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Cleaning of Ganga River Under Namami Gange Mission

Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the state governments in addressing the pollution of river Ganga by providing financial assistance to the states.

About Namami Gange Programme:

- Namami Gange Programme is an umbrella programme which integrates previous and currently ongoing initiatives by enhancing efficiency, extracting synergies and supplementing them with more comprehensive & better coordinated interventions.

Progress Made:

- Till 30th Nov 2018, 254 projects of sewerage infrastructure, bioremediation, modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), rural sanitation, industrial pollution abatement, river front development, construction of ghats and crematoria development, ghat cleaning, river surface cleaning, biodiversity and afforestation, composite ecological task force and capacity building have been sanctioned at a cost of approx. Rs.24,672 crore.

Steps Taken:

- Under the Namami Gange programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out the water quality monitoring of river Ganga.
- Comparison of recent observed water quality indicates that Dissolved Oxygen which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river across all seasons and also for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.
- Due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government, under the Namami Gange programme, the river Ganga water quality assessment in 2018 has shown trend of improved water quality as compared to 2017.
- The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 39 locations, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal Coliforms have decreased at 42 and 47 locations, respectively.



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India Pharma 2019 & India Medical Device 2019 Conference

Why in News?

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is organising the 4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector on 18th – 19th February, 2019 in Bengaluru.

The theme for India Pharma 2019 is :

'Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare' and that of India Medical Device 2019 is 'Med-Tech India: Gearing up for Ayushman Bharat'.

About the Conference:

- It is India's biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Device.
- The flagship event would bring key stakeholders of the pharma and medical devices sectors under one roof and provide an opportunity to discuss Government policy and challenges facing the Industry.
- Government is striving to make the processes in the sector as transparent and easy as possible.
- 4th edition the event will help in resolving the bottlenecks of growth in the sectors.
- The annual India Pharma & Medical Device Awards will be conferred by Department of Pharmaceuticals for various categories including India Pharma Leader Award, Innovation of Year Award, Bulk Drug Company of the Year Award and Medical Device Company of the Year Award.

Aims and Objectives:

- The event is held annually to get new and innovative ideas from all stakeholders in the conference.



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- This helps the department to prepare the annual action plan for the Pharma and Medical Device Sectors.
- During the Conference, the annual action taken report on the issues raised at the last edition of the event, along with new areas of concern, will be discussed.

Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

As per the guidelines, Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is implemented for development of mega handloom clusters, having atleast 15000 looms per cluster with Government of India share upto Rs.40 crore in a period of 5 years.

Where is it Being Implemented?

The scheme is under implementation in eight mega handloom Clusters i.e. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhanagar (Tamil Nadu), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Prakasam & Guntur districts (Andhra Pradesh), Godda & neighbouring districts (Jharkhand), Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Trichy (Tamil Nadu).

Benefits of Scheme:

- Under the CHCDS, need based funding is provided for various interventions like technology upgradation, product development, setting up of Value Addition Centre, Common Facility Centre (CFC), Marketing Complex, Dye House and Corpus Fund for Yarn Depot
- Under the scheme, various projects like setting up of Common Facility Centre, Dye House, Garmenting Unit, Silk Spinning Unit, Automatic Silk Reeling Unit etc. have been taken up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, which are functional.



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**Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission
(Ministry of Rural Development)**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) seeks to reach out to 8-9 crore rural poor households and organize one woman member from each household into affinity-based women SHGs and federations at village level and at higher levels.

Progress:

- During 2018-19 (as on October 2018), 588 additional blocks have been covered under "Intensive" implementation strategy of DAY-NRLM bringing the cumulative total to 5054 blocks.
- During the year 2018-19 so far, over 73 lakh households have been mobilized into 6.75 lakh SHGs.
- SHGs have also been extended a capitalization support of Rs. 743.29 crore.
- A total amount of Rs. 24082 lakh has been disbursed to 1.63 lakh SHGs as Revolving Fund (RF) while Rs. 50247 lakh has been disbursed to 92765 SHGs and their federation as Community Investment Fund (CIF) so far during 2018-19.
- The SHG-Bank Linkage programme has seen tremendous growth year on year under DAY-NRLM. During this financial year, about 17.57 lakh SHGs have accessed credit of Rs. 27911 crore up to October, 2018.

About Aajeevika Grameen express Yojana:

- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) is a programme under DAY-NRLM to provide safe, affordable and community monitored transport services to rural areas.
- The vehicles are owned and operated by members of Self-Help Group (SHG) networks and operate in regions which are not served by regular transport services.
- 624 routes are currently served by AGEY across the country.
- Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub-scheme under DAY-NRLM develops an eco-system for supporting small businesses in rural areas.
- The eco-system has components for providing business support services, mentorship, seed capital, training & capacity building on business and technical aspects and marketing support.
- SVEP saturates a block with these services for supporting small business. Programme is being implemented in 131 blocks across the country.



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Bhoomi Rashi Portal

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently launched the Bhoomi Rashi portal.

What is it?

- In the past years, acquisition of land for the purpose of National Highway projects, payment of compensation to the land owners etc were done manually by physical movement of documents in the form of files.
- However, in that procedure some constraints viz. delay in issuing notification, errors in the land/area details etc were being faced.
- In order to overcome these issues, to cut short delays and avoid parking of public funds with the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (CALA), Ministry has developed a web based Utility –BhoomiRashi to fully digitize and automate the entire process of land acquisition.

How does It Work?

- Comprehensive details including names of 711 districts and 6,55,297 villages have been built into the system based on the population Census-2011, duly updated on the basis of revenue records of all the State Governments.
- The system helps in expediting the process by providing simultaneous Hindi translation and has been linked to the e-gazette for expeditious publication.

Benefits:

- With the operation of this Portal, the land acquisition process has been expedited significantly, become error-free and more transparent and the notifications at every stage are being processed on real time basis.
- While the physical processing of the cases usually took considerable time, ranging from weeks to even months, and there were errors whose rectification caused further delays, the processing time using this portal has been reduced to less than two weeks in a majority of cases and even a few days in some cases.



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- The Utility has been made more user friendly by adding the feature of SMS services to the beneficiaries so as to enhance timeliness in dissemination of information, along with transparency, and also achieve the objective of real time tracking of activities and generation of reports, relating to land acquisition.

Proposals for New Atomic Power Plants

At present, there are nine (9) nuclear power reactors at various stages of construction, targeted for completion by 2024-25.

- In addition, twelve (12) more nuclear power reactors have been accorded administrative approval and financial sanction by the Government in June 2017.
- Thus, twenty one (21) nuclear power reactors, with an installed capacity of 15700 MW are under implementation, envisaged for progressive completion by the year 2031. The details are as follows:

i. Nuclear Power Reactors under Construction:

State	Location	Project	Capacity (MW)	Sanctioned Cost (₹ crore)
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPP 3&4	2 x 700	11459*
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPP 7&8	2 X 700	12320
Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	KKNPP 3&4	2 X 1000	39849
	Kalpakkam	PFBR ^{&}	500 ^{&}	5677
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP 1&2 ^{\$}	2 x 700	20594

Nuclear Power Reactors accorded administrative approval and financial sanction:

State	Location	Project	Capacity	Sanctioned
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			(MW)	Cost (□ crore)
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP 3&4	2 x 700	105000
Rajasthan	Mahi-Banswara	Mahi Banswara 1&2	2 X 700	
		Mahi Banswara 3&4	2 X 700	
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga 5&6	2 X 700	
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka 1&2	2 X 700	
Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	KKNPP 5&6	2 X 1000	49621

Sites accorded 'In-Principle' approval:

In addition, five sites, as given below, have been accorded 'in principle' approval by the Government for setting up more reactors in future.

State	Site	Capacity (MW)	In Cooperation with
Maharashtra	Jaitapur	6 X 1650	France
Andhra Pradesh	Kovvada	6 X 1208	United States of America
Gujarat	Chhaya Mithi Viridi	6 X 1000*	
West Bengal	Haripur	6 X 1000*	Russian Federation
Madhya Pradesh	Bhimpur	4 X 700	Indigenous PHWR

- Discussions on finalization of project proposals in respect of setting up large size Light Water Reactors in collaboration with France at Jaitapur site in Maharashtra and USA at Kovvada site in Andhra Pradesh are underway.
- The cost of reactors to be set up at these sites will emerge on conclusion of the techno-commercial discussions and formulation of their project proposals.



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- These reactors will be launched after the accord of administrative approval and financial sanction by the Government. At the other 'In-Principle' approved sites, the pre-project activities are at various stages.
- Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), a PSU under Department of Atomic Energy, is currently constructing a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

The Government has taken **several measures** to enable setting up of nuclear power reactors in the country.

These include:

- (i) Resolution of issues related to Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act & Creation of Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP).
- (ii) Amendment of the Atomic Energy Act-1962 (as amended from time to time) to enable Joint Ventures of Public Sector Companies to set up nuclear power projects in the country.
- (iii) Enabling agreements with the foreign countries for nuclear power cooperation including supply of fuel.
- (iv) Identification and addressing of the issues in implementation of the projects through Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation "PRAGATI" platform.

Setting up of Space Technology Park and Museums

The ISRO has plans to set up Space Galleries in various locations in the country.

- The Space Galleries are expected to disseminate the knowledge about space science and technology amongst the citizens of our country.
- The Gallery will consist of interactive methods/ models describing the principles of Space science and technology.
- Initially, Space Galleries are planned to be established at Birla Science Centre at Hyderabad, Nehru Science Centre at Mumbai and National Science Centre at PragatiMaidan in New Delhi.



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- In addition to this, ISRO has taken initiatives to establish space gallery in all the national museums/science centres (under Ministry of Culture) across the country in a phased manner.
- In addition to the Space Galleries, ISRO is planning to establish Knowledge centres, mobile exhibitions, competitions amongst students and various talks/ lectures on Space Science/ technology related aspects.