

APSC CCE 2023-24

Prelims Booster Series

Most probable MCQs included

Session : 3

75+

Common Questions in
APSC CCE 2022 (Prelims)

36+

Number of Direct hits in
APSC CCE 2022 (Mains)



THE HINDU



The Indian EXPRESS

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Basic About Booster course

- Targeted approach for current affairs-based questions
- For both APSC CCE prelims and mains exam.
- Can also be helpful for other APSC recruitment examinations.
- Objective:
 1. Help the aspirants with the preparation of voluminous current affairs sections. Will discuss the static concepts along with the current affairs.
 2. Lucent IAS covered 75+ hit in APSC CCE 2022 Prelims as well as 36 direct hit in APSC CCE Mains 2022.

Pedagogy

- We will cover the most important probable current affairs from 2022 along with the current affairs from 2023.
- In APSC CCE Prelims question even came from 2020 based current affairs. To address those part, we will be including the current affairs from previous years also (probable ones)
- This course is absolutely free for all. Regular current affairs classes for Lucent IAS foundation batches will be different from this course.

Schedule

- Every week, there will be 2-3 booster classes, all of which will be available via Lucent IAS YouTube Channel.
- Pdfs of the classes can be downloaded from the link given along with the classes.

- Today, we will discuss April 2023 most probable topics.
- Also, some important topics from 2022 January February March we have included today (Similar to first session).

1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Agri infrastructure fund can change Assam

■ Narendra Sarawgi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme on August 9, 2020. The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing this scheme, operational from 2020-21 till 2032-33.

Why was AIF needed: Absence of post-harvest infrastructure causes 15 per cent post harvest losses, and dependence on intermediaries results in 30-50 per cent lower realisation. The AIF will help solve such critical gaps, and increase mid-long term funding for startups, MSMEs, and high-potential agrotech entrepreneurs. It has been estimated that warehouses can reduce wastage to less than 5 per cent, custom hiring centres can help reduce costs by 30 per cent, cold storages can reduce post-harvest losses to less than 5 per cent, community drying yards can reduce post-harvest losses by 5-10 per cent, and precision smart farming solutions can increase yield by 10-20 per cent. The AIF is a timely shot in the arm, especially for Assam, where the Government is already taking several steps to improve agriculture infrastructure. Assam's initial share of Rs 2,050 crore out of the AIF corpus will help the State accelerate these development efforts.

Features of AIF: All loans up to a limit of Rs 2 crore will have an interest subvention of 3 per cent

rowers under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises scheme for loans up to Rs 2 crore. However, there is no upper cap on the loan amount. An applicant can avail AIF financing for up to 25 projects if these are in different locations. Limitation of 25 projects is not applicable to State agencies, and national and State federations of cooperatives, FPOs and SHGs. The application process is simple and facilitates speedy sanction. Applications and project reports have to be uploaded on to the AIF portal. The AIF project management unit of the ministry verifies the application and forwards it online to the bank concerned for sanction and disbursement.

Several scheduled commercial banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, State cooperative banks, and non-banking financial companies have signed MoUs with the Union Government to provide financing under the AIF. An AIF loan dovetails with benefits under other Central and State Government schemes. Hence, the beneficiary can benefit under the AIF as well as other schemes. There are many schemes for applicants. Under the Central Government, there are sub schemes under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Horticulture

Eastern Region, PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, among others.

Under the Assam Government, the Mega Mission Society – Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (MMS-CMSGUY) is a mega-mission under which setting up and upgrading of rice mills con-

The AIF will benefit all stakeholders in the agriculture ecosystem. It will increase value realisation, reduce post-harvest losses, ensure better quality and prices, and initiate the cycle of innovation and private sector investment in agriculture.

verges well with the AIF. Another important Assam Government scheme which dovetails with the AIF is 'Setting up of godown for storage of paddy in rural areas of Assam'.

Individuals and entities eligible under the AIF include farmers, primary agricultural cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), farmers producer organisations, agro-horticulture entrepreneurs, startups, agricultural produce and livestock market committees, State agencies, and specified federations. All types of business entities including proprietorship, partnership, private limited or public limited companies, LLPs, and

supply chain services including e-marketing platforms, warehouse, silos, pack-houses, assaying units, sorting and grading units, cold chain, logistics facilities, primary processing centres, ripening chambers, etc. It also includes community farming assets such as organic input production, bio stimulant production units, infrastructure for smart and precision agriculture, supply chain infrastructure for clusters of crops including exports clusters, etc.

Opportunity for Assam: Assam produces about 52 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) rice, 2 LMT oilseeds, 1 LMT pulses, 25,000 MT turmeric, 1.85 LMT ginger, 8 LMT potato, 11 LMT banana, 1.5 LMT Assam lemon, 2 LMT oranges, 3.6 LMT pine-apple, 7.25 LMT bamboo, and 668 million kg tea, according to information from the Directorates of Agriculture and Horticulture, Assam, and the Indian Tea Association. Considering the agro-horticulture mix of Assam, there are opportunities for setting up, expanding or modernising rice mills, mustard oil mills, warehouses, cold chains, packaging units, custom hiring centres, and primary processing of fruits, vegetables, spices, tea, bamboo, etc.

In Assam, 450-plus applications with total AIF loan amount of more than Rs 450 crore have been received till February 10, 2023, and

plemented by the Agriculture department. A high-level advisory committee, headed by the Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam, was formed to provide strategic direction and ensure inter-departmental cooperation. An AIF Cell was created under the ARIAS Society, Assam, for spearheading and coordinating AIF-related activities including awareness creation, onboarding stakeholders, capacity building, and supporting prospects and applicants. A State Project Management Unit was recently set up under the Directorate of Agriculture for on-ground implementation of the scheme.

The important stakeholders include Government departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Processing, Food and Civil Supplies, Cooperation, Commerce and Industry, as well as Missions such as Assam Agricultural Commercial Plantation Mission, Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, and Central agencies like NABARD, National Cooperative Development Corporation, lending institutions, banks, State-level bankers' committee, industry associations, etc.

The AIF will benefit all stakeholders in the agriculture ecosystem. It will increase value realisation, reduce post-harvest losses, ensure better quality and prices, and initiate the cycle of innovation and private sector investment in agriculture. Implemented successfully, the AIF can speed up agro-horticulture, as well as rural, so-

PM inaugurated Agri Infra fund under Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme in 2020.

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare is implementing the scheme

The scheme is operational from 2020-21 up to 2032-33.

Need:

1. Absence of post harvest infrastructure, causing 15% of post harvest losses.
2. Dependence of intermediaries, resulting 30-50 % lower realization.
3. Addressing critical gaps

Assam's initial share is 2050 Crore.

Features: 1. Interest subvention

2. Benefit for all stakeholders in agricultural ecosystem.

Schemes in Assam: MMS-CMSGUY

2. OPEC+

OPEC+ output cut may lead to higher oil prices, push up India's import bill: IEA

PARIS, April 11: The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Tuesday termed the decision of OPEC+ to cut oil production as "risky for the global economy", saying it may push up already high prices, leading to higher import bills for nations like India.

Global oil markets were already set to tighten in the second half of 2023, with the potential for a substantial supply deficit to emerge, said Fatih Birol, head of the Paris-based energy watchdog.

Talking to reporters after a bilateral meeting with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here, he said, "The cut of the additional production would mean that we have all the reasons to believe that there could be an upward pressure on the prices".



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addresses the India-France Business Summit, in Paris, France, Tuesday. – PTI

"At this juncture of time when the global economy is still very fragile and many emerging countries have difficulties with economic performance, I found this decision risky for the global economy," he noted.

Asked if oil prices could go past USD 100 per barrel again, he said, "I think we are all the day but USD 85 now, and looking at the second half of this year, I have

reasons to believe that it can go even higher at current levels".

Higher oil prices will not just translate into inflationary pressure on other commodities but will also lead to

a larger import bill for nations like India, which are dependent on overseas supplies to meet their requirements.

"India is an energy important country, oil important country, a majority of the oil consumed in India is important, such a move could increase India's oil import bill and as such a burden on the Indian economy and Indian consumers," Birol said.

Goyal is here to meet his counterpart and French CEOs to promote trade and investments between the two countries.

India is the world's third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation. It meets 85 per cent of oil needs through imports. It spent USD 118 billion on oil imports in the first 11 months of the 2022-23 fiscal. – PTI

- OPEC+
- OPEC: Established in 1960 by founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, OPEC has since expanded and now has 13 member states.
- Member countries are: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.
- Headquarter: Vienna, Austria.
- OPEC produces about 40% of the world's crude oil and its members' exports make up around 60% of global petroleum trade.
- OPEC+: In 2016, with the addition of another 10 allied major oil-producing countries, the OPEC is known as OPEC+.
- OPEC+ countries include 13 OPEC member countries and Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

3. Agartala-Akhaura

Agartala-Akhaura rail project to be completed by Sept

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, April 22: The 15-km Agartala-Akhaura rail line running through Gangasagar in Brahmanbaria district of neighbouring Bangladesh will be completed by September, Tripura Transport Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said today.

He said that Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed him about the development during his visit to New Delhi recently.

“During my recent trip to New Delhi, I discussed the

Indo-Bangladesh railway connectivity project from Agartala to Akhaura via Gangasagar, with the Union Railway Minister. Vaishnaw said that the entire project would be completed by September. He also stated that an amount of Rs 150 crore would be released by the ministry for completion of work on the Indian side,” Chowdhury told reporters here.

The DoNER Ministry is funding the construction on the Indian side, while the Ministry of External Affairs is funding the construction on

the Bangladesh side. The implementing authority on both sides is the IRCON.

Chowdhury said that Union DoNER Minister G Kishan Reddy who visited Tripura recently, held a meeting with IRCON officials to review the progress of the Indo-Bangladesh railway link. More than 85 per cent of the work on the Agartala-Akhaura rail project on the Indian side has been completed, and about 75 per cent of the work has been executed on the Bangladesh side.

The Tripura Transport

Minister said that after completion of the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, the entire North Eastern region would be connected with Bangladesh railway to facilitate trade and commerce between the two neighbouring countries.

Chowdhury said another DPR (detailed project report) is being prepared for construction of a 30-km railway track for Belonia, a border town and the headquarters of South Tripura district, to connect with Feni district of Bangladesh.

- The rail line between Agartala in Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh would pave the way for the first train to run from the northeastern region to Bangladesh.
- The railway link will connect Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India and from Nischintapur to Agartala railway station.
- Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will bear the cost of laying 5.46 km track on the Indian side while the cost of laying 10.6 km track on the Bangladesh side is being borne by the Ministry of External Affairs.

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4. Padmanath Gohain Baruah

Padmanath Gohain Baruah's birth anniversary observed

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, April 22: The first president of Asam Sahitya Sabha, 'Bhaxar Kandari' Padmanath Gohain Baruah's death anniversary was observed at the Lakshminath Bezbaroa Park here on Friday by Rongpur Sahitya Sabha.

On the occasion, Hem Baruah, president of Rongpur Sahitya Sabha, lit the ceremonial lamp near the colossal statue of the litterateur. Umesh Changkakoty, assistant secretary, dwelt on the work of Gohain Baruah as an educationist and litterateur. Former presidents of the Sabha unit, Dipali Bhattacharya Baruah and Manoj Kumar Borthakur, spoke about the writer's contribution to Assamese literature. Mukul



Nath, Ratnamoni Sarma, Anjali Hazarika, Kalpana Kotoky, Rupa Borthakur, Bina Goswami, Prasanta Gogoi and Pranjal Pujari were also present on the occasion.

- Padmanath Gohain Baruah actually opened the door to Assamese novel literature by writing '**Bhanumati**', the first Assamese novel rich in novel features. The novel '**Bhanumati**' was published from the first issue of the first year of '**Bijuli**' magazine published in **1890**.
- The novel '**Bhanumati**' was published in book form in 1908.
- The second novel written by Padmanath Gohani Baruah is '**Lahari**'.
- The novel '**Lahari**' was published by the author in **1892**. This is the first Assamese novel to be printed as a book.
- Gohain Baruah composed a total of 8 plays. His plays can be divided into different parts as per the **story narrative**. The **funny or comedy plays** he wrote are- '**Gaonbudha**' (1897), '**Teton Tamuli**' (1909) and '**Bhut Ne Bham**' (1915). His **historic or historical plays** are- '**Jayamati**' (1900), '**Gadadhar**' (1907), '**Sadhani**' (1911), and '**Lachit Barphukan**' (1915). The **only mythological play** he wrote was '**Banaraja**' (1932).
- He later wrote and published a poetry book called '**Leela Kavya**' in 1899.

4. Asia's Longest river crossing hydrocarbon pipeline

Asia's longest river-crossing hydrocarbon pipeline laid

IGGL pipeline beneath Brahmaputra to connect NE with national grid

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: In a major milestone, the longest river crossing by any hydrocarbon pipeline of 24-inch diameter and above in Asia and the second longest in the world was achieved by In-

dradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), when it completed the laying of a pipeline beneath the Brahmaputra river.

The pipeline laid by horizontal direction drilling (HDD) method will be part of the North East Gas Grid (NEGG) connecting the

northeastern region with the National Gas Grid (NGG).

Accomplished on April 21, the pipeline will connect Jorhat and Majuli. The length of the pipeline across the Brahmaputra is 4,080 metres.

» **SEE PAGE 2**

- The longest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline in Asia runs beneath the Brahmaputra.
- The laying of 24-inch diameter and 5780-metre-long pipeline was completed by the Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL)
- Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited, a JV company of 5 major Oil PSUs viz. IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL & NRL is implementing the prestigious North East Gas Grid Project connecting the major cities and demand centres of North East India with the National Gas Grid.
- This is the longest river crossing by any hydrocarbon pipeline of 24-inch diameter and above in Asia and the second longest in the world.

Asia's longest river-crossing ...

(Contd from page 1)

This also marks the completion of over 71 per cent physical progress of the NEGG project. The Guwahati-Numaligarh section of the NEGG is expected to be completed by February 2024, IGGL CEO Ajit Kumar Thakur said.

This one-of-a-kind river

crossing was executed by the intersection method, where two HDD rigs simultaneously started drilling from the two sides of the Brahmaputra, with intersection of the two drilling heads in the middle at 30 metres beneath the riverbed. The laying of the pipeline was affected by nu-

merous hurdles mainly due to monsoon rains and flood.

The total length of the HDD crossing across the Brahmaputra considering all major and minor water channels is 5,780 metres. This was done in three separate HDD sections of lengths of 1,000 metres, 4,080 metres and 700 me-

tres. The 1,000 metres and 700 metres sections were completed earlier. The next step will be the tie-in of the three sections at two points located at 15 metres and 8 metres below natural ground level.

IGGL, a joint venture company of five major oil PSUs - IOCL, ONGC,

GAIL, OIL and NRL - is implementing the NEGG project connecting major cities and demand centres of the Northeast with the NGG. The 1,656-km-long natural gas pipeline will be constructed at a project cost of Rs 9,265 crore, 60 per cent of which will come from the Government of India.

সাধনা SAADHANA

Prelims

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5. Operation Kaveri

India launches 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate Indians from Sudan

NEW DELHI, April 24: India today launched 'Operation Kaveri' to bring back its nationals from Sudan that has been witnessing fierce fighting following a power struggle between the regular army and a paramilitary force.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the operation to evacuate the Indian citizens from Sudan is under way and that about 500 nationals have reached Port Sudan.

"Operation Kaveri gets under way to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way," Jaishankar, currently on a visit to the Caribbean region, tweeted.

"Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. Com-

mitted to assist all our brethren in Sudan," he said.

India on Sunday said it has positioned two transport aircraft of the IAF in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah and naval ship INS Sumedha at Port Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate the stranded Indians.

The government had on Friday said it was focusing on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens currently located throughout Sudan.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last 11 days that has reportedly left around 400 people dead.

Jaishankar's announcement on the evacuation operation came a day after the Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) said that contingency plans to bring back the Indians from Sudan have been put in place but noted that any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation.

It said the security situation in Sudan continues to be "volatile" with reports of fierce fighting coming from various locations in the country's capital Khartoum.

"Two Indian Air Force C-130J (aircraft) are currently positioned on standby in Jeddah. And, INS Sumedha has reached Port Sudan," it said.

"Contingency plans are in place but any movement on the ground would depend on the security situation, which continues to be volatile with

reports of fierce fighting at various locations in Khartoum," the MEA said.

India is also coordinating closely with various partner countries for the safe movement of those Indians who are stranded in Sudan and would like to be evacuated.

Apart from Sudanese authorities, the MEA and the Indian embassy in Sudan have been in regular touch with the UN, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and the US, among others.

At a high-level meeting on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had issued directions for preparation of contingency plans to evacuate Indians from Sudan. After the meeting, the PMO said Modi instructed officials to prepare contingency

evacuation plans, accounting for the rapidly shifting security landscape in Sudan and the viability of various options.

Last week, Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt on the ground situation in Sudan with a focus on ensuring the safety of the Indians.

On Thursday, Jaishankar discussed the situation in Sudan with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

In a related development, France evacuated five Indians along with citizens of 27 other countries as part of its evacuation mission from Sudan.

The French embassy in India said 388 people from 28 countries, including India, were evacuated. - PTI

Operation Kaveri

- Operation Kaveri is a codename for India's evacuation effort to bring back its citizens stranded in Sudan amid intense fighting between the army and a rival paramilitary force there.
- The operation involves the deployment of Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, a stealth offshore patrol vessel, and two Indian Air Force C-130J special operations aircraft on standby in Jeddah.

Operation Ganga (2022):

It is an evacuation mission to bring back all the Indian nationals who are currently stranded in Ukraine

Operation Devi Shakti (2021):

Operation Devi Shakti was India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after its swift takeover by the Taliban.

Vande Bharat (2020):

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, the Centre launched the Vande Bharat Mission to bring back Indian citizens stranded in foreign countries.

Operation Samudra Setu (2020):

It was a naval operation as part of the national effort to bring home Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Operation Raahat (2015):

In 2015, a conflict raged between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels.

6. Cope India Exercise

Cope India drill concludes with spectacular aerial manoeuvres by Indian, US fighter jets

KALAIKUNDA (WB), April 24: A dazzling display of aerial manoeuvres by fighter jets of the air forces of India and the US, including Rafales, Tejas and the F-15E, today marked the end the 15-day Cope India joint air exercise at Kalaikunda in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district.

A total of 24 fighter aircraft, eight transport planes and two force multipliers from both air forces participated in the event that started on April 10, IAF Group Captain Neeraj Jhamb said.

Altogether, 564 personnel from the IAF and the USAF took part in the exercise during which most days recorded maximum day temperatures of above 40 degrees Celsius at Kalaikunda and at Arjan Singh Air Force Station in Panagarh, he said.

Gleaming aerial manoeuvres by top-of-the-line fighter jets – Rafale, Tejas, Su-30MKI, Jaguar and F-15E – under a partly overcast sky on a much cooler day today captivated the crowd, which included school children.

The aerial assets employed in the exercise by the IAF were fighters Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas



Indian and US Air Force personnel during the India-US joint air exercise at Kalaikunda Air Force Station, in West Midnapore district, on Monday. – PTI

and Jaguar, transporters C130J and C17, force multipliers IL-76 airborne warning and control system and an Embraer 145 airborne early warning and control aircraft, Jhamb said.

USAF participated in the exercise with F-15E Strike Eagles, B1B bombers, transport aircraft C130J and C17 and special operations aircraft MC130J, he said.

Briefing reporters following the manoeuvres and a static

display of the aircraft, Jhamb said the bilateral air force training exercise is focused on Indo-US cooperation through exchange of air combat employment philosophy, enhancing existing capabilities and mutual understanding of force employment.

He said that Cope India 2023 is special as it involved first-time participation of IAF's Rafale aircraft and Tejas, and USAF's F15-E Strike Eagle fighters.

"Last two weeks witnessed intense flying operations by fighters, transport aircraft and force multipliers," Jhamb, the Exercise Director of Cope India 2023, said.

He said multiple missions were flown together to enhance within visual range and beyond visual range combat employment in large-force package.

The objectives of Cope India 2023 were to enhance mu-

tual understanding of technical application of air power, and boost cohesion in combat operations and mutual understanding of air operations in large-force package.

Air Officer Commanding, Kalaikunda Air Force Station, Air Commodore Ran Singh said the joint air exercise has provided an opportunity for both countries to learn from each other and improve military capabilities. – PTI

Exercise Cope India

- Exercise Cope India is a bilateral joint air exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF).
- The India-US air exercise, which began in 2004, has grown over the years exponentially and will now see greater interoperability between India and the US as far as the fighters are concerned.
- The exercise aims to enhance mutual understanding between the IAF and the USAF and share their best practices.
- The exercise showcases US and India's efforts and commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



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Prelims

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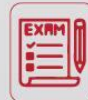
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6. Gunotsav 2023

Sivasagar district tops Gunotsav 2023 results

6,000 new teachers to be appointed in primary, secondary levels on May 10, announces CM

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 25: The results of Gunotsav 2023 were formally declared on Tuesday by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The results indicated improved performance by State Government schools in most of the parameters, with the number of A+ schools increasing by 17.12 per cent this year.

Last year, only 4,841 schools (11.52 pc) received A+ grade, which has gone up to 11,886 this year – 28.64 per cent of the total schools evaluated. The schools getting A+ will get a cash incentive of Rs 25,000 each.

Sivasagar was the top-performing district followed by Charaideo and Golaghat, whereas West Karbi Anglong, Chirang and Karbi Anglong were at the bottom of the list. West Karbi Anglong was assessed as the worst-performing district.

In this assessment exer-



cise, children from classes I to IX of government and provincialised schools, tea garden management schools, tea garden model schools, Adarsha Vidyalayas, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, and residential schools were covered.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also announced the appointment of 6,000 new teachers in the primary and secondary level on May 10.

In Gunotsav 2023, the entire assessment covered 31 districts in three phases

conducted during January 18 to February 18, 2023. A total of 44,531 schools and 41,35,163 students (96.69 pc) were assessed.

The number of students getting A+ grade also increased to 38.16 per cent this year from the previous 23.79 per cent, recording a difference of 14.37 per cent.

Similarly, the cumulative number of A+ and A grade schools went up to 74.83 per cent from 52.22 per cent, registering a hike of 22.61 per cent.

On the other hand, the number of C grade schools decreased to 4.75 per cent from 11.14 per cent, the number of D grade schools decreased to 1.85 per cent from 5.09 per cent, the number of C grade students decreased to 6.37 per cent from 12.58 per cent and the number of D grade students decreased to 6.39 per cent from 16.78 per cent.

» SEE PAGE 2

The three top performing districts — all from Upper Assam — were Sivasagar, Charaideo and Golaghat, with 71.88%, 53.25% and 49.24% schools graded A+ respectively.

The three poorest performing districts — West Karbi Anglong, Chirang and Karbi Anglong — were from Sixth Schedule areas Agency for the scheme.

Almost 80% of the schools in the state are in the category of schools graded A+ and A

7. Pranam Act

- The PRANAM is an effort from the state government to protect them and give them financial security.

- It makes mandatory for state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income.

- Mandatory Financial Support to Family and Divyang sibling: If the PRANAM Commission gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee is being ignored, then 10 or 15% salary of employee will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or unmarried Divyang siblings.

- Holistic at later stage: Employees of private companies and the central government would also be covered by the Bill at the later stage.

- Significance: It will reduce destitution and poverty and PRANAM Bill will cover 8 lakh parents of 4 lakh state government employees.

A unique initiative upholding the right to live with dignity of aging parents and dependent divyang siblings

Assam Employees PRANAM Act

(The Assam Employees' Parent Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring Act, 2017)

Government undertakings / State PSUs come created by the Government of Assam to deliver

employee is financially neglected, compensation up claimed by them from the monthly salary of the

his/her dependent and financially neglected parents 10% (and in exceptional cases up to 15%) from the legal heir. However this is not applicable in the case of

priority has, without any reasonable cause, refused to application within the time-limit, PRANAM per day.

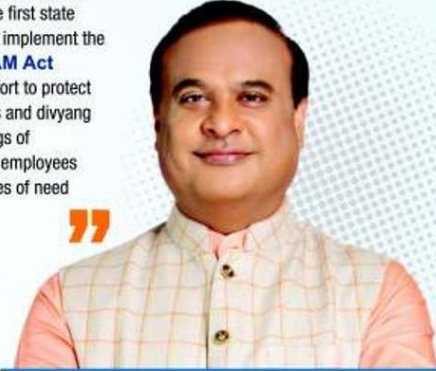
it their application to the Drawing and Disbursing the employee concerned. The DDO is empowered to dispose of the case within 90 days.

the time limit or if the employee, parent or divyang authority, appeal may be preferred to the 1st

of the case within 60 days or if any of the parties may be preferred to the PRANAM Commission.


final within 90 days and the decision of the Commission

“ We are very proud that Assam is the first state in the country to implement the PRANAM Act which is an effort to protect elderly parents and divyang siblings of Government employees in their times of need ”



Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

Issued in Public Interest by :
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Ph-0361-2730515 (Chief Commissioner) & 84740-93342 (Registrar)
Website : <https://pranam.assam.gov.in>



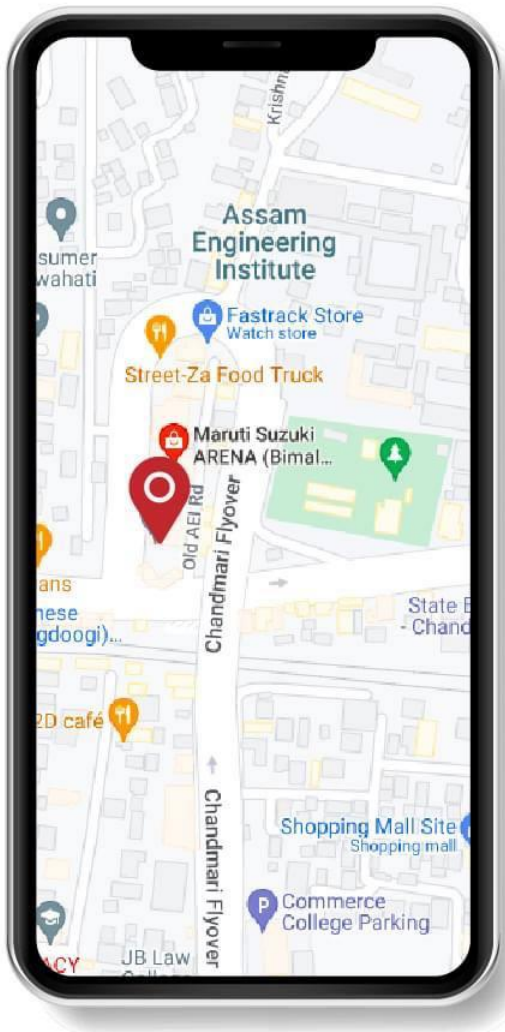


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8. Filmfare Award

Suman Adhikary wins two Filmfare Awards

Andrea Kevichusa of Nagaland wins Best Debut Female

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: Suman Adhikary of Guwahati has won two prestigious awards – Best Story and Best Screenplay – at the 68th Filmfare Awards 2023 for his work in *Badhaai Do*. Adhikary won the awards jointly with Akshat Ghildiyal for Best Story, and with Ghildiyal and Harshavardhan Kulkarni for Best Screenplay.

“I am extremely delighted to win this prestigious award. This is one of the oldest and most widely known film awards not just in India but in Asia. There were a lot of brilliant works that



Suman Adhikary



Andrea Kevichusa

were nominated and to win the award among these is simply satisfying,” a delighted Adhikary told *The Assam Tribune*. “I thank everyone in my team who made it happen. I congratulate all the winners, especially the team of *Badhaai Do*.”

Meanwhile, Andrea Kevichusa of Nagaland won the Best Debut Female for her role in the Hindi film *Anek*.

Directed by Harshavardhan Kulkarni, comedy-drama *Badhaai Do*, starring Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar, was released in January 2022.

» SEE PAGE 2

- Suman Adhikary of Barpeta has made Assam proud by receiving two Filmfare Awards at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023 in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourism.
- Suman Adhikary received the **Best Story Award**, coupled with Akshat Ghildiyal, and the **Best Screenplay Award**, along with Ghildiyal and Harshavardhan Kulkarni, for the film **Badhaai Do**.
- He had earlier won the Filmfare for his directed and scripted short film **Sorry Bhaisaab**, and he has also received an IIFA nomination for Best Screenplay for **Badhaai Do**.

9. Submerged Vane technology

River expert suggests new technology to overcome erosion by Brahmaputra

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, April 29: The problem of erosion by the Brahmaputra can be overcome while maintaining the river channel for navigation by using modern technology that is in place along several stretches of the Ganga river. The new technology is eco-friendly as well as cost effective.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, acclaimed river expert and former professor of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, Prof Nayan Sarma said erosion by the Brahmaputra has

become a cause for concern even as a substantial amount of money is spent every year to deal with the problem.

He also said that the river needs adequate depth for movement of cargo ships and freight charge and diesel consumption can be reduced to a great extent by use of such vessels in comparison to use of roads and railways for cargo movement.

Though the government has initiated steps for dredging of the Brahmaputra's bed, it affects the river's fauna and there is need for use of more eco-friendly technology for dealing with

sedimentation of the rivers.

Prof Sarma said that he had the experience of working on the Ganga river by using an American technology called submerged vane and the results were very encouraging. He said for proper navigation on the Ganga it was necessary to maintain its depth and the submerged vane technology was used with some modification.

He said in the American technology, steel plates are used. But the technology was modified a bit in India and bamboo was used instead of steel. In

addition to maintaining the river depth, this technology also pushes away the sediment to river banks, thus preventing erosion, he said.

"This American technology uses the stream force of the river and no additional power is required," he added.

Prof Sarma said there are some similarities between the rivers Ganga and Brahmaputra. According to a study, the Ganga carries around 500 to 600 million tonnes of sediment per year, while the Brahmaputra carries around 700 to 800 million tonnes of sediment.

The maximum discharge of the Brah-

maputra was recorded at 77,000 cumec, while it was around 70,000 cumec for the Ganga.

"That is why, I strongly believe that if the technology can be used in Ganga with success, it can also be used for the Brahmaputra," Prof Sarma said, adding that the submerged vane technology using bamboo will also not affect the aquatic fauna of the river.

The river expert revealed that in 2011 he had a meeting with the then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and senior officials of the Assam government

and a decision was taken to use the submerged vane technology at Gumi as a pilot project, but it did not take off because of the reasons best known to the government.

Prof Sarma also revealed that in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the bottom panel technology, which is an earlier version of the submerged vane technology, was used in five stretches in the Brahmaputra with the help of engineers from France. It was very successful in three sites, but the government did not continue the project.



(a)



(b)

A submerged vane is a flow-training facility mounted vertically on the channel bed to control the sediment movement in the channel cross section, and has been utilized in various applications, such as prevention of bank erosion, sediment exclusion at water intakes, and deepening channels for navigation.

10. Assam Micro-Finance incentive & relief Scheme

Third Phase

Rollout of
**Assam Micro-Finance
Incentive and Relief
Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021**
for **11 Lakh Borrowers**
of Category - 1 (Prompt Payer)



Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

THE SCHEME

- This scheme is the first of its kind in the entire nation with an objective to give incentive and relief to the eligible borrowers who have availed small loans from different microfinance lending institutions in the state of Assam.
- Incentive payment of Rs. 25,000/- or outstanding loan amount, whichever is lower, will be provided through account payee cheques to Category - I borrowers.
- After distribution of Category - 1 incentives, eligible beneficiaries of other categories will be provided with due relief in a phased manner.
- The incentives to eligible borrowers of 11 districts shall be disbursed in following schedule in the month of February, 2022 :

- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has informed that around **11 lakh borrowers who are making regular payments against the loan will get Rs. 25,000 each.**
- The state government would be required to **spend close to Rs. 7,200 crore in loan waiver.**
- The government of Assam signed an **MOU with Microfinance Institutions** for the implementation of the **Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021.**
- Altogether **38 MFIs and banks** signed the MoU with the state government, which will remain in force till March 31, 2023.
- The relief shall be extended to all borrowers for loans from up to three lenders and for a **loan amount of up to Rs. 1.25 lakh only.**

THE SCHEME

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The Assam cabinet, recently has granted approval for the inclusion of a **third category** within the Assam Microfinance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021. This category aims to provide assistance to microfinance borrowers whose accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Specifically, this category targets NPA borrowers with an outstanding principal amount of up to 25,000 as of March 31, 2021, who were not covered under Categories I and II of the scheme.

The scheme involves the Assam Government, six large banks, around 25 non-banking finance company microlenders (NBFC-MFIs), NBFCs and a few small finance banks.

10. Assam Micro-Finance incentive & relief Scheme



Under the scheme, around 24 lakh women in the State are to receive one – time incentive between Rs 16,000 and Rs 25,000 each.

In the first phase, the incentive was provided to borrowers who have been repaying their debt regularly.

In the second phase, the scheme provided incentive to women whose payments are overdue by less than 90 days. It also includes women whose loan accounts are not classified as non – performing assets.

In the third phase, the scheme will cover borrowers whose loan accounts have become non – performing assets. Partial or full relief will be provided based on evaluation.

Under category 1, an incentive of up to Rs 25,000 will be given to borrowers for regular repayment of loans and for maintaining good credit discipline.

Under category 2, the government will clear the overdue amount if payment is overdue by 1-89 days, the State government tweeted on Friday. Also, an incentive of Rs 25,000 will be paid after the borrowers restart regular repayment.

Under category 3, loans categorised as NPAs (non-performing assets) will be disposed of with Rs 7,200 crore-Rs 7,500 crore of State funds and a Rs 4,000 crore benefit to be transferred by lenders, the government said

11. Behali Reserve and endangered Langur

- Behali Reserved Forest, located in the Biswanath district of Assam is a patch of semi-evergreen forest in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas.
- This forest is a part of the Sonitpur Elephant Reserve and was declared as a reserved forest in 1917.
- It lies between the two famous protected areas, the Nameri National Park on its west and Kaziranga National Park on its south.
- It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area in 1994 and a Key Biodiversity Area in 2004.**
- The area is bordered in the east by the Buroi River, west by Borgang river, the north side is by Papum Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh and several human habitations, tea plantations and paddy fields in the south.
- Fauna – Apart from the rare capped langur, the Behali Reserve Forest houses the **endangered slow loris**, the **near-threatened Assamese macaque** and the **rhesus macaque**.

7 carcasses of endangered langur found inside Behali Reserve Forest

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Jan 8: In a shocking development, seven carcasses of the endangered capped langur were found inside the Behali reserve forest, exposing the abysmal security in this critical wildlife habitat in the north bank of the Brahmaputra.

The biodiversity-rich area accounting for diverse flora and fauna, including a number of endemic species, has been languishing for want of attention from the Forest Department and the State Government even as there has been a long-standing demand for its upgrading to a wildlife sanctuary.



The carcasses of the endangered capped langurs found inside the Behali reserve forest.

"The capped langur carcasses were discovered lying on the forest floor inside the reserve forest near Rongagara camp. I knew this family very well, as we regularly visit them in our surveys. The skin and the tail portion were missing in all the bodies, signifying that this was not a case

of hunting for bush meat but rather poaching for the skin," research scholar Ranjit Kakati, who has extensively documented Behali's fauna, told *The Assam Tribune*.

Killing of capped langurs for skin by miscreants from Arunachal Pradesh which borders the forest has been known in Behali.

"This subspecies of capped langurs is categorized as 'Endangered' by the IUCN and most of its population in Assam resides outside protected areas. Losing seven individuals in a single event directly affects the gene pool of the species," Kakati added.

SEE PAGE 8

7 carcasses ...

(Contd from page 1)

When asked, Biswanath Divisional Forest Officer Arun Vignesh said that a probe was on to get to the roots of the killing. "The carcasses seem to be around 15 days old and we are investigating the deaths. A combing operation is also on in coordination with the police," he said.

Admitting that acute shortage of manpower and logistics have severely restricted patrolling in the forest, Vignesh said a detailed plan was being prepared for Behali's upgrading to a wildlife sanctuary. "Behali merits upgrading to a wildlife sanctuary and a detailed draft proposal has been prepared. It will soon be submitted to the State Government and we hope it becomes a sanctuary at the earliest," he said.

Kakati, who is also a member of local NGO Nature's Bonyopran, said that unless the authorities respond in a decisive manner, the future of Behali was bleak. "Wildlife is being killed as a matter of routine and with impunity, as corroborated by the mass killing of the capped langurs. There is also unbridled deforestation stemming from encroachment and illegal logging, which has eroded nearly half of Behali's forest cover," he said.

Meanwhile, an experienced forest guard added, "We urgently need manpower to increase patrolling. Poaching has been there, especially near the Arunachal side. There have been instances of poaching of even elephants."

The plight of Behali, which is being pushed to the brink

by rampant deforestation, exemplifies how prolonged neglect from the State Government is wreaking havoc with biodiversity-rich prime wildlife habitats.

While Behali merits upgrading to a wildlife sanctuary on the merit of its remarkable floral and faunal diversity, its strategic location linking it with the Kaziranga National Park and Pakke and Nameri Tiger Reserves further enhances its significance for maintaining contiguity over a larger landscape so essential for long-term wildlife conservation. It has been an important corridor for regular wildlife movement, especially elephants.

The 140-sq km Behali – now reduced to just 80 sq km – shelters 49 mammals besides boasting of an astounding is its plant

diversity, including a number of rare and endemic species rarely associated with a single stretch of forest.

"During our documentation, we came across a plant species called *Chlorophytum assamicum* which is found only in Behali in the entire world. "It is actually a medicinal plant which contains tubers which are known as musli. This has been categorized as critically endangered by IUCN, with just around 25 individuals of the species left in Behali," said Dipankar Borah, assistant professor of Goalpara College who has extensively documented the flora of the forest.

Behali is also an important elephant corridor, embedded in the Kameng-Sonitpur elephant reserve, on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.

Gee's golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), also known as simply the golden langur, is an Old World monkey.

Its habitat is **bounded on the south by the Brahmaputra River, on the east by the Manas River, on the west by the Sankosh River**, in Assam and on the north by the **Black Mountains of Bhutan**.

Long considered sacred by many Himalayan people, the golden langur was first brought to the attention of the western world by the naturalist **Edward Pritchard Gee in the 1950s**.

Adult males have a cream to golden coat with darker flanks while the females and juveniles are lighter.

It has a black face and a long tail up to 50 cm in length.

Conservation status

IUCN Red List:

Endangered

CITES: **Appendix I**

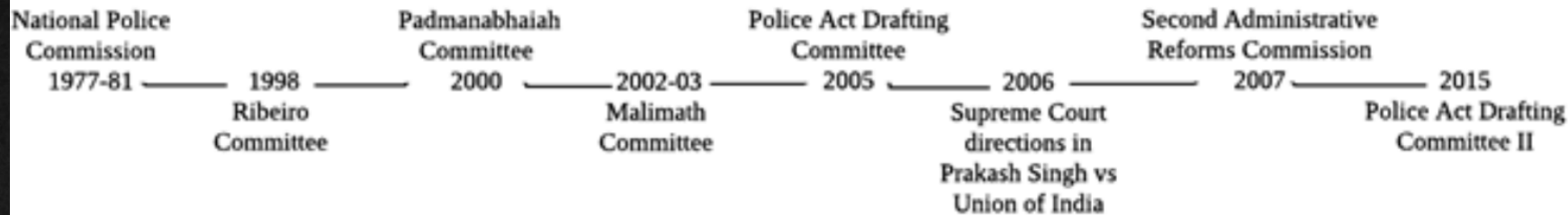
Wildlife Protection

Act, 1972: **Schedule I**

12. Changkakoti committee

Police Reforms

- Police reforms aim to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations.
- It envisages police to perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.
- It also aims to improve how the police interact with other parts of the security sector, such as the courts and departments of corrections, or executive, parliamentary or independent authorities with management or oversight responsibilities.
- Police come under the state list of **schedule 7 of the Indian constitution**.



N Changkakoti Report

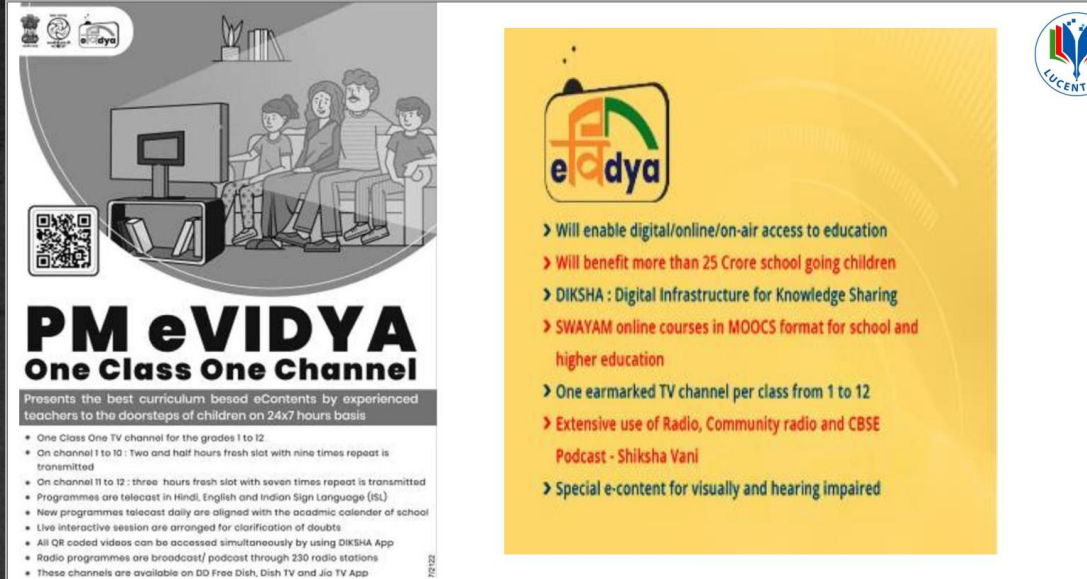
- The Committee had submitted its report way back in June 2002, but till date, most of the key recommendations have not been implemented.
- The Committee had recommended that recruitment boards should be constituted every year
- The Committee gave recommendations to check corruption in the police department
- The Committee also gave recommendations on issues like improving police-public relations, strengthening the branches like CID, Forensic Science Laboratory, improving policing in Guwahati, better criminal investigation, etc

13. PM eVidya

- The “PM eVidya” scheme has been awarded with the UNESCO’s King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education for the year 2021.
- It has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the the Ministry of Education in 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimise losses
- It aims to facilitate the learning of children. It offers multifarious educational resources in multi-platform mode viz., digital / online, TV, radio, community radio, podcast, etc.

Major initiatives of PM eVidya is

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation’s digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.
- One earmarked SwayamPrabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast-Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.



The poster for PM eVIDYA features a central illustration of a family sitting on a sofa watching a television. To the left, there is a QR code. The text on the poster includes the title 'PM eVIDYA One Class One Channel' and a list of key features and benefits.

PM eVIDYA
One Class One Channel

Presents the best curriculum based eContents by experienced teachers to the doorsteps of children on 24x7 hours basis

- One Class One TV channel for the grades 1 to 12
- On channel 1 to 10 : Two and half hours fresh slot with nine times repeat is transmitted
- On channel 11 to 12 : three hours fresh slot with seven times repeat is transmitted
- Programmes are telecast in Hindi, English and Indian Sign Language (ISL)
- New programmes telecast daily are aligned with the academic calendar of school
- Live interactive session are arranged for clarification of doubts
- All QR coded videos can be accessed simultaneously by using DIKSHA App
- Radio programmes are broadcast/ podcast through 230 radio stations
- These channels are available on DD Free Dish, Dish TV and Jio TV App

eVidya

- > Will enable digital/online/on-air access to education
- > Will benefit more than 25 Crore school going children
- > DIKSHA : Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing
- > SWAYAM online courses in MOOCs format for school and higher education
- > One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12
- > Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani
- > Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired

18. World Cancer day



World Cancer Day

Cancer is the 2nd most common cause of death in India. To raise awareness for cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection and treatment, 4th of February every year is marked as World Cancer Day.



Theme for 2022 "Close the care gap"

In Assam, screening for Breast Cancer and Oral Cancer has started at all functional Health & Wellness Centres (HWC) and screening for Cervical Cancer at selected Primary Health Centres - PHCs.

Treatment for cancers is available at all Medical Colleges, State Cancer Institutes and Day Care Centres at FAAMCH Medical College, Barpeta under Assam Cancer Care Foundation.

Common Warning Signs Of Cancer

- C**- Change in bowel or bladder habits
- A**- A wound that does not heal
- U**- Unusual bleeding or discharge
- T**- Thickening or lump in the breast or elsewhere
- I**- Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing
- O**- Obvious change in a wart or mole
- N**- Nagging cough or hoarseness of voice



Shri. Keshab Mahanta
Hon'ble Minister
Health & Family Welfare, Assam

WARNING SIGNS OF ORAL CANCER	WARNING SIGNS OF BREAST CANCER	WARNING SIGNS OF CERVICAL CANCER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ulcers/patch/growth in the mouth that has not healed in two weeks ■ Any change in the tone of voice (Tobacco chewing is the single most important risk factor for oral cancer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lump in the breast ■ Blood stained discharge from the nipple ■ Change in shape and size of breast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bleeding between periods ■ Bleeding after menopause ■ Foul smelling vaginal discharge

Prevent Cancer, Adopt a Healthy Lifestyle.

7-8 hours of sleep | Make sure your diet includes all the required nutrients | Avoid obesity, keep your weight in the normal range
Be physically active and regularly exercise | Eat plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits | Quit alcohol. Do not use tobacco or arecanut in any form.

Do regular health check-ups and cancer screening- After 30 years of age please consult your health care provider for age-appropriate screening

- In 2000, World Cancer Day originated at the first World Summit Against Cancer and was held in Paris. At this Summit, several leaders of government agencies, and cancer organizations from around the world signed the Charter of Paris Against Cancer.
- Every year, World Cancer Day is celebrated with a special theme. Some of the themes are as follows:

1. World Cancer Day 2015 theme - Not beyond us
2. World Cancer Day 2016- 2018 theme - We can, I can
3. World Cancer Day 2019-2021 Theme - I Am and I Will
4. World Cancer Day 2023-2024 Theme - Close the Care Gap

21. Assam Repealing Act 2020

Gauhati HC upholds madrassa repeal Acts

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Feb 4: The Gauhati High Court on Friday upheld the decision of the State government to convert 397 provincialized madrassas to general educational institutions, dismissing a writ petition filed against the move.

A division bench of the court upheld the Assam Repealing Act 2020 to repeal Madrassa Education Provincialization Acts of 1995 & 2018 and also upheld all other subsequent notifications to convert 397 provincialized

'Govt-run institutions cannot impart religious instructions'

madrassas and 4 Arabic colleges to general educational institutions.

The Government of Assam had in 2020 decided to convert the "provincialised" madrassas into regular high schools and to withdraw the teachings of theological subjects in such madrassas.

A writ petition was filed before the high court by a group of 13 petitioners who claimed to be either president of the managing committees and in some cases even donors and "mutawallis" of the land, on which these madrassas were built.

"The madrassas in question, which are 'wholly maintained out of State funds', cannot impart religious instructions in terms of the mandate of Article 28(1) of the Constitution of India," the court stated.

» SEE PAGE 2

- The Bill was passed by the state Assembly on December 30, 2020
- **The Assam Repealing Act 2020** repealed two existing Acts:
 - The Assam Madrassa Education (Provincialisation) Act, 1995 and
 - The Assam Madrassa Education (Provincialisation of Re-Organisation of Madrassa Educational Institutions and Services of Employees) Act, 2018.
- Under The Assam Repealing Act of 2020, it was decided that all madrassa institutions will be turned into upper primary, high and higher secondary schools where there will be no changes in the pay, status, allowances and several service circumstances of the non-teaching and teaching staffs.
- ***"The madrassas which are wholly maintained by the state cannot impart religious instructions in terms of the mandate of Article 28(1) of the Constitution of India,"*** the court said in its judgement.

23. Ethanol

Decks cleared for setting up Ethanol production units in Assam

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Feb 7: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday evening held a meeting with the promoters of seven ethanol manufacturing entities who came forward under Assam Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021 to set up their plants in the State.

During the meet, held at the conference room of the Chief Minister's office in Janata Bhawan, the

promoters apprised the Chief Minister of their latest developments and different issues they are facing.

Sarma said that the State government will provide all necessary support to them to resolve all their outstanding issues to facilitate expeditious implementation of the projects under the policy.

During the meeting, it has been informed that all the seven entities are ready to commence construction and commercial production of



bio-fuel by the middle of 2023.

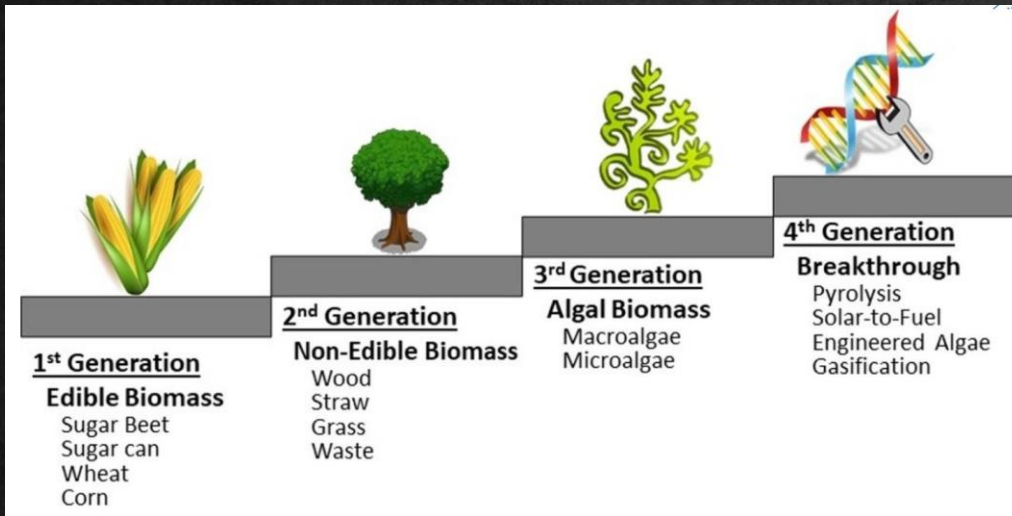
It may be noted that since the declaration of the State Ethanol Policy in August, 2021, Assam attracted 16 ethanol projects worth Rs 3,290 crore.

To facilitate Ethanol production, the industry department established a 24x7 support centre for the entities to obtain various approvals and clearance required to set up their plants. Six out of seven entities have been provided with land in the Industrial Development Corporation Industrial Parks across various parts of the State, including two units in IGC Matia, and one unit each at Industrial Landbank in Sipajhar, ID Dhing, IGC Balipara, and near Assam

Plastic Park, Tinsukia.

The proposed annual capacity of these seven units will be 970 KLD with a planned investment of Rs 1,154 crore which will generate direct employment avenues for 1,000 people and indirect employment for nearly 4,000.

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli and Industry and Commerce Minister Chandramohan Patowary were also present during the discussion.



India's First Pure Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant Commissioned in Jorhat. Oil India Limited (OIL), a Government of India enterprise, has commissioned the country's only pure green hydrogen pilot plant with an installed capacity of 10 kilograms per day at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam

PM recently commissioned a methanol plant in Namrup, Dibrugarh, constructed by Assam Petrochemicals Ltd (APL) with a capacity of 500 tonnes per day (TPD), and an investment of Rs 1,709 crore. The Assam government holds a 51 percent stake in the plant, while Oil India owns 49 percent.

The first-ever compressed biogas plant project in northeast India took place at Domora Pathar in Sonapur under the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district

The public sector Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in eastern Assam's Golaghat district has taken steps in setting up a Rs 1,750-crore bio-refinery unit for producing bio-ethanol from 5-lakh metric tonnes of bamboo per year.

24. Green Building

India ranks 3rd globally in LEED-certified green buildings; China at 1st spot: USGBC

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: India has ranked third in the world for LEED-certified green buildings in 2021 in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list.

China and Canada are at the first two positions. The United States is not included in the list but remains the world's largest market for LEED.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. Available for virtually all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

The analysis used to develop the list ranks countries in terms of LEED-certified space as of December 31, 2021.

The USGBC on Thursday said, "India has ranked third

in the world on its annual list of the top 10 countries and regions for LEED in 2021."

The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the United States that are making significant strides in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.

"India certified a total of 146 buildings and spaces to LEED, representing nearly 2.8 million gross area square metres (GSM) of space. This marks a nearly 10 per cent increase in LEED-certified space in India from 2020," it added.

India ranks third on the list behind China, which topped the list with more than 14 million GSM, and Canada which certified more than 3.2 million GSM. The United States remains the world's largest market for

LEED with more than 26 million GSM certified during the year.

"India has consistently placed within the top three countries, representing the ever-growing domestic demand for LEED certification in the country as a means to reduce emissions, decrease environmental impact, and support health and well-being," the statement said.

In India, LEED is administered by Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI), which has been working relentlessly towards accelerating the adoption of green buildings across the country.

Among the many projects in India that adopted LEED in 2021, the USGBC listed CESC House in Kolkata, the first heritage building in India that received a LEED

Gold rating, was recertified to LEED Platinum in 2021.

Ankit Gems and Diamond Factory was awarded with a LEED Platinum certification for its diamond manufacturing facility in Surat.

DLF achieved LEED Platinum for both its Cyber City project as well as for their retail projects Avenue Mall and The Chanakya under the LEED O+M rating system.

ITC Hotels was the first hotel in the world to achieve LEED Zero Carbon Certifications for their two properties.

"For nearly three decades, LEED has played a key role in sustainability efforts around the world," said Peter Templeton, President and CEO, USGBC and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI). – PTI

Green building rating agencies in India

- **IGBC:** Indian Green Building Council was the first green rating framework introduced in India in 2001 by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry). IGBC's vision is to create a 'Sustainable Built Environment' for all. This rating system has become India's primary institution for green building certification. The framework addresses issues most relevant to our nation such as waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, reduced dependency on conventional energy sources, and the overall well-being of users.
- **GRIHA:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has developed GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), which was adopted as the national rating system for green buildings by the Government of India in 2007. This tool has been adopted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. This tool, by its qualitative and quantitative assessment criteria, is able to 'rate' a building on the degree of its 'greenness'. GRIHA is a rating tool that helps people assess the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks.
- **Leadership In Energy And Environment Design (LEED):** LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. It was the Indian Green Business Center (IGBC), under the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) that facilitated the LEED rating of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).
- **BEE-ECBC –** The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) was established by the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to set energy efficiency standards for design and construction of buildings.
- **TERI:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) (Non-profit) plays a very crucial role in developing green building capacities in the country.
- **ECO-NIWAS Portal:** Energy Conservation-New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes) was launched by the government to increase awareness about sustainable building and energy efficient homes in the country. It was developed by BEE.

What is Green Building?

- A 'green' building is a building that, in its design, construction or operation, reduces or eliminates negative impacts, and can create positive impacts, on our climate and natural environment. Green buildings preserve precious natural resources and improve our quality of life.
- Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction.

Most Probable MCQ:

Q1. OPEC+ countries includes:

1. USA
2. UAE
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Myanmar

- A. 1 only**
- B. 1 and 2 only**
- C. 2 and 3 only**
- D. All of the above**

Most Probable MCQ:

Q2. Cancer day theme 2023 is

- A. Not beyond us
- B. We can, I can
- C. I Am and I Will
- D. Close the Care Gap

Q3. Vetiver grass and submerged vent technology is related to

- A. Flood and Erosion Management
- B. Gardening
- C. Medicinal plant
- D. Organic farming

Most Probable MCQ:

Q4. Green hydrogen plant was recently inaugurated at

- A. Jorhat**
- B. Sonapur**
- C. Namrup**
- D. Numaligarh**

Q5. Mallimath and Changkakoti committee is related to

- a) Order Management**
- b) Oil disaster**
- c) Police Reform**
- d) New Education Policy**

Until
we
meet,
again

Thank you