



National Girl Child Day (NGCD) | Haryana | 27 Jan 2024

Why in News?

National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is observed on 24th January every year to shed light on the challenges faced by girls in Indian society.

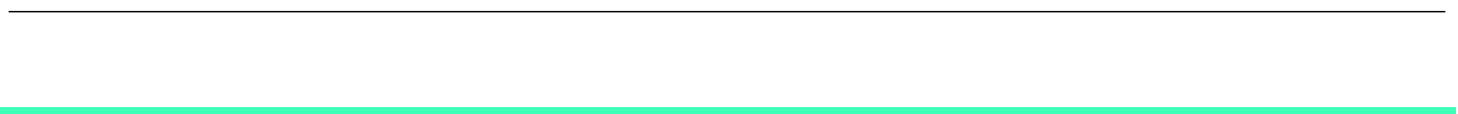
- The day focuses on creating awareness about the inequalities girls encounter and advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition.

Key Points

- NGCD was established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
 - The initiative acknowledges the unique challenges faced by girls, including [child marriage](#), and [gender-based violence](#).
- NGCD commemorates the inaugural anniversary of **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme** (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) launched on January 22, 2015.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme

- **About:**
 - The Scheme was launched to address the declining [Child Sex Ratio \(CSR\)](#) and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
 - It is a **Tri-ministerial effort** of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MH&FW), and Ministry of Education.
- **Main Objectives:**
 - Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
 - Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
 - Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
 - Protecting rights of Girl children.
- **Innovative Interventions under BBBP:** Innovations that have created a positive ecosystem/enabling environment for girls include:
 - **Guddi-Gudda Boards:** (Display of Birth Statistics (number of Girls born vis-à-vis number of Boys) in public).
 - **Example:** Jalgaon district, Maharashtra has installed digital Guddi-Gudda Display Boards.
 - **Breaking Gender Stereotypes & Challenging Son-centric Rituals:** Celebration of birth of the girl child, dedicating special day on value of girl child, plantation drives symbolizing nurturing and care for girl child.
 - Example: Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), Selfie with Daughters (Jind district, Haryana).



Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme | Haryana | 27 Jan 2024

Why in News?

The Central government is spearheading a significant transformation in the realm of wetland tourism with the 'Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme'.

- This initiative, **launched in June 2023**, aims to revolutionize **tourism practices at ecologically-sensitive wetlands**, particularly **Ramsar sites like Odisha's Chilika Lake and Haryana's Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary**.

Key Points

- The scheme is a **collaborative effort between** the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- The scheme will be **implemented over the next three years (2023 onwards) to encourage optimal use of wetlands**, and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
 - The primary focus of the Scheme is to strategically transition from high-volume tourism to high-value nature tourism at ecologically-sensitive wetlands.
- The aim is **to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the nature-tourism potential** of the Ramsar Sites across the country.
- The **scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Central Government ministries and agencies**, State wetland authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals, working together for a common cause.
- Out of **16 identified Ramsar sites, five have been selected for pilot projects under the scheme**.
 - These **pilot sites include** Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), **Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha)**, Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh), and **Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)**.

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
 - Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- World Wetlands Day: **2nd February**



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- Total Number of Ramsar Sites: **75**
 - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- Related Framework in India
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
 - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal
- Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)
- Wetlands in Montreux Record:
 - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
 - Loktak Lake: Manipur



Clarity on the Old Pension Scheme | Rajasthan | 27 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Opposition party in Rajasthan **requested clarification regarding the continuation of the [Old Pension Scheme \(OPS\)](#)** for government employees who joined service on or after January 1, 2004.

- The Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, **brought up the issue during the Zero Hour.**

Key Points

- The scheme **assures life-long income, post-retirement.**
- Under the old scheme, **employees get a pension under a pre-determined formula which is equivalent to 50%** of the last drawn salary. They also get the benefit of the revision of **Dearness Relief (DR)**, twice a year. The **payout is fixed and there was no deduction from the salary.** Moreover, **under the OPS, there was the provision of the General Provident Fund (GPF).**
 - GPF is **available only for all the government employees in India.** Basically, it allows all the government employees to contribute a certain percentage of their salary to the GPF. And **the total amount that is accumulated throughout the employment term is paid to the employee at the time of retirement.**
- The Government bears the expenditure incurred on the pension. **The scheme was discontinued in 2004.**

Zero Hour

- A **Zero Hour** is an Indian parliamentary innovation. It is **not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.**
 - Under this, the **Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise matters without any prior notice.**
- The zero hour **starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day** (regular business of the House) is taken up.
- In other words, **the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour.**
 - The **first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.** It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.

State Advised Price (SAP) of Variety of Sugarcane | Uttarakhand | 27 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government **declared the State Advised Price (SAP) of early and common variety of sugarcane** for the current crushing season 2023-24 at Rs 375 and Rs 365 per quintal respectively.

- The Uttar Pradesh government had also **recently increased the price of sugarcane.**

Key Points

- The Prices of Sugarcane are **Determined by the Central Government and the State Governments.**
- **Central Government:** Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)
 - The Central Government announces FRP which are determined on the recommendation of the [Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices \(CACP\)](#) and announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
 - CCEA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
 - The **FRP is based on the [Rangarajan Committee](#)** report on reorganising the [sugarcane industry](#).
- **State Government:** State Advised Prices (SAP)
 - The SAP is announced by the Governments of key sugarcane producing states.
 - **SAP is generally higher than FRP.**

Geographical Conditions for the Growth of Sugar

- **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate.
- **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Deep rich loamy soil.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States:** Maharashtra > Uttar Pradesh > Karnataka

Jharkhand Krishi Rin Mafi Yojana | Jharkhand | 27 Jan 2024

Why in News?

The Jharkhand government has **launched a Jharkhand Krishi Rin Mafi Yojana to reduce the loan burden of farmers.** Under this scheme, the loans of those farmers who are unable to repay their loans are being waived.

- Under the scheme, **the state government will waive loans up to Rs. 50,000 per farmer.**

Key Points

- The scheme was **launched on 1st February, 2021.**
- The objective of this scheme is **to provide relief from the loan burden to short-term loan-holding farmers of Jharkhand.**
- The **aim is to improve** the loan eligibility of crop loan holders, ensure the availability of new crop loans, stop the migration of the farming community, and strengthen the agricultural economy.
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:**
 - Must be a permanent resident of Jharkhand state.
 - The small and marginal farmers who have taken the loan using the [Kisan Credit Card \(KCC\)](#).
 - Must be a farmer who self cultivates his / her land or farmers who cultivate in leased land.
 - Must be at-least 18 years of age.
 - Only 1 farmer per family is allowed for loan waiver.
 - The loan must have been availed from banks before 31 March 2020.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme

▪ **About:**

- The KCC scheme **was introduced in 1998** to provide timely credit support to farmers.
- It offers credit for cultivation, purchase of agriculture inputs, and other needs.
- The scheme **was extended to cover the investment credit requirement of farmers in 2004.**
- In 2018-19, **the facility was extended to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers.**

▪ **Objectives:**

- The scheme **aims to meet the short-term credit requirements of farmers for** crop cultivation, post-harvest expenses, produce marketing loan, consumption requirements, and working capital for maintenance of farm assets.
- It also **provides investment credit for agriculture and allied activities.**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/statepcs/27-01-2024/print>

