Uttar Pradesh Specific Current Affairs April 2023



Banarasi Paan, Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal) and Chandauli's Adamchini Rice got GI Tag

• Banarasi Paan, Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal) and Chandauli's Adamchini Rice along with other 7 products from Uttar Pradesh have got GI certificate.

• Significantly, a GI tag i.e., Geographical Indication Tag is a type of label, in which the Special Geographical Identity is given to a product whose characteristic or name depends exclusively on nature and human factors.

• Religious and tourist city Kashi has emerged as a GI hub. Special Banarasi Langda Mango, Banarasi Paan, Ramnagar's Bhanta (White Big Round Brinjal) and Adamchini Rice (District Chandauli) have got the



Geographical Indications and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) tag.

• The GI expert said that with the cooperation of NABARD and the Uttar Pradesh government, 11 products of the state have received GI tag this year, including 7 products included in ODOP (One District One Product) and 4 products related to agriculture and horticulture from Kashi region. Their total number has now increased to 45.

'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme'

• In the cabinet meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state's 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme' was approved. 400 crore will be spent on this scheme.

• Under the 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme', the government has given a big relief to the power-loom weavers of the state and provided a flat rate facility on the electricity bill. Powerloom connection holders

with five-kilowatt connections in cities will have to pay Rs 400 for half horsepower and Rs 800 for one horsepower. In rural areas, it will be Rs.300 and Rs.600 respectively.

• The benefit of this scheme will be given from 1 April 2023. At the same time, up to 80 per cent subsidy will be given on handloom and 60 per cent on the installation of power-loom.



• Powerloom connection holders with a load of

more than five kilowatts will be given a subsidy of Rs 700 per horsepower, a maximum of Rs 9100 per month. This grant will be reduced in the bill.

• At the same time, the cabinet approved the proposal brought by the Micro, Small Enterprises Export Promotion and Khadi Village Industries Handloom and Textiles Department. The 'Jhalkari Bai Kori Handloom and Powerloom Development Scheme' has been launched to link the unemployed with employment opportunities. Weavers will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 and Rs 80,000 on two estimated prices of handlooms.

• Employers who do not give bonuses to employees in the private sector will no longer be jailed. Under this proposal, while approving the amendment in the Payment of Bonus Act-1965, the provision of punishment for six months has been abolished.

• Under the new provision, the amount of the fine which was one thousand rupees has been increased to ten thousand rupees. In this too, a system of mitigation has been given.

• It is known that till now there was a provision of imposing six months imprisonment or a fine of Rs 1000 or both punishment and fine on the employer for not giving a bonus to the employees.

Mulayam Singh Yadav Posthumously awarded Padma Vibhushan

• On 5 April 2023, President Draupadi Murmu posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan to Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav of Uttar Pradesh at the Padma Awards (second edition) held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New

Delhi. This honour was received by his son Akhilesh Yadav on his behalf.

• It is known that Mulayam Singh Yadav died in October last year after a long illness. Mulayam Singh was the Lok Sabha MP from the Mainpuri seat at that time. His daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav has reached the Lok Sabha after getting elected in the election held after this seat was vacant.



• Notably, Mulayam Singh Yadav's political career was very long. He was CM of Uttar Pradesh thrice and MLA nine times. In his political career, he also got important responsibilities in the Defense Ministry.

• In 2023, apart from Mulayam Singh Yadav, former Karnataka CM SM Krishna, Manipur BJP President Thounaojam Chouba Singh and deceased leader of Tripura Narendra Chandra Debbarma were also given Padma Vibhushan.

• It is known that the names of the Padma awardees were announced on the eve of Republic Day. One of them was the name of Late. Mulayam Singh Yadav, former CM of Uttar Pradesh.

• Significantly, the Padma Vibhushan honour is the second highest civilian honour given by the Government of India. A total of 106 people have been awarded the Padma Awards this year, including 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Samman.

Education Service Selection Commission will be formed in Uttar Pradesh

• The Yogi government has taken a big decision regarding teacher recruitment. It has been decided in the meeting of the Education Department that the Education Service Selection Commission will be formed in UP. This commission will appoint teachers in all schools including madrassas. Not only this, this commission will also conduct the TET exam. • At present, separate authorities, boards and commissions have been constituted for the selection of teachers in basic, secondary, higher and

technical educational institutions in the state. Till now teachers were being recruited through Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission apart from Examination Regulatory Authority, Secondary Education Service Selection Commission and Higher Education Service Selection Commission. Now only the Education Service Selection Commission will recruit teachers.



• In the new commission, a person holding a position like the vice-chancellor of a university or having long experience in the Indian Administrative Service will be made the chairman. Retired senior judges and experienced educationists will be appointed as members of the commission. Representation of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women and Minorities will also be kept in the Commission.

• Government College, Non-Government Aided College, Government Engineering College, Sanskrit College and Minority College, Recruitment in Aided Polytechnic Colleges and Non-Government Aided Madrasas will be done through the Integrated Education Selection Commission only. The Commission will have to take care that TET is also on time.

• The role of the Education Service Selection Commission will be important in timely recruitment, better utilization of human resources and financial discipline. The appointing authority will be responsible for the examination, interview etc. For the recruitment of teachers.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the National Climate Conference 2023 in Lucknow

• The Uttar Pradesh government will plant 35 crore saplings this year under the annual tree plantation drive. On the occasion of the inauguration of the National Climate Conference 2023 in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that these saplings would be planted in all the districts of the state in a single day.

• He said that his government is continuously working for forest conservation and clean energy. Mr. Yogi said that now Metro is running in most of the cities

of Uttar Pradesh. Government has implemented scrapping policy for diesel and petrol vehicles and gradually such vehicles are being taken off the roads to promote electric vehicles and green energy.

• Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Labor & Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav said that realizing the resolutions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh is becoming India's development engine under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.



• He told that Uttar Pradesh is producing maximum ethanol today. The two-day Climate Conference 2023 organized in the state will prove to be a milestone in the field of environment.

• Shri Yadav said that today India is playing a leading role in the field of alternative energy and the Paris Agreement of 2015 has the effect of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision in this field.

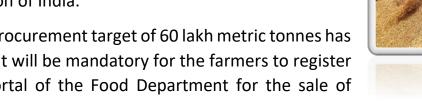
• He said that per capita carbon emission in India today is the lowest in the world and the country has shown to the world through the lifestyle of its citizens that society has to work along with the government to achieve the goals of climate change.

• The two-day National Climate Summit 2023 discussed various issues related to climate change, forest and wildlife conservation and clean energy.

Uttar Pradesh Government Approves Wheat Procurement Policy

• The Uttar Pradesh state government gave the green signal to the wheat procurement policy. This approval has been given through the cabinet-by-circulation. Under this, wheat will be procured at the rate of Rs 2125 per quintal.

 This purchase will be done through 6000 centers of the Food Department, Mandi Parishad, PCF, UP Cooperative Union, Consumer Cooperative Union, State Food & Essential Commodities Corporation and Food Corporation of India.



• A total procurement target of 60 lakh metric tonnes has been set. It will be mandatory for the farmers to register on the portal of the Food Department for the sale of wheat.

 It is known that the procurement of wheat has been started in the state from the 1st of April. However, the arrival of wheat at government procurement centers is still very less.

• Rice Research Center Varanasi, which is working on rice, will now be given additional land. For this, a cabinet-by-circulation proposal was approved.

• Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi said that Rice Research Center Varanasi is doing good work on rice. The research done on Kala Namak Rice and its work was commendable. In such a situation, a proposal has been brought to develop it further. Now 0.97-hectare of land will be given to this institute.

2 Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh got the National Panchayat Award 2023

• President Smt. Draupadi Murmu presented the National Panchayat Award-2023 to 2 Gram Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh at the National Conference on Promotion of Panchayats in New Delhi.

• Gram Panchayat Hansudi Ausanpur of Bhanwapur block in Siddharthnagar district was honoured with the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sustainable Development Award 2023 at the national level.

• Gram Panchayat Hansudi Ausanpur has been the category of 'Child-Friendly awarded in Panchayat'.



• Milak Amavati, Gram Panchayat of Dilari block in Moradabad district was awarded Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSP) for overall performance under all 9 LSDG themes and special categories related to green initiatives.

• National Panchayat Awards were presented to the Panchayats selected in the following different categories-

1. Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (DDUPSP) for performance under individual LSDG themes

2. Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSVP) for overall performance under all 9 LSDG themes and specific categories related to green initiatives

3. Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Award

4. Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Award.

State's 1st Women's University to be built in Gorakhpur

• Ravi Kumar NG, Divisional Commissioner Gorakhpur informed that the state's first Women's University will be set up in Gorakhpur under CSR. All the facilities of the International level will be available here.

• Under CSR, the proposed women's university will be constructed in the Gorakhpur district at a cost of about Rs 700 crore.

• This university will have arrangements from primary to higher education. A consultancy firm has been given the responsibility to assess the facilities required for the upliftment of the girl child.



• The decision to establish the state's first women's

university in Gorakhpur has been taken by the real estate company Shobha Developer, for which company officials had also visited Gorakhpur.

• 100 acre of land will be provided by the district administration for this women's university and it will also be operated by the company.

• It is known that there are already 4 universities operating in Gorakhpur, which include Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Madan Mohan Malviya

University of Technology, Ayush University and Mahayogi Gorakhnath University. With the formation of a women's university, there will be 5 universities in Gorakhpur.

• The company's focus is on the upliftment of women intending to set up a women's university in Gorakhpur. There is a great need for facilities for the advancement of women in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This university will prove to be very effective in removing the backwardness of Purvanchal.

International Cricket Stadium to be built in Varanasi

• A 32-acre International Cricket Stadium will be built at Ganjari in Rajatalab Tehsil of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The process of its construction has started.

• This international cricket stadium to be built in Varanasi will be operated on a PPP model. Its construction will also be done along the same lines. The tender has also been issued by UPCA for the selection of a construction company for construction on the EPC model.



• The company will be selected for work on EPC i.e. Engineering, Procurement and Design (Engineering, Procurement of Goods and Design) mode.

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• In online tender, companies can bid online on UPCA's website. Bidding companies will have to deposit Rs 5 crore as a security deposit.

• The capacity of this stadium will be 30 thousand spectators. Around Rs 400 crore will be spent on the construction of the stadium.

• It is known that recently the experts along with BCCI Secretary Jai Shah and Vice President Rajeev Shukla had also inspected the proposed land.

Water Taxi to be operated in Kashi on the lines of Water Metro in Kerala

• Sanjay Bandhopadhyay, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, said that on the lines of the country's first water metro in Kerala, water taxis between Namo Ghat (Northernmost) to Assi Ghat (Southernmost) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, will be introduced in Indian inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and will be operated in collaboration with the Department of Tourism.



• This taxi will ply from one end to the other of all the

80 Ghats of Varanasi. 4 stations will be built for this in between. The Waterways Authority will provide floating jetties at all ghats. This will make it easier for people to get on and off taxis.

• This water taxi will not only be used for transportation, but people will also be able to take a view of the beautiful Ghats of Banaras.

• It is to be known that at present cruise and cargo operations are going on in Varanasi. It is used only by tourists. But the people of Varanasi will also be able to use the water taxi to get rid of the jam on the road.

• It is worth mentioning that recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first water metro in Kerala.

Agreement Signed Between Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association and World Bank

• There is an agreement to establish a long-term relationship between the Sugar Mills Association of the state and the World Bank in line with a common vision and priorities on 'micro-irrigation' in a workshop organized in Lucknow for the larger benefit of sugarcane farmers.

• The MoU was signed by Ajit Radhakrishnan on behalf of the World Bank and Deepak Guptara, General Secretary, on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association.

• 2030 WRG made a presentation about its pilot project 'Drip Irrigation' under the Uttar Pradesh Project. In the workshop, M/s. Gujarat Green Revolution Company



(GGRC), Ahmedabad also presented the 'New Single Window Delivery Model' being developed for the Uttar Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project and shared their experience of working with the sugarcane farmers of Gujarat. A review of the works done revealed that sugarcane farmers in the state of Gujarat were successful in saving about 30 percent of water.

• The World Bank is working closely with its Water Resources Group and UPSMA to implement the 'UP Pragati Agri Water Accelerator'.

• The project synergizes the capabilities of the two organizations to develop a sustainable 'micro-irrigation model' for the overall benefit of the sugarcane farmers of the state. The program aspires to run a large-scale assistance program in more than 38 districts of the state based on the current priority criteria. This is expected to bring down the production cost of sugarcane farmers significantly.

• The project will primarily focus on the following-

1. Promotion of water efficient practices in sugarcane cultivation.

2. Promotion of mechanization of sugarcane cultivation.

3. De-carbonizing the sugar enrichment chain by promoting low carbon ergonomic operations.

• It is known that Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA) is a major organization of private sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. The main objective of UPSMA is to ensure the protection of the functioning and interests of the private sugar mills in the state through favorable and development-oriented policies of the government. UPSMA has been working since 1938 in the interest of sugarcane farmers and industry in the state.

• The 2030 Water Resources Group is a public, private, civil society multi-donor trust fund of the World Bank Group. WRG supports stakeholders in collective decision-making and co-designing out-of-the-box solutions that drive strong socio-economic development in all water-related sectors.

All Male Staff will be Removed from Kasturba Schools in Uttar Pradesh

• All the male staff currently working in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools operating across the state will be removed.

• Uttar Pradesh Director General of School Education and State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Vijay Kiran Anand has issued a letter to all the District Magistrates of the state, ordering them not to renew teaching/nonteaching male personnel.



• This step of Uttar Pradesh school education has been taken in view of the safety of girl students

studying in classes six to eight in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools with residential facilities.

• It is known that in the Ministry of Education, the Joint Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy had written a letter on October 12, 2022, giving instructions to appoint only women personnel to all posts in Kasturba Gandhi Schools. In this sequence, instructions have been given not to renew the male staff in the 2023-24 academic session and to appoint only women to the vacant posts.

• In Kasturba Gandhi Schools, all the personnel from the warden to the watchman are hired on contract basis. Except Kanpur Nagar and Auraiya districts in the state, one Kasturba school is running in each development block of all the districts.

• More than one thousand male staff are expected to be affected by the order for renewal of only female personnel in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas.

• Most of the accountants and watchmen in 746 schools across the state are men. In some places the teachers are also men. In such a situation, even if we estimate two male personnel on each school, then around one and a half thousand staff will be affected.

Survey completed for Cruise Operations across Varanasi & Prayagraj

• The Director of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, L. K. Rajak informed that the Inland Waterways Authority of India has completed the survey between

Varanasi-Prayagraj for the operation of cruise service under PM Gati Shakti Yojana.

• L.K. Rajak said that preparations are on to start in July. If the trial is successful, the number of vessels on this route will be increased. Along with this, there is also a plan to operate cargo ships.

• The cruise plying between Varanasi and Prayagraj will take the tourists to Ganga Darshan as well as visit tourist places.



• In this survey, the obstacles to water transport have been identified in many places. Along with this, jetties will also be constructed at tourist places including Chunar, Vindhyachal, and Sitamarhi. After the success of this experiment, the Waterways Authority will also increase cruise services.

• To promote religious tourism, the Waterways Authority is engaged in preparing a new route connecting all the tourist places between Prayagraj and Varanasi. There is a plan to operate the one-way journey through PPP mode (Public Private Partnership), which will be completed from morning till evening.

• For this, many private companies have also shown interest in the scheme. In this, after the selection of the private company, a decision will be taken on the rent and other facilities. In this, by constructing jetties from Varanasi to Chunar, Vindhyachal, Sitamarhi and Prayagraj, arrangements will be made to stay here.

• The Waterways Authority will share its action plan with the local administration for the development of tourism facilities at these places. In fact, under the PM Gati Shakti Yojana, Ganga Ghats will also be developed to reach Chunar Fort, Maa Vindhyavasini Dham and the place where Sita resided, through new cruise operations between Varanasi and Prayagraj.

• Under the PM Gati Shakti Yojana, Varanasi is being made a new centre of waterways. There is a plan to connect Ramnagar Multimodal Terminal by road. The cargo vessel is already operating from Varanasi to Haldia. Varanasi has been connected to the world's longest river route through Ganga Vilas Cruise. Preparations are being made to develop Varanasi as a hub through cruise operations till Prayagraj.

PM Mitra Mega Textiles Park inaugurated in Lucknow and Hardoi districts

• Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal inaugurated PM Mitra Park in Lucknow and Hardoi of the state in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

• The MoU was signed in Lucknow in the presence of Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal for setting up of Textile Parks in Lucknow and Hardoi under 'PM MITRA Yojana'.

• PM Mitra Park Lucknow will be developed in public private partnership mode through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the central and state government. The Special Purpose Vehicle



(SPV) / Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park but will also maintain it during the concession period.

• PM Mitra Park Lucknow will have a total area of 1,000 acres, with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore and is expected to provide direct employment to one lakh people & indirect employment to two lakh people.

• PM Mitra Park is being developed at Attari village in Maliha bad block of Lucknow district, which is very well connected to major cities of the country by road, rail and air connectivity. The nearest dedicated freight corridor and inland container depot to the park is Kanpur, which is at a distance of 95 kilometers (about 59.03 mi) from the park.

• PM Mitra Park Lucknow will have an incubation center, common processing house, a common effluent treatment plant, design center, testing center and other textile related facilities.

• Under this scheme, the central government will provide an assistance of Rs 500 crore to PM Mitra Park Lucknow for the development of general infrastructure.

• PM Mitra Park will strengthen the value chain of the Lucknow textile sector to make it globally competitive.

• It is known that a successful Global Investors Summit was organized in Uttar Pradesh in February 2023, in which investment proposals of more than Rs 33

lakh 50 thousand crores were received. Out of this, an investment proposal of more than Rs 56,000 crore is for the textile sector.

• The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India will provide incentives to the manufacturing units to be set up in PM Mitra Park Lucknow on a 'First Come First Serve' basis.

• The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has made a provision of Rs 300 crore to encourage the manufacturing units to be set up in PM Mitra Park, Lucknow.

IT, Medicity, Education City and Sports City will come up in the state

• The state government is going to set up an IT city on the lines of Bangalore and a medical city on the lines of Maharashtra. Education City and Sports City will also be set up for better education.

• According to the information, its responsibility has been given to the Housing Department. Along with making arrangements in the building development bye-laws, it is going to bring a policy for this. This scheme is expected to provide employment to 50 thousand youths of the state.



• The state government has a plan to develop such a place for renowned pharmaceutical companies of

the country and the world, where all facilities are available, for this there is a plan to set up a medical city on the lines of Maharashtra. For this, at least 200 to 300 acres of land will be arranged.

• All major cities will be developed as education hubs, in which big colleges and universities will be invited to open.

• Along with this, a blueprint is being drawn to set up an IT city on the lines of Bangalore. It is known that IT City was established in Lucknow during the Samajwadi Party government, but it is not sufficient as per the requirement. That's why special arrangements will be made for this in the state capital region.

• With the help of Medical City and IT City, a target has been set to provide employment to 50 thousand people every year. At present, the maximum number of jobs in the IT sector in the country are in Bangalore and Pune.

• The state government wants that the youth of Uttar Pradesh should get good education as well as employment resources in the state itself. That is why work is being started in the direction of opening IT City. The doors of employment will open in the medical city in the area related to it.

• It is known that in the year 2016 IT City was started in Lucknow. IT City has been established on 100 acres on Lucknow-Sultanpur road. HCL is working here. About 5000 people have got employment through IT City.

• It may be noted that the country's first medical city is being set up on 300 acres in Indrayani, Maharashtra. It consists of hospitals, research centres, pharmaceutical factories, wellness and physiotherapy centres, etc.

RLD Stripped of State Party Status by Election Commission

• The Election Commission of India issued an order stripping the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), which won eight seats in the assembly elections, as a state-level party

in Uttar Pradesh. After this order, now RLD has become a registered unrecognized political party.

• According to the commission, a party participating in the assembly elections can be recognized as a state-level party if it secures at least 6% of the total votes. RLD won eight seats in the 2022 assembly elections, although it got only 2.85 percent of the votes. Similarly, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, RLD did not get any seats and got only 1.69 percent votes.



• Currently, the National President of the Rashtriya Lok Dal Party is Jayant Chowdhary, while the National General Secretary of the party is Girish Chowdhary. This party was founded by former Union Minister Chaudhary Ajit Singh, son of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

• It is known that in the year 2022, the Rashtriya Lok Dal Party formed an alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) and contested 33 seats, out of which it won eight seats.

• Significantly, the Election Commission has withdrawn the regional party status from Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Andhra Pradesh and Rashtriya Lok Dal

(RLD) in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas the Revolutionary Socialist Party has been declared invalid as a state party in West Bengal.

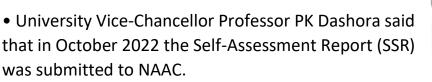
• Also, the Election Commission has given the status of the national party to Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is recognized as a state party in Nagaland, the Tripura Motha Party in Tripura and the Voice of the People Party in Meghalaya.

• In fact, the Election Commission itself reviews the status of recognized national and state political parties, which is an ongoing process under the Symbols Order, of 1968. Since 2019, the Election Commission has upgraded the status of 16 political parties and withdrawn the current status of 9 national/state political parties.

Mangalayatan University got NAAC A+ grade

• Mangalayatan University, Aligarh has been awarded A Plus (NAAC A+) grading by the National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC).

• It is known that a five-member team of NAAC inspected the university from 22 to 24 February. The team also evaluated the academic & research quality of the university along with administrative & infrastructural arrangements. The team also took feedback after meeting and discussing with the students, alumni and parents as well as the staff.





• It is noteworthy that NAAC evaluation is done to check the quality of any university. An institute has to apply for NAAC grading, and after applying, the NAAC team inspects the institute. The team prepares reports based on arrangements for academic facilities, research, infrastructure etc. Grades are given based on these parameters.

• Its work is to test the quality of universities, higher educational institutions, and private institutions across the country and give them ratings. NAAC grading

helps the students to have a better option for the system of education, research, and infrastructure in selecting the institute.