

## Daily Current Affairs: 02.06.2021

### Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

#### Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture.



#### Key Points

##### About Cluster Development Programme (CDP):

- A central sector programme implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has identified **53 horticulture clusters, of which 12 have been selected for the pilot launch of the programme.**
- CDP will benefit about 10 lakh farmers and related stakeholders of the value chain.
- CDP is expected to attract an estimated investment of INR 10,000 crore when implemented in all the 53 clusters.



#### Horticulture Sector in India:

- India is the second-largest producer of horticulture crops globally, accounting for approximately 12% of the world's production of vegetables and fruits.



- India is a leader in producing fruits like Banana, Mango, Pomegranate, Acid Lime, Aonla and Sapota.

**Recent steps taken:**

- The Ministry has provided an enhanced allocation of Rs. 2250 Crore for the year 2021-22 for '**MIDH-Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**'.
- MIDH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector.

## **'PM-CARES for Children' Scheme**

### **Why in the News?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched '**PM-CARES for Children**' Scheme for children orphaned due to COVID 19.



### **Key Points**

- All children who have lost both parents or surviving parents or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to COVID 19, will be supported through the '**PM-CARES for Children**'.

### **About 'PM-CARES for Children' Scheme:**

- Such children to get a monthly stipend once they turn 18 and a fund of Rs 10 lakh when they turn 23 from PM CARES
- Free education to be ensured for children who lost their parents to COVID 19
- The children will be assisted to get an education loan for higher education & PM CARES Fund will pay interest on the loan
- The children will get free health insurance of Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) till 18 years & premium will be paid by PM CARES Fund

### **About PM CARES Fund:**

- Keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of '**Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund**' (**PM CARES Fund**)' has been set up.
- Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

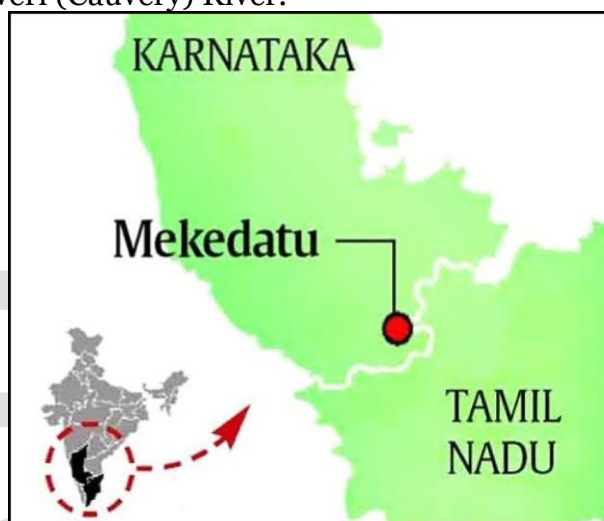


- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013
- PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened.

## Mekedatu Project

### Why in the News?

- Recently, the Karnataka government has decided on legal action against the **National Green Tribunal**, setting up a committee to look into the alleged violations at Mekedatu, the proposed site for construction of a dam across the Kaveri (Cauvery) River.



### Key Points

#### About Committee:

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has formed a committee to submit a report on alleged violation of norms in the construction of a reservoir across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu in Karnataka.



### Mekedatu Project

- It is a multipurpose (drinking and power) project, which involves building a balancing reservoir, near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district.

- The project once completed is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas (4.75 TMC) and also can generate 400 MW power, and the estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore.
- It was first approved by the Karnataka government in 2017.
- The approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is crucial because 63% of the forest area of the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** will be submerged.

**Note:** In 2018, Tamil Nadu approached the Supreme Court against the project even if Karnataka had held that it would not affect the flow of water to Tamil Nadu.

**Reasons for opposition by Tamil Nadu:**

- Tamil Nadu is opposed to any project being proposed in the upper riparian unless it was approved by the Supreme Court.
- Karnataka has no right to construct any reservoir on an inter-state river without the consent of the lower riparian state i.e. Tamil Nadu in this case.
- The project is against the final order of the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)** in which the Supreme Court held that no state can claim exclusive ownership or assert rights to deprive other states of the waters of inter-state rivers.

**Kaveri River**

- **The Kaveri (also known as Cauvery)** is an Indian River flowing through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- It is the third largest river – after Godavari and Krishna – in South India and the largest in the State of Tamil Nadu.

**The Dispute:**

- As the river originates in Karnataka, flows through Tamil Nadu with major tributaries coming from Kerala and drains into Bay of Bengal through Puducherry the dispute therefore involves 3 states and one Union Territory.

**Recent Developments:**

- The final verdict of the Supreme Court came in 2018 where it declared the Cauvery a national asset and largely upheld the water-sharing arrangements finalized by the CWDT and also reduced the allocation of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu.
- As per the Supreme Court, Karnataka would get 284.75 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft), Tamil Nadu 404.25 tmcft, Kerala 30 tmcft and Puducherry 7 tmcft.
- It also directed the Centre to notify the **Cauvery Management Scheme**. The central government notified the '**Cauvery Water Management Scheme**' in June 2018, constituting the '**Cauvery Water Management Authority**' and the '**Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**'.

## NCPCR launches Online Tracking Portal “Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)”

### Why in the News?

- **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**, in furtherance to its function as a monitoring authority under section 109 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and in view of the growing



problem related to children affected by COVID-19, has devised an online tracking portal “**Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)**” for child in need of care and protection.



### Key Points

#### About “Bal Swaraj”:

- This portal of the Commission has been created with a purpose for **online tracking and digital real time monitoring mechanism of children** who are in need of care and protection.
- The Commission has extended the use of this portal for tracking children who have lost both their parents or either of the parents during COVID-19 and provided a link under the name of “**COVID-Care**” for uploading of data of such children by the concerned officer/department on the portal.

#### About NCPCR:

- **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** is an Indian statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**. The Commission works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India. The Commission began operations on 5 March 2007.

## Madhya Pradesh government launches ‘Ankur’ scheme

### Why in the News?

- Madhya Pradesh government launched ‘Ankur’ scheme to award people for planting trees during monsoon.
- People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the **Pranvayu Award** for their participation.



## Key Points

### About 'Ankur' scheme:

- The scheme will ensure public participation in the programme.
- People who wish to participate in the tree plantation drive can register themselves on the Vayudoot app.
- Participants need to upload a picture while planting the sapling and upload another photograph after taking care of the sapling for 30 days.
- After verification, the Chief Minister will give away the Pranvayu Award to winners selected from each district.

## Asian Boxing Championships 2021

### Why in the News?

- The 31st edition of the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships was held from 24 to 31 May 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



## Key Points

- India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with 2 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronze medals.
- **Medal table**

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Kazakhstan	8	6	2	16
2	Uzbekistan	7	6	5	18
3	Mongolia	3	0	5	8
4	India	2	5	8	15

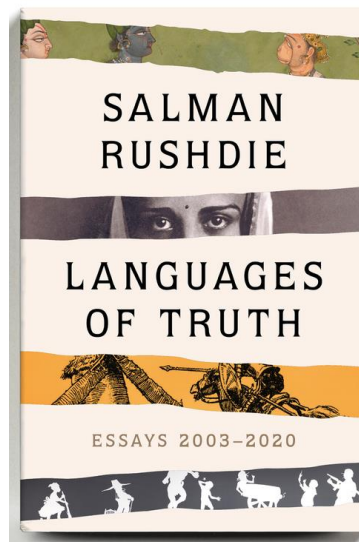
### Note:

- India's **Mary Kom** settled for a silver medal at the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships.
- It is the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships who has previously won titles on five occasions --2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017 besides silver in 2008.

## Salman Rushdie's book "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020"

### Why in the News?

- Salman Rushdie has penned a new book titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020".



### Key Points

#### About the Book:

- In his new book, "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020," Rushdie attempts to perform a defensive castling move.
- He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of "autofiction," as exemplified by the work of Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard.

#### About the Author:

- Salman Rushdie is a British Indian novelist and essayist. His second novel, 'Midnight's Children' (1981), won the Booker Prize in 1981. Much of his fiction is set on the Indian subcontinent.