Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi Scheme

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a micro-credit scheme for street vendors, which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 14 as a part of the economic package for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

- The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi Scheme is aimed at benefiting over 50 lakh vendors who had their businesses operational on or before March 24.

- The scheme is valid till March 2022.

- The vendors will be able to apply for a working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year.

- On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer on a six monthly basis.

- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

- The Ministry said an online portal and mobile application were being developed to ensure speedy implementation of the scheme.

- The loans would be without collateral.

- The loans are meant to help kick-start activity for vendors who have been left without any income since the lockdown was implemented on March 25.