

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****Establishment of 'Gokul Grams' Under Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

Funds have been mobilized under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) for setting up of 21 Gokul Grams as Integrated Cattle Development Centres.

**About Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

- The RGM has been launched by the Government for conservation and development of indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner.
- The mission envisages establishment of integrated cattle development centres „Gokul Grams to develop indigenous breeds including upto 40% nondescript breeds.
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission is a focussed project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development, with an outlay of Rs 500 crore during for three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

**Objectives**

- Development and conservation of indigenous breeds
- Breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds to improve their genetic makeup and increase the stock;
- Enhancement of milk production and productivity;
- Upgradation of nondescript cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and
- Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

**Implementing Agency:**

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission is being implemented through “State Implementing Agencies (SIA) viz Livestock Development Boards.
- All Agencies having a role in indigenous cattle development are “Participating Agencies” like CFSPTI, CCBFs, ICAR, Universities, Colleges, NGOs, Cooperative Societies.

**Gokul Gram**

- These are Indigenous Cattle Centres and will act as Centres for development of Indigenous Breeds.
- They'll be established- a) in native breeding tracts and b) near metropolitan cities for housing the urban cattle.
- A dependable source for supply of high genetic breeding stock to the farmers in the breeding tract.
- Self sustaining and will generate economic resources from sale of milk, organic manure, vermi-composting, urine distillates, and production of electricity from bio gas for in house consumption and sale of animal products.
- Also function as state of the art in situ training centre for Farmers, Breeders.

**GEOGRAPHY****Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)**

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) claimed as the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, was inaugurated.

**About the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**

- The Kaleshwaram project is an off-shoot of the original Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme taken up by the government in 2007 when Andhra Pradesh was not divided.

- It is aimed to make Telangana drought proof by harnessing the flood waters of the Godavari.
- Waters of the Godavari will be tapped by reverse pumping and storage, thereby facilitating agriculture on over 38 lakh acres.
- It would help rejuvenate thousands of tanks, providing water for industries, and supplying drinking water to Hyderabad and Secunderabad by creating a series of storage tanks and a network of pipelines.

#### Which rivers are involved?

- The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River (a major tributary of Godavari River) and Godavari River.
- Pranahita river is a confluence of various other smaller tributaries like Wardha, Penganga and Wainganga Rivers.

### **GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

#### 'Back to the village' Outreach Programme

The Jammu and Kashmir state government has launched its ambitious outreach programme, 'Back to the Village'.

#### Back to the Village

- As part of the program, bureaucrats will spend the next 36 hours in different panchayats, gathering feedback from people on development of their areas.
- The eight-day programme is being organised across all Panchayats of the state.
- Under the 'Back to the Village' programme, government officers will be spending two days and one night in different panchayats.
- During their stay, they will hold meetings with elected 'panches' and 'sarpanches', hold 'gram' (village) and 'mahila sabhas' (women assemblies) in addition to other grassroots level interactions.
- The programme will involve the people of the state and government officials in a joint effort to deliver the mission of equitable development across all our rural areas.
- The feedback obtained during the exercise will help the government in assessing and subsequently tailoring the various central and state government schemes to improve delivery of village-specific services.

#### Objectives of the programme

- The outreach initiative is primarily aimed at energizing the 4,483 panchayats and directing development efforts in rural areas through community participation and to create in the rural masses an earnest desire for a decent standard of living.
- The basic objective of this programme is to move governance from its seat of operation to the doorsteps of the people in villages.
- It will focus on four main goals viz. energising panchayats, collecting feedback on delivery of government schemes and programmes, capturing specific economic potential and undertaking assessment of needs of villages, besides affording an opportunity to gazetted officers to visit the villages.

### **DEFENCE**

#### Varunastra Torpedoes

Indian Navy and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) have signed a contract recently for supply of heavyweight torpedo Varunastra to Indian Navy.

### Varunastra

- Varunastra was basically a ship-launched, electrically-propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems.
- The weapon system uses its own intelligence in tracing the target. It is the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS-based locating aid.
- It is seven to eight metres long, weighs 1,500 kg and has a diameter of 533 mm.
- The anti-submarine electric torpedo when fired can travel at 40 knots, or 74 kmph.
- The operational range is 40 km and it can carry a warhead weighing 250 kg.
- The weapon has been jointly developed by the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NTSL), Visakhapatnam and the Bharat Dynamics Limited -BDL (Hyderabad).

### Operation Sankalp

- Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region.
- The operation has been launched in the wake of escalating tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers were attacked last week.
- INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations.
- In addition, aerial surveillance in the area is also being done by IN aircraft.
- The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region of the Indian Navy keeps watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### International Yoga Day 2018:

The International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on June 21. It was first introduced by the United Nations on June 21, 2015.

- The main aim is to create an awareness worldwide on the importance of staying fit and healthy.
- Why was June 21 selected to be International Yoga Day? June 21 is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed this date at the United Nations General Assembly 2014.
- 2019 Theme: Yoga for Climate Action

## **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**A little progress each day adds up to Big results.**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: Discuss the importance and need of conservation of indigenous breeds in context of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.**

This mission by central govt. aim to explore the potential & enhance the productivity of the indigenous breeds of India through professional farm management and superior nutrition. For this it is essential to promote conservation and development of indigenous breeds. The “Rashtriya Gokul Mission” aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner and is a focussed project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.

Importance & need for conservation of indigenous breeds:

- During 2012-2013, about 45 million cattle were ‘in milk’ and contributed around 59 million tonnes of milk
- Cattle not only contribute substantially to milk production but are also used as draught animals, for agricultural operations and transport in rural areas
- Most of the agricultural operations by small farmers are performed by bullocks
- They also provide cow dung (organic manure), cow urine (medicinal value)
- Indigenous cattle are categorized as Zebu and are suited for draught power because of the presence of a hump
- Indigenous cattle are well known for their quality of heat tolerance and ability to withstand extreme climatic conditions
- Studies indicate that temperature rise due to global warming will negatively impact milk production
- The annual loss in milk production of cattle and buffaloes due to thermal stress in 2020 will be about 3.2 million tonnes of milk costing more than Rs 5000 Crore at current price rate
- The decline in milk production and reproductive efficiency will be highest in crossbred cattle followed by buffaloes. Indigenous Breeds will be least affected by climate change as they are more hardy and robust
- Some of the indigenous breeds have enormous potential to become high yielding commercial milch animals under optimal farm management
- The pre-requisites for the development of a breed are- a) the presence of a minimum base population and b) a wide selection differential for economic traits
- The indigenous dairy breeds with potential for development as commercially viable milch cattle in a shorter time frame are- Sahiwal in Punjab; Rathi and Tharparkar in Rajasthan; and Gir and Kankrej in Gujarat
- If these breeds are selectively crossed with bulls selected through sibling and progeny testing, the offsprings would be commercially viable. In this manner the entire population of the breed can be upgraded in a few generations

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIR BASED MCQS**

1. Gokul Gram setup under Rashtriya Gokul Mission is
  - (a) **Source for supply of high genetic breeding stock to the farmers**
  - (b) Small scale industry to prepare milk products
  - (c) Breeding tract of farmers
  - (d) Fodder production industry for indigenous cattle
2. Which of the following is/are the objectives of Rashtriya Gokul Mission?
  1. Development and conservation of indigenous breeds
  2. Enhance milk production.
  3. Distribute bulls for natural service.Select the correct answer from the codes given below:
  - (a) 1 and 2
  - (b) 1 and 3
  - (c) 2 and 3
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3**
3. Consider the following statements w.r.t the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).
  1. The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River which is a tributary of Godavari.
  2. It is an off-shoot of the original Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme taken up by the Andhra Pradesh government.Which of the statements is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2**
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. 'Back to Village' an ambitious rural outreach programmes has been implemented by which of the following state?
  - (a) Haryana
  - (b) Jammu and Kashmir**
  - (c) Punjab
  - (d) Himachal Pradesh
5. Which of the following statements is/are correct w.r.t the Varunashtra?
  1. It is a ship-launched, electrically-propelled underwater weapon.
  2. The Varunashtra Torpedoes are jointly being developed by the DRDO and Bharat Dynamics Limited.Select the correct answer from the codes given below:
  - (a) 1 only**
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Operation Sankalp which was recently in news is for
  - (a) Providing asylums to the Rohingya Refugees
  - (b) Providing security to the Indian Vessels in Gulf of Oman**
  - (c) Airlifting the Indian Labours from Iraq
  - (d) None of the above