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31 July 2024

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Context:

- In the financial year 2022-23, a total of 3,49,633 farmers received benefits amounting to ₹563 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- **For Andhra Pradesh, the number of registered farmers under the scheme was 1.23 crore in 2022-23 and increased to 1.31 crore in 2023-24.**

Scheme Details:

- The PMFBY scheme is **voluntary for both states and farmers.**
- Andhra Pradesh had initially opted out of the scheme starting from Kharif 2020.
- However, due to renewed initiatives by the Government of India, the state rejoined the scheme from the Kharif 2022 season.

About:

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is one of the flagship schemes of the government which provides insurance coverage to farmers in case of failure of any notified crop.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) on 18 February 2016.**
- PMFBY has replaced two earlier schemes of the Government of India, the **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) as well as the revised NAIS.**
- **Ministry of Agriculture** has been entrusted with the responsibility of PMFBY.
- Annual commercial and horticultural crops, food crops and oilseeds are covered under PMFBY.

Objectives:

- **The main objective of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is to support sustainable production in agriculture.**

Ways to achieve objectives:

- Financial assistance should be provided to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to unforeseen events.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By stabilizing the income of the farmers they continue farming. • Encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices. Implementation of modern technology helps farmers to produce higher yields more efficiently. • Ensuring that credit is provided to the agricultural sector as it helps protect farmers from production risks while enhancing food security, crop diversification and the growth and competitiveness of the agricultural sector.
Lepakshi temple	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A heritage walk was organized at Lepakshi temple by the Central Tourism Department, Hyderabad Region, in association with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to celebrate the 46th UNESCO Heritage Sites meeting. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Lepakshi, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India • Deity: Veerabhadra, a fierce form of Lord Shiva • Architectural Style: Vijayanagara <p>Historical Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built in the 16th century by Virupanna Nayaka and Viranna, governors under the Vijayanagar Empire. • The temple is renowned for its intricate carvings and fresco paintings depicting scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. • It is one of the centrally protected monuments of national importance. <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nandi Statue: A massive monolithic Nandi (bull) statue, located about 200 meters from the temple, is one of the largest of its kind in the world. • Hanging Pillar: One of the temple's pillars is known for its unique feature of hanging without touching the ground. • Nagalinga: A large sculpture of a serpent with seven hoods shading a Shiva lingam, carved from a single stone. <p>Legends:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name “Lepakshi” is believed to be derived from the words “Le Pakshi,” meaning “rise, bird” in Telugu. • According to legend, this is where the bird Jatayu fell after being wounded by Ravana while trying to rescue Sita. <p>Cultural Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temple is a significant example of Vijayanagara architecture and is a major pilgrimage site for devotees of Lord Shiva.
<p>Government Renames Education Welfare Schemes</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andhra Pradesh government announced changes to several welfare schemes previously named after former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. • The new names reflect the contributions of prominent figures in education. <p>Key Points</p> <p>Scheme Renaming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' is now 'Talliki Vandanam'. This scheme provided financial support to mothers for their children's education. • 'Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' has been renamed 'Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidya Mitra'. It supplied education kits to students. • 'Jagananna Gorumudda' is now 'Dokka Seethamma Madhyahana Badi Bojanam'. This scheme offered mid-day meals to public school students. • 'Mana Badi Nadu Nedu' has been rebranded as 'Mana Badi Mana Bhavishyaktu'. It focused on school renovations. • 'Sveccha' is now 'Balika Raksha'. It provided free sanitary napkins to girl students. • 'Jagananna Animutyalu' has been renamed 'Abdul Kalam Prathiba Puraskaram'. This scheme awarded top-performing students.
<p>Project Tiger and Indigenous Displacement: Key Findings</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On International Tiger Day, the Rights & Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) released a critical report titled “India’s Tiger Reserves: Tribals Get Out, Tourists Welcome.” • The report examines the impact of Project Tiger on indigenous communities, highlighting severe consequences of the conservation initiative.



Displacement of Indigenous Communities:

- **Scope of Displacement:** The report alleges that Project Tiger, since its inception in **1973**, has led to the displacement of approximately **550,000 Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other forest dwellers**.
- **Recent Trends:** Between **2021 and 2017**, the displacement rate per tiger reserve increased by **967%**, with the addition of **six new reserves**. This has resulted in about 290,000 people being forcibly removed from their ancestral lands.

Violations and Irregularities:

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA) Violations:** The report accuses Project Tiger of breaching the Forest Rights Act by displacing tribal communities without their consent.
- **Increased Tiger Deaths:** Ironically, tiger deaths have risen due to infrastructure projects such as roads, even as tribes are displaced for conservation purposes.

Case Studies and Human Rights Concerns:

- **Kaziranga National Park:** The report highlights Kaziranga National Park in Assam as a case of concern, citing a 2014 report that questioned the legitimacy of alleged poaching encounters. The report states that between 2014 and 2016, 57 individuals were killed, raising suspicions about the nature of these encounters.
- **Unfounded Displacement:** Five tiger reserves, including Sahyadri, Satkosia, Kamlang, Kawal, and Dampa, have displaced over 5,600 tribal families despite not having a significant tiger population.

Commercialization and Its Impact:

- **Tourism and Infrastructure:** The report criticizes the commercialization of tiger reserves, noting the encroachment of tourism, infrastructure projects, and mining activities into protected areas.
- **Forest Conservation Amendment Act:** The recent amendment is viewed as exacerbating the issue by promoting commercialization under the guise of eco-tourism.

Successful Coexistence Models:

- **Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve:** The report acknowledges the success of the



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Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve, where the coexistence between tigers and the Soliga tribe has led to a thriving tiger population. The report advocates for this model to be adopted more widely.

Recommendations and Future Directions:

- **Immediate Actions Needed:** The report calls for a halt to current displacements, a comprehensive review of existing tiger reserves, and the adoption of coexistence models that respect the rights of indigenous communities.
- **National Debate:** The findings have sparked a debate on **balancing wildlife conservation with the rights and livelihoods of human populations, urging for a more equitable approach to Project Tiger.**



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