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1. Jharkhand government launches water conservation scheme to benefit drought-hit farmers (Jan. 23, 2023)

Jharkhand Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh launched a **water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 crore** to **benefit farmers who faced drought last year in the state.**

An overview of the news

- **Under the scheme, 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be built** in all blocks of **24 districts** of the state.
- Foundation stone for renovation work of 71 ponds and 184 percolation tanks was also laid on the occasion.
- Percolation tank is an artificially created surface water body to recharge groundwater storage.
- The objective of this scheme is to provide water to the drought-affected farmers of the state so that they can get enough water to irrigate their fields.

Jharkhand State

- Capital - Ranchi
- Governor - Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister - Hemant Soren
- Legislative Assembly - 82 seats
- Lok Sabha - 14 seats
- Major festivals of Jharkhand - Sarhul, Karam / Karma, Rohini, Sohrai

2. Punjab government launches 'School of Eminence' project (Jan. 22, 2023)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the ambitious project 'School of Eminence'.

An overview of the news

- The objective of this project is to ensure holistic development of the students along with the rejuvenation of education in government schools so that they become responsible citizens.
- Under the **'School of Eminence' project, 117 government schools in 23 districts will be upgraded.**
- Special emphasis will be given through the project from class 9th to 12th.

- A **budget provision of Rs 200 crore** has been made for the 'School of Eminence' project.
- State-of-the-art infrastructure, academics, human resource management, sports and co-curricular activities and community engagement are the major five pillars of the project.

Punjab State -

- Capital – Chandigarh
- Governor - Banwari Lal Purohit
- Chief Minister - Bhagwant Mann
- Legislative Assembly - 117 seats
- Lok Sabha - 13 seats

3. 'Year of Enterprises Project' (Jan. 13, 2023)

Kerala's 'Year of Enterprises' project has been awarded as a best practice model at the 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries.

- It has been selected under the Throughput on Micro Small and Medium (MSMEs) category.
- **The project was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 30 March 2022.**
- The project was launched with the aim of creating one lakh enterprises in a year, while the state achieved the target in eight months.
- The project has successfully created 1,18,509 enterprises and received an investment of Rs 7,261.54 crore.
- The 'Year of Enterprises' project has created 2,56,140 jobs so far.
- **2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries**
- The 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held in New Delhi.
- Which was **presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The conference was attended by representatives of the Central Government and Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories besides subject experts.

4. Tripura State Government launches "Saharsh" special education program (Jan. 12, 2023)

Tripura State Government launches "Saharsh" special education program

The **Tripura state government** has launched **"Saharsh" special education program** to promote **social and emotional learning.**

An overview of the news

- It was started as a pilot program in **40 schools in the state in August 2022**, now it will be made available to all government and aided schools in the state.
- Its objective is to enable children to **study with joy and enthusiasm.**
- As per the **Performance Grading Index**, Tripura currently comes under **Grade-I group.**
- The state government has already trained **204 schools** for the Saharsh curriculum while **200 more schools** will be trained soon.
- Thirty assistant principals from different districts of Tripura were also happily selected to act as implementation ambassadors.

About Tripura

- Capital - **Agartala**
- Governor - **Satyadev Narayan Arya**
- Chief Minister - **Manik Shah**
- State Bird - **Green Imperial Pigeon (Ducula aenia)**
- State Tree - **Agar (Aquilaria malaccensis)**
- State Flower - **Nageshwar (Mesua Feria)**
- Borders - **Bangladesh, Mizoram and Assam.**

5. Centre named new Integrated Food Security Scheme as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (Jan. 12, 2023)

The new integrated food security scheme has been named as **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ((PMGKAY)** to provide free food grains to **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries.**

An overview of the news

- Keeping in view the welfare of the beneficiaries and to maintain uniformity across states, all PHH and AAY beneficiaries will be provided free food grains under **PMGKAY for 2023.**
- This integrated scheme will strengthen the provisions of **NFSA, 2013** in terms of access, affordability and availability of food grains to the poor.

- The implementation of this new scheme has started from **January 1, 2023**, which is benefiting more than **80 crore poor people.**
- The central government will spend over **Rs 2 lakh crore** in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes to ease the financial burden of the poor.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ((PMGKAY)

- It is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against **Covid-19.**
- Its nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Finance.**
- Under this scheme, the government provides additional free of cost **5 kg per person per month food-grains (rice/wheat**) to around 80 crore beneficiaries of National Food Security Act (NFSA) including the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) beneficiaries.
- The PMGKAY has now been linked with **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC**) plan where migrant workers can get the benefit of the scheme through any ration shops in India.

6. PM launches Aspirational Block Programme aimed at spurring development parameters (Jan. 10, 2023)

PM launches Aspirational Block Programme aimed at spurring development parameters

A new initiative called the **Aspirational Blocks Program** was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 7 January with an aim to improve the performance of blocks within backward districts in various development parameters.

An overview of the news

- The Aspirational Block Program (ABP) was announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23.**
- Under this programme, **500 blocks** across states have been identified for quarterly ranking based on their performance in areas such as health, education and nutrition.
- It will initially cover **500 districts across 31 states** and union territories, of which more than half of the blocks are located in six states – **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.**
- The 500 blocks for ABP have been selected based on the recommendations of a **four-member committee** set up by the government last year.
- ABP is based on the **Aspirational District Program (ADP).**

Aspirational District Program

- The program was launched in **January 2018** with an aim to rapidly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts in the country.

- The scheme is implemented along with the **Central and State schemes.**
- At the Government of India level, the program is administered by **NITI Aayog.**

Parameters for Best Aspirational District

- It envisages rapid development of selected districts on the basis of a composite index based on five parameters

1. Health and Nutrition
2. Education
3. Financial Inclusion and Skill Development
4. agriculture and water resources
5. Basic Infrastructure

7. Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission (Jan. 6, 2023)

Odisha won the **UN-Habitat World Habitat Awards 2023** for the state's **5T (Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time, Transformation) initiative Jaga Mission.**

An overview of the news

- Jaga Mission is a **land ownership and slum upgradation program** aimed at empowering the lives of **slum dwellers**.
- Under the leadership of Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik,** the Odisha government has set an ambitious target of becoming the **first slum-free state in India.**
- The state of Odisha is spearheading the Jaga Mission program to upgrade all **2,919 slums.**
- The initiative has provided **land patta security to 1,75,000 families** in the last five years.
- **100 percent households** in 2,724 slums have been provided with piped water connections, 707 slums have been converted into fully livable housing, 100 percent households in 666 slums have individual toilets and 8 cities have become slum-free.
- **Earlier in 2019**, Odisha's Jaga Mission received the **World Habitat Award for its success in providing land security** for slum dwellers.
- World Habitat is a **charity organisation** recognized by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

8. Parshottam Rupala inaugurates 29 Mobile Veterinary Units and Centralised call centre in Thiruvananthapuram (Jan. 6, 2023)

Parshottam Rupala inaugurates 29 Mobile Veterinary Units and Centralised call centre in Thiruvananthapuram

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Purushottam Rupala** inaugurated **29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) and Centralised Call Center** in **Thiruvananthapuram** on 5 January.

An overview of the news

- It is a major step for the **benefit of the livestock farmers** in Kerala. Kerala is deploying **50 MVUs** in different districts.
- It will help transform the dairy sector from subsistence-based agricultural livelihood to a commercially viable enterprise, resulting in gainful employment for the youth of Kerala.
- These MVUs will be operated through a centralised call centre with a common **helpline number - 1962.**
- It will receive calls from **herders/cattle owners** and the vet will prioritise all the cases based on emergency nature and forward them to the nearest MVU for attending at the doorstep of the farmer.
- The MVUs will act as one-stop centres for resolution of **veterinary issues and dissemination of information** in remote areas of the country.
- The MVUs will provide diagnosis treatment, vaccination, artificial insemination, minor surgical intervention, audio-visual support to animal owners in far flung areas.
- In the current financial year, **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**, Govt of India has sanctioned **4332 MVUs** across the country.

Background

- MVUs are components under the **Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) scheme.**
- Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for delivery of veterinary health services at the doorstep of farmers by providing **1 MVU per 1 lakh livestock population**.
- The scheme provides **100% financial assistance** towards non-recurring expenditure (@Rs.16.00 lakh/1MVU) on purchase and adaptation of Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU).
- **Central share** (100% for UTs, 90% for NE & Hilly States and 60% for all other States) towards recurring expenditure (@ Rs.18.72 lakh/1 MVU) on running of these MVUs.

9. Dharmendra Pradhan chairs the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of National Skill Development Mission (Jan. 5, 2023)

Dharmendra Pradhan chairs the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of National Skill Development Mission

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, chaired the third meeting of the **Steering Committee of the National Skill Development Mission** in New Delhi on 4 January.

An overview of the news

- The progress made in the skill development efforts and the **road map ahead** were discussed in the meeting.
- The minister also discussed **various issues** such as convergence of skill development schemes, skill gap analysis and skill mapping, connecting Indian youth to global opportunities, developing a curriculum to reflect emerging trends, etc.
- He also called for greater convergence between skill development schemes of all ministries and spending on skill development by all stakeholders.

National Skill Development Mission

- It was **launched in 2015** to provide a strong institutional framework to implement skill development efforts across the country and **provide training to one crore youth** every year.
- It has been developed to create convergence across regions and states in terms of skill training activities.
- **Objective** - To provide a strong institutional framework at the Center and in all States for the implementation of skilling activities in the country.
- **Ministry** : Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

10. Union Government approves the National Green Hydrogen Mission (Jan. 4, 2023)

Union Government approves the National Green Hydrogen Mission

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 4 January 2023 approved the National Green Hydrogen Policy which aims to make India a Global Hub for the production, utilisation and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

Green Hydrogen refers to the breaking down of the water molecule into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable sources of energy.

Outlay for the Scheme

The initial outlay for the Mission is **Rs.19, 744 crore**, including an outlay of Rs.17, 490 crore for the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT),** Rs.1, 466 crore for pilot projects, Rs.400 crore for Research and Development, and Rs. 388 crore towards other Mission components.

Main Objective of the National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The aim of the National Hydrogen Mission is to enable India to meet its climate change target of **net zero carbon emission by 2070** and make India a production and export hub of hydrogen fuel.
- Achieve the capacity to produce **5 million tonnes** of green hydrogen per year by 2030 ,
- Capacity addition of **125 GW of renewable energy by 2030**.
- Reduction in carbon dioxide emission of nearly 50 Million Metric Tonne per annum by 2030.
- Reduction in fossil fuel imports worth Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030.
- To attract investment over Rs.8 lakh crore in the sector.
- Target of creation of over 6 lakh jobs in the sector by 2030.