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1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (Sept. 16, 2022)

The Union Ministry of Rural Development has decided to impose a penalty on the State Governments for delay in completion of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) on 15th September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- As per a recent report, **West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Assam**, are the leading four States who are far behind their targets.
- The initial deadline for the scheme was **March 2022**, which was extended by two years to **March 2024** due to the coronavirus pandemic.

What will be penalties ?

- The ministry has sent a circular listing all the states.
- It said that if the construction of a house is delayed for more than a month from the stipulated date, the state government will be **fined Rs 10 per house** for the delay in the first month and **Rs 20 per house** for the month thereafter.

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.

2. KRITAGYA 3.0 - A National level Hackathon on crop improvement (Sept. 16, 2022)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under its National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), in collaboration with the Division of Crop Science, is organizing Hackathon 3.0 "KRITAGYA" to promote 'Accelerated Breeding for Crop Improvement'.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The definition of KRITAGYA is as follows- **Kri** means agriculture, **Ta (TA)** means technology and **Gya** means knowledge.
- This program will provide an opportunity to students, faculties, entrepreneurs, innovators and others to showcase their innovative approaches and technology solutions to promote innovation for crop improvement.
- Participating students can collaborate with students in a group from local start-ups, institutes of technology and win up to Rs 5 lakh.
- In this competition, students, faculty and innovators, entrepreneurs from any university or technical institute across the country can apply and participate in the program.

Hackathon 1.0 & 2.0 :

- Hackathons 1.0 and 2.0 were organized to promote innovation in farm mechanization and animal science during the years 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- These events saw huge participation from across the country, 3,000 participants actively participated in Hackathon 1.0 and more than 269 teams participated in Hackathon 2.0.
- ICAR launched NAHEP in November 2017 with the help of the World Bank.
- It aims to support participating agricultural universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and high quality education to students.

3. UN warns 345 million people at risk of starvation (Sept. 16, 2022)

The United Nations World Food Program warned on 16 September that the world is facing a global emergency, because 345 million people are marching toward starvation.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- David Beasley, executive director of the UN World Food Program, said 345 million people in **82 countries** are facing acute food insecurity.
- He said that **50 million people** in 45 countries suffer from **acute malnutrition**.
- This widespread and growing food insecurity is the result of direct and indirect effects of conflict and violence.
- Rising food, fuel and fertilizer prices have driven 70 million people near starvation since Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine on February 24.

United Nations World Food Program :

- It is the food-assistance branch of the **United Nations**.

- It is the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security and the largest provider of school meals.
- It aims to fulfil the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, with a priority on achieving **SDG 2** for "**zero hunger**" by 2030.
- It was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020** for its efforts to provide food assistance in areas of conflict.
- Founded - **1961**
- Headquartered - **Rome**

4. Nitin Gadkari lays foundation of 7 NH projects (Sept. 16, 2022)

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on 15 September in Gwalior inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of seven National Highway projects.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The total length of the project is **222 km** and total cost is **Rs 1,128 crore**.
- The elevated road of both the phases on the **Swarn Rekha** in Gwalior city will be built with the state-of-the-art new technology of **Malaysia**.
- Under this project, a **6-lane Agra-Gwalior Greenfield Expressway** will be connected to **Yamuna Expressway** and a logistic park will also be set up along the **Agra-Gwalior Expressway**.
- Considering the geographical importance of Madhya Pradesh in connecting the network of highways, the implementation of these projects will facilitate movement and save fuel.

National Highways in India :

- The National highways are a network of roads owned by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- It is constructed and managed by the **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**, the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)**, and the **public works departments (PWD)** of state governments.
- The **longest national highway is NH44**, which runs between Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, with a total length of 3,806 km (2,365 mi).
- **The shortest National Highway** is NH766EE, which spans 4.27 km (2.65 mi), from Hettikeri to Belekeri port in Karnataka.

5. Book titled 'Ambedkar and Modi : Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation' released (Sept. 16, 2022)

A book titled 'Ambedkar and Modi: Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation' released by former President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on 16 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The book has been compiled by **Bluecraft Digital Foundation**, with a foreword by music composer and **Rajya Sabha member Ilaiyaraaja**.
- The book describes the life, works and achievements of **Dr. Ambedkar**.
- It presents a convergence between the ideals of Dr. BR Ambedkar and the development journey of New India.
- The twelve chapters of the book focus on infrastructure, education, socio-economic mobility, gender equality, self-reliance.
- The book not only presents Dr. Ambedkar's vision of India, but also presents his perspective on the many achievements of the Narendra Modi government.
- It also highlights the policies and reforms undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure the progress of the country in line with the vision of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

6. South Korea fines Google and Meta for violation of privacy law (Sept. 15, 2022)

South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission has fined Google 69.2 billion won (\$50 million) and Meta (earlier called Facebook) 30.8 billion won (\$22 million) for violation of privacy law violation.

Both the companies were found guilty of collecting and analysing behavioural information of the customer without obtaining their prior consent.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Republic of Korea (South Korea) :

- It lies in the Korean peninsula in East Asia.
- The Korean peninsula was divided into communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Republic of Korea (South Korea) after the Korean War in 1953.
- Capital: **Seoul**
- Currency: **South Korean Won**

7. H E Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco re-elected as the President of Angola (Sept. 15, 2022)

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has congratulated H E Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco on being re-elected as the President of Angola on 15 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Angola is an important friend of India and the people of both the countries enjoy cordial and friendly relations.
- With Lourenco securing another five-year term, the bilateral ties shared between India and Angola are expected to improve in terms of trade.
- He has served as the president of Angola since 26 September 2017.
- Prior to this, he was the Defence Minister from 2014 to 2017.
- In September 2018, he became the Chairman of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the ruling party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Angola :

- Angola is a country located in **South-West Africa**
- Capital - **Luanda**
- Official Language - **Portuguese**

8. India launches 'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' (Sept. 15, 2022)

Denmark and the Indian Delegation launched a Whitepaper on 'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' at International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress & Exhibition 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark on 14 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Urban Wastewater Treatment Scenario :

- **80 percent** of household water is discharged into sewage.
- According to statistics, **78 percent** of sewage water remains untreated and is discharged into rivers, groundwater or lakes.

- In India, only **10 percent** of all sewage generated is treated.
- **32 percent** of urban households are connected to a piped sewer system.
- An alarming **70 percent** of urban wastewater remains untreated in rivers and seas.
- Therefore, urban waste water management has become a major concern for the city authorities.
- There is a dire need to take concrete steps to create a sustainable model of growth and development in sync with the environment and ecology.

Highlights of the White paper :

- Need for wastewater treatment
- Scope for improvement and augmentation in existing infrastructure and technologies
- Methods for public participatory approach
- Smart technologies for rapid data collection
- Spread and build capacity through training and stakeholder apex bodies to enhance the efficiency of urban wastewater treatment for India.
- This white paper is part of the Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management and their bilateral relations.

9. 6th CICA summit to be held in Kazakhstan (Sept. 15, 2022)**Kazakhstan will be host the 6th Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Interaction in Asia (CICA) summit in October 2022.**

The summit meeting will be held on 12-13 October 2022 at the Kazakhstan capital, **Nur-Sultan**.

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

The idea of convening CICA was first proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

27 countries including India, China, and Pakistan are members of CICA.

IMPORTANT FACTS -***Summit meetings of CICA :***

- The First summit meeting was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on 4 June 2022. It was attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The second CICA summit was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on June 17, 2006
- The third CICA Summit was held in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 8 June 2010
- The Fourth CICA Summit, was held in **Shanghai, China** on 21 May 2014
- The Fifth CICA Summit was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, on 15 June 2019.

Full Form :

CICA : Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

10. Dharmendra Pradhan launches Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme (Sept. 15, 2022)

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme in New Delhi for students of classes I to V on 15 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The Minister called for creating a framework for value based education in all schools.
- National Education Policy 2020 is deeply inspired by the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.
- From Swami Vivekananda to Aurobindo and Mahatma Gandhi, many great people had envisioned an education system that was progressive and full of moral values to take the country forward.

Awakened Citizen Program :

- The program is an initiative taken up by **Ramakrishna Mission**, Delhi which is a branch centre of **Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, West Bengal**.
- Ramakrishna Mission is a worldwide philanthropic organization founded by **Swami Vivekananda** in 1897.
- Its motto is "**Atmano Mokshartham Jagad Hitaya Cha**" which means "**For your liberation, and for the welfare of the world**".
- The Delhi Center has conducted various spiritual, educational and social service activities since its inception in 1927.

The Awakened Citizen Program Success Formula :

- **Success Formula - I** - A one-hour education program for students studying in classes VII, VIII and IX was started in 2009.

- **Success Formula - II** - A four-hour program divided into two sessions that includes many interactive discussions and physical assistance.