

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. CM Naveen Patnaik launches 24×7 'Drink from Tap' project in 19 cities of Odisha ( Dec. 22, 2022 )**

The Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched a 24×7 piped drinking water project — '**Drink from Tap**' — in 19 cities of the state on 21 December 2022. About 5.5 lakh people in these cities will be benefited from the project.

Addressing the event, the chief minister said providing safe drinking water to every family has been his dream for a long time and it has always been the priority of his government.

He said that households in these cities will get drinking water directly from the tap adhering to the quality parameters of the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The state government scheme is different from the central government scheme of **Jal Jeevan Mission** which was launched on 15 August 2019. Under the Jal

Within the Jal Jeevan Mission, Har Ghar Jal se Jal scheme, aims to provide potable, quality drinking water to every rural household by **2024**.

**Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and Union Territory in the country respectively,

**Burhanpur district** of Madhya Pradesh is the first certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in India.

### **2. Gaya and Nalanda of Bihar selected by Union Government for development under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme ( Dec. 19, 2022 )**

Gaya and Nalanda of Bihar selected by Union Government

**Gaya** and **Nalanda** in Bihar has been included by the Government of India under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. **Punaura Dham in Sitamarhi** District of Bihar has been selected for development under the PRASHAD Scheme of the Government of India.

This information was given by the Union Tourism Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** in the Lok Sabha on 19 December 2022.

#### **Swadesh Darshan 2.0**

Government of India launched Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2014-15 for integrated development of **theme based tourist circuits** for eg Buddhist circuit, Ramayana circuit, desert circuit etc. It was later revamped and re-launched as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the focus on developing sustainable **and responsible tourism destinations**.

The Central government provides assistance to the State /Union Territories government to develop the tourism Infrastructure.

#### **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)**

The Government of India launched the PRASAD scheme in the year 2014-2015 under the Ministry of Tourism. This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience. Under this scheme the Central government provides assistance to the state government.

### **3. PM launches Grih Pravesh programme for over 2 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana ( Dec. 19, 2022 )**

PM launches Grih Pravesh programme for over 2 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 18 December inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth **over 6,800 crore rupees in Tripura and Meghalaya.**

#### **Important facts**

- The projects include '**Grih Pravesh**' programme for beneficiaries under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Rural.**
- These houses, developed at a cost of over **Rs 3400 crores**, will cover over **2 lakh beneficiaries.**
- Other projects include connectivity projects for widening of **Agartala Bypass (Khairpur-Amtali) NH-08** under PMGSY III, foundation laying of **32 roads** with a length of over 230 km and improvement projects of **112 roads** with a length of over 540 km.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the **State Institute of Hotel Management at Anandnagar** and **Agartala Government Dental College.**

#### **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. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) ( Dec. 16, 2022 )**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

Minority Affairs Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 15 December said that the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)** is being implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** with the objective of infrastructure development.

### **About Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- It aims to develop infrastructure projects in identified areas for **socio-economic development**.
- Under this the priority areas are **education, health, skill development, women centric projects etc.**
- It has been implemented in **1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs)** of the country.
- Projects under PMJVK are implemented and managed by the **concerned State/ UT Government**.
- In the **North Eastern Region (NER)**, the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura come under PMJVK.
- The scheme is now implemented in all Districts of the country including all the Aspirational Districts.

### **Beneficiaries under PMJVK**

- Communities notified as minority communities under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** will be taken as minority communities.
- Currently, **6 Minorities communities** have been notified as Minority Communities. These are - Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.

### **5. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) renamed as Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme ( Dec. 16, 2022 )**

Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme

The Minister of Minority Affairs, **Smriti Zubin Irani** in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 15 December informed that the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme**.

### **Important facts**

- This integrated scheme amalgamates the five earlier schemes of the Ministry - **Seekho aur Kamao, Ustad, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil**.
- The scheme has been approved by the cabinet for the period of **15th Finance Commission**.

- PM VIKAS aims to improve the livelihood of minorities, especially artisan communities, by
- using components of skill development, education, women leadership and entrepreneurship.
- These components complement each other in the ultimate objective of the scheme to enhance the income of the beneficiaries and provide assistance by facilitating credit and market linkages.

## **6. UN ranks 'Namami Gange' project among world's top 10 initiatives ( Dec. 15, 2022 )**

UN ranks 'Namami Gange' project among world's top 10

India's '**Namami Gange**'- river Ganga rejuvenation project- has been recognised as one among **world's 10 most "ground-breaking" initiatives** for restoration of natural ecosystems, according to a report released during the **UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)**.

**National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has won the "**Public Water Agency of the Year**" award at the Global Water Awards, 2019 by Global Water Intelligence.

### **Important facts**

- The award was received by **G Ashok Kumar**, Director General, Namami Gange, at the **15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada** on 14 December 2022.
- Namami Gange was selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe.
- They were selected under the banner of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Recognized initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise.

### **Other initiatives included in the World Restoration Flagship**

- **Trinational Atlantic Forest Pact**, which aims to protect and restore the forest in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.
- **Abu Dhabi Marine Restoration project** that targets safeguarding the world's second-largest dugong population in Abu Dhabi.
- **Great Green Wall** for restoration to restore savannahs, grasslands and farms across Africa.
- **Multi-Country Mountain Initiative** based in Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda and Rwanda.

- **The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative** in Kazakhstan to restore the steppe, semi-desert and desert ecosystems.
- **The Central American Dry Corridor**
- **Shan-Shui Initiative in China**

### **About Namami Gange**

- It was approved as a '**Flagship Programme**' by the Central Government in **June 2014**.
- It was launched to serve the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and **rejuvenation of the national river Ganga**.
- It is being operated under the **Ministry of Water Resources**, Department of River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The program is being implemented by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** and its State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).

### **7. Government extended the PM SVANidhi Scheme ( Dec. 12, 2022 )**

Government extended the PM SVANidhi Scheme

The Government of India has extended the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** beyond March, 2022.

#### **Important facts**

- The extension of the lending period will be till **December 2024**.
- Introduction of 3rd loan of upto ₹50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of ₹10,000 and ₹20,000 respectively.
- To extend 'SVANidhi Se Samridhi' component for all beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme across the country.

### **About PM Svanidhi Yojana**

- PM Svanidhi Yojana was launched on **June 1, 2020**.
- This scheme was started with the aim of providing financial support to small shopkeepers and hawkers.
- Under the PM Svanidhi Yojana, people who sell goods on the street tracks or do other small jobs can take a loan of **up to ₹ 10,000** from the bank.
- After repaying the loan taken in the first instance, the beneficiary can get a **loan of up to ₹ 20,000** in the second time and **up to ₹ 50,000** in the third time.

- The tenure of the Svanidhi scheme was earlier till March 2022, but the government has extended the deadline of the Svanidhi scheme till December 2024.
- So far **53.7 lakh applications** have been received under this scheme, out of which 36.6 lakh applications have been approved and 33.2 lakh loans have been disbursed.
- An amount of **Rs 3,592 crore** has been disbursed under the scheme so far.

## **8. More than 3 crore 60 lakh pregnant women receive comprehensive antenatal care under PMSMA ( Dec. 10, 2022 )**

More than 3 crore 60 lakh pregnant women receive comprehensive antenatal care under PMSMA

The Government has said that more than **three crore sixty lakh pregnant women** have received comprehensive antenatal care under the **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** programme across all States and Union Territories.

### **Important facts**

- **Dr. Bharti Praveen Pawar**, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, said this in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 9 December.
- The program was launched with the objective of providing free, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care to all pregnant women universally on the 9th of every month.
- The percentage of institutional deliveries in public facilities has increased from **52 per cent in 2015-16** to around **62 per cent in 2019-21**.

### **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**

- This is a programme under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It aims to provide free **antenatal services (ANC)** and essential treatment to pregnant women on **9th of every month**.
- The scheme is applicable only for the pregnant women in their pregnancy period of **3 to 6 months**.

### **Objectives of the scheme**

- Provide healthy life to pregnant women.
- Lowering the maternal mortality rate.
- Making pregnant women aware of their health issues and diseases.
- Making sure safe delivery and healthy life of the baby.

## **9. 10th meeting of Empowered Task Force of Clean Ganga Mission ( Dec. 10, 2022 )**

10th meeting of Empowered Task Force of Clean Ganga Mission

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** chaired the **10th meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** on 8th December 2022.

### **Important facts**

- The Minister reviewed the progress of various components under the **Namami Gange Programme**.
- The Union Minister directed the States and Central Ministries/Departments to expedite the work being done for the overall rejuvenation of river Ganga.
- The minister urged the states and central ministries to achieve the targets in a time-bound manner.
- Ashok Kumar, Director General, NMCG, briefed the task force about the activities undertaken by **Arth Ganga** over the past months.
- Kumar added that the **Ghat Mein Haat initiative** was launched under Arth Ganga in the Ganga Basin among other activities.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare informed of the steps taken to build organic farming and natural farming corridors along River Ganga.

### **National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)**

- It was registered on 12 August 12, 2011 as a society under the **Societies Registration Act 1860**.
- It serves as the implementing arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986**.
- It was established to address pollution challenges in the **Ganga river**.
- The operational area of the project covers the Ganga basin and all the states through which the river flows, including Delhi.
- The objective is to reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river.

## **10. Government of India invest Rs 5000 crore in the SWAMIH fund to complete housing projects ( Dec. 9, 2022 )**

Government of India invest Rs 5000 crore in the SWAMIH fund

The government of India has invested an additional **Rs 5,000 crore** into the **SWAMIH Invest Fund-I** to help the stressed realty investment platform achieve its final close at Rs 15,530 crore.

### **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income (SWAMIH)**

In November 2019, the Union Finance Ministry announced creation of a **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH)** to provide debt financing for the completion of stressed, brownfield and residential projects registered with regulatory bodies that fall in the affordable, mid-income housing category.

The **corpus of the Fund is Rs 12,500 crore** with a green shoe option of Rs 12,500 crore. **Green Shoe options** means that if required an additional Rs 12,500 crore fund will be raised for the SWAMIH scheme.

The **Sponsor of the Fund** is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Government of India on behalf of the Government of India.

The **Investment Manager** of the Fund is SBICAP Ventures Ltd which is owned by State Bank of India.

The major investors in the fund are Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), HDFC, and other major Public Sector Banks.

So far, the fund has given final approvals to 127 projects which will in turn complete over 79,000 homes

**Stressed project** means that the company which started the residential project is unable to complete the project due to financial problems.

**Brown field projects** means that no new houses will be built but the existing housing project which is either finished or under construction will be finished.