



PLUTUS ACADEMY

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1.SVAMITVA Scheme: PM to Distribute Property Cards for Rural Landowners

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to launch the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' (ownership) scheme on October 11, 2020. This will be a historic move to transform rural India.

Key Facts

- The move will provide villagers a way to use property as a financial asset.
- The villagers could use their property for taking loans and other financial benefits.

Beneficiaries

This launch will enable one lakh property holders to download their property cards using SMS link. SMS link would be sent on their mobile phones. Then, they would be given physical property cards by the respective state governments. These beneficiaries comes from 763 villages across six states. Out of these, 346 comes from Uttar Pradesh, 221 from Haryana, 100 from Maharashtra, 44 from Madhya Pradesh, 50 from Uttarakhand and 2 from Karnataka.

Maharashtra's system

The beneficiaries from all states will receive the physical copies of their property cards within a day except for Maharashtra. In Maharashtra there is a system of recovering a nominal cost of property cards. So it will provide a property card within a month after applying for it.

SVAMITVA scheme

The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It was launched on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 2020. The scheme is aimed at providing the 'record of rights' to the village household owners in rural areas and issuing property cards. The scheme is being implemented across the country for a period of four years that is from 2020-2024 in a phased manner. It targets to cover 6.62 lakh villages.

2.India successfully test-fires Rudram- an Anti-Radiation Missile

India has successfully test-fired the Rudram – an Anti-Radiation Missile on October 9, 2020. It has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile was test fired from its primary test platform Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft off the east coast.

About Rudram Missile

- The missile will provide air superiority and capability for the Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter aircraft.
- It has been designed for suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD).
- Missiles can be launched from varying altitudes.
- It has the capability to destroy enemy surveillance radars, tracking and communication systems.
- The missile is the first-of-its-kind air-to-ground missile developed by DRDO for the IAF arsenal. Similar missile named BrahMos is there but it was jointly developed by India and Russia.
- It can easily be integrated and launched with Mirage 2000, Jaguar, HAL Tejas and HAL Tejas Mark 2.
- This new-generation anti-radiation missile (NGARM) have a strike range of around 100 to 150 km.
- Weight of the single-stage missile is 140 kg .
- It has been powered by a dual-pulsed solid rocket motor.
- The missile will create a surveillance gap in the enemy territory.

India's missile scenario

India has conducted four missile tests recently in the midst of ongoing tensions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. India has also deployed Nirbhay missiles at the LAC. Approval for the induction and deployment of Shaurya strategic missile has also been given which is a 700-km range surface-to-surface missile. India also tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) recently.

3.October 10: World Mental Health Day

Every year, the World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10. The day was first initiated by the World Federation for Mental Health. The day is marked by several International organisations spread all over the world. In some countries like Australia, the day is a part of Mental Health Week.

Highlights

According to WHO, mental health is defined as a state of well being in which an individual realises his or her own potential. A mentally healthy person can handle stresses of everyday life working productively and fruitfully. It is the emotional and social well being.

In 2019 the day was celebrated under the theme “Mental Health Promotion and suicide prevention”.

World Federation for mental health

It was founded in 1948 to prevent mental and emotional disorders. The organisation aims to prevent mental disorders, spread mental health awareness and adopt best recovery practices.

India in tackling Mental Health issues

According to the World Health Organisation 7.5 % of the world population suffer from mental health issues. In India one in every seven persons is affected by mental health issues. The recent tragic death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput has triggered mental health conservation needs in the country.

India has taken the following steps to improve mental health in the country

- The National Mental Health Programme was launched in 1982 to improve the status of Mental Health in India. This programme has three components namely treatment of mentally ill, rehabilitation and prevention and promotion of positive mental health.
- The mental health Act was enacted in 1987 and repealed in 2017.

Steps by United Nations

The World Health Organisation adopted Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013- 2020 at the 66th World Health assembly. Also, the sustainable development goals 3.4 and 3.5 focus on mental health. The WHO also launched Mental Health Atlas in 2017.

4. World Migratory Bird Day

The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, that is, on second Saturdays of May and October. Earlier in May, the day was celebrated on May 9, 2020. Both the days are celebrated under the same theme. This year, the day is celebrated under the theme

Theme: Birds Connect Our World

The World Migratory Day is an awareness raising campaign that highlights the protection and conservation required for migratory birds. It was begun in 2018.

Who organizes World Migratory Day?

The campaign is organised by two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme. They are as follows

- African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
- Convention on the conservation of Migratory species of wild animals.

The idea of celebrating World Migratory Day was designed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993.

Conservation of Migratory Species

The Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species is also called Bonn convention. The convention text more than 173 migratory species all over the world. As of November 2019, 130 parties have joined the convention. Maldives was the latest country to join the convention in November 2019 appendix 1 of the convention list of endangered or threatened migratory species. Appendix II to list the migratory species that are currently under unfavourable conservation status. Appendix II species required International agreements to conserve them.

The COP 13 Boss held in India. It is proposed to include 10 new species under the convention on conservation of migratory species. It included three Indian species namely Asian elephant, Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal florican.

Need for conservation of migratory birds species

According to the World Wildlife Fund the increase in consumption of food and resources have led to Natural Habitat loss. This is also accompanied by developmental activities such as Dam which has led to decline in animal population. The World Wildlife Fund has named this as the Sixth mass extinction. According to the living planet index, the earth will take around 5 to 7 million years to recover. Between 1970 and 2014 60 percent of the animal and bird population were wiped out. Wetlands are the hot breeding spots of migratory birds. With the increase in infrastructural and developmental activities the wetlands are disappearing fast. This in turn is affecting the population of migratory birds to a large extent.

5.Goa: First State to provide 100% Tap Water Connections

The Ministry of Jal Shakti announced that Goa has become the first state in India to provide 100% tap water connections in rural areas. Around 2.3 lakh households were covered in the state.

Highlights

On its successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, Goa has become the first “Har Ghar Jal State” to provide 100% household tap connection in rural areas. In order to strengthen water testing facilities in the state, Goa is in the process of getting 14

water quality testing laboratories. The laboratories are to be accredited by National Accreditation Board. The Jal Jeevan Mission has made it compulsory to train five persons in every village to use field test kits. The priority to persons being trained were given to women.

The State of Goa is now planning to install sensor-based service delivery monitoring systems to monitor the functionality of water supply.

Role of MGNREGA

The Government of India in April 2020, allowed MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) workers to take up Jal Jeevan Mission works. This was done to speed up Jal Jeevan Mission and also to provide employment to the migrant workers who had returned to their respective native villages due to lock down. This helped to provide livelihood to the workers and also helped in rural development. However, while employing MGNREGA workers, the priority was given to irrigation and water conservation works.

Challenges in the mission

The mission faces difficulty in achieving targets in the states of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. This is because these states have less than 5% of tap water connection.

Jal Jeevan Mission

The mission aims to provide 55 litres of tapped water per person per day to all the households by 2024. In order to implement the mission successfully, a Village Action Plan was prepared with three main components such as water source and its maintenance, greywater management and water supply.

QUESTIONS

1. What is 'Ganga Avalokan', that was seen in the news recently?

- [A] Campaign
- [B] Museum
- [C] Commemorative Stamp
- [D] Channel

Correct Answer: B [Museum]

Notes:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated six mega development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission.

A first of its kind Museum named 'Ganga Avalokan' on the River Ganga at Haridwar, was also inaugurated. The Prime Minister also released a book titled "Rowing Down the Ganges" and a new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission.

2.India announced establishing a ‘Green Strategic Partnership’ with which country?

- [A] Finland**
- [B] Switzerland**
- [C] Denmark**
- [D] France**

Correct Answer: C [Denmark]

Notes:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a first virtual summit with his counterpart from Denmark, Mette Frederiksen.

As per the joint statement, the new ‘Green strategic partnership’ will be based on the existing Joint Commission for Cooperation for cooperation in various fields including politics, energy, environment and education.

3.Human Rights group Amnesty International has announced to quit from which country?

- [A] United States**
- [B] India**
- [C] China**
- [D] North Korea**

Correct Answer: B [India]

Notes:

Human rights group Amnesty International has announced that it is halting all its ongoing campaign and research work in India.

The Group said that the Government has frozen the bank accounts for speaking out about rights violations. Amnesty had earlier highlighted rights violations that occurred in Jammu and Kashmir and riots in Delhi.

4.Which automobile company has shortlisted five start-ups to promote innovation in the automobile sector?

- [A] Maruti Suzuki**
- [B] Volkswagen**
- [C] Hyundai**
- [D] Honda**

Correct Answer: A [Maruti Suzuki]

Notes:

India’s largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India has announced that it has shortlisted five start-ups, as part of its MAIL (Mobility & Automobile Innovation Lab) programme.

With these new companies, Maruti Suzuki is engaged with 14 start-ups under the MAIL programme in the last 18 months. The initiative aims to create innovative business solutions and promote innovation in automobile sector.

5.Which organisation has announced to make available to 120 million rapid-diagnostic tests for Covid-19?

[A] UNICEF

[B] WHO

[C] UNESCO

[D] World Bank

Correct Answer: B [WHO]

Notes:

The World Health Organization has announced that the body along with its leading partners will make available 120 million rapid-diagnostic tests for Covid-19.

The programme aims to help lower and middle-income countries in bridging the gap in the testing process, though they are not funded. 'WHO' aims to provide the rapid diagnostic tests at five US Dollars apiece.

6. Which body has ordered to provide dry ration to all sex workers in the country without insisting on ration card?

[A] National Commission on Women

[B] Supreme Court of India

[C] National Administrative Tribunal

[D] National Human Rights Commission

Correct Answer: B [Supreme Court of India]

Notes:

The Supreme Court of India has ordered all the states and UTs to provide dry ration to all sex workers in the country.

The apex court has also insisted that the ration should be provided without insisting on ration card or any other identity proof. The top court has pronounced this order on observing the hardships faced by sex workers due to the COVID pandemic.

7. Who has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020?

[A] Ratan Tata

[B] Mukesh Ambani

[C] Azim Premji

[D] Anil Ambani

Correct Answer: B [Mukesh Ambani]

Notes:

The Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited – Mukesh Ambani, has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020.

He has been in the top of the list for 9 consecutive years. His total wealth amounts to Rs. 6,58,400 crore and it has grown by 73% in the past one year.

8. India is set to acquire 72,000 assault rifles from which country?

[A] Israel

[B] Iran

[C] USA

[D] Russia

Correct Answer: C [USA]

Notes:

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved capital acquisition proposals in Defence sector worth Rs.229 crore.

The proposals include acquisition of 72,000 assault rifles from the United States of America. These proposals include material acquisitions from both Indian and foreign players and is aligned with Atma Nirbhar Policy of Self Reliance.

9.NITI Aayog signed Sol with the embassy of which country on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda'?

[A] Germany

[B] Finland

[C] The Netherlands

[D] United Kingdom

Correct Answer: C [The Netherlands]

Notes:

NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi recently signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda'.

Under this partnership, NITI Aayog and the Dutch Embassy aim to create innovative technological solutions to accommodate cleaner energy. It also aims to lower the net carbon footprint, to promote bio-energy technologies among others.

10.Sheikh Nawaf has been sworn in as the Emir (Ruler) of which Gulf country?

[A] Oman

[B] Bahrain

[C] Kuwait

[D] Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: C [Kuwait]

Notes:

Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, also known as Sheikh Nawaf has been sworn in as the Emir (Head) of Kuwait.

The previous ruler Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah has recently died in the United States at the age of 91. Sheikh Sabah ruled the country for more than 14 years and the new Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf is 83 years old.