



What to study?

For Prelims and Mains: Features and significance of the scheme, do we really need such schemes?

Context: The government of Assam has announced a new scheme called **Arundhati to provide gold at free of cost to the brides.**

Key features:

Under the scheme, the government of Assam aims to provide **1 Tola Gold to brides belonging to all such communities of Assam where it is customary to provide gold at the time of the wedding.**

The scheme is named after Arundhati, wife of great sage Basistha. The government has set aside **Rs 300 cr** has been for the implementation of the Arundhati Scheme.

The benefit under Arundhati scheme can be availed upon **formal registration of marriages under Special Marriage (Assam) Rules, 1954.**

The scheme is limited for economically weaker sections, whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh.

Significance of the scheme:

Gold forms an inherent part of Indian weddings. With the introduction of the Arundhati Scheme, the government wants to stand with those fathers who cannot afford to gift a set of gold ornaments to their daughters and would to resort to borrowings and put themselves in the vicious cycle of debt.

To be looked in UPSC Paper 2 Topic:

1. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.