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1. Union Minister launches 'Skills on Wheels' initiative (Sept. 20, 2023)

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan and Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla launched the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with National Skill Development Corporation and IndusInd Bank.

An Overview of the News

- The 'Skills on Wheels' initiative aims **to empower 60,000 rural youth with a focus on women over five years.**
- Its primary objective is **to provide digital skills to rural youth to make them job- and future-ready.**

Skills on Wheels:

- A customized bus equipped with retrofitted equipment will serve as the focal point of this initiative.
- This mobile unit, known as 'Skills on Wheels', will serve as a vehicle to take the 'Skill India Mission' to areas that are otherwise difficult to reach.

Implementation and Impact:

- It will travel extensively to raise awareness about free skill training programmes, which will ultimately improve the lives and employability of the youth.
- The initiative also seeks to bridge the gap between the industry demand for skilled workers and unemployed youth by providing the right courses based on academic background and aptitude.

About IndusInd Bank

- Established - **April 1994**
- Founder - **S. P. Hinduja**
- Headquarters - **Mumbai**
- CEO - **Sumant Kathpalia**

2. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launches Grih Aadhaar Scheme and Chavath-e-Bazaar (Sept. 20, 2023)

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the Griha Aadhaar scheme and Chavath-e-Bazaar to empower housewives in Goa by providing them with financial assistance.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the Griha Aadhaar scheme is **to promote the financial independence and well-being of housewives, recognize their contribution and improve their socio-economic status.**
- The Griha Aadhaar initiative led by the Directorate of Women and Child Development is an important step towards women's empowerment.

Support and Delivery:

- **Number of beneficiaries:** 11,500 newly sanctioned orders were distributed across the state, of which 6,000 orders were allocated to North Goa, taking the total to 1.5 lakh women beneficiaries.
- **Training for self-reliance:** Women are provided free training in their respective Panchayats, covering essential skills related to packaging, selling and other relevant aspects of food items.
- **Annual Increment:** Griha Aadhaar beneficiaries have received financial assistance directly into their accounts on the same day, and the scheme also includes an annual increment for continued support.

Chavath-e-Bazaar Event:

- Chief Minister Sawant also launched the Chavath-e-Bazaar programme, part of the Swayampura Goa programme, which aims **to empower local entrepreneurs through e-commerce.**
- Chavath-e-Bazaar provides a platform to local artisans and entrepreneurs to showcase their products to a wide audience.
- The government's commitment is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' vision to promote indigenous industries and grassroots businesses.

Chavath-e-Bazaar for Women Entrepreneurs:

- **Digital Platform:** Chavath-e-Bazaar is an online portal integrated with the Swiggy app for seamless ordering, providing promising opportunities for women entrepreneurs.
- **Empowering Dreams:** The digital platform facilitates women to realize their dreams of becoming successful entrepreneurs.

3. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister announces 'Mukhyamantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana' (Sept. 19, 2023)

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced the 'Mukhyamantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana' during an event in Itanagar.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of 'Mukhyamantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana' is **to benefit the labor force within the state.**

- Under this scheme, benefits for workers registered with the Arunachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board have been restructured.

Enhanced benefits under the scheme

- Maternity benefit for families of workers has been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 6,000.
- Compensation for natural death has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh.
- Compensation for accidental death has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 4 lakh.
- The scheme also promotes sports among children of workers, offering cash incentives for achievements in state-level and national-level tournaments and competitions.

Cash incentives are provided for achievements in state-level tournaments or competitions:

- Gold - Rs 15,000
- Silver - Rs 10,000
- Bronze - Rs 8,000

The following incentives are given for exceptional performance at the national level:

- Gold - Rs 30,000
- Silver - Rs 20,000
- Bronze - Rs 15,000

About Arunachal Pradesh

- It is a state located in the northeastern region of India. It shares its borders with the countries of Bhutan, China, and Myanmar.
- Losar, Solang, Dree Utsav, and Chalo-Loku Utsav are the major festivals of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Established - **20 February 1987**
- Capital - **Itanagar (Executive Branch)**
- Chief Minister - **Pema Khandu**
- Official flower - **Rhynchosyilis retusa**
- Official Animal - **Gayal**

4. ICAR-CIBA launches Shrimp Crop Insurance Scheme with Chief Guest Parshottam Rupala (Sept. 19, 2023)

ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA) organized the 2nd edition of Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at Navsari Agricultural University campus in Navsari, Gujarat.

An Overview of the News

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:** This initiative has a budget of Rs 20,050 crore and aims to promote sustainable development in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- **EHP-Cura-I:** Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, appreciated CIBA scientists for developing EHP-Cura-I, a therapeutic solution to control EHP disease in shrimp. He urged to ensure its early availability to the farmers.
- **Shrimp Crop Insurance Scheme:** Union Minister Rupala officially launched the Shrimp Crop Insurance Scheme, which has been developed through collaboration between the Agricultural Insurance Company of India (AIC) and ICAR-CIBA. This scheme provides insurance coverage for shrimp farming, thereby increasing the security of shrimp farmers.

Support for SC and ST communities:

- The Minister had the honor of providing a total income of Rs 40.05 lakh to the beneficiaries of SC (Scheduled Caste) and ST (Scheduled Tribe) communities in Navsari area.
- This income was earned through the adoption of CIBA technologies supported by NGRC-CIBA scientists for livelihood development.
- This reflects the Institute's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth in the aquaculture sector.

5. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Mukhyamantri Sampurna Pushti Yojana' in the state (Sept. 16, 2023)

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the '**Mukhyamantri Sampurna Pushti Yojana**' to promote nutrition.

An Overview of the News

- The primary objective of the program is **to meet the nutritional needs of mothers, adolescent girls, and children in Odisha.**
- Specific provisions of the scheme include supplementary nutrition for adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years, additional dry food for pregnant women, and complete meals for severely malnourished children. Moderately malnourished children will get vitamin-rich Chhatua (roasted gram flour) and eggs.
- **Odisha is the first state in India to make a dedicated nutrition budget for the financial year 2020-21.**

'Pada Pushti Yojana':-

- Apart from the 'Chief Minister Sampurna Pushti Yojana', Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also launched the '**Pada Pushti Yojana**' especially targeting children.
- The initiative aims **to provide high-quality cooked food to children, especially those living in remote and tribal areas of Odisha.**
- The Government of Odisha has launched various programs including '**Mamta Yojana**' to ensure the health and well-being of pregnant women and newborn babies in the state.

About Odisha

- Formation - **1 April 1936**
- Capital - **Bhubaneswar**
- Governor - **Ganeshi Lal**
- Chief Minister - **Naveen Patnaik**
- Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**
- Lok Sabha - **21 seats**

6. PM Modi to launch PM Vishwakarma Scheme on Vishwakarma Jayanti in New Delhi (Sept. 16, 2023)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the "PM Vishwakarma" scheme at the India International Convention and Expo Center in Dwarka, New Delhi on September 17, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- "PM Vishwakarma" scheme aims **to support traditional artisans and craftsmen.**
- The Central Government will **fully fund it with an allocation of Rs 13,000 crore.**
- Artisans (Vishwakarma) can register free of cost through Common Service Centres.
- They will be given identity through PM Vishwakarma **certificate** and **ID card.**
- The scheme also includes a toolkit incentive of ₹15,000 along with offering **skill upgradation, and primary and advanced training.**
- Artisans will get access to collateral-free credit assistance with concessional interest rates.
- Incentives will be provided for digital transactions and marketing assistance.
- Eighteen traditional crafts like **carpentry, blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, and tailoring** will be covered.

Vishwakarma Jayanti:

- It is a Hindu festival dedicated to the divine architect, Vishwakarma.
- The celebration includes not only engineers and architects but also **artisans, craftsmen, mechanics, blacksmiths, welders, and industrial workers.**
- Prayers are also offered for the smooth operation of machines and equipment.
- Vishwakarma Jayanti falls on '**Kanya Sankranti**' of the Hindu calendar, usually between **16 and 18** September in the Gregorian calendar.
- The festival is also celebrated in **Nepal**, and **Haldia** in **West Bengal** is known for its **Vishwakarma Puja** celebrations.

7. Social welfare scheme “Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam” to be launched by Tamil Nadu Government (Sept. 12, 2023)

Tamil Nadu government will provide monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to more than 1 crore female family heads through Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam.

An Overview of the News

- Chief Minister MK Stalin officially announced the scheme, with the **launch date set for September 15.**
- The scheme aims **to provide Rs 1,000 per month to 1.06 crore eligible women who are heads of families.**
- Beneficiaries will receive financial assistance through direct bank transfers and will be provided with ATM cards for easy access.
- The government emphasizes on effective implementation and will use SMS notifications to communicate with beneficiaries.
- Out of 1.63 crore applications received, 1.06 crore have been accepted, highlighting the substantial impact of the scheme.

About Tamil Nadu

- The state was formed on 26 January 1950 but its boundaries were redrawn on 14 January 1969.
- It is located at the mouth of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean.
- Governor - **Ravindra Narayan Ravi**
- Chief Minister - **M.K.Stalin**
- Assembly seats - **235 seats**
- Rajya Sabha seats - **18**
- Lok Sabha seats - **39**

8. Launch of Mukhya Mantri SABAL Yojana in Himachal Pradesh (Sept. 6, 2023)

On September 4, 2023, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) at Nadaun in the Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh.

An Overview of the News

- The goal of SABAL Yojana is **to improve the lives of differently-abled children by connecting them to the mainstream of society.**
- Around 400 schools in Hamirpur, Solan, and Shimla districts will get government aid, which will include necessary facilities and opportunities for specially-abled children.
- A 2% reservation quota has been allotted in government jobs for specially-abled persons.
- The education stipend for disabled children will be increased to Rs.1000.
- The Himachal Pradesh government aims to empower over 7,000 specially-abled children through the SABAL scheme.

Launch of 'Abhyas Himachal' and 'Teacher Sahayata' chatbots

- In the same program, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu also launched 'Abhyas Himachal' and 'Teacher Sahayata' chatbots on the Swift Chat App.
- These chatbots use conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support convenient text revision for students.
- They offer quizzes and educational videos to enhance the learning and teaching experience in the classrooms.

About Himachal Pradesh

- Formation - **1 November 1956**
- Capital - **Shimla and Dharamshala (Winter)**
- District - **12**
- Governor- **Shiv Pratap Shukla**
- Chief Minister - **Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu**
- Rajya Sabha- **3 seats**
- Lok Sabha- **4 seats**

9. Government of India launches Literacy Week to promote gaiety: New India Literacy Program (Sept. 5, 2023)

The Ministry of Education in India is celebrating Literacy Week from September 1 to 8, 2023, to promote awareness about the ULLAS-New India literacy program.

An Overview of the News

- The Literacy Week aims **to encourage mass participation and inculcate a sense of responsibility among all citizens in achieving complete literacy in India.**
- Various stakeholders including **students, teachers, volunteers, government employees and citizens** will participate in the campaign.
- Ullas- New India Literacy Program is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which will run from 2022 to 2027.
- The scheme comprises five components: **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Important Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills and Continuing Education.**
- The scheme's logo and slogan, "**Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**" (ULLAS) and "**Jan Jan Sakshar,**" were launched by the Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on July 29, 2023, during the celebration of the 3rd anniversary of NEP 2020 in New Delhi.

Important Points:-

- **International Literacy Day**, observed annually on 8 September, advocates for the celebration of literacy as both a fundamental human right and a tool to address various social issues.
- The **ULLAS Mobile App** serves as a platform where learners and volunteers can connect with literacy and educational programs.
- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** is a comprehensive framework in India designed to revamp the education system in line with the demands of the 21st century.
- **DIKSHA Portal** is a digital platform that provides access to a wide range of educational resources for students.

10. ASI to unveil 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' program, Indian Heritage App and e-permission portal (Sept. 3, 2023)

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will launch the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Programme," the Indian Heritage App and e-permission portal on September 4, 2023, to preserve India's cultural heritage.

An Overview of the News

- ASI protects 3696 monuments across India, which showcase the country's rich cultural heritage and contribute to its economic development.
- ASI aims to enhance and maintain these heritage sites by launching the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" program on 4th September 2023 at Samvet Auditorium, IGNC, New Delhi.

The revised program invites corporate stakeholders to use their CSR funds to enhance facilities at these monuments.

Program Overview:

- ASI's "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" program is a reimagined version of a scheme launched in 2017.
- It clearly outlines the specific features required for various monuments as per the AMASR Act 1958.
- Corporate Stakeholders A dedicated web portal: www.Indianheritage.gov.in. One can apply for the adoption of any monument or specific features through Indianheritage.gov.in.
- The portal provides details about monuments available for adoption, gap analysis and estimated financial requirements.

Importance of Cultural Heritage:

- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy emphasized the importance of cultural heritage in shaping India's identity.
- Heritage monuments are not just structures; They represent the history, art and architecture of India.
- The "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" program encourages corporate stakeholders to participate in preserving these monuments for future generations.

Selection Process:

- The selection process involves due diligence, discussions with various stakeholders, and assessment of economic and developmental opportunities at each monument.
- The selected stakeholders will be responsible for developing, providing, and maintaining facilities related to cleanliness, access, safety, and knowledge.
- Stakeholders adopting heritage sites will be recognized as responsible and heritage-friendly entities.
- The initial term of appointment will be five years, which is likely to be extended for another five years.

Indian Heritage Mobile App:

- ASI will launch a user-friendly mobile app called "Indian Heritage" on September 4, 2023.
- The app will showcase India's heritage monuments, including state-wise descriptions, photographs, a list of public facilities available, geo-tagged locations, and a feedback mechanism for citizens.
- The launch of the app will be in phases, starting with ticketed monuments in Phase I, followed by the rest of the monuments.

E-Permission Portal:

- An e-permission portal will also be launched, which will be available at www.asipermisionportal.gov.in.
- The portal streamlines the process of obtaining permission for photography, filming, and developmental projects at monuments.
- It aims to remove the operational and logistical hassles associated with obtaining various permissions.