



## Current Affairs of the Day

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#### ➤ Polity & Governance:

1. Postal ballot plan was discussed with parties: EC

### PAPER 3:

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1. Foodgrain scheme meets less than 15% of target
2. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector

#### ➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

1. Ministry reconstitutes Central Zoo Authority
2. World Bank approves funds for Namami Gange



## Foodgrain scheme meets less than 15% of target

### Key Points:

- The scheme to provide free rations to eight crore migrants under the **Aatmanirbhar package** reached less than 15% of its target beneficiaries, according to data provided by the Food Ministry.
- Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Telangana had 0% distribution, and seven States had less than 1%.
- The scheme was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in mid-May to support migrant workers without ration cards, but the Centre had left it to the States to identify such people.
- Overall, foodgrains were distributed to 1.21 crore people in May, 15% of the estimated eight crore beneficiaries. In June, less than 93 lakh people, approximately 11.6%, received rations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the extension till November of the **Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**, originally meant to provide additional free foodgrains and pulses to all ration card-holders from April to May.
- However, the Aatmanirbhar food package, which was meant to provide free foodgrains to migrants and those without ration cards in May and June, was not extended.
- Telangana lifted its entire allocation of grain under the Aatmanirbhar scheme from the Central pool, but did not distribute it to any beneficiary at all. Andhra Pradesh distributed grain to 600 people in May and 800 in June. Gujarat

### Target missed

The table shows the State-wise distribution % of foodgrains to beneficiaries under the Atmanirbhar package in May and June

Distribution % to beneficiaries	States
0	A.P., Goa, Telangana
>0 and <5	Gujarat (0.1), Jharkhand (0.3), Odisha (0.5), Meghalaya (0.8), M.P. (1.5), Uttarakhand (1.9), Bihar (2.1), U.P. (2.3), Kerala (3.1)
>5 and <20	Chhattisgarh (5.7), T.N. (6.5), Sikkim (9.2), Maharashtra (11), Tripura (11.2), Manipur (13.8), W.B. (15.2), J&K (19.3)
>20 and <50	Karnataka (25.5), Mizoram (29.8), Punjab (31.5), Assam (32.4), Arunachal Pradesh (37.4), Delhi (37.5)
>50	Haryana (51.1), Nagaland (53.1), H.P. (55), Rajasthan (95.1)



distributed grain to just over 4,500 in May (0.1% of its target) and none in June. Jharkhand and Odisha both distributed less than 0.5% of their targets.

- On the other end of the scale, Rajasthan distributed grain to more than 42 lakh people each month, 95% of its estimated target. Himachal Pradesh and Haryana distributed more than 50% of their targets, while Punjab, Delhi, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh all crossed the 30% mark.

## Postal ballot plan was discussed with parties: EC

### Key Points:

- The Election Commission of India said on Wednesday that political parties had been consulted on its decision to extend postal ballot to more categories of voters.

### The Representation of the People Act, 1951:

- The Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for any person to be given the postal facility by the ECI in consultation with the government.
- The ECI had recommended that three categories of electors – those 80 years and above, persons with disabilities, and essential services workers – be given the facility.
- This was notified by the government on October 22, 2019 and the ECI rolled it out as a pilot in seven constituencies in the Jharkhand elections last year.

## Ministry reconstitutes Central Zoo Authority

### Central Zoo Authority (CZA):

- The Environment Ministry has reconstituted the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to include an expert from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and a molecular biologist.
- The CZA is a **statutory body chaired by the Environment Minister** and tasked with regulating zoos across the country.
- The authority lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.



- Apart from the chairman, it consists of 10 members and a member-secretary. Almost all of them are officials in the Environment Ministry and non-government experts are those who are wildlife conservationists or retired e

## World Bank approves funds for Namami Gange

### Key Points:

- World Bank has approved a 5 year loan to the Namami Gange project worth Rs. 3,000 crore (\$400 million).
- World Bank fund will help to develop and improve infrastructure projects to abate pollution in the river basin.
- Namami Gange project or the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has already received Rs. 4,535 crore (\$600 million) from the World Bank until December 2021.

### Value Added Information

#### About Namami Gange Mission:

- Aims at providing comprehensive and sustainable solutions for a cleaner ecosystem along the stretch of 97 towns and 4,465 villages on the Ganga stem.
- **Namami Gange is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, and its state counterparts—State Programme Management Groups.
- The project covers eight states and seeks to fully connect all 1,632 Gram Panchayats along the Ganga to a sanitation system by 2022.

#### About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

- It is the implementation wing of the National Ganga Council.
- It was established in the year 2011 as a registered society.
- It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It has a two-tier management structure.
- It comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.



## Objectives:

- To ensure effective control of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach.
- To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development.

## Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector

- Banks have sanctioned more than Rs. 1 lakh-crore loans under the Rs. 3-lakh crore **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** for the **MSME sector** reeling under COVID-19-induced economic slowdown.
- The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs. 20-lakh crore '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**' package announced by Finance Minister last month.

## Value Added Information

### Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):

- The ECLGS scheme has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the MSME sector.
- The Scheme aims at mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs by providing them additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.
- The main objective of the Scheme is to provide an incentive to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Banks, Financial Institutions (FIs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to increase access to, and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers, in view of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 crisis, by providing them 100 per cent guarantee for any losses suffered by them due to non-repayment of the GECL funding by borrowers.