



**An Institute for Civil Services**

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**1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**



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# CONTENTS

## PIB (1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021)

S. No.	Area		Topics	Page No.
1.	GS 1	HISTORY	'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations	01
2.		GEOGRAPHY	Deposits of Lithium in Karnataka	01
3.	GS 2	GOVERNANCE	Nai Roshni Scheme	02
4.	GS 2	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Lalandar "Shatoot" Dam in Afghanistan	03
5.	GS 3	ECONOMY	First India-EU High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment	04
6.			Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme	04
7.			One District One Product Scheme	05
8.			Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram	06
9.			SANKALP	07
10.			National Monsoon Mission	07
11.			Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER)	08
12.			National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)	08
13.			National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA)	09
14.		ENVIRONMENT	First Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management	10



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## 1 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations

### CONTEXT

- The Prime Minister inaugurated Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations, to commemorate 100 years of the Chauri Chaura incident, a landmark event in the country's fight for independence.

### ABOUT

#### What is Chauri Chaura incident?

- The Chauri Chaura incident took place on **4 February 1922** at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the modern Uttar Pradesh
- A large group of protesters participating in the Non-cooperation movement (NCM) clashed with police who opened fire.
- In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants.
- Mahatma Gandhi**, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-co-operation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

## 2 Deposits of Lithium in Karnataka

### CONTEXT:

- As per the preliminary surveys on the surface and limited subsurface by the **Department of Atomic Energy**, there is presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes in the pegmatites of Marlagalla – Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka.

### ABOUT

#### What is Lithium?

- Lithium is a key element for new technologies and finds its use in ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries.
- The well-known uses of Lithium are in Lithium-ion batteries, lubricating grease, high energy additives to rocket propellants, optical modulators for mobile phones and as a converter to tritium used as a raw material for thermonuclear reactions i.e. fusion.
- Due to the continuously increasing demand of Lithium-ion batteries, the requirement of Lithium has increased over the last few years.
- The survey was done on surface and limited subsurface in the pegmatites of Marlagalla - Allapatna area by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy.

#### Important facts

- The growing demand for Lithium in India is driven by the goal of Indian government to become one of the largest electric vehicle markets world over.
  - NITI Ayog has set an ambitious target to increase the number of electric vehicles by 30 percent by 2030.

**The projected market**

While electric cars in India remain a small segment, with an estimated 3,000 sold in 2018 compared with the 3.4 million fossil fuel-powered cars in the same year, the nation is forecast become the fourth-largest market for EVs by 2040, when the segment will comprise nearly a third of all vehicles sales.

- **India's first Lithium** plant has been set up at **Gujarat** in 2021, where Manikaran Power Limited will invest Rs 1000 crore to set up this refinery.
  - The refinery will use Lithium ore to produce base battery material.

**Karnataka's Marlagalla-Allapatna area**, along the Nagamangala Schist Belt, is being seen as among the most promising geological domains for potential exploration for lithium and other rare metals.

- Bolivia is the leading producer with 2.10 crore tonnes lithium reserves, and Argentina has 1.70 crore tonnes of Lithium.
- Chile has around 8.6 Mn tonnes, Australia has 2.8 Mn tonnes, and even Portugal has around 60K tonnes of lithium deposits.

In 2020, India, signed an agreement with an Argentinian firm to jointly prospect lithium in the South American country that has the third largest reserves of the metal in the world.

**3****Nai Roshni Scheme****CONTEXT**

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs recently provided the information regarding the number of Women that have benefitted from the scheme.

**ABOUT****What is Nai Roshni Scheme?**

- "NaiRoshni", a scheme under Ministry of Minority Affairs, for Leadership Development of Minority Women is being implemented across India with an aim to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools, and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks, and other institutions at all level.
- The overall objective of the scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society.
- The scheme provides for a six days training programme followed by handholding for a period of one year.

**Progress so far**

- While the NaiRoshni scheme targets women beneficiaries specifically, other schemes of the Ministry also lay a lot of emphasis on minority women.
- In the SeekhoAurKamao (Learn & Earn) Scheme, 33% of the total beneficiaries are women.

- Similarly in the NaiManzil scheme, 30% of the total beneficiaries are women.
- These schemes help in the economic empowerment of Minority women.

### Other Schemes for Minorities in India:

#### Educational Empowerment

- ▶ Scholarship Schemes
- ▶ Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)
- ▶ Padho Pardesh - Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Students Belonging to the Minority Communities
- ▶ Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme
- ▶ Nai Udaan - Support for Students for preparation of Main Examination who clear Prelims conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.

#### Economic Empowerment (Skill Development)

- ▶ Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)
- ▶ USTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development)
- ▶ Nai Manzil

#### Infrastructure Development

- ▶ Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

#### Special Needs

- ▶ Nai Roshni - The Leadership Development of Minority Women
- ▶ Hamari Dharohar
- ▶ Jiyo Parsi - Scheme for Containing Population Decline of Parsis in India

4

## Lalandar "Shatoot" Dam in Afghanistan

### CONTEXT

- A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] for the construction of the Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam in Afghanistan took place.

### ABOUT

- The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan
- The Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam would meet the demands of
  - the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City,
  - provide irrigation water to nearby areas,
  - rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network,
  - aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and

- provide electricity to the region

### India- Afghanistan Relationship

- The signing of the MoU on Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam is a reflection of India's strong and long-term commitment towards the socio-economic development of Afghanistan and the enduring partnership between our two countries.
  - This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India- Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam].
- As a part of our Development Cooperation with Afghanistan, India has completed more than 400 projects covering all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.
- India has given assurance of its continued support for a peaceful, united, stable, prosperous, and inclusive Afghanistan.

## 5 First India-EU High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment

### CONTEXT

- Recently, the first India-EU high-level dialogue on trade, investment was held.

### ABOUT

#### Key-takeaways from the discussion

- During the discussions, emphasis was given to the importance of global cooperation and solidarity in a post COVID-19 era
- It was agreed for further deepening of bilateral trade and investment relationship through a series of regular engagements, aiming at quick deliverables for the businesses in these tough times.
- In a significant step forward, regular interactions for re-initiation of bilateral trade and investment agreements, with an interim agreement, to start with, were also discussed.

### India-EU trade relations

- The EU as a bloc of 28 countries is India's largest trading partner, accounting for 11.1% of total Indian trade in goods in 2019, on par with the USA and ahead of China (10.7%).
- The EU is also one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment for India
- India and the EU are in the process of negotiating a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement since 2007 which will significantly enhance the commercial relationship once implemented.

## 6 Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) Scheme

### CONTEXT:

- Government has announced the launch of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme to make Indian textile industry globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment



generation and exports

### ABOUT:

- Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) aims to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports.



- It will help to create world-class infrastructure with plug-and-play facilities to enable the creation of global champions in exports.
- MITRA will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for the textile sector.
- The target is to establish 7 Textile parks over the next three years.
- It will function under the **Ministry of Textiles**.

### Textile Sector in India

- The sector accounts for 7% of India's manufacturing output, 2% of GDP, 12% of exports and employs directly and indirectly about 10 crore people.
- Owing to the abundant supply of raw material and labour, India has great potential in this sector
- Despite the potential, textile exports from India have remained at the \$40-billion level for the last six years (2013-19)
- Relatively newer entrants like Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia have gained substantially during this period

## 7

### One District One Product Scheme

### CONTEXT

- The Department of Commerce through **DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade)** is engaging

with State and Central government agencies to promote the initiative of One District One Product.

## ABOUT

### What is ODOP?

- One District One Product (ODOP) is an initiative under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is seen as a transformational step forward towards realizing the true potential of a district, fuel economic growth, and generate employment and rural entrepreneurship.
- The objective is to:
  - convert each District of the country into an Export Hub by identifying products with export potential in the District,
  - addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products,
  - supporting local exporters/manufacturers to scale up manufacturing
  - find potential buyers outside India with the aim of promoting exports, promoting manufacturing & services industry in the District
  - generate employment in the District

## 8

### Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

## CONTEXT

- Recently, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs & Sports informed the Lok Sabha regarding the current status of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram
- The budget allocation of the scheme RYSK for the year 2020-21 is Rs.486.48 Crores.

## ABOUT

- What is Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)?
- The Scheme Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme.
- It was formulated, as an umbrella scheme, in rationalization exercise undertaken on recommendation of Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD and in consultation with Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog.
- The Objective was to merge few important schemes for effective implementation of the programmes.
- The 7 sub-schemes under scheme RYSK are:
  - Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
  - National Youth Corps
  - National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development
  - International Cooperation
  - Youth Hostels
  - Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations
  - National Young Leaders Programme

## 9 SANKALP

### CONTEXT

- Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship chaired a function 'Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP' and rolling out of the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) and other initiatives.

### ABOUT

#### What is SANKALP?

- SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).
- It functions under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- The two-year academic programme comes with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.
- To bolster the trainer ecosystem, the SANKALP programme will also support in Training of Trainer (ToT) system in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode that a collaborative approach between industry and the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) ecosystem.

## 10 National Monsoon Mission

### CONTEXT

- Under the Monsoon Mission, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed state-of-the-art weather and climate prediction models, which are now in operational use.

### ABOUT

- The overall objective of NMM is to improve the monsoon prediction over India on all time scales and hence it is implemented for the whole country which includes all the States and UTs.
- Following are the targets of the Monsoon Mission:
  - Development of a seamless prediction system using monsoon mission model, on different time scales, like Seasonal (for whole Monsoon season), Extended range (up to 4 weeks), Short-range prediction (up-to 5days).
  - Initiate and coordinate working partnerships between Indian and foreign institutes to develop a system for the prediction of extremes and climate applications.
  - Develop and implement systems for climate applications having social impacts (such as agriculture, flood forecast, extreme events forecast, wind energy,etc.).
  - Advanced data assimilation system for preparing high-quality data for model predictions.

**11****Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER)****CONTEXT**

- Due to the success of the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region, the government has now increased annual allocation from 134 crores per year to Rs. 200 crores per year.

**ABOUT**

- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) that was originally launched in 2015.
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) is a Central Sector Scheme, a sub-mission under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the seven North-eastern States.
- The scheme aims to the development of certified organic production in a value chain model.
- Idea is to link growers with consumers and to support the development of the entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.

**Significance of the initiative**

- The farmer-industry connect facilitated through a professional project management team under the scheme has witnessed a remarkable turnaround in the last 5 years.
- The scheme has also been expanded to bring in high-value crops under contract farming models apart from traditional crops.
- MOVCDNER has also played a pivotal role in entrepreneurship development and has supported both Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and local entrepreneurs in establishing food business.

**12****National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)****CONTEXT**

- The government approved an allocation of Rs. 500 crores for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).

**ABOUT**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The mission was announced as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat scheme to achieve a sweet revolution.
- NBHM aims for the overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country. It is being implemented through National Bee Board (NBB)
- The mission focuses on:
  - Awareness & Capacity building in scientific beekeeping,

- empowerment of Women through beekeeping,
- technology demonstrations on impact of Honeybees on yield enhancement &
- quality improvements of agriculture/horticulture produce.

### Beekeeping in India

- ▶ Beekeeping is an agro-based activity which is undertaken by farmers/ landless labourers in rural areas as a part of Integrated Farming System (IFS).
- ▶ Beekeeping is useful in the pollination of crops, thereby, increasing crop yield along with the production of honey and other high-value beehive products.
- ▶ Diversified agro-climatic conditions of India provide great potential and opportunities for beekeeping/ honey production and export of Honey.

13

## National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA)

### CONTEXT

- The NeGPA plan was extended to include two new schemes, namely Unified Farmer Service Platform, and Farmers Database, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI).

### ABOUT

#### What is NeGPA Plan?

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2010-11.
- The Programme aims to achieve rapid development of agriculture in India through ICT-enabled multiple delivery channels such as Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Kisan Call Centres, Agri-Clinics, Mobile Phones, etc for ensuring timely access to agriculture-related information for the farmers of the country.
- Major services under the plan include:
  - GIS-based systems for prices and arrival details
  - information on pesticides, fertilizers, and seed
  - district-level agro-meteorological advisories

#### Which initiatives are now included in the plan?

Two new initiatives included in the plan:

- **Unified Farmer Service Platform:** It is a combination of Core Infrastructure, and Tools that enable seamless interoperability of various public and private IT systems in the agriculture ecosystem across the country.
- **Farmers Database linked with land records:** For better planning, monitoring, policy-making, strategy formulation, and smooth implementation of schemes for the farmers



## 14

## First Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management

**CONTEXT**

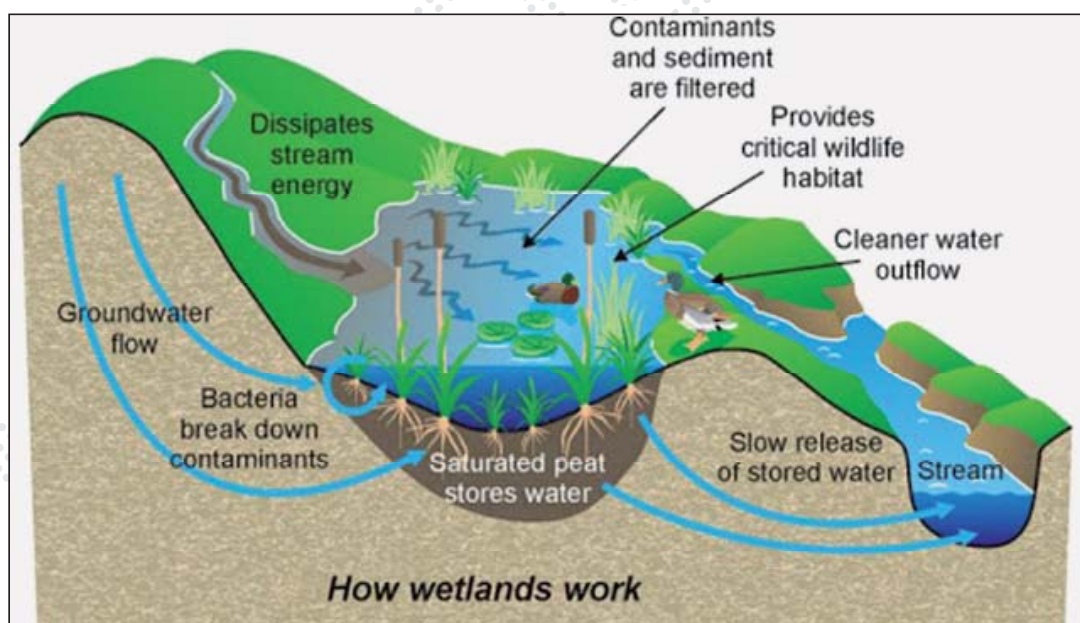
- On the occasion of **World Wetland Day** and as a part of its commitment towards conservation, restoration and management of India's wetlands, MoEFCC announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM).

**ABOUT**

- It has been launched as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry.
- The dedicated Centre would address specific research needs and knowledge gaps and will aid in the application of integrated approaches for conservation, management and wise use of the wetlands.

**Wetlands in India**

- Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally.
  - Inland wetlands** include marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, floodplains, and swamps.
  - Coastal wetlands** include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and even coral reefs. Fishponds, rice paddies, and saltpans are human-made wetlands.
- India has nearly 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares.
- It has 42 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

**Ramsar Convention**

- The Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".

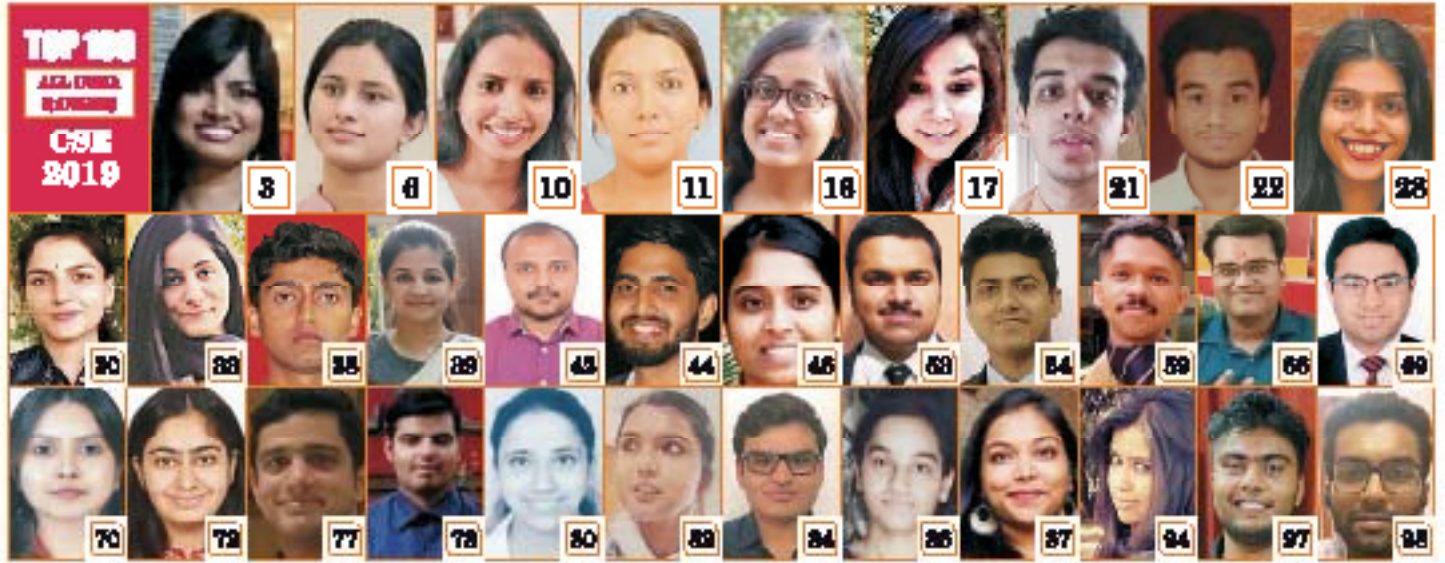
### What is World Wetlands Day?

- ▶ **2 February** each year is World Wetlands Day to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.
- ▶ This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

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