



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 23-July-2018

General Studies-2

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

Why in News?

The Department of School Education and Literacy has formulated the Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and it is being implemented throughout the country with effect from the year 2018-19.

About the Scheme:

This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

The main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving quality of school education and the strategy for all interventions would be to enhance the Learning Outcomes at all levels of schooling.

Financial Allocation:

An allocation of Rs 75,000 crore over the period 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020 has been approved which is a 20% increase over the current allocations. It sees school education holistically without segmenting it into various levels of education.

Reconstitution of National Bamboo Mission

The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has been launched this year with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for implementation.



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Objectives of NBM:

To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change as well as availability of quality raw material requirement of industries.

The bamboo plantations will be promoted predominantly in farmers' fields, homesteads, community lands, arable wastelands, and along irrigation canals, water bodies etc.

ii) To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units near the source of production, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.

iii) To promote product development keeping in view market demand, by assisting R&D, entrepreneurship & business models at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.

iv) To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India.

v) To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector from production to market demand.

About NMSA:

NMSA derives its mandate from Sustainable Agriculture Mission which is one of the eight Missions outlined under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture through a series of adaptation measures focusing on ten key dimensions encompassing Indian agriculture namely;

Improved crop seeds, livestock and fish cultures', 'Water Use Efficiency', 'Pest Management', 'Improved Farm Practices', 'Nutrient Management', 'Agricultural insurance', 'Credit support', 'Markets', 'Access to Information' and 'Livelihood diversification'.



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Waterways Projects on Kakinada-Chennai Section of NW-4

In order to develop waterways from Kakinada to Chennai, detailed hydrographic survey has been completed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in respect of Kakinada to Ennore stretch of National Waterway-4.



About NW-4

National Waterway 4 (NW-4) is a 1,095 kilometres (680 mi) long waterway in India.

It has been declared as an Indian National Waterway and is currently under development.

It connects the Indian states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and the union territory of Puducherry.



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The NW-4 runs along the Coromandal Coast through Kakinada, Eluru, Commanur, Buckingham Canals and also through part of Krishna and Godavari rivers in South India.

It was declared a National Waterway on 24 November 2008 under the Provisions of National Waterways Bill, 2006.

It is being developed by the [Inland Waterways Authority of India](#) (IWAI), and was scheduled for completion by 2013.

The National Waterways Act, 2016 has extended the length of NW-4 from 1078 Km to 2890 Km by connecting Krishna and Godavari River

The Project would be undertaken in 3 phases with first phase beginning in October, 2017 and to be completed by June, 2019

Student Police Cadet Programme

Union Home Minister has launched Student Police Cadet Programme.

About Student Police Cadet Programme:

The programme seeks to build *a bridge between the Police and the larger community through school students* by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.

The programme *focuses on students of class 8 & 9* and special care has been taken to ensure that it does not lead to increase in the workload of the students.

- The programme does not have any prescribed text book nor is any exam envisaged. Only one class in a month is proposed.
- The programme seeks to cover broadly two kinds of topics: Crime prevention and control and Values and ethics.
- The Programme shall be at first implemented in Government schools in both urban and rural areas.



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Implementation:

The programme shall be steered by a State level committee to be headed by the Principal Secretary, Home Department with the Principal Secretary, Education and Director General of Police as members.

There shall be a similar committee at the district level headed by the District Magistrate with the District Inspector of Schools and Superintendent of Police as members.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR)

Why in News?

Science & Technology, Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan unveiled a state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi today.

The giant true colour LED display gives out real-time air quality index on 24x7 basis with colour coding along with 72-hour advance forecast.

About SAFAR:

The system, first of its kind in the country, was developed indigenously in record time by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune and operationalized by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

It will also measure sun's UV-Index and will provide measurement of online automatic ultrafine particles PM1 and Mercury, both of which have direct relevance to human health.

Based on UVI, skin advisories will be issued on display.

It will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed and wind direction.



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In addition to regular air quality parameters like PM2.5, PM10, Sulfur Dioxide, Ozone, Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide, the system will also monitor the existence of Benzene, Toluene and Xylene.

Benefits:

According to a preliminary economic assessment of the benefits of the system, if 5% of people suffering from air-pollution related diseases take advantage of the advisories and precautions in Delhi alone, it would result in a saving of nearly Rs. 2,500 crores in terms of health-related cost benefit,”

The system will be an integral part of India’s first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi and will strengthen the existing air quality network of SAFAR, Central Pollution Control Board and Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

SAFAR will accelerate public awareness and preparedness of air pollution and weather extremes.

It will also lead to better understanding of linkages among emissions, weather, pollution and climate.

Besides health, SAFAR system would benefit cost savings to several other sectors like agriculture, aviation, infrastructure, disaster management skill, tourism and many others, which directly or indirectly get affected by air quality and weather.