

## 1. Govt. plans to increase distribution of Millets under public distribution scheme.



**Govt. is undertaking special efforts for popularizing millets; Millets Awareness Programme is being conducted and millets being promoted during India's G20 Presidency.**

The Government has planned to increase distribution of Millets under public distribution scheme which is as under:

- Advance planning for achieving higher procurement targets of coarse grains with major contributions of Bajra and Ragi.
- State to include millet for distribution under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKAY) in lieu of wheat/rice.
- Procuring States are advised to convey the surplus quantity well in advance. Deficit States are advised to convey their requirement of coarse grains/millets well in advance.
- States are requested to encourage the diversification of crops by enhancing the production of more coarse grains/millets
- To improve the level of nutrition among the beneficiaries covered under NFSA, all the States/ UTs have been requested to procure millets and distribute for NFSA beneficiaries as per local consumption preference and as per the guidelines issued by this Department from time to time.

In order to encourage consumption of millet snacks in Departmental trainings/ meetings and millet-based food items in Departmental canteens.

DA&FW has also installed vending machines for millet products through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) to various Ministries/ Departments.

Millet and its product have been identified as One District One Product (ODOP) in 19 Districts of 10 States.

IIMR through its nutri hub is conducting relevant entrepreneurial programmes like nutri-cereals entrepreneurship and startup training programme (NEST).

## 2. Formation of FPOs under Sahakar 22

**The Ministry of Cooperation with active participation of various States/ UTs has taken various initiatives to revitalize and strengthen the cooperative sector across the country and to achieve the vision of "Sahakar se Samridhi".**

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation, being an Implementing Agency under the



Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)",

Sahakar – 22 initiatives of NCDC included the following:

- FOCUS 222 – NCDC’s focused assistance for Cooperatives in 222 Districts (including 117 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog);
- PACS HUB – Transformation of PACS and other Coops as Apna Kisan Resource Centers;
- AENEC - Act East and Northeast Cooperatives;
- CEMtC - Centre’s of Excellence to Market through Cooperatives;
- SAHAKAR PRAGYA - Capacity Development through Laxman Rao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research Development (LINAC).

### Relief to Cooperative Societies in Income Tax Act (6 initiatives)

- **Surcharge reduced from 12 % to 7%** for co-operative societies having income between Rs. 1 to 10 Cr.
- **MAT reduced** for cooperatives from 18.5% to 15%.
- A clarification has been issued to remove difficulties in cash transactions by cooperatives under **Section 269ST of IT Act.**
- **A flat lower tax rate of 15%** has been fixed, compared with current rate of up to 30% plus surcharge, for new cooperatives commencing manufacturing activities till March 31, 2024.
- Limit increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh per member for deposits and loans in cash by **PACS and PCARDBs.**
- **Increase in cash withdrawal limit** for cooperatives from Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 3 Crore, per annum, without being subjected to TDS.

### 3. Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in 2020 has published ‘Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region’.
- It contains a comprehensive assessment of the impact of climate change upon the Indian subcontinent.

#### Highlights of the report:

- India’s average temperature has risen by around 0.7 deg. C during 1901-2018.
- Frequency of daily precipitation extremes (rainfall intensities >150 mm per day) increased by about 75% during 1950-2015.
- The frequency and spatial extent of droughts over India has increased significantly during 1951-2015.
- The sea surface temperatures in the tropical Indian Ocean have also increased by about 1 °C during 1951–2015.
- Sea-level rise in the North Indian Ocean occurred at a rate of 3.3 mm per year in the last two and half decades (1993-2017).
- Frequency of Severe Cyclonic Storms over Arabian sea has increased during the post monsoon seasons of 1998-2018.

#### India’s efforts towards mitigating climate change:

India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol (KP), and the Paris Agreement (PA). Independent studies rate India’s efforts highly and compliant with the requirements under PA.

The Government of India stands committed to combating climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises missions in specific areas of:

- solar energy,
- energy efficiency,
- water and agriculture,
- Himalayan ecosystem,
- sustainable habitat,
- green India and
- strategic knowledge on climate change.

The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. Thirty-three States /Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with NAPCC taking into account the State's specific issues relating to climate change.

#### 4. Safe City Project

Safe City Projects have been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs with centrally sponsored funding in eight cities initially:

Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

**The projects involve:**

- Identification of hotspots for crime against women
- Deployment of various components including infrastructure, technology adoption
- capacity building in the community through awareness programmes which will enable safety for women.

Safe City Project is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The project aims to curb crime against women and address safety issues sensitively.

It aims to use technology and ensure the prompt availability of professionally equipped police personnel to reach women in distress.

#### 5. Iberian wolf

The Iberian wolf is extinct in Spain's Andalusia since 2020.



The Iberian wolf is a species of gray wolf native to the Iberian Peninsula comprising Spain and Portugal, Andalusia is an 'autonomous territory' of Spain and consists of eight provinces.



The Iberian wolf lives in packs that are territorial and hierarchical and led by a dominant breeding pair. They form the largest wolf population in Western Europe. Iberian wolves were the only Western European subspecies of wolf whose hunting remained legal, yet only in Spain.

## 6. 14500 PM Shri schools to emerge as exemplar schools and offer leadership to other schools

- The Cabinet has approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme named Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) on 7th September 2022.
- To showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and emerge as exemplary schools over a period of time, and also offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood.
- Under the scheme there is provision of setting up of more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies.
- In the first phase of selection of PM SHRI Schools, a total of 6207 schools were selected from 27 States/UTs along with KVS/NVS in which more than 35 lakh students are getting benefitted.

## 7. MASI Portal for Monitoring CHILD CARE HOMES

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI' - Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection for real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.

The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application.

The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.

## 8. PEHCHAN scheme to provide new identity to handicraft artisans and help them avail benefits of various schemes

PEHCHAN scheme was launched in 2016 to provide a new identity to handicraft artisans so that the benefits of various schemes are provided to the deserving artisans.

Aadhar linked Pehchan Cards are issued after due verification by field functionaries of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles.

Pehchan card holders can avail the benefits of all the handicrafts schemes implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

**The details of financial benefits /assistance provided to registered handicraft artisan under the schemes are as under:**

- Skill & Training upgradation, design development workshops, tool kit distributions, marketing platforms, infrastructural support.
- Individual benefits to artisans like Mudra loan, Interest Subvention and Margin Money on Mudra loan.
- Shilpa Guru and National Awards to master artisans.
- Monthly pension of Rs. 8,000 to awardee artisans under indigent circumstances.

## 9. As Article 370 hearings begin, questions on the ‘temporary’ provision arise.

Article 370 is in Part XXI of the Constitution, titled “Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions”. Article 370 is titled “Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir”.

<b>ACCESSION AND AFTER</b>	
<p><b>OCT 26, 1947:</b> Following the invasion by tribesmen supported by Pak army, Maharaja Hari Singh sought Indian assistance, eventually leading him to sign Instrument of Accession (IoA).</p> <p><b>MAY 27, 1949:</b> Constituent Assembly of India cleared draft Article 370, as per the terms in the IoA.</p> <p><b>MAY 1, 1951:</b> Dr Karan Singh issued a proclamation convening the Constituent Assembly for the State.</p>	<p><b>1952:</b> Delhi Agreement between Sheikh Abdullah and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru expanded the relationship between India and J&amp;K.</p> <p><b>MAY 15, 1954:</b> Art. 35A introduced through a Presidential Order to protect laws passed by state legislature regarding permanent residents.</p> <p><b>NOV 17, 1957:</b> Constitution of State of J&amp;K adopted; came into force on Jan 26, 1958.</p>

Article 370 is titled “Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir”. 370(3) reads: “Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article.

The President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in Clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification.

A commonly held view is that since the Article itself provides for the process through which it can be declared inoperative, it is a temporary provision and that the framers of the Constitution never intended for the special provision to be a permanent feature.

However, the petitioners argued that it is not for this reason that Article 370 is referred to as a “temporary” provision.

## 10. UIDAI is Using AI to Tackle Payment Frauds

The technology uses a combination of both finger minutiae and finger image to check the liveness of the fingerprint captured.

The measure was implemented after instances of people creating fake fingerprints using silicone to syphon off money from unsuspecting individuals' bank accounts were reported.



As more frauds related to the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) come to the fore, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has turned to artificial intelligence-based systems in a bid to limit the cases — this includes developing technologies around fingerprinting and facial recognition.

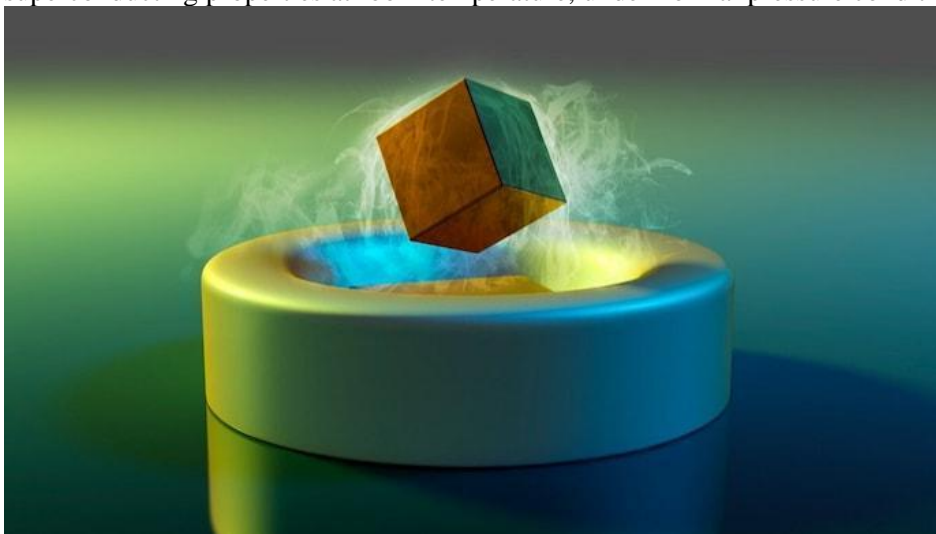
**The Unique Identification Authority of India is a statutory authority established under the provisions of Aadhaar Act 2016.**

**UIDAI was created to issue 12-digit Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.**

## **11. Why room temperature superconductivity remains science's elusive Holy Grail**

Two new papers published recently have indicated the possibility of a room-temperature superconductor.

Two South Korean researchers claimed that a lead-based compound they had developed had shown superconducting properties at room temperature, under normal pressure conditions.



- The two new papers uploaded on the internet, by researchers from South Korea, state the creation of a material known as LK-99.
- As per them, this material can conduct superconductivity at room temperatures.
- According to South Korean researchers, LK-99, the new superconductor, can be synthesized through a baking process that involves combining the minerals lanarkite and copper phosphide.
- The resulting material exhibits two essential characteristics of superconductivity even at normal air pressure and temperatures as high as 127 degrees Celsius.
- The researchers have put forward a plausible theory explaining how LK-99 could achieve room-temperature superconductivity.
- They have not yet provided definitive experimental evidence to support their claims.

## 12. Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR)

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently raised concern that cattle grazing in the forest and illegal fishing in the backwaters of Srisaillam and Nagarjunsagar dams are posing a big threat to tigers in Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).



It is located in the Nallamala hill ranges (an offshoot of the Eastern Ghats) of Andhra Pradesh and spreads across the undivided districts of Guntur, Prakasam, and Kurnool.

It is named after two major dams in the area, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Srisaillam Dam. The river Krishna traverses through this Reserve for a linear distance of around 270 kilometres. The river Krishna has Muggers, otters and Turtle.