

June- 06


## NATIONAL

### Seva Bhoj Yojna

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Culture has introduced a new scheme namely 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' to provide special financial assistance to all charitable religious institutions that serve free food to people.
- ❖ Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid by these institutions will be reimbursed by the Centre.
- ❖ Institutions (temples, gurudwaras, mosques, churches, ashrams, dargahs, monasteries etc.) in existence for 5 years who serve free food to at least 5,000 people in a month will be eligible for the benefits.
- ❖ The ministry will register eligible charitable religious institutions on the 'Darpan' portal.

*For a good cause*

<b>WHAT IS SEVA BHOJ YOJNA?</b> The Seva Bhoj Yojna with an outlay of ₹325 crore for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20, envisages reimbursing the Centre's share of CGST and IGST to lessen financial burden on charitable religious institutions that exist for five years and serve free food to at least 5,000 people a month	<b>FAST FACTS ON WORLD'S LARGEST LANGAR</b> ₹75 cr Is amount SGPC spends per year to purchase raw material used in langar 250 kg ghee used in Golden Temple daily. Also, 100 kg rice used for langar
	<b>Over 100 LPG cylinders are used daily along with hundreds of kilograms of firewood</b>
	75,000 people visit the shrine daily. It crosses 1 lakh on weekends 50% Of these devotees eat langar at Golden Temple



### **Malabar Exercise 2018**

- ❖ Trilateral Naval Exercise Malabar 2018 between India, Japan and the United States was held off the coast of Guam in Philippine Sea.
- ❖ It was the 22nd edition of the naval exercise.
- ❖ Aim of the 22nd edition of annual exercise is increasing interoperability between naval forces and sharing their expertise in maritime security.
- ❖ Malabar Exercise was started as Indo-US bilateral naval war drill in 1992. Since then it is held annually.
- ❖ Japan had formally joined the exercise as a permanent participant in 2015, making it trilateral exercise.

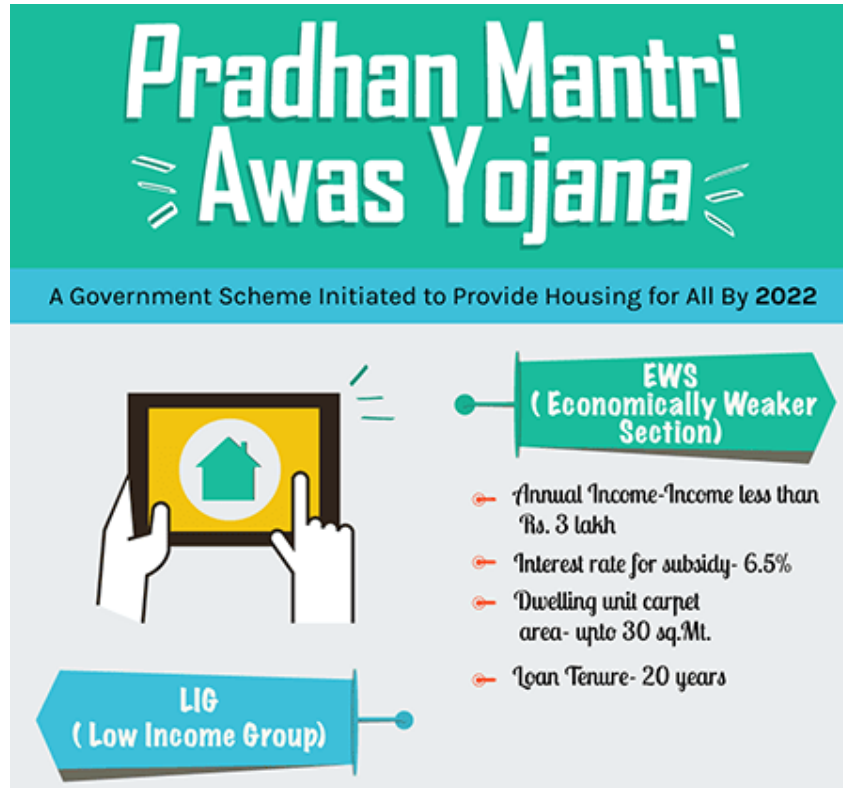
### **3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**

- ❖ Two Day Thematic Seminar on 'Water and Sanitation' in a run-up to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held at Pune.
- ❖ The seminar was hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries as Knowledge Partner along with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), FICCI.
- ❖ This seminar is one among the eight events organized by the Ministry of Finance as a lead-up to the AIIB's 3rd Annual Meeting which will be held in June 2018 in Mumbai.
- ❖ With regard to water management, Government of India has recently launched 'Swajal' - a community-led drinking water project aimed at providing sustainable and adequate drinking water in an integrated manner in rural areas.

### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved construction of another 1.5 lakh affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for benefit of urban poor.
- ❖ The decision in this regard was taken at 34th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.
- ❖ PMAY(U) aims to provide houses to all poor in urban areas by 2022. Its objective is to construct two crore houses across nation.

- ❖ Intended beneficiaries of the scheme are Poor people (BPL) and People living under Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and LIG (Low Income Group) categories in urban establishments of the country.



### **Cauvery Management Authority**

- ❖ The Centre has constituted a Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and, Puducherry.
- ❖ The Ministry of Water Resources has framed a scheme constituting the CMA and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Supreme Court order.
- ❖ The authority would comprise a chairman, eight members besides a secretary.
- ❖ Out of eight members, two each will be full-time and part-time members, while the rest four would be part-time members from states.
- ❖ The authority at the beginning of the water year (June 1 each year) would determine the total residual storage in the specified reservoirs.

## INTERNATIONAL

### "End of Childhood Index 2018"

- ❖ According to a Save the Children's "End of Childhood Index 2018", India ranks 113 among 175 countries.
- ❖ India jumped three positions up from 116 in 2017 with improvement in India's overall score by 14 points from 754 to 768 on a scale of 1000.
- ❖ Singapore and Slovenia are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.
- ❖ While US and Russia rank 36 and 37 on the index, China takes the 40th position.
- ❖ The study attributes this improvement to a reduced rate of child marriage. The Index was part of the report titled "The Many Faces of Exclusion".
- ❖ It shows that under five mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births) was 43 which is a cause for concern.
- ❖ Also, child stunting (children aged 0-59 months) was 38.4% and rated as high.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Maiden test Next Generation SFDR

- ❖ The DRDO successfully carried out the maiden flight test of a new surface-to-air missile (yet to get a formal name) powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion Technology.
- ❖ SFDR's technology demonstrator flight test was conducted from Launch Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

- ❖ SFDR technology is jointly developed by India and Russia.
- ❖ SFDR is propulsion technology different than that of conventional solid fuelled or liquid fuelled missiles.

### **Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has launched Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) for more accurate and area-specific forecast of extreme weather events including rains, heat wave, and cold wave.
- ❖ The new EPS system has been developed by three bodies under Ministry of Earth Sciences viz.
  - Indian Meteorological Department (IMD),
  - National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and
  - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.
- ❖ The most salient feature of new EPS is its high resolution for short-medium range weather forecasts.

## **STATES**

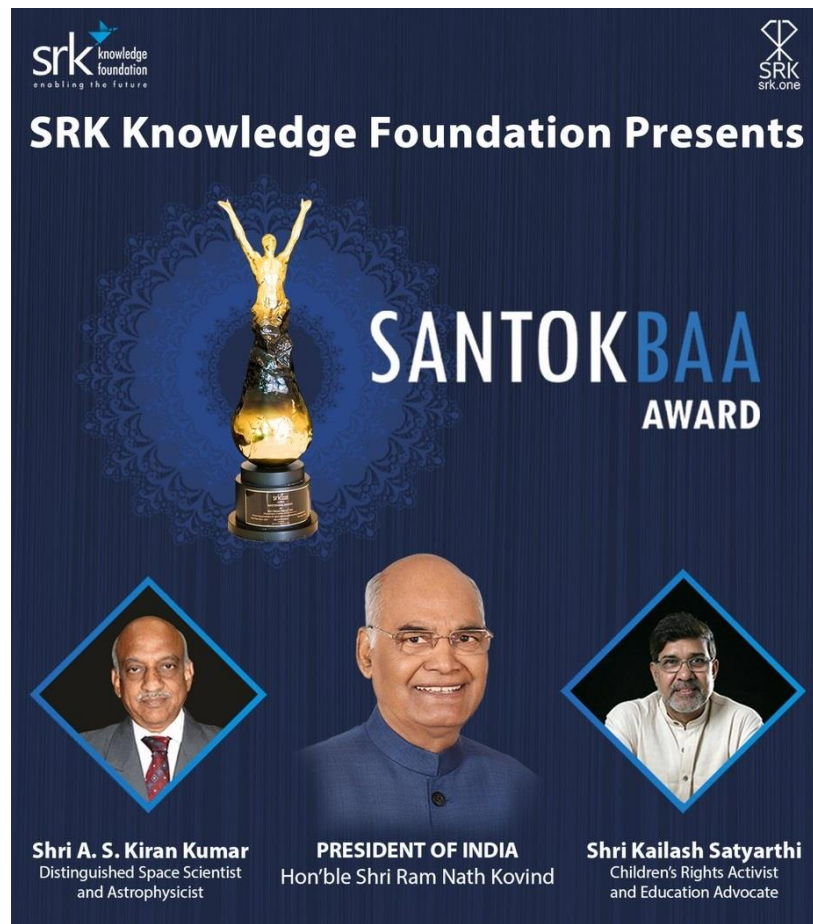
### **Chandranna Bima Yojana**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu has launched the third year of Chandranna Bima Yojana.
- ❖ The schemes of
  - Aam Admi Bima Yojana,
  - Pradhan Manthri Jeevana Jyothi Bima Yojana,
  - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and
  - The Individual Accident Bima Policy of the State governmentare included in this insurance scheme.
- ❖ The entire policy amount will be paid by the State government on behalf of the labourers. The beneficiaries have to pay only Rs. 15 per annum.
- ❖ Labours in the unorganised sector whose monthly income is Rs. 15,000 are eligible for the scheme.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and to space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award was instituted by Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF).
- ❖ SRKKF confers the award every year for humanitarian contributions by individuals whose life and work are characterised by their selfless and inspiring service.
- ❖ The award was first presented in 2007 and since then, the award has honoured various eminent personalities including Ratan Tata, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Bhikhu Parekh, Dr Verghese Kurien, Gandhian Narayan Desai and Sam Pitroda.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Birmingham International Dance Festival**

- ❖ Birmingham International Dance Festival organised by Dance Xchange, a Birmingham-based dance organisation, has been started.
  - ❖ Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) is a biennial festival presenting programmes of international dance in public spaces across Birmingham.
  - ❖ This festival is started in 2008.
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