



Common Services Centres (CSC)

Why in News

Recently, the **Common Services Centres (CSC)** has received approvals to manage and **operate Passport Seva Kendra kiosks in rural areas.**

Key Points

▪ About CSC:

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).**
- The CSC is a **strategic cornerstone of the [National e-Governance Plan \(NeGP\)](#)**, approved by the Government in May 2006, as part of its commitment in the **National Common Minimum Programme** to introduce **e-governance on a massive scale.**
- The **objective** of CSCs is to provide **high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services**, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment as well as other private services.
- The Scheme **creates a conducive environment for the private sector and NGOs** to play an active role in implementation of the CSC Scheme, thereby becoming a partner of the government in development of rural India.
- The **PPP (Public Private Partnership)** model of the CSC scheme **envisages a 3-tier structure** consisting of the:
 - **CSC operator** (called Village Level Entrepreneur or VLE);
 - **Service Centre Agency (SCA)**, that will be responsible for a division of 500-1000 CSCs; and
 - **State Designated Agency (SDA)** identified by the State Government responsible for managing the implementation in the entire State.

▪ CSC and Digital India:

- **Digital India** is a **flagship programme of India** with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- CSCs enable the three vision areas of the Digital India programme:
 - Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen.
 - Governance and services on demand.
 - Digital empowerment of citizens.

▪ CSC 2.0:

- It was **launched in 2015**, expanding the programme's outreach **to all [gram panchayats](#)** in the country. At least **one CSC** is envisaged in **each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats.**
- CSC 2.0 is a **service delivery oriented entrepreneurship model** with a large bouquet of services made available for the citizens through optimum utilization of infrastructure already created in the form of State Wide Area Network (SWAN), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG), e-District, State Data Centre (SDC), and **[\(National Optical Fiber Network \(NOFN\)/BharatNet.](#)**

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