



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 26-June-2018

General Studies-1

Ambubachi Mela

Why in News?

Ambubachi Mela, a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess is being held at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati.

About Ambubachi Mela:

- The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the *fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya*.
- There is *no idol in the temple*, the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows.
- Also known as *Siddha Kubjika*, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolve in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura.
- The festival is also known as '*Mahakumbh of the East*' as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.

Social significance of the festival:

The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess' period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India.

The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'Tuloni Biya', meaning small wedding. Ambubachi Mela serves as an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.

About Kamakhya:

Kamakhya, *atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati*, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.



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General Studies-2

POSHAN Abhiyaan

Why in News?

ICDS-CAS (Common Application Software) has been specially designed to strengthen the Service Delivery System as well as the mechanism for Real Time Monitoring (RTM) for nutritional outcomes.

It looks at improving the nutrition outcomes through effective monitoring, timely intervention and also act as a fact-based decision-making tool.

Convergence and use of Technology are the two hallmarks of POSHAN Abhiyaan.

The Abhiyaan lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters over the next few years. Never before has nutrition been given such prominence at the highest level in the country.

About ICDS-CAS:

The Common Application Software (ICDS-CAS) especially developed for this purpose enables data capture, ensures assigned service delivery and prompts for interventions wherever required.

This data is then available in near real time to the supervisory staff from Sector, Block, District, State to National level through a Dashboard, for monitoring.

About POSHAN Scheme:

It is currently the largest e-Nutrition & Health programme in the World having 1.1 lakh data entry devices with frontline functionaries across 7 States (Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) enabling a footprint of 95 lakh plus beneficiaries.

The POSHAN Abhiyaan empowers the frontline functionaries i.e. Anganwadi Workers and Lady Supervisors by providing them with Smartphones.

POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.



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The programme through use of technology, targeted approach and convergence strives to reduce the level of Stunting, Under-nutrition, Anemia and Low Birth Weight in Children, as also, focus on Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers, thus holistically addressing malnutrition.

Van Dhan Kendras

Why in News?

The Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country under the Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

In a new game changing initiative, the Prime Minister 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, the Prime Minister stated that Van Dhan, Jandhan and Goverdhan 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:

Van Dhan Mission is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produces, the true wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan with an estimated value: Rs.2 Lakh Cr. per year.

It shall promote and leverage the collective strength of tribals (through SHGs) to achieve scale.

It also aims at build upon the traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition.

Further it is to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (the Kendra) in predominantly forested tribal districts.



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A Kendra shall constitute of 10 tribal SHGs, each comprising of upto 30 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Kendra.

Importance of VDK:

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.

Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY)

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will hand over 1 crore homes under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY) by December 2018

About PMAY:

In order to empower people to get their dream home, honorable Prime Minister has announced a comprehensive and a progressive mission, 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Housing for All' on 17 June, 2015.

One of the major verticals of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Lower Income Group/Economically Weaker Section (EWS/LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG – I & II).

Under this scheme, Central government provides financial assistance through lending Institutions to eligible beneficiaries across [all statutory towns](#) as per 2011 census and their adjacent planning area (updated by the government from time to time)



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General Studies-3

MSME Day

Why in News?

The Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), will organize a National Conclave (UdyamSangam) on 27th June 2018 on the occasion of UN MSME Day.

The purpose of the Conclave is to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.

On this occasion the Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry will be launched by the President.

Salient Features:

The Mission will cover 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.

The Mission has been approved by the Government of India for which the MSME Ministry will disburse subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to the artisans.

A Website of the Ministry will also be launched which will act as a bridge between the talent pool and those enterprises seeking trained man power.

Nearly one lakh fifty thousand persons have received training in the 18 State-of-the-art Technology Centres of the MSME Ministry last year.

The need for convergences of all government initiatives relating to MSME sector has always been emphasized.

UdyamSangam is a step forward towards consolidating that process. UdyamSangam will be followed by a fortnightlong MSME Pakhwada called Udyam Lehar.

About UN MSME Day

The UN General Assembly in its 74th Plenary held on the 6th April, 2017 declared 27th June as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, recognizing the



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importance of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in achieving sustainable development goals and in promoting innovation, creativity and sustainable work for all

Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) scheme

Why in News?

In an attempt to promote solar energy, the *Gujarat government has announced Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) scheme* under which farmers would be encouraged to generate electricity and sell their surplus to power distribution companies.

Highlights of the project:

- Under the first phase of project, *the state government would provide financial assistance* to 12,400 farmers out of the state's total 15 lakh farmers to generate an estimated 175 MW of power.
- *The state government and the Centre would jointly share 60% of the cost* of installing a solar generating unit in the fields, while the farmers would need to chip in only 5%. The remaining 35% would be in the form of a loan by the state government at the rate of four to 4.5%.
- *The government would also enter in a 25-year power purchase agreement with the farmers.* Till the farmers repay their loan, the distribution companies would buy electricity from them at the rate of Rs 7 per unit and at Rs 3.5 per unit once the loans are settled. After that, the farmers would get ownership of the solar system.