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9 February 2024

### National & International News

#### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana

Cabinet Decisions: 08 February 2024

##### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana for formalization of fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises
- Investment of over **Rs. 6,000 crores** over next 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories

##### Benefits

- Creation of National Fisheries Digital Platform to provide **40 lakh small and micro-enterprises** work based identities
- Support to **6.4 lakh micro-enterprises** and **5,500 fisheries cooperatives**, providing access to institutional credit



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#### Context:

- The Union Cabinet has greenlit the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana**, a subsidiary scheme falling under the broader **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**.
- This scheme primarily targets **micro and small enterprises within the fisheries sector**.

#### Key points:

- The scheme is anticipated to witness an investment of **₹6,000 crore** over the next four years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27) in all States/Union Territories.
- Cabinet also sanctioned an extension of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund until **2026**.

#### Objectives of PM-MKSSY

- **Incremental formalization** of the **unorganized fisheries sector** by encouraging self-registration of fishers, fish farmers, and supportive workers via a **National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform**.
- Providing **one-time incentives** to beneficiaries for acquiring aquaculture insurance.
- Encouraging the growth of fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants.
- Facilitating access to **institutional financing** for micro and small enterprises within the fisheries sector.
- Motivating **micro and small enterprises** with performance grants to adopt and expand fish and fishery product safety and quality assurance systems.

#### Cabinet Approval for Multi-Tracking Projects

#### Context:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved **six multi-tracking projects across Indian Railways**.
- These projects aim to **enhance travel convenience, reduce logistics costs, decrease oil imports, and lower CO2 emissions**.

#### Key points:

- During the construction phase, the projects are anticipated to generate approximately **three crore man-days of direct employment**.
- The financial outlay for these projects is estimated to be around **Rs 12,343 crore**, with an expected completion timeline by **2029-30**.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The projects span 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 before 31st December 2016: the permissible emission of SO<sub>2</sub> - 600mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> for &lt; 500 MW TPPs; 200mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> for TPPs having &gt; 500 MW capacity, For all TPPs installed after 1st January 2017: 100mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p><b>Installation Timelines for FGD Equipment</b> To meet Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) 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 a 10 km radius of Critically Polluted Areas or Non-attainment Cities as CPCB defines.</li> <li>Deadline: 31st December 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Category C:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas not included in Category A or B.</li> <li>Deadline: 31st December 2026.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Swadesh Darshan Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Tourism has added the <b>UNESCO World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves</b> in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar to the <b>Swadesh Darshan Scheme II</b>.</li> <li>This initiative aims to foster sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India.</li> </ul>



### About:

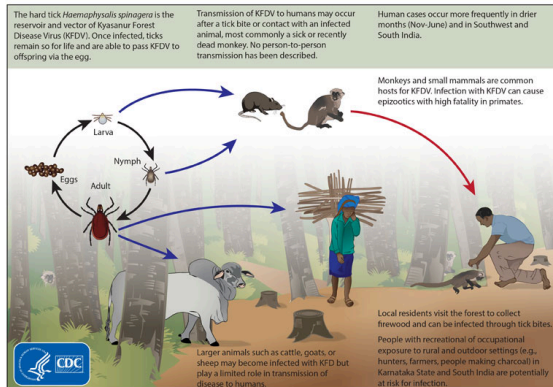
- The **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**, launched in **2015** by the **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India, focuses on developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations nationwide.
- It operates on **100% central funding**, assisting states, Union Territories, and Central Agencies in tourism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

### Current Situation and Measures

- **There is no specific treatment for KFD**
- 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.
- The government is also exploring vaccine development collaborating with organizations like the Indian Immunologicals.

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