





09 February 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana</b></p> <p>Cabinet Decisions: 08 February 2024</p> <p><b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana for formalization of fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises</li> <li>• Investment of over <b>Rs. 6,000 crores</b> over next 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of National Fisheries Digital Platform to provide <b>40 lakh small and micro-enterprises</b> work based identities</li> <li>• Support to <b>6.4 lakh micro-enterprises</b> and <b>5,500 fisheries cooperatives</b>, providing access to institutional credit</li> </ul>  	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union Cabinet has greenlit the implementation of the <b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana</b>, a subsidiary scheme falling under the broader <b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana</b>.</li> <li>• This scheme primarily targets <b>micro and small enterprises within the fisheries sector</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme is anticipated to witness an investment of <b>₹6,000 crore</b> over the span of the next four years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27) in all States/Union Territories.</li> <li>• Cabinet also sanctioned an extension of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund until <b>2026</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives of PM-MKSSY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Incremental formalization</b> of the <b>unorganized fisheries sector</b> by encouraging self-registration of fishers, fish farmers, and supportive workers via a <b>National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform</b>.</li> <li>• Providing <b>one-time incentives</b> to beneficiaries for acquiring aquaculture insurance.</li> <li>• Encouraging the growth of fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants.</li> <li>• Facilitating access to <b>institutional financing</b> for micro and small enterprises within the fisheries sector.</li> <li>• Motivating <b>micro and small enterprises</b> with performance grants to adopt and expand fish and fishery product safety and quality assurance systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cabinet Approval for Multi-Tracking Projects</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved <b>six multi-tracking projects across Indian Railways</b>.</li> <li>• These projects aim to <b>enhance travel convenience, reduce logistics costs,</b></li> </ul>



	<p>decrease oil imports, and lower CO2 emissions.</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the construction phase, the projects are anticipated to generate approximately <b>three crore man-days of direct employment</b>.</li> <li>• The financial outlay for these projects is estimated to be around <b>Rs 12,343 crore</b>, with an expected completion timeline by <b>2029-30</b>.</li> <li>• The projects span across 18 districts in six states—<b>Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Nagaland</b>—expanding the Indian Railways network by <b>1020 kilometers</b>.</li> <li>• The projects are part of the <b>PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan</b> for multimodal connectivity, emphasizing integrated planning to facilitate seamless movement of people, goods, and services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union Minister for Power and New &amp; Renewable Energy has announced the <b>installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)</b> equipment in thermal power plants to comply with emission norms set by regulatory bodies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed norms:</b>  For TPPs installed prior to 31st December 2016: the permissible emission of SO2 - 600mg/Nm3 for &lt; 500 MW TPPs;200mg/Nm3 for TPPs having &gt; 500 MW capacity,For all TPPs installed after 1st January 2017: 100mg/Nm3.</p> <p><b>Installation Timelines for FGD Equipment</b>  To meet Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emission norms, thermal power plants are installing FGD equipment with specified timelines based on location categories:</p> <p><b>Category A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 10 km radius of National Capital Region (NCR) or cities with a population of one million or more (as per 2011 census).</li> <li>• Deadline: 31st December 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Category B:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 10 km radius of Critically Polluted Areas or Non-attainment cities as defined by CPCB.</li> </ul>



Swadesh Darshan Scheme



- Deadline: 31st December 2025.
- Category C:**
- Areas not included in Category A or B.
  - Deadline: 31st December 2026.

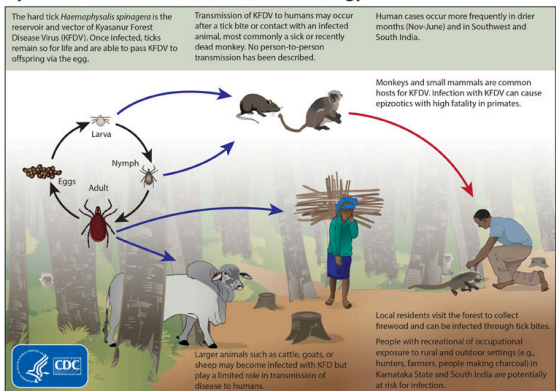
- Context:**
- The Ministry of Tourism has added the **UNESCO World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves** in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar to the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme II**.
  - This initiative aims to foster sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India.

- About:**
- The **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**, launched in **2015 by the Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India, focuses on developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations nationwide.
  - It operates on **100% central funding**, assisting states, Union Territories, and Central Agencies in tourism infrastructure development.

- Swadesh Darshan 2.0**
- SD2.0 seeks to attract **private sector investments and foster Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in tourism**, focusing on infrastructure operation and maintenance.
  - **Themes:** Major tourism themes identified under SD2.0 include Culture and Heritage, Adventure Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Wellness Tourism, MICE Tourism, Rural Tourism, Beach Tourism, and Cruises – Ocean & Inland.

**Kyasanur Forest Disease**

**Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) Virus Ecology**



- Context:**
- Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as **monkey fever**, is a viral infection first identified in 1956 in the **Kyasanur Forest area of Sorab Taluk in Shivamogga district, Karnataka**.
  - Since January 1 this year, **two people have died** due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).

- Transmission and Symptoms**
- KFD is transmitted through **tick bites**, with symptoms typically appearing three to eight days post-bite.
  - Common symptoms include **fever, headache, body pain, and redness of the eyes**.
  - Gastrointestinal symptoms may follow, and severe cases can involve nosebleeds.




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	<p>Diagnosis involves a blood test.</p> <p><b>Current Situation and Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no specific treatment for KFD</li> <li>• While KFD was initially confined to Shivamogga district, it has since spread to other districts in Karnataka and neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra.</li> <li>• The government is also exploring vaccine development in collaboration with organizations like the Indian Immunologicals.</li> </ul>
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Kerala Regional News

Kerala CA 09 Feb 2024

<p>International theater fete to open on Feb. 9 with Brazilian play</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 14th International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFOK 2024) organized by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi will kick off from 09 Feb in Thrissur.</li> <li>• Apatridas by a Brazilian theatre company in Portuguese will be the opening performance.</li> <li>• The play that presents Brazilian indigenous political issues through four Greek epic characters</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The theme of the theater festival is 'Ensemble, Peace and Confidence'.</li> <li>• This festival puts forward a message that art can provide clarity and a broader vision by changing the face of racial intolerance, according to Akademi secretary Karivellur Murali.</li> <li>• Forty-seven performances of 23 plays will be on at various venues in the coming eight days.</li> </ul>
<p>6th edition of India Boat and Marine Show begins in Kochi</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sixth edition of India Boat and Marine Show (IBMS) began at Bolgatty Palace Event Centre on February 8</li> </ul>





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- It highlights the country's boating, marine and water sports industry-related expo
- It comes within a month of the launch of ₹4,000-crore worth ship-repair and allied projects of Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Stakeholders in the sector are hopeful that the city will emerge as a hub for both ship repair and building.
- An array of PSUs, boat builders and others have put up exhibits and stalls at the event that will be on till February 10.

Women's film fest to begin tomorrow

Context:

- The fifth edition of the Women's International Film Festival organized by Kerala State Chalachitra Academy is set to kick off on 10 Feb
- Renowned actress Urvashi will inaugurate the four-day-long festival organized as part of the 'Samam' gender equality project of the state government.
- As many as 31 films directed by eminent women directors would be screened at the festival at Savitha and Sangeetha theaters in the city.

36th Kerala Science Congress Commences in Kasaragod

Context:

- The 36th Kerala Science Congress, organized by the Kerala Science and Technology Environment Council and the Center for Water Resources Development and Management has kicked off at Government College, Kasaragod
- This year's theme focuses on the transformation of the Kerala economy through a holistic health perspective.
- The event features lectures by eminent scientists and commemorative sessions honoring those who have made significant contributions to the field of science

e-cooking - Topic of discussion at International Energy Festival of Kerala

Context:

- E-cooking, the use of electricity for cooking, gained attention at the 2024 International Energy Festival of Kerala.
- Experts discussed its potential benefits and challenges in transitioning from traditional fuels.



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### Benefits:

- **Energy efficiency:** Electric appliances use energy more efficiently than traditional fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change.
- **Cleanliness:** E-cooking eliminates harmful smoke and soot, improving indoor air quality and respiratory health.
- **Safety:** Electric cooktops have built-in safety features, reducing fire hazards.

### Did you know?

- About **75% of the rural population** and **25% of urban population** still use solid fuels.

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