

## 1. Odisha to introduce fish in nutrition scheme

### Why in the news?

- The Odisha government is set to introduce fish and fish-based products in the supplementary nutrition programme for children, pregnant and nursing women, and adolescent girls.
- An MoU in this regard was signed between the state government and World Fish, a non-profit organisation.
- The pilot programme will start across **50 Anganwadi centres in Mayurbhanj district**.

### WorldFish organisation

- It is an international, nonprofit research organization that harnesses the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to strengthen livelihoods and improve food and nutrition security.
- WorldFish is a member of Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) a global research partnership for a food-secure future
- Globally, more than 1 billion people obtain most of their animal protein from fish and 800 million depend on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

### Other Scheme Launched by Odisha Government

- The Odisha government has launched several schemes, like the **Millet Mission** and **Iron Plus Initiative**, to boost nutrition among the people, especially children and the tribal population, and the state must work to ensure that none is left out from the Poshan Abhiyaan.

### Odisha Millets Mission (OMM)

- It is also known as the Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas of Odisha was launched **by the Government of Odisha in 2017** to revive millets in farms and on plates.
- The aim was to tackle malnutrition by introducing millets in the public distribution system (PDS) and other state nutrition schemes.

### National Iron Plus Initiative

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2013** launched “National Iron plus Initiative” as a comprehensive strategy to combat the public health challenge of Iron Deficiency Anaemia prevalent across the life cycle.
- There are age-specific interventions with Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation and Deworming for improving the haemoglobin levels and reducing the prevalence of anaemia for all age groups.

## Topic- GS Paper II–Health Issue /Important Scheme

Source-Indian Express

### 2. Government forms inter-ministerial panel to boost the country's capital goods sector

#### Why in the news?

- The government has set up a 22-member inter-ministerial committee for strengthening India's capital goods sector through interventions that help it in contributing more actively towards achieving the target of a USD 5 trillion economy and a USD 1 trillion manufacturing sector.

#### Chairman

- The inter-ministerial committee work under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries.

#### Mandate

- The committee will look into issues pertaining to the capital goods (CG) sector, including technology development, mother technology development, global value chains, testing, skill training, global standards, reciprocity issues and custom duties to make the sector globally competitive and to become the manufacturing hub for the world.
- The panel will help the Department of Heavy Industries in taking a holistic view for all the issues pertaining to the sector.

## Topic- GS Paper III–Economics

Source-the Hindu

### 3. 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit

#### Why in the news?

- The 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council (SCO) of Heads of State was held under the chairmanship of Russia.

#### SCO

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

#### Members

- China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan were admitted to the SCO as permanent members in 2017.
- **Observed States:** Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.
- The SCO Secretariat, **based in Beijing, is the main permanent executive body of the SCO.**
- **The Council of Heads of State is the top decision-making body in the SCO.** It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

### Goals

- strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states;
- promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology, culture, education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection,

### Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

- It is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- All SCO members, except for China, India & Pakistan, are also members of the Eurasian Economic Community.

### Topic- GS Paper II–International Organization

#### Source-The Hindu

#### 4. Operation Greens – TOP To Total Scheme

#### Why in the news?

- Recently under Operation Greens Scheme TOP to TOTAL, 50% transportation subsidy is now made available for air transportation for 41 notified fruits and vegetables from North-Eastern and the Himalayan States to any place in India.

#### Related Information

- In the relaxation of other conditions for Operation Greens – TOP to TOTAL Scheme for transportation through Airlines from eligible airports, all consignment of notified fruits and vegetables irrespective of quantity and price would be eligible for 50% freight subsidy.
- The transportation subsidy was earlier extended under Operation Greens Scheme for Kisan Rail Scheme with effect from 12.10.2020.

- Railways charge only 50% of freight charges on the notified fruits and vegetables.

#### **Eligible airports:**

- All the airports in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim (Bagdogra), and Tripura from North-East, and Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh among the Hilly States.

#### **Note:**

- India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail will start from August 7 and will transport materials between **Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur.**

#### **Topic- GS Paper II–Governance**

#### **Source-PIB**

#### **5. Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding Scheme**

#### **Why in the news?**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme till 2024-25.

#### **Viability Gap Funding Scheme**

- The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance introduced "the Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure" (Viability Gap Funding Scheme) in 2006.
- The revamped Scheme is mainly related to the introduction of the following two sub-schemes for mainstreaming private participation in social infrastructure:

#### **Sub scheme–1:**

- This would cater to Social Sectors such as Waste Water Treatment, Water Supply, Solid Waste Management, Health and Education sectors etc.
- The projects eligible under this category should have at least 100% Operational Cost recovery.
- The Central Government will provide a maximum of 30% of Total Project Cost (TPC) of the project as VGF and State Government/Sponsoring Central Ministry/Statutory Entity may provide additional support up to 30% of TPC.

#### **Sub scheme–2:**

- This Sub scheme will support demonstration/pilot social sectors projects.
- The projects may be from the Health and Education sectors where there is at least 50% Operational Cost recovery.
- In such projects, the Central Government and the State Governments together will provide up to 80% of capital expenditure and upto 50% of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs for the first five years.

#### **Benefits:**

- The aim of the scheme is to promote PPPs in social and Economic Infrastructure leading to efficient creation of assets and ensuring their proper Operation and Maintenance and make the economically/socially essential projects commercially viable.

#### **Impact:**

- Revamping of the proposed VGF Scheme will attract more PPP projects and facilitate the private investment in the social sectors (Health, Education, Waste Water, Solid Waste Management, Water Supply etc.).
- Creation of new hospitals, schools will create many opportunities to boost employment generation.

#### **Topic- GS Paper III–Economics**

#### **Source-PIB**

#### **6. Operation Thunder 2020**

#### **Why in the news?**

- Recently, the India Customs intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates, during "Operation Thunder 2020".

#### **Operation Thunder 2020**

- It is the fourth in a series of "Thunder" operations carried out annually since 2017.
- **Operation Thunder 2020** is a month-long operation coordinated by the Interpol and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), which involved law enforcement agencies in 103 countries.
- The operation was organised against environmental crime.
- It resulted in large seizures of protected wildlife and forestry specimens and products, triggering arrests and investigations worldwide.

#### **Priority Species**

- The participating countries in Operation Thunder 2020 focused mainly on the species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

## **Topic- GS Paper III–Environment**

### **Source-PIB**

#### **7. G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative**

##### **Why in the news?**

- Recently, the Union Minister of Finance had participated in the 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the BRICS Russian Chairmanship.
- The Finance Minister observed that the G20, of which all BRICS countries are members, has delivered significant initiatives such as the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative and G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19.

##### **G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative**

- It was launched in April 2020 following the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting.
- It is the initiative for a time-bound suspension of loan repayments (of both principal and interest) for countries which request it.

##### **Eligible countries**

- The Initiative applies to the 76 countries that are eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association, and to all nations defined as 'least developed countries' by the United Nations.
- Eligible countries must be current on any debt service to the IMF and the World Bank, so countries with arrears to those institutions will be ineligible to participate.

##### **Criteria for participation**

- **The G20 agreed a common term sheet setting out the key features and conditions to be eligible for debt relief as follows:**

##### **Access to the Initiative will be limited to countries which:**

- have made a formal request for debt service suspension from creditors; and
- are benefiting from, or have made a request to IMF Management for, IMF financing including emergency facilities (RFI/RCF).

### **Duration and Implementation**

- The Initiative applies from 1 May 2020 until the end of the year, with a possible extension based on the individual liquidity needs of eligible countries.
- The initiative would be achieved through either a rescheduling or refinancing of debt, which again could give rise to concerns under other financing agreements.

### **Topic- GS Paper III–Economics**

**Source-PIB + Whitecase.com**

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