



CURRENT AFFAIRS 23 august 2022

MoS (Panchayati Raj) Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil inaugurates National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats at Mohali, Punjab



- **About 1300 Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from 22 States are attending the two-day workshop**
- **Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil releases SDG's Anthem and Booklet and launches a Prime App and PSRLM website**

- **The National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Panchayats through Thematic Approach on 'Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure'**

India finishes third in international astronomy Olympiad with 5 medals



- **the Olympiad held between August 14 to 21, a total of 209 students from 37 main and six guest teams participated**
- **India finished third in the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) held in Kutaisi, Georgia, on Monday winning five medals in total—three gold and two silver.**
- **The five winners were namely, Raghav Goyal from Chandigarh (gold), Md Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata (gold), Mehul Borad from Hyderabad (gold), Malay Kedia from Ghaziabad and Atharva Nilesh Mahajan from Indore won a silver medal each.**

Tomato Flu



- **A new illness, Tomato Flu or Tomato Fever, has been found in Kerala and Odisha, as India continues its fight with coronavirus and monkey pox. So far, 82 children have been reportedly infected with the disease. The rash can appear on hands, feet and buttocks and also cause ulcers in the mouth.**
- **The symptoms of this rare viral infection include high fever, body ache, joint swelling and fatigue. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, dehydration, swollen joints and body aches are the other symptoms reported by some patients.**
- **Tomato flu is caused by intestinal viruses and is rare among adults due to their strong immunity.**

National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)



- **Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- **NAMASTE envisages safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognizes sanitation workers as one of the key contributors in operations and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure thereby providing sustainable livelihood and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.**

Ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India and providing sustainable livelihood and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.

- NAMASTE would also aim at providing access to alternative livelihoods support and entitlements to reduce the vulnerabilities of sanitation workers and enable them to access self-employment and**

skilled wage employment opportunities and break the intergenerationality in sanitation work.

- ii. In addition, NAMASTE would bring about a behavior change amongst citizens towards sanitation workers and enhance demand for safe sanitation services.**

NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India**
- ii. All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers**
- iii. No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter**
- iv. Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises**
- v. All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods**
- vi. Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work**
- vii. Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers**

Five hundred cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of NAMASTE. The list of cities will be notified at an appropriate time. The category of cities that will be eligible are given below:

- i. All Cities and Towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities, including Cantonment Boards (Civilian areas),**
- ii. All Capital Cities/Towns of States/ Union Territories (UTs), not covered in 4(i),**
- iii. Ten Cities from hill states, islands and tourist destinations (not more than one from each State).**



Enumeration: NAMASTE envisages identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) with a focus on informal workforce who are engaged in hazardous cleaning operations. The database will enable MoSJE, NSKFDC and MoHUA (including DAY-NULM, SBM 2.0 and AMRUT) to reach to the SSWs and their families and provide them necessary support for collectivization, skill building and linking with social and financial benefits. The Survey would be conducted by the City NAMASTE Managers and validated by the concerned ULB. The survey would be held in digital mode in a pre-approved format.

- i. Extending Insurance Scheme Benefits: For providing a safety net to identified SSWs and their families they will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The premium for AB-PMJAY for those identified SSWs families who are not covered earlier shall be borne under NAMASTE.**

ii. Livelihood Assistance: The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development. NSKFDC will provide funding support and subsidy(capital +interest) to the sanitation workers, SHGs of SSWs and private sanitation service organizations (PSSOs) to procure sanitation related equipment and vehicles under SUY for total mechanization of cleaning operations. Identified SSWs and their dependants will be given counseling on available livelihood choices and an opportunity to acquire alternative skills, if they so desire. Depending on their personal preference, a SSW may choose to continue working in the sanitation sector, thereby becoming eligible for receiving capacity building training. Alternatively, the worker may choose to explore an alternative livelihood option or an entrepreneurial venture. In case the workers decide to adopt an alternate livelihood of their choice, skilling and EDP support will be provided to these workers. The workers may start a new livelihood project as an individual or as a group interested in same option. Details of rate of interest chargeable on self employment projects including sanitation related projects and the admissible capital subsidy are as follows:-

(a)The rate of interest chargeable from the beneficiaries will be as follows:-

Project cost	Rate of Interest per annum
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Projects upto Rs. 100000 /-	5% (4% for women beneficiaries)
Projects above Rs 100000/-	6%

(b) Upfront Capital subsidy as under:

Range of Project Cost (Rs.)	Capital Subsidy
For individuals	
Upto Rs. 5,00,000	50% of project cost
5,00,000 to 15,00,000	Rs. 2.50 lakh + 25% of remaining project cost
For Group Projects:	
Upto Rs. 10,00,000 lakh per beneficiary with maximum project cost upto Rs. 50,00,000	Same as admissible to individuals subject to maximum Rs. 3.75 lakh per beneficiary.

(c) Interest Subvention:

Interest subvention for the rate of interest charged by the Bank over and above the rates of interest prescribed under the scheme, is also admissible. The maximum repayment period including the moratorium period of upto 6 months may be 5 years for projects costing upto Rs. 5.00 lakh and upto 7 years for projects costing above Rs. 5.00 lakh.

iii. Saturation with Social Security Schemes' benefits: The identified sanitation workers and their family members will be extended benefits of all the social security schemes being implemented by various departments in the area, like:

- a. Food Security (Ration)**
- b. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**
- c. Scholarship Schemes at pre matric and post matric level**
- d. Enrolment of out of school, school-going-age children**
- e. Atal Pension Yojana**
- f. Pension Schemes for older persons, widows, orphan, physically challenged etc.**
- g. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PM-SBY)**
- h. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PM-JJBY)**
- i. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**
- j. Allotment of free land/plots**
- k. Anganwari**
- l. Coaching for entrance exams and service.**

m. Any other scheme

iv. National NAMASTE Management Unit : National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation(NSKFDC) would be implementing agency for NAMASTE. The Scheme will operate as a joint initiative of MOSJE and MoHUA, with a dedicated national team. At the apex of the structure will be the National NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (NNMU) under Managing Director, NSKFDC, which will report to concerned Division head in the MoSJE, Government of India. A Technical Support Unit (TSU) consisting of team of IT Professional, Experts of implementation of similar programmes, SHG expert, IEC expert, Banking expert etc., will be established in the NNMU to support the implementation of NAMASTE and facilitate coordination between MoSJE and MoHUA. Maximum monitoring and reporting will be on real time basis through mobile app and dedicated website.

v. State Namaste Management Unit: The State Govt. will decide a suitable officer to be designated as State Namaste Director to head State Namaste Management Unit (SNMU). The officer may be from SBM, NULM, AMRUT or the ULB or any other relevant Department of the State. He will be assisted by PMU resource (State NAMASTE Manager) to be deployed under the Scheme as per requirement. At the City level, City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (CNMU) shall consist of NAMASTE nodal officer of the city to be designated by the concerned ULB, who will be assisted by PMU resource (City NAMASTE Manager) deployed under the Scheme.

vi. City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit: While constituting the Project Management Unit as implementation body at the city level, the PMU would be organised in clusters of municipalities to work as City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (CNMU) so as to coincide with the SBM clusters. PMU resources would be deputed by NSKFDC accordingly. The PMU should not duplicate the work of the PMU being constituted under the NULM. The work of the PMU should be passed on to the NULM for the purpose of forming SHGs and building strong livelihoods. City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (CNMU) would also ensure to cover any other urban body like sewerage board/jal board, cantonment board etc. dealing with sewerage operations in the city. The details of indicative work profile of the City NAMASTE Manager is given at Annexure-II.

vii. Convergence of Programmes of MoSJE & MoHUA: The safety of SSWs is a joint responsibility of MoSJE and MoHUA. Hence, the intent of NAMASTE is to strengthen convergence amongst both Ministries for governance and implementation of the NAMASTE components. The Action Plan leverages the available financial allocations of existing SRMS, SBM, DAY-NULM and NSKFDC and brings in a focused approach to provide occupational, social and financial safety nets to the SSWs. The financing of the Action Plan shall be leveraged under the Schemes of MoHUA (SBM and DAY-NULM) particularly for the following interventions:-

- a. SHG formation of core sanitation workers**
- b. PPE procurement and distribution**

- c. Safety devices and equipment procurement (can also be financed through NSKFDC to ULBs)
 - d. Occupational safety training and skilling for SEPs & Duty Supervisors (can also be done through NSKFDC under SRMS)
 - e. Providing work assurance to sanitation workers interested in availing Sanitation Related Projects.
 - f. Interventions under AMRUT
- viii. IEC Campaign: Campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC to spread awareness about the enumeration of target sanitation workers and other interventions of NAMASTE. Electronic and print media and hoardings at prominent locations shall be used for the campaign in local language and English/Hindi. Maximum use of social media during the publicity would be ensured.

The Scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 360 crore for four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

First Indigenously Developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Unveiled in Pune



- India has received its first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell bus which has been rolled out by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in association with a private firm called

KPIT Limited. In line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, the new fuel cell bus was unveiled by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Science and Technology in Pune.

- **Fuel cell vehicles utilise a mixture of air and hydrogen to produce electricity, which runs the vehicle. Having said that, water is the only effluent from the bus. Therefore, FCEVs (Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles) are the cleanest, greenest and most environment-friendly mode of public transportation.**

What Is Mithila Makhana, Bihar's Fox Nut With A GI Tag? Know About Its Benefits



Bihar's Mithila Makhana has been awarded the GI Tag by the Union Government.

as indicated by its name, is cultivated in the Mithila region of Bihar and some parts of Nepal – is the fifth product from Bihar which has received the GI tag. Prior to this, Bhagalpur's Jardalu Mango, Katarni Dhaan (rice), Nawada's Maghai Paan and Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi have been recognised.

What is a GI tag?

In a tweet, the citizen engagement platform of the government of India, 'MyGovIndia', explained that tag "ensures no one other than those registered as authorised users is allowed to use the popular product name".

About Mithila Makhana

- Mithila Makhana is also simply known as 'makhan'. Its botanical name is 'Euryale Ferox Salisb' and it is a special variety of aquatic fox nut. It is believed that the food is famously consumed during Kojagara Puja by Maithil Brahmins, who celebrate it for newly-married couples.
- Some of the well-known products that bear GI tag: Basmati rice, Darjeeling Tea (West Bengal), Chanderi Fabric (Madhya Pradesh), Mysore Silk (Karnataka), Kullu Shawl (Himachal Pradesh), Kangra Tea (Himachal Pradesh), Thanjavur Paintings (Tamil Nadu), Allahabad Surkha Guava (Uttar Pradesh), Farrukhabad Prints (Uttar Pradesh), Lucknow Zardozi (Uttar Pradesh) and Kashmir Walnut Wood Carving (Jammu & Kashmir).

Sebi joins RBI's account aggregator ecosystem



- Capital markets regulator Sebi joined the RBI's account aggregator framework, a move that will allow customers to share information about their mutual fund and stock holdings with financial service providers.
- Besides, it will give a boost to the Reserve Bank of India-regulated financial-data sharing system.
- Under the framework, Financial Information Providers (FIPs) in the securities market, like depositories and asset management companies (AMCs) -- through their Registrar and Transfer Agents or RTAs -- will provide financial information pertaining to securities markets to the customers and consented Financial Information Users (FIUs) through any of the account aggregators registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Account aggregator or AA is an RBI-regulated non-banking finance company (NBFC) that facilitates the collection of the financial information pertaining to a customer from financial information providers on the basis of the consent of the customer.

- AA facilitates consolidation, organisation, and presentation of the financial information to the customer or FIU based on the explicit consent of the customer.
- Under the guidelines, FIPs in the securities market will have to enter into a contractual framework with the AAs, and the same will distinctly specify the rights and obligations of each party and modalities of dispute resolution mechanism.

- **FIPs will share the financial information pertaining to securities markets through the AA only after receiving valid consent from the customer.**
- **Also, FIPs will have to verify the validity of consent, specified dates and usage and the credentials of the AA.**
- **After due verification of the consent, the FIPs in the securities markets will digitally sign the financial information and securely transmit the same to the AA.**
- **"All responses of the FIPs in the securities markets shall be in real-time," Sebi said.**
- **To enable these data flows, the FIPs will have to implement interfaces that will allow an account aggregator to submit the consent artefacts, and authenticate each other, and would enable a secure flow of financial information to the AA.**
- **Also, FIPs will have to maintain a log of all information sharing requests and the actions performed by them pursuant to such requests.**
- **Notably, all the 12 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) joined the AA Framework.**

By BHUPENDRA YADAV