



C.A Dated On 18-09-2018

**GS-2**

**Southern Zonal Council Meeting**

**Why in News?**

The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held under the Chairmanship the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in Bengaluru today.

The Council expressed deep sorrow and sympathy to the people who lost their lives and property in the floods caused by the fury of the Monsoon in the Southern part of the country.

The Council was informed that Central Government would not lag behind in providing the requisite assistance to the States concerned in this regard.

**About the Zonal Council:**

- The five Zonal Councils (Western, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Center Zonal Councils) were set up under the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 to foster Inter-State cooperation and coordination among the States.
- The Zonal Councils are mandated to discuss and make recommendations on any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning, border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport etc.
- They are regional fora of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally.
- Being compact high level bodies, specially meant for looking after the interests of respective Zones, they are capable of focusing attention on specific issues taking into account regional factors, while keeping the national perspective in view.

**Member States:**

- Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry



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## **Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams**

### **Why in News?**

Union Science & Technology minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan today inaugurated a novel holistic **Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS<sup>HR</sup>)** project at Sun Dial Park in New Delhi

### **About the Project:**

- The **Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS<sup>HR</sup>)** project inaugurated today is a joint initiative of Indian and Dutch scientists.
- Around a year back DBT in consultation with DDA identified the Barapullah drain, Sarai Kale Khan, in the state of Delhi for setting up on-site experimental testing lab and for the establishment of a pilot plant.

### **Benefits Associated:**

- It produces clean water which is reused for various purposes, while simultaneously recovering nutrients and energy from the urban waste water, thus converting the Barapullah drain into profitable mines.
- This is an attempt to meet the goals set by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and contribution of the Department of Biotechnology, the Ministry of Science and Technology to "Swachhta Hi Seva" movement launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.
- This plant is a unique example of how waste can be made into a profitable mine. this plant, which can convert 10 lakh litre of sewage into clean water and generate 3 tonnes of biofuel ,will be scaled up and will become a model for example for the whole world.

## **GS-3**

### **'e-Sahaj' portal**

### **Context:**



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The Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal here today for grant of Security Clearance.

#### **About the portal:**

- The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- With the introduction of online portal, the process has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor.
- Various functionaries can access the application and documents online and take timely decisions.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently streamlined the Security Clearance procedures and issued a fresh set of guidelines.

#### **Objectives of Portal:**

- MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before issue of licence/permit, permission, contract etc, to companies/bidders/individuals by the administrative Ministry.
- The objective of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and project proposals in key sectors.
- The aim is to strike a healthy balance between meeting the imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country.

### **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)**

#### **Why in news?**

The Government has decided to incorporate the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana (PMFBY).

This crucial provision is part of the new operational guidelines issued by the Govt for the implementation of PMFBY.

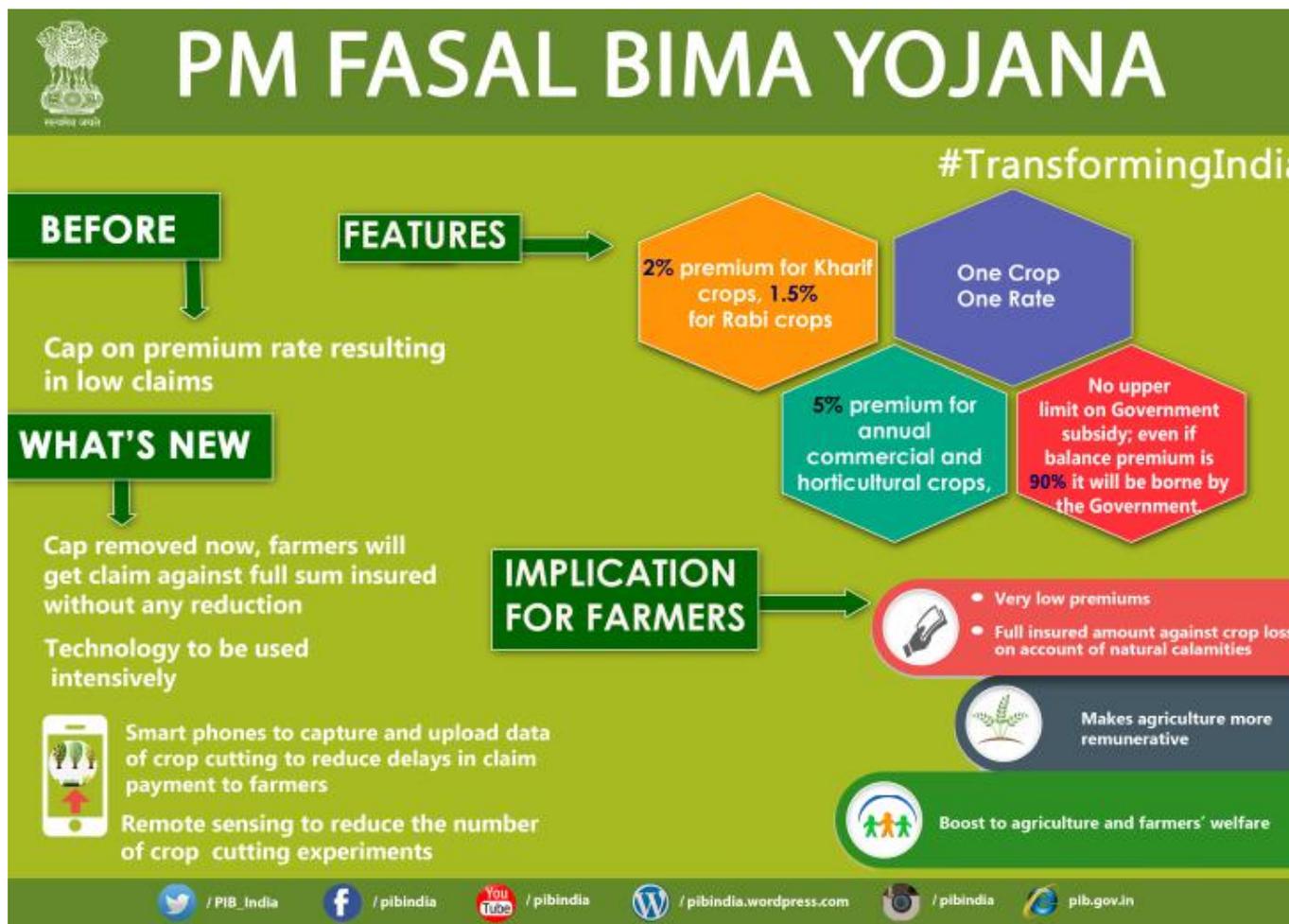
#### **Changes made:**



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- The farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance companies for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.
- State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in release of State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies.
- The new operational guidelines come at the onset of the rabi season, which starts from 1<sup>st</sup> of October.
- The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.
- The scheme, as per the new operational guidelines provides add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals, which will be implemented on a pilot basis. Aadhaar number will be mandatorily captured to avoid duplication of beneficiaries.

### About the PMFBY:





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### **Medical Cyclotron Facility Cyclone-30**

Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

#### **About the Cyclone-30**

- Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup for the first time last week.
- Subsequently, beam from this facility was used to produce  $^{18}\text{F}$  (Fluorine-18 isotope) for the preparation of [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ] Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radio-pharmaceutical used by Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT).
- The facility will start regular production by the middle of the next year after the commissioning of the supporting nuclear systems and regulatory clearances. Cyclone-30 facility at VECC, Kolkata, a Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) unit.
- This facility will provide for affordable radio isotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for the entire country especially, for Eastern India and also have export potential for Germanium-68/Gallium-68 generator for in-situ production of Gallium-68 and Palladium-103 isotopes, used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment, respectively.
- Cyclone-30 commissioning re-emphasises the capability of Indian scientists and engineers to deliver at the highest level of science and technology.

### **Akash Missile System:**

#### **Why in News?**

The [Defence](#) Acquisition Council (DAC) which met on Tuesday accorded a procedural approval for the procurement of an improved variant of the indigenously developed Akash Surface to Air Missile (SAM) systems for the Army.

#### **Features of Missile:**



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The missile to be procured is an upgraded version of the previously inducted Akash missiles and will include :

- Seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature.
- The upgraded Akash Weapon System is operationally critical equipment which will provide protection to vital assets," Defence Ministry said in a statement.

**About the Akash**

- Akash was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme initiated in 1984 and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Akash has a range of 25 kms and can simultaneously engage multiple targets in all weather conditions and has a large operational envelope from a low altitude of 30 metres to a maximum of up to 20 km.
- Each regiment consists of six launchers with each launcher having three missiles.



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## Akash Area Defence Missile System

- Quick reaction, fully automated, all-weather capability
- **'Large kill envelope'**, can handle multiple threats from different directions
- Cross-country mobility & multi-terrain deployability from sub-zero to desert temperature

Surface-to-air missiles with **25km** range against hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones & sub-sonic cruise missiles



**DRDO says Akash is 96% indigenous**

Warhead

5.6m-long Akash missile carries **55kg** fragmentation warhead

6ft

**Army** | 2 Akash regiments, with 6 firing batteries & hundreds of missiles each, for ₹ **14,180cr**

**IAF** | 8 Akash squadrons, each with 2 'flights' of 4 launchers, for ₹ **6,200cr**

**Navy**  
Finds Akash unsuitable for its warships; wants talks with French MBDA for 9 SAM systems with 40 missiles each