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### **Aadi Mahotsav:**

#### **What is it About?**

"Aadi Mahotsav" a National Tribal Festival is being organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce.

#### **Details:**

- The Mahotsav will comprise of display and sale of items of tribal art and craft, tribal medicine & healers, tribal cuisine and display of tribal folk performance, in which tribal artisans, chefs, folk dancers/musicians from 23 States of the country shall participate and provide glimpse of their rich traditional culture.
- The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through 100 stalls. Over 200 tribal artisans and artists from different States creating a Mini-India will be participating in the festival.

#### **Theme of the festival is:**

"A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce".

#### **Significance:**

- Aadi Mahotsav suggests, it is it's 'Adi' factor that is important about them.
- The Adivasi way of life is guided by primal truths, eternal values and a natural simplicity.
- The greatness of the tribes lies in this that they have managed to retain the primal skills and natural simplicity.
- Their creations issue from the depths of time.
- This quality gives their arts and crafts a timeless appeal.



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- The crudest tribal handicraft instantly touches a primal instinct in all of us.
- This is particularly true in tribal music and dance.

### **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

Two important projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India were inaugurated at PTSO Lake in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh today.

#### **Details of Project:**

- These projects are "Development of North East Circuits: Bhalukpong-Bomdila - Tawang Project & Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys-Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project".
- Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the region have shown an upward trend over the years.
- The facilities developed under this project includes Helipad, Wayside amenities, trekking trails, Rafting Centre, Log Huts, craft bazaar, Eco Park, Tourist facilitation centres, parking, multipurpose Hall, festival ground etc.
- Development of Tourism in North Eastern Region is prime area of focus for the Ministry of Tourism.

#### **Other steps taken**

- The Ministry has taken several initiatives for growth of domestic and international tourism in the region.
- One of the many challenges the region faces in development of tourism is the absence of quality infrastructure, services and awareness about the array of tourism products region has to offer.
- The Ministry is carrying out number of activities to handle the issues on above fronts.
- On one hand the Ministry has given great impetus to the tourism infrastructure in the region under its flagship schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.



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- For development of Tourism infrastructure, the **Ministry has sanctioned 16 projects for Rs. 1349.04 crores covering all North Eastern States under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.**

### **About Swadesh Darshan:**

- **Swadesh Darshan** scheme is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
- Under this scheme the Government is focussing on development of quality infrastructure in the country with objective of providing better experience and facilities to the visitors on one hand and on other hand fostering the economic growth.
- The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and as on date the Ministry has sanctioned **73 projects worth projects for Rs. 5873.99 Crore** to 30 States and UTs.

For promotion of North East region Ministry carries out special promotion in domestic and international markets highlighting regions diversity, tourism products and its rich culture.

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### **Poshan Abhiyan**

### **Why in News?**



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The third meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges as part of Poshan Abhiyan, was held at New Delhi today.

**About Poshan Abhiyaan:**

Launched on the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8, 2018), Poshan Abhiyaan aims to boost nutrition among children and women. The program targets to

- Prevent and reduce stunting in children (0-6years): By 6% @ 2% p.a.
- Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years): By 6% @ 2% p.a.
- Reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children(6-59 months): By 9% @ 3% p.a.
- Reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years: By 9% @ 3% p.a.
- Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW): By 6% @ 2% p.a.

Different ministries are converging to make the mission successful. By synergising frontline functionaries and volunteers, the Ministry of Women & Child Development is planning to reach 11 crore people and thereby convert the mission into Jan Andolan.

**Ancient Maritime Trade Routes- Tall Ship Sail-Together**

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC along with the the Commander of Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) Navy Rear Admiral HosseinKhanzadiflagged off a Tall Ship Sail-together from naval base, Kochi on 14 Nov 18.



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**About the Event:**

The event which was organised by the the Indian Navy as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of IONS, was attended by chiefs from navies and delegates from 26 countries participating in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative activities besides a large gathering of Indian naval personnel.

The Royal Omani Vessel Zinat-al-Bihaar along with two Indian Naval Sailing Ships Sudharshini, Tarangini, with one each "Sea Rider" from Sri-Lanka, China, United Kingdom, Australia, Bangladesh and Maldives are participating in this 'Sail Together' which is planned over a distance of 1200 nm to Muscat and back.

**Objective:**

- It seeks to retrace the maritime trade route of yesteryears between the Malabar Coast and the Persian Gulf.
- .The event carries with it the memories of a glorious maritime past and the ancient cultural exchange that opened long-distance political and economic relations between the great civilizations of India and those in Persia and Arabia
- The route also honours the socio-cultural and maritime history that is shared among populations across the Indian Ocean as a result of this trade.

**Rationale behind Kerala as Starting Point:**

- To have Kerala as the starting point for the sail-together is both apt and befitting. Kerala's coastal magnificence has been a legendary maritime hub for traders from across the world dating all the way back to the first century AD.
- Its majestic shipyards known by the iconic **Urus**, have been in the midst of intense ship-building and maritime trade over 1500 years.
- Arab traders were especially captivated by these vessels and were among the first major patrons of these boats.

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**Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme**

To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a youth-friendly scheme **‘Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme’** for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.

**Background:**

- The Central Government has been encouraging ‘Start-Ups’ for ease of doing business, non-conventional opportunities are emerging and are being encouraged.
- The conducive environment is being leveraged by private and corporate sectors and ‘Hub Start-ups’ are being promoted.
- The newly launched scheme would encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.

**About the Scheme:**

- The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore ‘Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)’ created by the NCDC.
- It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.
- The funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost for these special categories as against 70% for others.
- The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.
- The scheme is expected to meet the needs of today’s youth. He added that NCDC, being the most preferred financial institution in the world of



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cooperatives, has embarked on Sahakar 22, a Mission for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022.

### **About NCDC**

- The NCDC has the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organisation functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.
- It supports cooperatives in diverse fields apart from agriculture and allied sectors.
- It is an ISO 9001:2015 compliant organisation and has a distinctive edge of competitive financing.
- It has extended financial assistance of Rs 63702.61 crore during 2014-2018 (as on November 13), 220% more than Rs 19850.6 during 2010-14.

### **GSAT-29**

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

India's GSAT-29 communication satellite was successfully launched by the second developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MarkIII (GSLV MkIII-D2) today from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

#### **About GSLV Mk-III**

- GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Two massive boosters with solid propellant constitute the first stage, the core with liquid propellant form the second stage and the cryogenic engine completes the final stage.

#### **About GSAT-29**



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- GSAT-29 is a multiband, multi-beam communication satellite, intended to serve as test bed for several new and critical technologies.
- Its Ku-band and Ka-band payloads are configured to cater to the communication requirements of users including those from remote areas especially from Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern regions of India.
- In addition, the Q/V-Band communication payload onboard is intended to demonstrate the future high throughput satellite system technologies.
- Geo High Resolution Camera will carry out high resolution imaging.
- Optical Communication Payload will demonstrate data transmission at a very high rate through optical communication link.

### **Significance:**

- India has achieved significant milestone with our heaviest launcher lifting off the heaviest satellite from the Indian soil.
- The launch vehicle has precisely placed the satellite in its intended orbit
- The launch will help to bridge the digital divide. He also said several next generation payload technologies will be demonstrated with this mission soon.
- The success of GSLV MkIII-D2 marks an important milestone in Indian space programme towards achieving self-reliance in launching heavier satellites.
- The success of this flight also signifies the completion of the experimental phase of GSLV Mark III.

### **Background:**

The first successful mission of GSLV Mark III was an experimental suborbital flight in 2014. Subsequently, GSLV Mark III-D1 launched GSAT-19, a high throughput communication satellite, with a lift-off mass of 3150 kg, into GTO on June 5, 2017.