

- Enrollment Statistics: As of March 2026, over 52.5 lakh individuals have enrolled, showcasing the effectiveness of the CSC network in driving awareness.
- Karmayogi Connection: While iGOT Karmayogi is for civil servants, platforms like the PM-SYM portal are the "Karmayogi" equivalents for the unorganized workforce, helping them secure their future.

Additional Information:

- Police Stations (Option a): They do not handle social security registrations; their role is limited to law and order.
- Commercial Banks (Option b): While bank accounts are required, the enrollment process is primarily driven by the CSC network and the dedicated portal.
- Income Tax Site (Option d): PM-SYM is for non-taxpayers; hence, the IT department's portals are not used for this purpose.

Q5. Which of the following entities is the primary sponsor and implementing ministry for the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme?

- (a) State Governments through local Municipal Corporations
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India
- (c) NITI Aayog in collaboration with private insurance companies
- (d) Ministry of Finance through the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

Ans. (b)

Sol. The correct answer is (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

Explanation:

- The PM-SYM is a centrally sponsored umbrella program launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- As a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, it receives 100% financial backing from the Central Government for its matching co-contribution component.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acts as the Pension Fund Manager and is responsible for the actual payout of the ₹3,000 monthly pension.
- The scheme aims to optimize the efficiency of social security delivery by bridging infrastructure gaps for workers in the unorganized sector.
- It is designed specifically to bring financial security to those who do not have any other social security net, such as EPF or NPS.

Information Booster:

- Matching Contribution: The Central Government contributes an equal amount as the worker into the pension fund.
- Implementation Partner: The scheme is facilitated across India through Common Service Centers (CSCs) for easy and accessible enrollment.
- Legacy: It was launched in 2019 to address the lack of retirement benefits for the large workforce in India's unorganized sector.

Additional Knowledge:

- Ministry of Finance (Option d): While it oversees the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the PM-SYM is specifically under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- State Governments (Option a): While they may assist in awareness, the scheme is a Central Sector initiative, meaning the funding and guidelines come directly from the Union Government.
- LIC Role: LIC is the fund manager, but the "sponsor" remains the Government of India, which guarantees the pension.



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