

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. UP govt launches 'Elder Line' service to give shelter to elderly homeless ( June 6, 2023 )**

Uttar Pradesh Social Welfare Department.

The '**Elder Line**' **14567 service** was recently **launched by the Uttar Pradesh Social Welfare Department**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The initiative is the brainchild of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Social Welfare **Aseem Arun**, who earlier headed the emergency **helpline 112**.

#### **Objective of the initiative**

- The objective of the helpline is to rescue destitute old persons and provide them **shelter in old age homes**.
- 'Elder Line' 14567 service has been activated, actively responding to **distress related to older persons**.

#### **Reporting destitute elderly**

- Citizens can report about destitute elderly persons on **roadsides, bus stations, railway stations, or similar places**.
- The team of the Social Welfare Department immediately responds to the reports and ensures that the elderly person is shifted safely to the old age home with dignity.

#### **Availability of Old Age Homes**

- Uttar Pradesh currently has **75 old age homes**, one in each district.
- These homes accommodate both **male and female residents**, providing them with necessary amenities and care.

#### **Facilities and Services**

- Inmates of the old age homes receive **free food, healthcare facilities, and entertainment options**.
- Health check-ups are conducted **every 15 days** by doctors from the Chief Medical Officer's office.
- Each old age home is equipped with an ambulance to address emergency medical needs.

#### **Enriching Lives**

- Old age homes organize outings and recreational activities for the residents.

- Trips to places like Akshardham temple in Delhi are arranged, providing a refreshing experience for the elderly.
- Such initiatives enhance their quality of life and create opportunities for enjoyment.

### **Benefits and Allowances**

- The state government has increased the **breakfast allowance** for elderly individuals in old age homes from **Rs 75 to Rs 114 per day**.
- Inmates also receive an annual amount of **Rs 2,500** for new clothes, **Rs 200 per month** for additional medicines, and **Rs 150** for entertainment purposes.

### **Pension Scheme Integration**

- The social welfare department plans to link the over **6,000 elderly individuals** residing in old age homes to the 'Rashtriya Vridhavastha Pension' scheme.
- This integration aims to provide additional financial support to the elderly, offering them some extra pocket money.

## **2. NIPCCD organized a Refresher Training Programme on Mission Vatsalya ( June 4, 2023 )**

**NIPCCD** organized a **Refresher Training Programme** on **Mission Vatsalya** from 29- 31 May, 2023 at **NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali**. 33 participants attended the training Programme.

### **The programme involved discussions on the following themes:**

- Improve functioning of statutory bodies
- Strengthen service delivery services
- Upscale Institutional care/ services Encourage non-intuitional community based care
- Training and Capacity building of duty holders

### **About Mission Vatsalya**

- It promotes **family-based non-institutional care of children** in difficult situations based on the '**principle of institutionalization** of children' as a last resort.
- Before the year 2009, three schemes were implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for children in need of protection -

1. Juvenile justice programs for children as well as children in need of care and protection
2. Integrated Program for Street Children
3. Child Home Assistance Scheme

- In the **year 2010**, these three schemes were merged into a single scheme which is known as **Integrated Child Protection Scheme**.
- In the **year 2017** its name was changed to "**Child Protection Services Scheme**" and in the year **2021-22** it was also changed to **Mission Vatsalya**.
- It aims to ensure a **healthy and happy childhood for every child in the country**.

### **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**

- It is an **autonomous organisation** and its **Headquarter is in New Delhi**.
- It functions under the aegis of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- Its objective is to take a comprehensive view of child development and develop and promote programmes in pursuance of the National Policy for Children.

### **3. India approves world's largest food storage scheme in co-operative sector ( June 2, 2023 )**

world's-largest-food-storage-scheme

The **Union Cabinet** on 31st May approved forming and empowering an **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)** to create the "**world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector**" by converging **8 ongoing schemes of three ministries**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- This **₹1 trillion scheme** will be the **world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector**.
- The scheme will help cooperatives set up decentralized storage facilities across the country, which is likely to reduce the burden on the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.
- This will reduce wastage of agricultural produce and help farmers to plan their sales better.

#### **Implementation of the scheme**

- An **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)** will be constituted under the **chairmanship of the Cooperation Minister**.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Food Processing Industries and concerned Secretaries will be the members of this Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).
- The **Ministry of Cooperation** will implement a pilot project in at least **10 selected districts of different States/UTs of the country**.

#### **8 Schemes identified for convergence**

- **Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
2. Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
3. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
4. Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

- **Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries**

1. Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- **Schemes of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

1. Allocation of food grains under the National Food Security Act
2. Procurement operations at Minimum Support Price

#### **4. 'Mo Ghara' housing scheme launched by Odisha ( June 1, 2023 )**

The **Odisha government** launched the '**Mo Ghara**' (**My Home**) housing scheme on May 29, 2023.

##### **An Overview of the News**

- The scheme provides **credit-linked financial assistance** to **economically and socially weaker families** and the scheme is fully funded from the state budget.
- Applications for the loan will open from June 15, 2023 and the scheme covers families who were earlier excluded from the housing schemes.
- Beneficiaries can avail **housing loans up to Rs.3 lakh**.
- The state government **waives off registration fee, stamp duty and processing fee for bank loan approval**.
- The 'Mo Ghara' housing scheme is in addition to the **Biju Pakka Ghar Yojana (BPGY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin**.

##### **About Odisha**

Capital - **Bhubaneswar**

Governor - **Ganeshi Lal**

Chief Minister - **Naveen Patnaik**

## **5. Maharashtra Government launched Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana ( May 31, 2023 )**

Maharashtra-Government-launched-Namo-Shetkari-Mahasanman-Yojana

The **Maharashtra government** has approved a **new financial scheme under which Rs 6,000** will be **paid annually** to over **one crore farmers in the state**.

### **An overview of the news**

- On May 30, the '**Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana**' was approved in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** in Mumbai.
- Chief Minister Shinde said that this amount is in addition to the **Rs 6,000 being given to farmers by the Center under PM Kisan** Yojana.
- The Maharashtra cabinet also approved the implementation of '**Gender Inclusive Tourism Policy**' named '**Aai**' to empower women in the tourism sector.
- The cabinet also approved the starting of women bike-taxi service at some tourist places.

### **About Maharashtra**

- It is a state located in the western part of India and covers a significant part of the **Deccan Plateau**.
- Chief Minister - **Eknath Shinde**
- Governor - **Ramesh Bais**
- Official Animal - **Indian giant squirrel**
- Official Bird - **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**
- Official Dance - **Lavani**

## **6. Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY ( May 30, 2023 )**

Telangana-achieves-100%-coverage-of-PMJDY

The state of **Telangana** achieved **100 percent household coverage of banking services through the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- According to the Social Security Administration survey, the state achieved **100 percent coverage of 135 welfare schemes and programs in 20 departments**.
- Telangana has more than **1 crore 11 lakh Jan Dhan bank account holders** with a total balance of over **Rs 3 thousand crore**.

- Around **61 lakh people in rural areas** have opened Jan Dhan accounts, while in urban areas around **50 lakh people have zero balance accounts**.
- Over 84 lakh Jan Dhan account holders in Telangana actively use RuPay cards, which provide additional benefits like credit facilities.

### **About Telangana**

- It is a state located in **south-central India on the high Deccan Plateau**.
- It is the **eleventh largest state of India by area**.
- Telangana was carved out of the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh on **2 June 2014** and became the newly formed state of Telangana with Hyderabad as the capital.
- Telangana is bordered by **Maharashtra to the north, Chhattisgarh to the northeast, Karnataka to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the east and south**.
- As of 2019, the state of Telangana is divided into **33 districts**.

Governor - **Tamilisai Soundararajan**

Chief Minister - **K Chandrasekhar Rao**

Council - **(40 seats)**

Legislative Assembly - **(119 seats)**

Rajya Sabha - **7 seats**

Lok Sabha - **17 seats**

### **7. SAMARTH Abhiyan launched by Union Minister Giriraj Singh ( May 28, 2023 )**

Union Minister **Giriraj Singh** launched the **SAMARTH campaign** to promote digital transactions at the **Gram Panchayat level**.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- The campaign aims to empower women and promote digital transactions in **rural areas**.
- The campaign was launched in Lucknow as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It aims to promote digital transactions in 50,000 gram panchayats across India.
- The campaign is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of India's independence.
- The campaign started on February 1, 2023 and will run till August 15, 2023.

### **8. Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1 ( May 25, 2023 )**

Ministry-of-Civil-Aviation-launches-UDAN-5.1

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in India has **launched UDAN 5.1** on 24 May, a special edition of the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme**, with a special focus on **helicopter routes**.

### **The main features of UDAN 5.1**

- For the first time under Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.
- There will be an increase in the **scope of operations for the operators**, which will now also allow routes where one of the origin or destination points is in the priority zone.
- The **airfare ceiling has been reduced by 25%** to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.
- The **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) cap** for single and twin-engine helicopter operators has been substantially increased to enhance the financial viability for operating the routes.
- So far **46 helicopter routes** have been **operationalized under the scheme**, benefitting many **hilly and North East states** and **UDAN 5.1** is targeting coverage of a much larger number of routes.

### **About UDAN Scheme**

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** was **launched in 2016 as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Its objective is to make **affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel** on regional routes available to the common man even in small towns.
- It seeks to improve air connectivity to **tier-2 and tier-3 cities** through revival of unused and underused airports.
- The scheme will be jointly funded by the **central government and state governments**.
- The scheme will run for **10 years** and can be extended thereafter.

## **9. More than 90% of funds allocated under Smart Cities Mission utilised ( May 25, 2023 )**

Smart Cities Mission

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has announced that **more than 90%** of the funds allocated under the **Smart Cities Mission** are being **utilized and 73%** of the projects have already been completed.

### **An overview of the news**

- The smart city project was to be completed within five years of the selection of the city.
- However, in 2021, the ministry changed the **deadline to June 2023** for all cities.

## About Smart Cities Mission

- Smart Cities Mission is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which was launched in 2015.
- It aims to transform urban areas into **sustainable, citizen-friendly and technologically advanced cities**.
- The mission's primary objective is to enhance the quality of life for citizens by providing them with improved infrastructure, better governance, and increased economic opportunities.
- Between **January 2016 and June 2018** (when the last city, Shillong, was selected), the ministry selected 100 cities for the mission in five rounds.

## Selection Process

- The mission follows a competitive approach where cities submit proposals based on specific criteria, including the adoption of smart solutions, citizen engagement, and sustainable development.
- The selected cities undergo redevelopment in a phased manner.

## Core components

- **Infrastructure development:** Emphasis is placed on developing physical infrastructure such as transportation systems, water supply, sanitation, and affordable housing to meet the needs of the urban population.
- **Technology integration:** The mission integrates technology to improve service delivery, including data analytics and smart grids devices for efficient resource management and real-time monitoring.
- **Citizen engagement:** The mission focuses on citizen participation and engagement through mobile applications and feedback mechanisms, empowering them to contribute to decision-making processes and hold authorities accountable.
- **Sustainable practices:** The mission promotes sustainable development by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, green building practices, waste management systems, and efficient urban planning.

## Funds Utilisation

- Till 1 May 2023, a total of **Rs 38,400 crore** was released for the Smart Cities Mission.
- Out of this amount, **₹35,261 crore** has already been utilized for various projects.

## Project Completion

- The Smart Cities Mission includes around **7,800 projects worth Rs 1.8 lakh crore**.



- Of these projects, more than **5,700 projects worth Rs 1.1 lakh crore** have been completed.
- The remaining projects are expected to be completed by **June 30, 2024**.
- Currently, only **22 out of 100 designated cities** have **successfully completed all the projects** under the mission.

## **10. Ministry of Education and PARAKH organise the 1st National level workshop ( May 24, 2023 )**

1st-National-level-workshop

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** organized a **workshop in New Delhi to discuss the integration of 60 school examination boards** operating in **different states and union territories**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The key component of the scheme is **PARAKH**, a National Assessment Center set up under the **National Council of Educational Research and Training**.
- The central government is planning for uniformity of boards to facilitate seamless transition for students in different boards or regions.
- It aims to align curriculum standards, grading system and evaluation methods so as to enhance the credibility and recognition of certificates and grades obtained across all boards.
- The workshop highlighted the **need to re-evaluate the rote-examination culture prevalent** in the education system.

### **What is PARAKH?**

- PARAKH full name is -**Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- It will act as a constituent unit of the **NCERT**.
- It will also be tasked with conducting **periodic learning outcome tests like National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Survey**.
- This framework will seek to curb the emphasis on rote learning as envisaged by the **National Policy on Education (NEP) 2020**.
- It will be the proposed implementing agency and also will be part of the **NEP proposal**.
- Its team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.