

1. SATHI Initiative

Department of Science & Technology has launched a scheme called Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes for building shared, professionally managed robust S&T infrastructure.

The objective of the initiative

The aim is to provide shared, professionally managed, and strong Science and Technology infrastructure centres in the country which is readily accessible to academia, startups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs.

About SATHI

- These Centres are expected to house principal analytical instruments to provide essential services of high-end analytical testing, thus avoiding duplication and reduced dependency on foreign sources.
- These would be operated with a transparent, open access policy.
- It will also address the problems of accessibility, maintenance, redundancy and duplication of expensive equipment in our Institutions, while reaching out to the less endowed organizations in need, e.g., industry, MSMEs, startups and State Universities.
- Currently, DST has already set up three such centres in the country, one each at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and BHU.
- It is planned to set up five SATHI Centres every year for the next four years.

2. Gram Nyayalayas

Recently the Supreme Court has directed the states, which are yet come out with notifications for establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas', to do so within four weeks.

- The Supreme Court also took into account the fact that several states have issued notifications for establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas' but all of them were not functioning except in Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

About the Gram Nyayalayas or Village Courts

- Gram Nyayalayas are mobile village courts in India established under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.
- The objective of their setup is speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.
- They are aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps.
- It exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.
- It can try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Gram Nyayalaya Act.

Appointment of Judges



- Gram Nyayalaya is the State Government appoints courts of Judicial Magistrate of the first class and its presiding officer (Nyayadhikari) in consultation with the High Court of the State concerned.

Note:

- The Gram Nyayalaya will not be bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and subject to any rule made by the High Court.

3. Portal Santusht

Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment has given in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha about the Santusht Portal.

About the Santusht Portal

- It has been constituted under the Office of Minister of State for Labour and Employment.
- The objective of 'Santusht' is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes of Ministry of Labour and Employment at the grassroots level through constant monitoring.

Another portal for public grievances

CPGRAM portal

- Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System is an online web-enabled system.
- The National Informatics Centre develops it in association with Directorate of Public Grievances and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
- Its aim to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens to Ministries or departments who scrutinize and take action for speedy and favourable redress of these grievances.

4. World Wetlands Day

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February.
- The theme for World Wetlands Day 2020 is '**Wetlands and Biodiversity**'.

About the World Wetlands Day

- It 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.

About the Ramsar convention 1971



- It is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Montreux Record

- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of anthropogenic interference.
- It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
- Indian sites in the Montreux Record are Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur).

Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance

The nine criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance

Group A of the Criteria. Sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types

Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally famous if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

Group B of the Criteria. Sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity
Criteria based on species and ecological communities

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally famous if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

Criterion 4: A wetland should be considered internationally famous if it supports plant and animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

Specific criteria based on waterbirds

Criterion 5: A wetland should be considered internationally famous if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Criterion 6: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

Specific criteria based on fish

Criterion 7: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.

Criterion 8: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.

Specific criteria based on other taxa

Criterion 9: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent nonavian animal species.

Note:

- The UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021–2030 will help drive the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and wetlands.

5. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles has awarded to States, Union Territories and Districts for best performance in Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Highlights of the award

- Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the category of best performance since inception of the Scheme to States/ UTs having a population of more than one crore.
- In the same category, among States/ UTs having a population of less than one crore Dadra & Nagar Haveli is in the first position. Himachal stood second, and Chandigarh is in the third position.

District-level awards for States/ UTs with a population of more than one crore.

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) first position
- Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh second position
- South Salmara Mankachar in Assam was third.

Among the districts of States/ UTs having a population of less than one crore

- The first position went to Serchhip in Mizoram
- The second position to Una in Himachal Pradesh
- Puducherry was in the third position.

About Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana



- The PMMVY is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country from 01.01.2017.
- Under PMMVY a cash incentive of Rs. 5000 is provided directly to the bank/ post office account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).
- The fund transfer is subject to the first living child of the family subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to maternal and child health.
- PMMVY is implemented using the platform of Anganwadi Services Scheme of Umbrella ICDS under the Ministry of Women and Child Development in respect of States/ UTs.
- PMMVY is implemented through a centrally deployed web-based MIS software application, and the focal point of implementation is the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and ASHA/ANM.

6. New mascot for National Games: flame-throated bulbul

- The flame-throated bulbul, also called the Rubigula, was chosen as the mascot of the 36th National Games to be held in Goa.

About Flame throated Bulbul

- The flame-throated bulbul (*Pycnonotus gularis*) also known as Rubigula, is a member of the bulbul family of passerine birds.
- This is the state bird of Goa.
- They are found only in the forests of the Western Ghats in southern India.

Conservation Status

- These birds are listed as **Least Concern** in IUCN Red List.
- They are listed as Schedule IV species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.