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Government of India and ADB Sign \$375 Million Loan to Improve Irrigation Efficiency in Madhya Pradesh

Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.

About the Project:

The Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project will develop 125,000 hectares of new, highly efficient and climate resilient irrigation networks and improve water use efficiency in more than 400 villages, benefiting over 800,000 people in Madhya Pradesh.

About ADB:

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a [regional development bank](#) established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the [Ortigas Center](#) located in the city of [Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines](#).

The company also maintains 31 field offices around the world^[4] to promote social and [economic development](#) in Asia.

Members:

- The bank admits the members of the [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) (UNESCAP, formerly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE) and non-regional [developed countries](#).
- From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

Why in News?

The 21st All India Review Meeting on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was held.

The focus was on issues related to the implementation of MPLADS with the States/UTs so that the Ministry can take steps to address these for further improvements in its implementation.

About the Scheme:



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MPLADS - Member of Parliament Local Area Development Program

- ✓ Launched on 23rd December, 1993
- ✓ Rs 5 crore per annum grant to each MP
- ✓ To take development project in constituency.
- ✓ Applicable to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs.
- ✓ 15% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste Population
- ✓ 7.5% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes Population



Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

Performance:

Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha are best performing States/UTs in terms of uploading the information (Monthly Progress Report and Work-wise details) on the MPLADS web Portal.

UTs like Lakshadweep, A& N Islands and States of Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu are amongst the higher side of the performance having maximum percentage utilization of funds over release.

Enhancing Innovation for the Clean Energy Transition

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, and the International Energy Agency (IEA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Enhancing Innovation for Clean Energy Transition today.

What does it aims?

The MoU seeks to:

- Deepen co-operation in support of clean energy innovations to accelerate the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of clean energy technologies in India
- and will help support the generation of data for policymaking and improve knowledge of good policy practices for innovation in India and around the world.
- This will ensure cooperation on sharing of data regarding energy and its analysis.
- This MoU also has a provision for activities such as training and capacity building and accelerating energy innovation by identifying sources of finance.

India is probably the only country, which has established a separate mission innovation



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secretariat.

General Studies -3

Environment Minister Releases India's National Redd+ Strategy

Why in News?

Reiterating India's commitment to Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has emphasised that the cooperation and involvement of the tribals, other forest dwelling people and the society as a whole, is crucial for the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

What is it?

In simple terms, REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

Objectives and Aims:

- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
- The strategy seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also developing a roadmap for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and achieving sustainable management of forests through REDD+ actions.
- The National REDD+ Strategy will soon be communicated to the UNFCCC.

REDD+ and INDC

- Paris agreement on climate change also recognizes role of forests in climate change mitigation and calls upon country Parties to take action to implement and support REDD+.
- India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy.

The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.

India Post Payments Bank

Context:

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will launch the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on September 1st, 2018.

About IPPB:

- IPPB has been envisioned as an accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the



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common man, to help speedily achieve the financial inclusion objectives of the Union Government.

- It will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts, which covers every corner of the country with more than 300,000 Postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks.
- IPPB will hence significantly augment the reach of the banking sector in India.
- The launch of IPPB marks another significant milestone in the Union Government's endeavour to take the benefits of a rapidly developing India to the remotest corners of our country.
- All the 1.55 lakh Post Offices in the country will be linked to the IPPB system by December 31, 2018.

Services Offered:

- IPPB will offer a range of products such as savings and current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments.
- These products, and related services, will be offered across multiple channels (counter services, micro-ATM, mobile banking app, SMS and IVR), using the bank's state-of-the-art technology platform.

Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC):

What is it?

Union Government has constituted a new 21-member advisory panel on science, technology and innovation called Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). It will replace earlier Scientific Advisory Committee to Prime Minister and to Cabinet.

Composition:

- It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor to the government of India.
- It has nine members, including Chairperson. Apart from nine members, it will also have twelve special invitees — eleven ex officio secretaries 10 central ministries, related to science, technology, energy and education, are special invitees to the panel.

Roles and functions:

- Advise PM on science, technology, as well as innovation.
- Coordinate implementation of PMs scientific vision.
- Aid in formulation and timely implementation of major science and technology missions and evolve interdisciplinary technology development programmes.
- Advise government on developing 'Clusters of Excellence' in science including city-based R&D clusters.
- Bring together all science and technology partners from academia and institutes to industries near such centres or cities.