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1. Rajasthan Government launches Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme' to provide 100 days of employment (Sept. 10, 2022)

The Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on 9 September 2022 launched the 'Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme' to provide 100 days of employment in a year to families residing in urban areas of the state. The scheme was announced by the government in the state budget 2022-23.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Employment under the scheme :

- The scheme provides that eligible persons will get a minimum 100 days of employment in a year.
- This scheme will be implemented in all the urban local bodies of the state.
- At least 50 people will be given employment in each ward of urban local bodies.

Who are eligible ?

- People who are in the age group of **18 -60 years** and living in the urban areas are eligible for jobs under the scheme.

Budget for the scheme :

- Government of Rajasthan has allocated Rs 800 crore for the scheme

Nature of works offered :

- According to the government the scheme will offer works related to environment protection, water and heritage conservation, garden maintenance, and removing encroachments, illegal sign boards, hoardings, banners, sanitation, cleanliness and other such works.

Wages offered under the scheme :

- Under the scheme unskilled labour will be provided a wage of ₹259 per day, skilled workers will be given ₹283 each day and mates will be given ₹271 per day.
- The government will credit the wage payment in the bank accounts of the beneficiary within 15 days.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Rajasthan :

- Rajasthan 'Land of Kings' or 'Land of Kingdom' is India's largest state by area and shares International boundary with Pakistan.

- The State was formed on 30th March 1949. On this day the Rajputana State was merged into the Dominion of India.
- The state has the famous bird sanctuary, Keoladeo **National Park** near **Bharatpur**
- Apart from this state has 4 national tiger reserves namely
- **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** in Sawai Madhopur district,
- **Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve** in Kota district,
- **Sariska Tiger Reserve** in Alwar district and
- **Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary** (India's 52nd tiger reserve).
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- Capital: **Jaipur** It is also known as Pink City.

2. President Droupadi Murmu to virtually launch Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan on 9 September (Sept. 7, 2022)

President Droupadi Murmu will virtually launch the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan on 9th September 2022 to reinvigorate the mission of TB elimination from the country by 2025.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given the call to end TB in the country five years ahead of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) target of 2030 at the Delhi End TB Summit in March 2018.
- During the event, President Murmu will also launch the **Ni-kshay Mitra** initiative, a portal to provide a platform for donors to provide various forms of support to those undergoing TB treatment.
- India has the largest population of TB patients in the world. According to the World Health Organisation 26% of TB cases in the world in 2020 was reported from India.
- Every year **March 24** is observed as World Tuberculosis Day in the world.

3. Piyush Goyal launches India US Startup SETU - Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling programme in San Francisco (Sept. 7, 2022)

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goel launched the India US Startup SETU - Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling programme in San Francisco, United States on 6 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Aim of the Startup:

- Piyush Goyal said it will act as a bridge between Indian and American companies and will support entrepreneurs in transforming, upskilling and leveraging on the success stories of the Indian Diaspora in the US.
- The minister observed that some good ideas of startups don't take off for lack of mentorship, guidance, funds.

- The initiative would connect start-ups in India to US-based investors and start-up ecosystem leaders with mentorship and assistance in various areas including funding, market access and commercialization.
- The interaction will be supported through the mentorship portal under the Startup India initiative **MAARG, or the Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth** program, which is a single-stop solution finder for startups in India.

What is MAARG ?

- It is a portal which has been launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the startups India initiative.
- The portal has been developed with the idea that a mentor shall be accessible to the startups, anywhere in the country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***Points to remember :***

- **January 16** is observed as Startup day as on this day in 2016 the government of India launched its flagship Startup India initiative. The first Startup day was observed in 2022.
- India has become the **third-largest Startup ecosystem** in the world after the US and China.
- Bengaluru based **Neobank Open** is the 100th Unicorn Startup in India.

4. Union cabinet approves launch of centrally sponsored scheme of PM SHRI Schools (Sept. 7, 2022)

The Union cabinet on 7 September approved the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme of setting up PM Schools for Rising India, PM - SHRI Schools.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Under this scheme, more than 14,000 schools including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas as well as schools run by State Governments and local bodies will be strengthened to emerge as PM-Shri Schools.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this scheme for the up-gradation and modernization of existing schools managed by the central and state governments as well as local bodies on Teachers' Day on 5 September.
- The total project cost for five years would be Rs 27,360 crore, of which the Centre's share would be Rs 18,128 crore.
- 187 lakh students will be benefited under this scheme.

5. PM Modi announces PM-SHRI Scheme for upgrading 14500 school across country on Teachers Day (Sept. 5, 2022)

On the occasion of Teacher's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a new initiative, Pradhan **Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana** on 5 September 2022.

Under the Yojana, the development and upgradation of **14 thousand 500 schools across the country will** be undertaken.

In a series of tweets, Mr Modi said, these PM-SHRI schools will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of National Education Policy.

He said, emphasis will be given on a discovery oriented, learning centric way of teaching.

The Prime Minister said, the focus will also be on modern infrastructure including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more.

Teacher's day is observed on 5 September every year to celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr S. Radhakrishnan.

6. Uttarakhand CM launched Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana (Aug. 30, 2022)

On the occasion of National Sports Day, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana in the state.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Under the scheme sports scholarships of Rs 1500 will be provided every month to the players between the age group of 8 to 14 years.
- A total of 3900 budding sports persons will benefit from **Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana**, in which 1950 boys and 1950 girls will be included.

Other announcements made by the Chief Minister on this occasion :

- The Chief Minister said that a sports development fund would be set up in the state. Under this, eight sports coaches will be appointed in each district.
- The Malkhamb game will be included in sports policy.
- Along with this, the contract trainers in the Sports Department will be given the same honorarium as the contract trainers of the Sports Authority of India.
- He also announced efforts to re-implement four percent reservation for skilled sportspersons in state services.

About Uttarakhand State :

- Formation - 09 November 2000
- Capital - Dehradun
- Number of Divisions - 02 (Garhwal and Kumaon)
- State bordering the state - 2 (Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh)
- Countries bordering the state - 2 (Nepal, Tibet (China))
- State flower - Brahma Kamal (local name - Kaulpadya) (Scientific name - *Sosuria ablevets*)
- State Tree - Buransh (Rhododendron)
- State animal - musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*)
- State Bird - Monal (Lophophanes inornatus)
- state sport - football
- Number of Vidhan Sabha Members - 70
- Number of Members in Lok Sabha - 5
- Seats for Rajya Sabha - 3
- Chief Minister - Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Governor - Gurmeet Singh

7. Arth Ganga Model (Aug. 27, 2022)

The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga mentioned the Arth Ganga model during his virtual keynote address to the Stockholm World Water Week 2022 on 26 August.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

About Arth Ganga Model :

- PM Modi first introduced the concept of Arth Ganga Model during the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019.
- During the meeting he urged for a shift from **Namami Gange** (cleaning of Ganga) to the model of Arth Ganga.
- Arth Ganga focuses on the sustainable development of the Ganga and its surrounding areas, by focusing on economic activities related to the river.
- The Arth Ganga model seeks to use economics to connect people to the river.

The scheme seeks to contribute at least 3% of the GDP from the Ganga basin.

Features of Arth Ganga Model :

- **Zero Budget Natural Farming** - This includes chemical free farming on 10 km on either side of the river and promotion of use of cow dung as manure through Govardhan Yojana.
- **Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater** - It envisages reuse of treated water for irrigation, industries and revenue generation for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- **Creation of livelihood opportunities** - For example- 'Ghat Mein Haat', promotion of local products, Ayurveda, medicinal plants, capacity building of volunteers like Ganga Praharis.
- **Increase public participation** - To enhance synergy among the stakeholders associated with the river.
- **Promotion of cultural heritage and tourism** - To promote cultural heritage and tourism in and around the Ganga through conduct of boat tours, adventure sports and yoga activities.
- **Improved water governance** - To promote institutional building by empowering local administration for better water administration.

8. The One Nation One Fertiliser scheme (Aug. 27, 2022)

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has announced that the One Nation One Fertilizer (ONOF) scheme will be implemented from October 2.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The Government is introducing a "**Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo**" under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named "**Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna**" (PMBJP).
- As part of the initiative, crop nutrients -- urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) or muriate of potash (MOP) will be sold under a single brand name, 'Bharat'.
- The ministry has issued directions to all companies to use the new brand name 'Bharat' and logo of the subsidy scheme on the bags.

What is One Nation One Fertiliser Scheme?

- Under this scheme, all the fertilizer companies of the country will have to sell their products under the brand name of '**Bharat**'.
- Companies have been allowed to display their name, brand, logo and other relevant product information on only **one-third of their bags**.

- The remaining **two-thirds** will have the "**Bharat**" brand and the Prime Minister Bhartiya Jan Fertilizer Project logo on it.
- The scheme will be applicable to both public and private sector companies.

Why is the government introducing this scheme?

- The maximum retail price of urea is fixed by the government, which also compensates companies for the high cost of manufacturing or importing it.
- The government also decides where they can sell. This is done through the Fertilizers (Movement) Control Order, 1973.
- So, when the government is spending huge amounts on fertilizer subsidies, it wants to take credit and send this message to the farmers.

Criticism of the Scheme

- This will hinder the fertilizer companies in undertaking marketing and brand promotion activities.
- They will now be restricted to contract manufacturers and importers for the government.
- Opposition parties criticized the 'One Nation One Fertilizer' initiative as an exercise of self-promotion.

9. Uttar Pradesh ranks first across the country in the Amrit Sarovar scheme (Aug. 25, 2022)

According to the official website of Mission Amrit Sarovar, Uttar Pradesh ranks first across the country in the Amrit Sarovar scheme launched by the Government of India for the purpose of water conservation and harvesting.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Madhya Pradesh is in second place and Jammu and Kashmir in third place.
- Under this dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, started in the year of Independence Amrit Mahotsav, 15415 Amrit Sarovars were selected to be developed in Uttar Pradesh.
- Of these, the construction of 8343 lakes has been completed.
- In view of the importance of the scheme, a target of development of at least two Amrit Sarovars (about 1.20 lakhs) per Gram Panchayat was fixed in all the more than 58 thousand Gram Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh.
- Under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, it was decided to hoist the flag on Independence Day this year while developing 7500 Amrit Sarovars. In relation to this, flag hoisting was done near 8288 Amrit Sarovars in the state.

Amrit Sarovar Mission :

- The Amrit Sarovar Mission was launched on 24 April 2022 with the aim of water conservation.
- The objective of the mission is to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district of the country as part of the celebration of Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi.

The Ministries Involved :

- The mission has been launched with a holistic government approach with 6 Ministries/ Departments -

1. Rural Development Department
2. land resources department
3. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
4. Department of Water Resources
5. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
6. Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***Technical Partner :***

- Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been appointed as the technical partner for the mission.

Target :

- Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15 August 2023.
- About 50,000 Amrit Sarovars are to be built in the country.
- Each of these Amrit Sarovar will be in an area of 1 acre with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic metres.

10. Govt launches 2nd phase of Grameen Udyami Project (Aug. 22, 2022)

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society on 20 August launched the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The second phase of the pilot project was launched in Ranchi.
- The Central Government has sanctioned a budget of 85 thousand crore rupees exclusively for tribal areas.
- The initiative aims to provide multi-skilled and functional skills to the youth of India to enable their livelihood.
- The Prime Minister has emphasised on inclusion of tribal communities in the workforce, ensuring their holistic development so as to make them self-reliant and integrated into their respective geographical areas.

Grameen Udyami Project :

- It has been implemented under the Parliamentary Package Scheme.
- It is a unique multi-skill project, funded by NSDC, which aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- The project is being implemented in six states- Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- Minister of State Rajiv Chandrashekar and tribal MPs embodied this concept.
- In the first phase of training, candidates from rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat were included.

The training under the project :

- Electrician & Solar PV Installation Technician
- Plumbing & Masonry
- 2-Wheeler Repair & Maintenance
- IT/ITES with e-Governance
- Farm Mechanisation

Objectives of the project :

- Increase in Rural/Local Economy
- Enhance employment opportunities
- Reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities
- Conservation of natural resources