



Daily Current Affairs

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Doubling of Farmers' Income

Why in news?

Government has taken following initiatives to realise doubling of farmers income through farming activities.

- The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.
- The committee has identified seven sources of income growth viz, improvement in crop and livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations.
- The committee is also looking into the investments in and for agriculture e.g. increasing public investments for agriculture-rural roads, rural electricity, irrigation; the need for policy support to enable investments by corporate sector in agriculture.
- The Government has been reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness which goes beyond achieving merely the targeted production. The income approach focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce, with a view to earn higher profits from farming.

Several initiatives have already been taken among each of the above mentioned strategies which inter-alia include:

1. Initiating market reforms through the State Governments by amending the agriculture marketing regime.
2. Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
3. 22,000 Gramin Haats are to be upgraded to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
4. Launch of eNAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
5. Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized. So far more than 15 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed in two cycles.
6. "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
7. "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted. North East is being developed as organic hub.
8. A revised farmer friendly "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)" have been launched. The scheme covers various types of risks from pre-sowing to post harvest and the farmers have to pay very nominal premium.
9. Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for supplementing farm income, increase risk management and climate resilient agriculture as an important component of Integrated Farming Systems
10. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was amended to exclude bamboo from the definition of 'trees'. Henceforth bamboo grown outside forest area will not be regulated under the provisions of felling and transit rules. As a corollary the restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched for development of the value chain of bamboo as a measure to strengthen rural economy by linking the producer (farmer) to markets (industry). Launch of PM-Asha scheme which will ensure MSP to farmers for oilseeds, pulses and copra.
11. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified by the Government for certain crops. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the

Government has approved the increase in the MSPs for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.

12. Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
 13. Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been implemented to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
 14. National Livestock Mission has been implemented to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
 15. Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.
 16. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), one of the eight Missions under the PM's National Action Plan on Climate Change is anchored in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The revised strategy document for 2018-2030 was prepared for enhancing preparedness of the agriculture and allied sector towards the challenges posed by climate change.
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NITI Aayog to Release Second Delta Ranking under the Aspirational Districts Programme

Why in news?

NITI Aayog will release the Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).

Parameters for Delta Ranking:

- The districts have been ranked in a transparent basis on parameters across Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure through key performance indicators.

- The rankings are based on the data that is publicly available through the Champions of Change Dashboard, which includes data entered on a real-time basis at the district level.
- The rankings, for the first time, will also factor in inputs from household survey conducted by NITI Aayog's knowledge partners, namely, TATA Trusts and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

About Aspirational District Programme:

- The Aspirational District Programme was launched by the Prime Minister on January 5, 2018.
 - It aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development, thereby posing a challenge to ensure balanced regional development.
 - The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a mass Movement.
 - With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
 - To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focusses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy.
 - Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus. After several rounds of consultations with various stakeholders, 49 key performance indicators have been chosen to measure progress of the districts.
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Ministry of Tourism initiatives:

Why in news?

Recently Ministry of Tourism released programmes and projects.

- The Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency to formulate national policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism.
- In the process, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other stakeholders in the sector including various Central Ministries/ agencies, the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and the representatives of the private sector.
- Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India.
- It has a great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind - from the most specialized to the unskilled and hence can play a major role in creation of additional employment opportunities.
- It can also play an important role in achieving growth with equity. It has the main objective of increasing and facilitating tourism in India.
- Augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, etc. are some of the responsibilities of the Ministry.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Development of tourism infrastructure is being given priority to provide a better tourism experience to the tourists. Theme based circuits are being developed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme spanning the entire country.
- A total number of 07 projects have been sanctioned during 2018-19 for a total amount of Rs.384.67 Crore. With this, a total number of 73 projects have been sanctioned till date for an amount of Rs.5873.99 Crore under this Scheme covering 30 States and Union Territories in the country.
- Nine projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme have been inaugurated between August to December 2018 in the States of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Facilities like Tourist Facilitation Centers, Eco Log Huts, Sound and Light Show, Helipads, Cafeteria, Wayside Amenities, Nature Trails, Jetties, Boat club, Adventure Zones, Interpretation Centers, Water Sports, Craft Villages, Tribal Thematic Villages, Illumination etc. have been developed as part of the above projects.

- Integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations is being undertaken under the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme.
- One project has been sanctioned during 2018-19 for a total amount of Rs.39.24 Crore. A total number of 24 projects have been sanctioned till date for an amount of Rs.727.16 Crore under this Scheme.

'ADOPT A HERITAGE' PROJECT:

- Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched "Adopt a Heritage Project" to provide world class tourist facilities at the various natural/cultural heritage sites, monuments and other tourist sites.
- The project plans to entrust heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of various tourist amenities.
- Ministry of Tourism provided Central Financial Assistance for infrastructure development during 2018-19 to Cochin Port Trust and Mormugaon Port Trust.

DEVELOPMENT OF ICONIC TOURIST SITES:

- Ministry of Tourism has identified 17 Sites in 12 Clusters for Development as Iconic Tourist Sites.
- The names of the sites identified for development as Iconic Tourist Sites are - Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Ajanta, Ellora, Humayun's Tomb, Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Colva Beach, Amer Fort, Somnath, Dholavira, Khajuraho, Hampi, Mahabalipuram, Kaziranga, Kumarakom and Mahabodhi Temple. Master Plans are at the final stages of preparation.

BHARAT PARV:

- Ministry of Tourism organized Bharat Parv at Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2018, as part of the Republic Day Celebrations.
- The prime objective of organizing the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, to ensure wider participation of the general public and to popularize the concept of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', 'Dekho Apna Desh' and 'Tourism for All'.
- The major attractions at Bharat Parv were Republic Day Tableaux,

Cultural Performances, Armed Forces Bands, Food and Craft stalls.

PARYATAN PARV:

- Ministry of Tourism in association with Central Ministries, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations etc. celebrated Paryatan Parv, 2018 at National Level.
- The Parv was celebrated from 16th to 27th September, 2018 during which more than 3200 activities in 32 States/UTs were organized to create awareness about the importance of Tourism.
- The objective of Paryatan Parv, 2018 was to propagate the message of 'Dekho Apna Desh', with the aim to encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations in the country and also to spread the message of 'Tourism for All'.
- State pavilions, craft stalls, food stalls, cultural programmes, cookery demonstrations etc. were major attractions for visitors during the Parv.

INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONCLAVE-2018:

- Ministry of Tourism organized the International Buddhist Conclave-2018 (IBC-2018) on the theme "Buddha Path—The Living Heritage" in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
 - The Hon'ble President of India inaugurated the International Buddhist Conclave-2018 (IBC-2018) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd August, 2018 at New Delhi. The event was followed by site visits to Ajanta (Maharashtra), Rajgir, Nalanda & Bodhgaya (Bihar) and Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh).
 - Japan was the 'Partner Country at IBC-2018. Panel discussion on 'Role of Living Buddhist Heritage in the Contemporary Society', B2B meetings between Foreign and Indian Tour Operators, Investors Summit and Presentations by Ministry of Tourism and State Governments were organized as part of the event.
 - During the inaugural session of the Buddhist Conclave, the Ministry of Tourism launched its website www.landofbuddha.in and a new 60 second film showcasing the Buddhist sites in the country.
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