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### **1. Conservation Plan for Great Indian Bustards ( March 29, 2023 )**

ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The **ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** is taking various measures for **conservation and protection of Great Indian Bustard** in the country, including in **Rajasthan**.

#### **Important steps taken by the Ministry**

- The Great Indian Bustard is listed in **Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Highest degree of legal protection from hunting.**
- Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards have been designated as **National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.**
- This species has been identified for conservation efforts under the centrally sponsored scheme '**Species Recovery Programme**'.
- Breeding conservation of the Great Indian Bustard has been done in collaboration with the **Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra** Forest Departments.
- Sites have been identified for setting up conservation breeding centers for Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican birds in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India and international experts.
- A **satellite conservation breeding facility** has been established at **SAM, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.**

#### **About Great Indian Bustard**

- It is considered India's most critically endangered bird species and is especially found in **Rajasthan and Gujarat.**
- It is one of the **heaviest flying birds endemic to the Indian subcontinent.**
- It is the **state bird of Rajasthan.**
- These birds are on the verge of extinction, with **barely 50 to 249 surviving**, according to a 2021 report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is a large bird with **brown-and-white feathers with black crown and wing markings.** It is one of the heaviest birds in the world.
- Its habitat is **Arid grasslands.**
- IUCN Status - **Critically Endangered.**
- Listed in **Wildlife Protection Act's Schedule 1.**
- The cause of the decline in numbers is **Hunting, Intensification of agriculture, Power lines.**

## **2. Government of India launched National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies ( March 28, 2023 )**

The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** for prevention and control of Rabies recently.

### **National Rabies Control Program Strategy**

1. Provision of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin through National Free Drug Initiative.
2. Training on proper management of animal bites, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and inter-sectoral coordination.
3. Strengthening monitoring of reporting of animal bites and rabies deaths.
4. Awareness about prevention of rabies.

### **What is Rabies?**

- Rabies is a viral disease. This virus is present in the saliva of animals suffering from rabies such as **dogs, cats, monkeys** etc.
- It is caused by the rabies virus of the **Lyssavirus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family**. It is an **RNA virus**.
- According to statistics, about **99 percent of cases in humans are caused by dog bites**.
- Rabies is **100% fatal and 100% preventable** through vaccines.
- India accounts for **33% of global rabies deaths**.
- The time period between bites of an animal infected with rabies and the appearance of symptoms of rabies can range from four days to two years, or sometimes more.

### **World Rabies Day**

- The day is observed every year on **28 September** to raise awareness about the **effects of rabies virus disease and ways to prevent it**.
- The day is celebrated to mark the **anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death**.
- Louis Pasteur developed the **first rabies vaccine and laid the foundation for the prevention of rabies**.
- The theme of this day for the year 2022 is '**Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths**'.

## **3. 2.18 Crore pucca houses completed till 11th March under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin ( March 16, 2023 )**

2.18 Crore pucca houses completed till 11th March under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin

According to the government, **2 crore 18 lakh pucca houses** have been **built till March 11, 2023**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)**.

### **An overview of the news**

- In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Rural Development **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti** said that under the scheme, states and union territories have **already sanctioned 2.85 crore pucca houses to the beneficiaries**.
- Out of these, a total of **two crore 94 lakh houses have been allotted** to the beneficiaries.
- The government has set a target of constructing **two crore 95 lakh pucca houses** with basic facilities by March 2024.

### **About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana rural in 2016**.
- The scheme was initiated with the objective of '**Housing for All by 2022**'.
- The scheme has 2 Components - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)**.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin was earlier called **Indira Awas Yojana** which was renamed in **March 2016**.

## **4. Green national highway corridor project to be implemented in four states ( March 16, 2023 )**

**India and the World Bank** have signed a **loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States**.

### **An overview of the news**

- These four states are- **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Agreement has been signed for construction of **781 kilometer green national highway corridor** in these states with a line of credit of \$500 million.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** gave this information in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 15.

### **About Green National Highways Corridor Project**

- It will assist the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to construct 781 km of highways.
- It will integrate safe and green technology designs such as **local and marginal materials, industrial by-products** and other bioengineering solutions.
- It will also support the **Bharatmala Pariyojana programme**.

### **Components of the project**

- Sustainable development and maintenance of National Highways.
- Institutional Capacity Enhancement and Road Safety.
- Research and Development.

### **Objective of GNHCP**

- To demonstrate safe and green highways keeping in mind climate resilience and use of green technologies by incorporating provisions for conservation of natural resources, use of cement-treated reclaimed asphalt pavement.
- Use of local/marginal materials such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic, bio-engineering measures such as hydroseeding, coco/jute fibre, etc.
- It will enhance the capacity of the Ministry to mainstream green technologies.

### **5. 3 lakh 61 thousand crore rupees loan given to MSMEs under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme ( March 14, 2023 )**

3 lakh 61 thousand crore rupees loan given to MSMEs under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

**Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** have so far been given a **loan of Rs 3 lakh 61 thousand crore** under the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**.

### **An overview of the news**

- Minister of State for Finance **Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad** gave this information in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 14.
- He informed that this scheme covers all sectors of the economy.

### **About Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**

- It was announced as part of the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package in 2020**.
- **Its objective** is to help businesses including MSMEs to meet their operational liabilities and resume business in view of the distress caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

- It provides **100 percent guarantee** to lending institutions for any losses incurred due to non-payment of ECLGS funding by borrowers.
- The scheme is under the operational domain of the **Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS)**.

## **6. Over 38 crore loans provided since launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana ( March 14, 2023 )**

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 14, Minister of State for Finance **Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad** said that since the launch of the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in April 2015**, more than **38 crore loans** have been disbursed so far.

### **An overview of the news**

- He informed that out of this, more than **26 crore loans** have been given to **women entrepreneurs**.
- About **20 crore loans** have been disbursed to **SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- The Ministry of Labor and Employment had conducted a **large sample survey** at the national level to assess the employment generation under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**.
- According to the results of the survey, **1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment** has been generated in the country from **2015 to 2018** by this scheme.

### **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**

- It was launched on **8 April 2015**.
- Under the scheme, the people of the country are given loans up to a **maximum of 10 lakhs** to start their own small business.
- Any person who wants to further his business can take a loan under this scheme.
- People are issued a **Mudra card** to avail loans under this scheme.
- The loans are provided through Banks, **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs)**, and other financial intermediaries.
- More than **64 per cent of the loan accounts** opened under the scheme are **of women**.

### **Three types of loans under Mudra Yojana**

1. **Shishu**- Loans up to Rs.50,000.
2. **Kishor** - Loans above Rs.50,000 and less than Rs.5 lakh.
3. **Tarun** - Loans above Rs.5 lakh and up to Rs.10 lakh.

**7. Centre launches MSME Competitive (LEAN) scheme ( March 12, 2023 )**

Union Minister for MSME **Narayan Rane** launched the **MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme** on 10 March.

**About the Scheme**

- It aims to provide a **roadmap to global competitiveness for the MSMEs of India**.
- The scheme will not only strive to improve quality, productivity and performance, but also change the mindset of manufacturers and provide them the ability to become world class manufacturers.
- Under this scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like **5S, Kaizen, Kanban, Visual Workplace, Poka Yoka** etc. under the able guidance of trained and competent LEAN consultants to acquire LEAN levels like Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.
- Through this scheme, MSMEs can significantly **reduce wastage, increase productivity, improve quality, expand their markets**, operate in a safer manner and ultimately become competitive and profitable.
- To assist MSMEs, the government will contribute **90 per cent of the implementation cost and consultancy fee** for providing initial support.
- There will be an additional contribution of **5 per cent for MSMEs** which are owned by women/SC/ST and are part of SFURTI clusters located in North Eastern States.
- Nodal Agency of the scheme will be the **National Productivity Council (NPC)**.

**Initiatives related to MSME Sector**

- The **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act** was notified in the year 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment limits of the sector.
- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)** :- It is a credit linked subsidy scheme for setting up new micro enterprises and generating employment opportunities in rural and urban areas of the country. Commencement - 15 August 2008
- **Scheme of Fund for the Upliftment of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)** :- Its objective is to organise artisans and traditional industries into clusters and thus provide financial assistance to make them competitive in the current market scenario.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises** :- Under this scheme launched to facilitate easy flow of credit, guarantee cover is provided for collateral free loans given to MSMEs.
- **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)** :- It aims at facilitating technology up-gradation to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) by providing 15% capital subsidy for purchase of plant and machinery.

- **CHAMPIONS Portal** :- It aims to help Indian MSMEs to establish themselves as national and global champions by resolving their grievances and providing them encouragement, support.

## **8. PM Modi addresses post-budget webinar on PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman ( March 11, 2023 )**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addresses the **post-budget webinar** on '**PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM VIKAS)**' on 11 March.

### **An overview of the news**

- According to the Ministry of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, this is part of the series of **12 post-budget webinars** being organized by the Government of India for ideas and suggestions for effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget.
- The Prime Minister said that through these schemes, the youth of the country are **getting a lot of employment opportunities**.
- There is a need for a **more targeted approach** in the field of skill development to get better results and the PM-Vishwakarma scheme is a result of that thinking.
- The objective of the PM-Vishwakarma scheme is not only to preserve the rich tradition of traditional artisans and craftsmen but also to develop them.
- Now the skill infrastructure system needs to be changed according to their needs.

### **PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Scheme**

- This scheme has been announced for traditional artisans and craftsmen in the **budget 2023-24**.
- The objective of the scheme is **to improve the quality and accessibility of artisans/craftsmen** by integrating them with domestic and global value chains of their products/services.
- The scheme includes **financial support as well as access to advanced skills, training, knowledge** of modern digital technologies and efficient green technologies, brand promotion and social security.
- In this scheme, more attention has been given to **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Women and Weaker Sections**.
- Under the Vishwakarma community, more than **140 castes** of the country come, which cover a large population of the country.

## **9. New initiative called 'Beggar Free City' launched in Maharashtra's Nagpur ( March 11, 2023 )**

In **Maharashtra**, a new initiative called '**Beggar Free City**' was launched in **Nagpur**.

**News Overview**

- Nagpur City Police Commissioner **Amitesh Kumar** said that a notice under **144 CrPC has been issued in this regard.**
- Notices were given to people, and chances are also not to be allowed in public places.
- It is a joint venture of the **Nagpur City Police and the Social Welfare Department of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).**
- **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)** has made special arrangements in its owned shelters to restrict homeless people.
- The civic bodies have also arranged a bus and an ambulance to shift the beggars caught in the police operation to their shelter homes.

**About Maharashtra**

- Establishment - **1st May 1960**
- Official Language - **Marathi**
- Neighbouring States - **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Dadra And Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh**
- Members of Parliament - **Lok Sabha 48 (Rajya Sabha seats 19)**
- Legislature - **Bicameral ( Assembly 289 and council 78 seats)**
- Literacy - **82.91%**
- Districts - **36**
- Major Rivers - **Tributaries of Tapti, Bhima, Godavari and Krishna**
- Capital - **Mumbai**
- Population - **11.23 crore (2011 census)**
- Governor - **Ramesh Bais**
- Chief Minister - **Eknath Shinde**

**10. Madhya Pradesh govt launches Ladli Bahna scheme ( March 5, 2023 )**

**Madhya Pradesh Government** on 5 March launched **Ladli Bahna scheme** under which each woman will be given **one thousand rupees per month.**

**An overview of the news**

- Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the process of filling application forms of Ladli Bahna Yojana in the presence of about one lakh women at **Bhopal's Jamboree Maidan.**

- This scheme is being launched with the aim of increasing the **economic**
- **independence of women** in the state, improving their health and nutritional status and increasing their influence on family decisions.
  - Under the scheme, **Rs 1,000 per month** will be deposited in the accounts of the native women of the state in the **age group of 23 to 60 years**.
  - Applications for the scheme will be filled from **March 15 to April 30** and the disbursement of funds will start from June 10.