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Conservation and Promotion of Medicinal Plants

Why in News

Recently, the work being done in the direction of conservation, promotion and development of medicinal plants in Chhattisgarh has been appreciated by the international organization United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, (UNCCD).

Key Points

- Under this, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shri Mohammad Akbar and Provincial Secretary of Traditional Vaidya Sangh of Chhattisgarh State Shri Nirmal Awasthi have been honored by the said organization UNCCD.
- UNCCD appreciated the awareness campaign being run about medicinal plants in Chhattisgarh under the guidance of Mohammad Akbar and the efforts being made for the revival of the knowledge of medicinal plants and traditional medicine under the Home Herbal Garden scheme being run by Nirmal Awasthi.
- Appreciating this, Mr. Rajeb Bulharout of UNCCD Secretariat honored him by issuing a certificate.
- Provincial Treasurer of Traditional Vanaushadhi Trained Vaidya Sangh, Chhattisgarh, informed that public awareness campaign is being conducted under the Public Health Tradition, Promotion Campaign and Ghar Angana Herb-Bodi Bagiya Scheme of Chhattisgarh state by distributing medicinal plants free of cost every year.
- In addition to seasonal diseases, life-giving herbal medicines, including Bramhi, Ashwagandha, Satavar, Tulsi, Kalmegh, Giloy, Adusa, Chirayata, Pathar Chur, Mandupparni, Bhuiavala, Bhringraj, Hadjod etc., are distributed by the traditional doctors of the state.

GST Collection in July

Why in News

According to the recently released central government data, an increase of 33 percent has been registered in the GST collection in Chhattisgarh.

Key points

According to the data of the central government, Chhattisgarh has recorded a GST collection of Rs

- 2,432 crore in July 2021, which is 33 percent more than the corresponding period of the year 2020. This increase in GST collection in Chhattisgarh is about 32 percent more than the growth in total GST collection at the national level.
- The increase in GST collection in Chhattisgarh is higher than that of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is noteworthy that the pace of economic activities in Chhattisgarh has been maintained, despite the challenges due to Covid-19 crises. therefore this growth has taken place.
- Such steps maintained economic dynamism in the state like- Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Forest Produce Collection, Godan Nyay Yojana, Value Addition and Livelihood Activities, MGNREGA.
- The 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana' started during covid-19 about 19 lakh farmers of the state were benefitted, while this year 22 lakh farmers received financial support under this scheme.
- Chhattisgarh is also leading in the entire country in the matter of forest produce collection. Besides Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme, value addition to forest produce and livelihood activities conducted in Gauthans have created employment in the rural areas of the state at a larger scale.
- Apart from this, under the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme, continuous employment was provided in rural areas. A large number of farmers, livestock owners and members of self-help groups have also benefited from the procurement of cow dung at the rate of Rs 2 per kg as well as the manufacture and sale of organic manure through Godhan Nyay Yojana.

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojna

Why in News

On July 28, 2021 Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a new scheme 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojna' with a provision of Rs. 200 crore in the supplementary budget.



Key Points

- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced this scheme on the third day of the monsoon session of the state assembly while presenting the supplementary budget for the financial year 2021-22.
- Under this scheme financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 per year will be provided to landless agricultural labourer families of rural areas.
- This scheme will mainly cover MNREGA and contract workers of the state.
- More than 10 lakh workers of the state will benefit from this scheme of the government.
- ➤ It is worth noting that till now the Central government is giving financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per year to the small and medium land holding farmers. In such a situation, this scheme of Chhattisgarh government will be important for the landless families.

Standing Committee on SC, ST and OBC Reservation

Why in News

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has constituted a standing reservation committee for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes of the state.

Key Points

- > This committee has been constituted under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Public Service (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Act, 1994.
- The eight-member standing committee, constituted under the chairmanship of the state's Tribal Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, includes five MLAs and Secretary General Administration Department and Tribal Development Department.
- The main function of the committee is to review the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder.
- > Apart from this, this committee will also suggest measures to remove the difficulties in the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder.
- Under the provisions of the Act, the term of the Standing Committee will be two years.

It is worth mentioning that in 2019, through an ordinance, the State Government had made a provision of increasing the reservation of Other Backward Classes in the state from 14 to 27 percent and for the economically weaker sections, which was postponed by the High Court.

Chandulal Chandrakar **Memorial Medical College** Durg (Acquisition) Bill, 2021

Why in News

- > On 29 July 2021, The Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College (Acquisition) Bill, 2021 was passed by a voice vote after a debate in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.
 - o The acquisition of the college by the State government has been done in public interest.

Key Points

- In the prescribed procedure for acquisition of Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College, Durg, it has been clearly mentioned that this case will not be a future instance, only one time permission is being given.
- The medical college will be acquired under the rules of land acquisition. Assessment of property is to be done only under the provisions of land acquisition.
- Instead of paying four times the guideline in rural areas, the cabinet has decided to evaluate it up to two times. No amount shall be paid or any other liability shall be incurred in addition to the amount so fixed. Due to this, the government will have to pay less.
- There are still many students (future doctors) studying at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College. Acquisition of this medical college would produce 150 new doctors every year.

Eklavya Model **Residential Schools**

Why in News

Recently, a scheme has been prepared for the online education system in Eklavya Model Residential Schools operated by the Department of Tribal and Scheduled Caste in the state.



Key Points

- One Eklavya Model Residential School in each district will be identified as the nodal school, where teachers and resources will be available for online learning. From here other Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the district, which do not have the facility of online education, will also be connected online.
- There is also the provision for monitoring at the ground level through departmental teachers, hostel superintendents and divisional coordinators.
- Essential arrangement and monitoring of online teachers will be done by the Assistant Commissioner, Tribal Development and at the state level by the Review Commissioner. Provision has been made for the monitoring system from village level to head of department level.
- > The objective of this scheme is to get the students studying in these schools to be taught by the school teacher according to the CBSE and CG Board syllabus, keeping the students engaged in studies, evaluating regular tests, psychological support, and guidance to the students, contact with the parents of the students and communication of the students.
- In order to provide regular educational support and guidance to the students, there is a provision for online education through Google Meet to the students by preparing the setup of online teaching at the school level.
- A team will be formed by engaging permanent teachers and teachers from other schools. Subject-wise, a core group will be formed for each subject, in which there will be a minimum of three teachers of that subject.

Chandaini Gonda-Ek Sanskritik Yatra

Why in News

On July 29, 2021, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book titled 'Chandaini Gonda-Ek Sanskritik Yatra' written by Dr. Suresh Deshmukh.

Key Points

In this book, an attempt has been made to introduce the new generation mainly to the personality and work of Dau Ramchandra Deshmukh.

- This book is in the form of a unique gift for those who try to know and understand the folk art, music and folk culture of Chhattisgarh. This book is not only readable but also a good collection, so that in the future it will serve as a reference book for the researchers of folk art.
- The publication of 'Chandaini Gonda-Ek Sanskritik Yatra' was done on December 7, 1976, on the occasion of the 25th performance of Chandaini Gonda. The editors of this souvenir were the littérateur duro of Dhamtari Narayan Lal Parmar and Tribhuvan Pandey.
- > After 45 years of publication of this souvenir, this is its second revised edition in an enhanced form.
- In this edition, the cultural journey from the Dehati Kala Vikas Mandal created by Dau Ramchandra Deshmukh to the manufacturing process of Chandaini Gonda and its immersion and creation of Kari has been included in this book.
- Dr. Deshmukh has also outlined his contributions by describing Dau ji and all the big and small artists and litterateurs associated with his works.

Tourist Police

Why in News

On July 31, 2021, a Tourist Police was established from Ghatarani-Jatmai in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh to provide security to the tourists.

Key Points

- Most areas in the district are famous for tourism but sometimes untoward incidents occur, keeping that in mind, the Tourist Police was announced on 30 July.
- > The Tourist Police will wear yellow T-shirts for easy identification. They will have a medical kit, rope, torch, umbrella and other safety equipment.
- Gariband district is located 90 km from Raipur. The Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Sikaser Dam and Bhooteshwarnath, Ghatarani, Jatmai and Rajiv Lochan temples are the main tourist spots.

Increase in Public Debt

Why in News

On July 30, 2021, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel told the Legislative Assembly that the total public debt of the state has increased by 20.85 percent to Rs 63,164.72 crore in 2019-20.

Key Points

- On the last day of the monsoon session, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel presented the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India while presenting the Finance and Appropriation Accounts of the Chhattisgarh Government for 2019 in the House.
- According to the report, the total public debt of Chhattisgarh has increased from Rs 52,254.22 crores (2018-19) to Rs 63,164.72 crores (2019-20).
- In 2019-20, the fiscal deficit was Rs 17,969.55 crores, which is 5.46 percent of GSDP and which exceeded the MTFP (Money Follows the Person Initiative) target of 2.99 percent of GSDP. During 2018-19, the state fiscal deficit was within the FRMB (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) target of 3.07 percent of GSDP.
- The report said the gross budget for 2019-20 was Rs 1,06,913.44 crores. Against it, the gross expenditure was Rs 92,261.34 crores.
- The tax revenue stood at Rs 42,323.69 crores and the state's own revenue rose to Rs 22,117.85 crores against Rs 21,427.26 crore (2018-19). The state received Rs 13,611.24 crores Grants in aid from the Centre as compared to last fiscal.
- The capital expenditure of the state government was Rs 8,566,39 crores, Rs 337.06 crores less as compared to 2018-19. The revenue deficit of Rs 9,608.61 crores constitutes 2.92 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during 2019-20.
- The state government has an off-budget liability of Rs 694.26 crores towards repayment of loans taken by various entities, in addition to its budgeted liabilities of Rs 78,712.46 crores.

Raipur Municipal Corporation

Why in News

Recently, in the ranking released by the Chhattisgarh Urban Administration Department, Raipur Municipal Corporation stood first in the state in solving the problems of electricity, solid waste management and water supply among the 13 municipal corporations of the state.

Key Points

- > The Corporation has promoted itself from 'D' to 'A' grade by taking a giant leap in the redressal of complaints lodged from 1st June to 31st July.
- > To solve any problem of the ward residents, a Nidan-1100 helpline number has been issued in the corporation headquarters, in which people get their solutions by telling their problems.
- The corporation redressed 78.25 percent of the complaints quickly, 19.47 percent of the complaints were redressed with little delay while 3 percent of the cases remained pending.

Mahasamund **Water Testing Laboratory** Gets Recognition from NABL

Why in News

Recently, the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has given recognition to the water testing laboratory operating in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- After getting the recognition by NABL, now the common citizens of the district can get the water tested, which will improve accuracy in the water test results.
- It is worth noting that this is the 10th NABL accredited water testing laboratory of Chhattisgarh.
- NABL is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), of Government of India and registered under the 'Societies Registration Act, 1980'.
- > The Government of India has authorized NABL as the sole accreditation body of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

Painted Rock Shelter Found in Mahasamund

Why in News

Recently a painted rock shelter site has been discovered in Mahadev plateau in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh.



Key Points

- The discovery of this rock shelter was done under the leadership of Deputy Director of the Department of Culture, Dr. P.C. Paras.
- Rock paintings of archaeological importance have been found in this rock shelter. In these rock paintings, geometric figures including dancing human groups, monkeys, sun and moon are made of red ocher colour.
- This is the first painted rock shelter known so far under Mahasamund district. Based on the rock paintings available here, the antiquity of human civilization and culture in this area is possible till the Mesolithic period.
- Important archaeological sites like Sirpur and Khallari already exist in Mahasamund district. Sirpur also has the distinction of being the capital of ancient Chhattisgarh.
- Megalithic sites have been found from Bartiabhatha in the district. In this sequence, this painted rock shelter discovered can be considered as the oldest known site so far from the point of view of history and archeology of Mahasamund district.

Caste Certificate

Why in News

Recently, the process of issuing a caste certificate (social status certificate) has been simplified by the Chhattisgarh government to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

Key Points

- According to the order issued by state government, if no documentary evidence is available to certify the caste under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Regulation of Authentication of Social Status) Rules, 2013 then the caste certificate will be issued by the Gram Sabha, recognizing the resolution presented by applicant.
- Similarly, now the announcement made by Nagar Panchayat or Municipal Council or General Assembly has been recognized as evidence in relation to caste and native place. Under this, the caste certificate will be issued by the competent authority as per the rules.

After this order of the state government, now it has become easy for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes of the state to get the caste certificate (social status certificate).

Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)

Why in News

On August 5, 2021, the Deputy Director General, Central e-Transport and National Informatics Centre, New Delhi appreciated the progress of the ongoing project iRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) in Chhattisgarh and urged other states to follow this model.

Key Points

- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched iRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) mobile app and a web application in collaboration with National Informatics Center (NIC) and IIT Madras.
- Its mission is to take necessary corrective measures and control accidents by analyzing the real causes of increasing road accidents across the country.
- > In Chhattisgarh it was started in May 2021. The state team has set an example for other states by implementing the project ahead of time.
- The reasons for road accidents (due to lack of road safety, road structure, traffic, weather reasons or any other reasons) is sent directly through this app to Central Transport Headquarters including District /State Headquarters and further to IIT, Madras for analysis/review.
- Proper use of iRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) will enable the concerned departments to get correct information. By integrating/interfacing the existing services of the concerned departments, the application user will get the complete information related to the vehicle as soon as the vehicle number is written.
- The data uploaded on this will be very useful for future action plans of road safety through the concerned departments. The reduction in accidents is possible by taking necessary corrective measures by knowing the exact causes of accidents on various roads of the state.



Supplementary Budget

Why in news

On July 27, 2021, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel presented the first supplementary budget of the current financial year of the state in the monsoon session of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

Key Points

- > This Supplementary budget is of **2485 crore rupees.**
- > In this budget, a maximum provision of 500 crore has been made for 'Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme'.
- Similarly a provision of 208 crore rupees for the fight against Covid-19, 200 crore for landless agricultural laborers (under the NYAY scheme) and 105 crore for the interest of the loan has been made in this budget.
- In the supplementary budget, a provision of rupees 4 crore has been made for Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Yojna, 1.60 crore rupees for establishment of 50 bedded MCH (Maternal-Child) in Saja and 1.30 crore rupees for establishment of Swami Vivekananda Memorial Institute in Raipur.
- Other provisions in the budget are:
 - o Sanchar Kranti Yojana Rs. 100 crore
 - O National Livelihood Mission Rs. 121.90 crore
 - o Majra Tola Electrification Scheme Rs. 58 crore
 - Chief Minister Haat Bazaar Clinic Scheme Rs.
 7 crore

National Level Awards For Chhattisgarh

Why in News

Chhattisgarh, which has emerged as a model state in the field of minor forest produce collection, has been honored with ten awards in various categories by the Government of India.

Key Points

- These awards were presented to Chhattisgarh by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda during a virtual program organized in New Delhi.
- These national awards have been given by the Tribal
 Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

of India (TRIFED) by evaluating the performance of the states **under three categories**. These three categories are:

- Minimum Support Price;
- Van Dhan; and
- Sales & Marketing.
- Chhattisgarh has bagged first prize for:
 - Inclusion of maximum number of forest produce (52) under the Minimum Support Price scheme for minor forest produce in 2020-21.
 - Procurement of minor forest produce at the highest price from state government's and Central government's funds (Rs.1173 crores).
 - Maximum utilization of the funds sanctioned in 2020-21 (Rs.127.09 Crores).
 - Manufacturing maximum products through value
 addition (121).
 - Maximum sale of products after value addition (Rs. 4.24 Crores).
 - Completion of maximum survey under Van Dhan Yojana.
 - Maximum training for forest development center clusters.
- For the manufacturing of sanitizer from Mahua and for producing new products from tamarind, it has also been awarded under the 'new product and innovation category'.

Bastar Dussehra Begins with Pat Jatra

Why in News

On August 08, 2021, the world famous 75-day Bastar Dussehra festival started with Pat Jatra Puja Vidhi in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- Like every year in Bastar, this year also Dussehra started with the first ritual of Patjatra on Hareli Amavasya.
- Patjatra Bastar is the first important ritual of Dussehra, in which the sal tree wood (Thurlu Khotla) brought from the Machakos forest is traditionally worshipped in front of the Danteshwari temple.
- The first wood of Bastar Dussehra occasion is called Thurlu Khotla and Tika Pata in the local dialect.



- According to the tradition of Bastar Dussehra, in the worship of Patjatra, the Majhi-Mukhiya reaches Sirhasar with the worship material on behalf of Bastar Maharaj and performs Patjatra and other worship rituals.
- It is noteworthy that Bastar Dussehra was started by King Purushottam Dev in 1408 AD. He dedicated the four wheels of the chariot to Lord Jagannath and remaining 12 wheels to Mother Danteshwari while dividing the chariot of sixteen wheels he got as a boon from Jagannath Puri.

First festival of Chhattisgarh: Hareli

Why in news

 On August 08, 2021 the first festival of Chhattisgarh region 'Hareli' was celebrated with gaiety.

Key Points

- Hareli festival is considered to be the first festival of Chhattisgarh, which is celebrated every year on Hareli Amavasya in the month of Sawan.
- This festival has a special significance for the farmers of Chhattisgarh. After the sowing of paddy, all agricultural and iron tools are worshiped by the farmers on the day of Hareli.
- On the day of Hareli festival, a special dish of this festival 'Cheela' is prepared in homes. Tools are worshiped by offering 'Cheela' in it, after which it is given to the members of the house as prasad.
- On the day of Hareli, men make a Gedi (made of bamboo) and climb on it. In some places, horse races are also organized.

Tribal Atlas of Chhattisgarh

Why in News

On August 9, 2021, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the Tribal Atlas prepared by the Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRI) on the occasion of World Tribal Day.

Key Points

> Chhattisgarh has become the **third state** in **the country** after Odisha and Jharkhand to prepare Tribal Atlas.

- ➤ In this Tribal Atlas, information about the culture, customs, dialects, tribal arts and crafts, Teej-festival, dance, tribal tourism, special backward tribes of the state as well as information regarding the scheduled area of the state has been included.
- Also, in this atlas, information about basic educational institutions like tribal sub-plan area, tribal ashram schools/hostels, Eklavya Model Residential School, Prayas Vidyalaya, administrative units in the state, community-wise tribal population, sex ratio, educational status and health facilities will be provided, also included.
- ➤ In this atlas, a brief district wise habitat profile in respect of 42 tribes of the state has been done through inset map.
- Along with the habitat profile, information about the district-wise majorly inhabited, tribe, forest area and different conditions has been presented.
- The atlas also includes the basic survey of special backward tribes conducted by the Institute in Census 2011 and information from the Tribal and Scheduled Castes Development Department.

Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

Why in News

On August 9, 2021, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel handed over community forest resource rights to five villages in the core areas of Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve in Gariaband district on the occasion of World Tribal Day.

Key Points

- In a virtual program, the Chief Minister has entrusted the rights of community forest resources to the forest rights committees of these five villages of Gariaband district.
- After recognizing community forest resource rights to these villages in the core areas of Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh has joined the states where this right has been given in the core area of the Tiger Reserve.
- This is the first time in the state that community forest resource rights have been given in the core area of the Tiger Reserve. This right was given to village Karka in the buffer area of Sitanadi last year.



The five villages settled in the core areas of Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve, which have been given this right, include village Masulkhoi (975.58 hectare), village Karhi (984.92 hectare), village Joratarai (551.42 hectare), village Baroli (1389.61 hectare) and village Bahigaon (1651.72 hectares).

Poona Narkom Campaign

Why in News

'Poona Narkom Abhiyan' was launched by Sukma District Police on the occasion of World Tribal Day on 9th August, 2021.

Key Points

- Under this campaign, medical camps were organized in different places of the district including district headquarters for the tribal villagers of rural areas in collaboration with the district health department.
- Along with this, daily useful materials were also distributed to the villagers.
- Under this campaign, work will be done to bring awareness to the policies of the government along with education, health and employment.
- Under the Poona Narkom campaign, the youth will be made aware and trained in the field of employment by the Sukma Police.

Jal Jeevan Mission

Why in News

On August 10, 2021, in the meeting of the Policy Formulation Committee (PPC) of RWSSMB under the chairmanship of the Minister of Water Resources, Rajasthan, Har Ghar Nal Connection was approved in more than four thousand villages under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Key Points

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the agenda proposals for providing 7 lakh 70 thousand 395 Har Ghar Nal connections in 62 schemes of 4 thousand 163 villages in the schemes worth more than Rs 5 crore, in addition to the mega drinking water projects and major drinking water projects provided.

- ➤ An amount of more than Rs 5056 crore will be spent on these. Under mega drinking water projects, 21 schemes costing more than Rs 4,718 crore have been approved, out of which 7 lakh 10 thousand 169 tap connections will be provided in 2 thousand 815 villages.
- ➤ Similarly, proposals for 41 single and multi-village rural drinking water schemes have been approved in addition to major drinking water projects worth more than Rs. 5 crores, out of which 60 thousand 226 will have tap connections in 1348 villages, on which more than Rs. 338 crore. There will be expenses.
- The Water Resources Minister also approved additional agenda proposals in the meeting. Of these, proposals worth Rs 43.48 crore were approved for connecting Harmada-Bhadarna with the Bisalpur project under the Jaipur Urban Water Supply Scheme and Rs 38.85 crore for the drinking water supply scheme in Bari (Dholpur) under the budget announcement of the Chief Minister.
- Apart from this, a proposal of Rs 67.81 crore has been approved under the water quality monitoring and surveillance plan in the year 2021-2022 under the schemes of JJM in the state. With this, capacity building activities will be conducted for up-gradation of laboratories of the water supply department, procurement of field testing kits and testing of drinking water quality in the state.
- 16.26 crore on construction of anicut on Moral river in Sawai Madhopur and Rs.265.96 crore for transmission main pipeline for drinking water supply in 539 villages from Surajpura to Sambhar in Bisalpur project were also approved.

ICMR's Respiratory Disease Research Center

Why in News

Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved the setting up of a center for research on critical respiratory diseases at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Raipur.

Key Points

It will be one of 20 centers being set up in the country. These centers are designated as ICMR Network of Pulmonary Fibrosis.



- It will help in developing medical facilities by collecting detailed data regarding diseases affecting the respiratory system.
- Dr. Ajoy Kumar Behera, appointed as Principal Investigator of the centre, said that this is a five-year project.
- The Pulmonary Department of AIIMS, Raipur reports 250 patients daily. It would help play an important role in collecting data of post Covid-19 patients and extending them treatment.

MoU for Adult Literacy

Why in News

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rotary India Literacy Mission and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Chhattisgarh in the field of adult literacy.

Key Points

- As per MoU Rotary India Literacy Mission will cooperate with the State Literacy Mission Authority in conducting the upcoming Nav Bharat Saksharta program and preparing student volunteers to work in the field of adult literacy.
- > The cooperation of the local Rotary Club will be taken to revive adult education. Apart from this, it will be rewarded with supporting activities (Training Module, Certification) and Nation Builder Awards for the training of teachers.
- Along with this, the creation of e-learning materials will help in vocational and skill development. A collaboration program will be run by Rotary India Literacy Mission to connect school dropouts in the mainstream of education.

Chhattisgarh Millet Mission

Why in News

Recently, the Millet Mission has been started by the Government of Chhattisgarh to encourage the Kodo-Kutki and Ragi crops grown in the Vananchal of the state.

Key Point

- This mission will increase the nutritional level of the people in Vananchal. At the same time, the value addition of these crops will also provide employment and the economic condition of the farmers will also improve.
- On the special initiative of the Chief Minister, the State Government has decided to procure Kodo, Kutki and Ragi on support price and to include these crops under Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana.
- Keeping in view the rich nutrients found in small cereal crops, the district administration and Krishi Vigyan Kendra in North Bastar (Kanker) district are giving information to the farmers of the district for improved farming under Millet Mission.
- Kisan Vikas Samiti has been formed for the production and collection of Kodo-Kutki, in which 300 families are associated.
- Processing units have been set up at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kanker and village Gotulmunda of Durgukondal block for value addition of minor cereal crops. Processing work is being done by one women group each in these two units.
- Women of self-help groups engaged in collection and processing work have been provided employment of more than 850 days. On the initiative of the district administration, farmers and women groups producing small cereal crops have been linked to this processing center.
- The products prepared in this center are being provided through Anganwadis to malnourished, anaemic and pregnant mothers and malnourished children in the form of Kodo Rice Khichdi and Ragi in the form of Halwa.
- The State Government is gearing up to implement the 'Chhattisgarh Millet Mission' in Chhattisgarh to increase the scientific production of Kodo-Kutki-Ragi. Chhattisgarh Government has declared the support price of Kodo-Kutki as Rs 3 thousand per quintal. And now expanding the scope of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, the State Government has decided to give incentives at the rate of Rs 9000/acre to the farmers for cultivating Kodo-Kutki crop.
- The State Government has also provisioned Rs 10,000 per acre for the farmers who take Kodo-Kutki crop, instead of paddy.



Medal for Excellent Deliberation

Why in News

On August 12, 2021, the Government of India announced to award medals to three officers of Chhattisgarh Police for their excellent deliberation.

Key Point

- ➤ For 2021, the Union Home Ministry will reward Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajiv Sharma posted in Bemetara of Chhattisgarh Police, Indira Vaishnav posted in Rajnandgaon, and Assistant Sub Inspector Indu Sharma posted in Bastar for excellent deliberation in different cases.
- Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajeev Sharma in March 2020, Sub-Inspector Indira Vaishnav in June 2019 and Assistant Sub-Inspector Indu Sharma in October 2020 had excelled keeping in mind the high professional standard in the rape investigation.
- It is noteworthy that the medal is given every year by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to police officers who have made excellent deliberations.
- It is noteworthy that the recommendation of these police officers was sent to the Union Home Ministry for excellent analysis by the Police Headquarters.

Vasundhara Samman

Why in News

On 14 August, 2021, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel honored well-known writer Satish Jaiswal with the 21st Vasundhara Samman at a function held at his residence office.

Key Points

- The function was organized by Lok Jagran's monthly magazine 'Vasundhara' on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Gandhian Gramsevak Late Devi Prasad Choubey.
- Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat presided over this function organized in collaboration with Chhattisgarh Government's Culture Department and Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation.
- The 58th issue of the monthly magazine 'Vasundhara' of 'Lok Jagran' and the 109th issue of 'Bahumat', a

- monthly magazine of art, literature and culture, was also launched in the ceremony. This issue of Vasundhara focuses on representative stories of 11 story writers of Chhattisgarh.
- Vasundhara Samman, continuing since 2001, till now has been given to, Sarvshree Ramesh Nayar, Kumar Sahu, Shyamlal Chaturvedi, Basant Kumar Tiwari, Baban Prasad Mishra, Diwakar Muktibodh, Asha Shukla, Sharad Kothari, Girija Shankar, Himanshu Dwivedi, Vinod Shankar Shukla, Gyan Awasthi, Shyam Vetal, Abhay Kishore, Girish Pankaj, Sushil Trivedi, B.K.S.Ray, Prakash Dubey, Tushar Kanti Bose and E.V. Murali.

Chief Minister's Announcement on Independence Day

Why in News

On August 15, 2021, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, on the occasion of 75th Independence Day, announced the **formation of four new districts** by reorganizing the districts in the state of Chhattisgarh, along with other announcements.

Key Points

- The four new districts announced by the Chief Minister are Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh.
- > He also announced the formation of 18 new tehsils in the state.
- Along with this, the Chief Minister also made the following other announcements-
 - Announcement of construction of 'Minimata Udyan' for women in all district headquarters and municipal corporations.
 - Announced to abolish the age limit for admission in colleges.
 - The naming of 'Mukhyamantri Affordable Medicine Scheme' will now be known as 'Shri Dhanwantri Yojana'.
 - Announcement to simplify the process of conversion to relieve the complexity of revenue related work in the state.
 - Announcement to start 'Swamitva Yojana' to provide the right of occupied land to the people residing on abadi land in rural areas.



- In view of the usefulness of 'Dial 112' service, it has now been announced to be expanded to the entire state.
- Announcement to start ownership scheme in the state to give rights to people occupied in abadi land in rural areas of the state.

India Hypertension Control Initiative Program (IHCI)

Why in News

On August 14, 2021, under the India Hypertension Control Initiative Program (IHCI), seven primary health centers in Raipur district were awarded for successfully treating 15,634 registered patients.

Key Points

- The ranking was based on a quarterly report by the Chhattisgarh representatives of the World Health Organisation.
- A ranking of 100 points is given on the basis of number of patients, blood pressure control rate, availability of follow-up drugs and new patient discovery to assess the performance of health centres.
- Raipur is implementing IHCI from March 2020. Under this, blood pressure patients are checked and medicines and advice are given. So far 15,634 patients have been treated.
- Primary Health Center (PHC) Mandir Hasaud (85 points) stood first. Arang Block PHC Chandrakhuri scored 80, Community Health Center Tilda (78), Urban PHC Changorabhata (77), PHC Torla (74), PHC Mandhar (73) and Tilda Block PHC Bangoli (65).
- Chief Medical and Health Officer Raipur Dr. Meera Baghel presented the prizes to the winners. Certificates were also given to doctors, resident medical assistants, staff nurses, pharmacists and resident house officers.

Canoeing-Kayaking Sports Facility in Jagdalpur

Why in News

On August 15, 2021, on the occasion of Independence Day, Chhattisgarh's Minister of Industry and district in-charge minister Kawasi Lakhma inaugurated the facility of canoeing-kayaking sports at the historic Dalpat Sagar in Jagdalpur.

Key Points

- This new sports facility in the tribal-dominated Bastar region will boost tourism here, while the country will get many national and international players from this game.
- Inaugurating this new sports facility, the Minister of Industry said that there are many sports talents in the tribal area, they will get an opportunity to move forward in this new field of sports. Lakhma also extended his best wishes to the youth training for the sport of canoeing and kayaking.
- He urged the youth to take maximum advantage of the sports facility provided by the initiative of the district administration and appreciated the cleanliness drive of Dalpat Sagar.
- He said that the efforts made for the preservation and beautification of this historical heritage of Dalpat Sagar would also boost tourism in this region. Also, the attraction of Dalpat Sagar will be added to the canoeing-kayaking sport.

Gamharia Village Became Plastic and Garbage Free

Why in News

On August 17, 2021, Gamharia village in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district became plastic and garbage-free. Earlier, it was declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF) village.

Key Points

- This has been made possible through 'Safai Mitra', the women of Surajpur Self-Help Group in Gamharia who go door-to-door to collect garbage. Villagers now call them respectfully as 'Swachchta Didi'.
- ➤ The group has made garbage disposal and waste management an additional source of earning. In the last one year, they earned Rs 63,000.
- Gamharia Sarpanch William Kujur said the Segregation Shed (Solid and Liquid Waste Management Center) was built in the village. Funds were provided from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural).



- Solid waste such as polythene, packing wrappers of food items, plastic items, iron scrap and glass are sold after segregation, said Sunita Kujur, secretary of the SHG.
- She said 12 women have been working for the group since July 2020. The group collects Rs 10 a month from each household and Rs 20 each from shopkeepers for the garbage collection.

Aromatic Kondanar Campaign

Why in News

Recently, the Aromatic Kondanar campaign, as part of developing mango orchards (Amrai), has begun with the planting of 1,000 Alphonso species at Rajagaon in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district.

Key Points

- Kondagaon MLA Mohan Markam, District Collector Pushpendra Kumar and other representatives planted 1000 saplings of Lemongrass, Palmarosa, Patchouli and Alphonso in an area of 25 acres in Rajagaon. Along with this, Nilgiri and bamboo saplings were also planted by other public representatives.
- ➤ It is worth mentioning that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had launched the Aromatic Kondanar (Fragrant Kondanar) campaign on June 20, 2021, with the aim of making the district an aroma hub and promote aromatic crop cultivation for additional earning to the farmers in tribal areas.
- Under this campaign will be implemented in 2,000 acres of forest, agriculture and private lands in the district will grow aromatic crops. Along with this, aromatic substances will be manufactured by setting up a plant in the district at a cost of 20 crores.

Olympiad Launched for Online Assessment

Why in News

On August 19, 2021, Chhattisgarh School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam launched the Olympiad for online assessment of students of Swami Atmanand English Medium Government Schools across the state.

Key Point

- The Olympiad is being held for online assessment of the achievements of the students in Science, Mathematics and English.
- There are four levels of assessment: primary level (Class 3 to 5 - 1,587 students), Secondary (Class 6 to 8), High School (Class 9, 10) and Higher Secondary (Class 11, 12).
- 7232 students participated in the Olympiad of Science subject. In these 1587 students of primary level, 2621 of secondary level, 1861 of high school level and 1163 of higher secondary level participated.
- All the questions in the Olympiad are of multiple choice nature. On the basis of marks obtained, students will be ranked at school, district and state level.
- Official sources said that the Mathematics Olympiad is scheduled on August 25 and English on August 31.

IIT-Medical Zone Launched

Why in News

On August 24, 2021, Chhattisgarh's School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam launched the IIT-Medical Zone (Coaching Center) for the preparation of national level medical and engineering examinations at Dhand Campus, Civil Lines, Raipur.

Key Points

- For the first time in Chhattisgarh, IIT-Medical Zone is providing coaching to students through digital medium along with classroom studies to prepare for competitive examinations.
- Through this institute, students will be prepared for competitive exams through quota and teachers of Delhi at very low fees.

Child Protection Month

Why in News

Child Protection Month was launched in the state on August 24, 2021. It will run from August 24 to September 28, 2021.

Key Points

Under this, about 26 lakh 40 thousand children in the age group of 9 months to 5 years will be given Vitamin



- 'A' syrup in the vaccination centers and Anganwadis of the state and About 27 lakh 60 thousand children of 6 months to 5 years will be given iron, folic acid syrup supplements.
- The implementation of the program will be done on the vaccination day to be organized every Tuesday and Friday with the help of ANM and Anganwadi workers.
- Apart from this, vaccines of BCG, Hepatitis B, DPT, OPV, Measles-Rubella and Pentavalent will also be given to the children who have been vaccinated and targeted for routine vaccination.
- During the Shishu Protection Month, children will be weighed to make them malnutrition free and highly malnourished children will be identified and treated in nutrition rehabilitation centers to improve their nutritional status.
- > During this, supplementary nutritious food will be provided to the malnourished children in Anganwadis also. Parents will be given information about nutritious food according to the age of the children.
- Under the Child Protection Month, counseling will also be given to pregnant women and children during family visits by ANMs and Anganwadi workers.
- Various activities will be organized in health centers and Anganwadis to improve the health of children, in which health, women and child development and education departments will work in coordination.

Mathematics Olympiad

Why in News

On August 25, 2021, Mathematics Olympiad was organized online by the School Education Department of Chhattisgarh to assess the achievements of the students of Swami Atmanand English medium government schools across the state.

Key Points

- 10,466 students participated in this Olympiad. In this 2411 students of primary level, 3860 of secondary level, 3045 of high school level and 1149 students of higher secondary level participated in this.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that earlier on 19th August 7,232 students participated in the Olympiad of Science.
- The assessment is divided into four levels, primary level classes 3 to 5, secondary level classes 6th to

- 8th, high school level classes 9th and 10th and higher secondary level classes 11th and 12th.
- As soon as the assessment work is completed, on the basis of the marks obtained by the students, after ranking the students at the school, district and state level, certificates will be given to the students securing first, second and third position.
- ➢ It is noteworthy that the School Education Department is assessing the achievements of the children of these English medium schools across the state through the Olympiads of Science, Mathematics and English subjects.

Self-supporting Gothans

Why in News

According to the information given by the State Agriculture Department, under the 'Garuva' component of the important flagship scheme 'Suraji Gaon Yojna' of the State Government, out of 5963 Gothans built and actively operated in the State, 1242 Gothans have become self-supporting.

Key Points

- According to the information received from the Agriculture Department, a maximum of 189 Gothans have become self-supporting in Raigarh district. There are 141 Gothans in Kabirdham district at number two and 101 Gothans in Rajnandgaon district at number three.
- ➤ Similarly, 25 in Gariaband district, 43 in Dhamtari, 49 in Baloda Bazar, 25 in Raipur district, 64 in Durg, 30 in Balod, 22 in Bemetara, 61 in Korba, 25 in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, 44 in Janjgir-Champa, 34 in Bilaspur, 20 in Mungeli, 23 in Korea, 36 in Jashpur, 18 in Balrampur, 39 in Surguja, 22 in Surajpur, 69 in Kanker, 21 in Kondagaon, 29 in Dantewada, 5 in Narayanpur, 26 in Bastar, Bijapur 12 and 18 Gothans in Sukma district have become self-supporting.
- It is worth mentioning that in order to promote the conservation and promotion of livestock in the state, the state government has so far approved the construction of Gothans in 10,107 villages, out of which the construction of 5,963 Gothans has been completed and dung has been procured there. Vermi and other income-oriented



- activities are going on including the manufacture of compost.
- Presently 3,220 Gothans are being constructed at a rapid pace, the work of construction of remaining 924 Gothans is yet to be started.
- So far, green fodder has been planted in about 7,600 acres in more than 4,000 Gothans, in which hybrid Napier grass has been planted and other fodder has been sown.

Chhattisgarh Top in Recognition of Forest Rights Claims

Why in News

In the review meeting of the Tribal Welfare Department held under the chairmanship of Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda at Chhattisgarh Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan on August 27, 2021, it was informed that Chhattisgarh is a leading state in the whole country in recognizing the claims of individual and community forest rights.

Key Points

- According to the information received, 21,95,228 hectares of land has been distributed in the state under 4 lakh 86 thousand individual and community forest rights recognition letters.
- These include 3,60, 619 hectares of land distributed to 4,41,502 beneficiaries under individual forest rights recognition letters and 18,34,609 hectares of area under 44,524 community forest rights recognition letters.
- On this occasion, the Union Minister took detailed information about the programs being run in the interest of tribal people in Chhattisgarh and directed them to get maximum benefit by ensuring its better implementation. He laid special emphasis on the overall upliftment of the tribal class and development of their entrepreneurial skills.
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TRIFED Outlet Inaugurated at Jagdalpur Airport

Why in News

On August 27, 2021, Union Tribal Minister Arjun Munda launched TRIFED's outlet at Maa Danteshwari Airport, Jagdalpur.

Key Points

- In this outlet, Belmetal artwork, clothes, and forest products made by artists of Bastar have been put up for exhibition-cum-sale.
- This outlet, which is open in the airport, will allow visitors to find products made by the artists of Bastar at one place. Also, the art of Bastar will be promoted on a wide scale. Its direct or indirect benefit will be given to the artists here.

Van Dhan Vikas Kendras got Honour

Why in News

On August 27, 2021, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda felicitated various Van Dhan Vikas Kendras of the state at TRIFED's Van Dhan Sammelan, 2021 program organized at Food Park, Semra in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- The award was given to Van Dhan Kendra Kurundi, Bakwand, Ghotia and Dhuragaon from Bastar district of the state.
- Apart from this, the state's Van Dhan Kendra Kadena Dharamjaigarh (Raigarh), Van Dhan Kendra Gariaband, Van Dhan Kendra Donganala Katghora (Korba), Van Dhan Kendra Baroda (Baloda Bazar), Van Dhan Kendra Kourin Bhata (Rajnandgaon), Van Dhan Kendra Dugli (Dhamtari), Van Dhan Kendra Narayanpur, Van Dhan Kendra Panchakki (Jashpur) were also given awards in different categories.
- These Van Dhan Vikas Kendras were awarded on the basis of the scale of operation in 5 categories, maximum sales of a product, category of value-added items, innovation and creative ideas for purchase and marketing at support price under the MFP scheme.



The Union Minister visited the exhibition of Bastariya products in the stall set up at Semra TRIFED. He has done processing of tamarind, cashew, oily seed, muesli and mahua by women of self-help groups attached to Vandhan Vikas Samiti, as well as local cuisine of Garh Kaleva, handicrafts of Shabari established by Handicrafts Development Board, Bastar Kalagudi artifacts, sericulture, Inspected Harihar Bastar products, Tribes India products, Bastar Papaya, Bastar Coffee, Bamboo Art Center and handloom finished products.

Relief to Drought Affected Farmers

Why in News

On August 29, 2021, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced an amount of Rs 9,000 per acre to the drought affected farmers of the state (whether production is affected or not).

Key Points

- ➤ The Chief Minister said that the farmers who have sown paddy, Kodo-Kutki, Arhar in the current Kharif season, if their crop gets spoiled (whether it is production or not) due to lack of rain, then the government will help them.
- Under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, drought affected farmers will be given assistance at the rate of Rs 9,000 per acre on the basis of Girdawari survey.
- He said that drought conditions have arisen in many areas of the state due to scanty rainfall and drought, which has affected Kharif crops mainly paddy, bajra and pulses.
- Along with this, the Chief Minister also announced the publication of biographies of late 'Pandavani' artist Late Punaram Nishad and 'Nacha-Gammat' artist Late Madan Kumar Nishad.





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