

Current Affairs of the Day

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1. JK-IGRAMS & National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)

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➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

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Guidelines to Support Artisans in Beekeeping & Pottery Activities released

- The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME, has announced new guidelines to support artisans in Beekeeping and Pottery activity.

Beekeeping guidelines:

- Government will provide assistance with Bee boxes and Tool kits.
- Under this scheme, Bee boxes will also be distributed to Migrant workers in Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan districts.
- A five-day beekeeping training will also be provided.

Objective:

- To create sustainable employment;
- To create awareness about Honey and other Hive Products etc.
- During 2020-21, the scheme proposes to cover a total of 2,050 Beekeepers, Entrepreneurs, Farmers, Unemployed Youth, Adivasis.
- Additional amount of 50 crore rupees has also been kept for developing Beekeeping honey clusters under the 'SFURTI' scheme of the Ministry.

Pottery Guidelines:

- Government will provide assistance with pottery wheel, Clay Blunger, Granulator etc.
- It will also provide Wheel Pottery Training for traditional pottery artisans and Press Pottery training for pottery as well as non-pottery artisans in Self- Help Groups.
- Jigger-Jolly training programme shall also be provided.
- A total of 6,075 Traditional and others non-traditional pottery artisans, Rural Unemployed youth, Migrant Labourers will get benefited.

JK-IGRAMS & National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) Launched

- Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) launched the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS) in order to create an interface with the public and focus on governance issues in the Union Territory.
- The National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) was also launched.

Key takeaways:

Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS):

- The system is being launched on a pilot basis in three districts — Jammu, Srinagar, and Reasi.
- It will gradually be rolled out in the remaining districts by October 2.
- It will make the existing mechanism more robust and efficient.
- Action will follow if any delay is found while addressing people's grievances.
- District Collectors and Deputy Commissioners will be the primary nodes for receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances.

National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS):

- J&K will be the 10th among States and UTs to become part of NGDRS.
- NGDRS represents a major shift from the existing manual registration system to online registration of all transactions in sale-purchase and transfer of land.
- Stamp papers have been replaced by e-stamps which have been incorporated in coordination with Stockholding Corporation of India.

Phytoplankton Biomass in Bay of Bengal

- A team of scientists from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have discovered a way to measure the quantity of chlorophyll-a that indicates abundance of phytoplanktons in the Bay of Bengal in real-time.



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<http://www.sriramsias.com>

Key takeaways:

- Study of phytoplankton biomass is done by analyzing chlorophyll-a. It is a dominant pigment found in phytoplankton cells.
- The scientists closely tracked the long-term trends of chlorophyll-a in the northwestern Bay of Bengal.
- **Findings:** There were two peaks of chlorophyll-a — the primary peak occurred during the pre-southwest monsoon due to the recurrent phytoplankton bloom in the coastal water and the secondary peak occurred during the end of the southwest monsoon, spreading to far offshore areas.
- **Reasons:** (1) Increase in phytoplanktons; (2) Physical forces such as upwelling, wind-induced vertical mixing, convective overturn and chemicals from various sources including river runoff.

Value Added Information

About Phytoplanktons:

- They are tiny microscopic floating plants found in water bodies.
- **Significance of Phytoplanktons:** (1) They contribute more than half of the oxygen in the environment; (2) They reduce global warming by absorbing human-induced carbon dioxide; (3) They also serve as the base of the ocean food chain; (4) They are important bio indicators regulating life in oceans; (5) Their abundance determines the overall health of the ocean ecosystem.

Initiatives for Farmers launched

- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and Home Delivery facility of Fertilizers (RBK) for farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Key takeaways:

- **Under POS 3.1 version:** Contactless OTP based authentication option has been introduced. Farmers will be able to purchase fertilizers without touching finger print sensors.
- **SMS Gateway** will periodically send SMS to farmers about availability of fertilizers at retail outlets from where he last purchased the fertilizer.



- Under an initiative of Home delivery of Fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh through Rythu Bharosa Kendralu (RBK) state Government has launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu (RBKs) in all gram panchayats to provide farmers with quality inputs and allied services.
- Under this system, farmers after biometric authentication can order fertilizers from RBK (Rythu Bharosa Kendra) in their village and fertilizer will be delivered at their door step.