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Van Dhan Scheme launched by PM to help increase tribal income through Value Addition

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on 14th April, 2018 during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.

Emphasizing the important role of value addition in increasing tribal incomes, he stated that Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan Schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system.

All these three schemes in tandem need to be promoted for this purpose by the State Governments.

About Van Dhan Scheme:

Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers is constituted.

They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.

Working under the leadership of Collector these groups can then market their products not only within the States but also outside the States.

Training and technical support is provided by TRIFED.

It is proposed to develop 30,000 such centres in the country.

Value addition assumes critical importance in ensuring remunerative prices to the tribals in this approach.

Three stage value addition would be the corner stone for enhancing incomes of the tribals under the scheme.

The grass root level procurement is proposed to be undertaken through Self Help Groups associated with implementing agencies. Convergence and Networking with other Govt. departments/scheme shall be undertaken to utilise the services of existing SHGs like Ajeevika, etc.

The stock after primary processing shall be supplied by these SHGs to the State Implementing Agencies or direct tie up for supply to corporate secondary processor.



For creation of secondary level value addition facility at district level and tertiary level value addition facility at State level, Big Corporates shall be involved under PPP model.

About Van Dhan Vikas Kendra

The establishment of “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.

This first model Van DhanVikas Kendra in Bijapuris being implemented for training of 300 training beneficiaries with a total outlay of Rs.43.38 lakhs for training, providing equipments & tools for primary level processing and infrastructure & building for housing the Kendra.

The Van Dhan Vikas Kendras will be important milestone in economic development of tribals involved in collection of MFPs by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and provide sustainable MFP-based livelihood in MFP-rich district

Zonal Council

Why in News?

The 23rd meeting of the Western Zonal Council was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat today under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Administrator of the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and senior officers from Central and State Governments.

5 five Zonal Council:

- The Northern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- The Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal.
- The Western Zonal Council, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.



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- The Southern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Composition:

- Chairman – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- Vice Chairman – The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- Members- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
- Advisers- One person nominated by the Planning Commission (which has been replaced by NITI Ayog now) for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.
- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

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Navika Sagar Parikrama

Why in News?

INSV Tarini, with its team of six women officers departed Port Louis, Mauritius, for the last leg of the circumnavigation, at 1000 hours today on 26 April 2018. The vessel had entered Port Louis on 18 April 2018 for emergency repairs to her steering gear.

Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat **INSV Tarini**.

Key facts:

- This is **the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew**. The project is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.
- The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India's thrust for 'Nari Shakti'.



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- The expedition has been aptly titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy.

Additional aims of the Expedition are as follows:

Nari Shakti: In consonance with the National policy to empower women to attain their full potential, the expedition aims to showcase 'Nari Shakti' on the world platform. This would also help to discard the societal attitudes and mindset towards women in India by raising visibility of participation by women in challenging environment.

Environment and Climate Change: Sailing encourages the use of environment friendly non-conventional renewable energy resources which affects the life of women. The expedition thereby aims at harnessing the energy to optimise the livelihood of the women onboard.

Make in India: The voyage also aims to show case the 'Make in India' initiative by sailing onboard the indigenously built INSV Tarini.

Meteorological/ Ocean/ Wave Data Observation: The crew would also collate and update Meteorological/ Ocean/ Wave data on a daily basis for subsequent analysis by research and development organisations.

Marine Pollution: The crew would monitor and report marine pollution on the high seas.

Google to mentor Indian Start Ups

Google has introduced an India-focused mentoring programme to support start-ups addressing local problems

'Solve for India' would provide technology support for deploying artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools to build solutions for India in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, retail and education.

Introduced last year as an India-only pilot, the programme focuses on bringing the best of Google expertise across product and user experience design and interface. This includes access to technologies like AI and ML.

Successful Examples:



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One of the firms PregBuddy is focused on creating prominence in care for expecting mothers.

FarMart, a tech-enabled agricultural machinery renting platform, enables farmers to rent out their under-utilised machinery like tractors to fellow small and marginal farmers on a pay-per-use basis.

New frog Species Discovered:

In the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa, scientists have identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi*.

The new species is named after the historical name of the state of Goa where the species is discovered.

Come monsoons and many of these are large-sized terrestrial frogs sit next to water bodies making calls to attract females for mating and breeding.

Although most of these frogs are terrestrial, they need water bodies to survive.

Most *Fejervarya* species in South and South-East Asia are difficult to identify on the basis of morphology alone. The authors have used a combination of morphology, geographic distribution range and molecular methods to describe the new species.

The scientists provide an overview of the group and recommend additional sampling across the Asian continent in a *Zoological Survey of India* report.

The new species is found in the high elevation areas of laterite plateaus, temporary water bodies and paddy fields of Goa. However, Detailed studies of this species are necessary to map its distribution range.