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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26th August 2021

SAMARTH Scheme: Upskilling Handicrafts Artisans

- To meet the skill gap in the industry, **Ministry of Textiles** is implementing Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector.
- Ministry of Textiles adopts **65 clusters** for overall development of artisans in a time bound manner.
- The upskilling of the handicrafts artisans in these adopted clusters are being done through providing technical and soft skill trainings under **SAMARTH** scheme to enable sustainable livelihood either by wage or self-employment.
- First batch in each **63 training centers** have been completed successfully benefitting 1,565 artisans. The second batch will also complete during the month of August 2021 benefitting 1,421 artisans.
- Additionally, **65 new handicrafts training centers** are being established to scale up the training program so that the maximum number of artisans can be benefitted.



100 days 'SUJALAM' Campaign Begins

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** began Campaign For Making More ODF Plus Villages By Undertaking Wastewater Management At Village Level.

- ‘SUJALAM’ Campaign to Ensure Sustainability of ODF Gains & Create One Million Soak Pits.
- ‘SUJALAM’ Campaign Aims to Achieve ODF Plus Status for Villages Across The Country In An Accelerated Manner.
- It would boost momentum of **SBM-G phase II** activities through community participation, and it will increase awareness about ODF-plus activities.



AICTE and BPR&D to launch MANTHAN-2021

- Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on 26th August 2021 will be launching **MANTHAN 2021**.
- It is a unique **national initiative** to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the **21st century** faced by our **intelligence agencies**.
- During these 36 hours **online hackathon**, scheduled from **28th November to 1st December 2021**, selected youths from education institutions across the country and registered start-ups will participate to offer strong, safe, and effective technology solutions using their technical expertise and innovative skills.

Samarth Udyog Bharat 4.0 Platform

- **Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) Bangalore**, under the **SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0** Platform organized a webinar on “**Expert Talks from Samarth Udyog Centers**” to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The objective was to listen to the experts of the Samarth Udyog Centers on the **indigenous technology developments** & the ways for collaborations in the domain of **Smart Manufacturing & Industry 4.0**.
- **CMTI** is a **Research & Development organization** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, focusing on providing **'Technology Solutions'** to the manufacturing sector and assisting technological growth in the country.

NITI Aayog Chalks Roadmap for Decarbonizing Indian Transport

- **NITI Aayog** and the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, India, jointly launched the **'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'** in India as part of the **NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)**.
- The Indian transport sector is vast and vibrant and is thus stands **third in national CO2 emissions**.
- Further, data from (IEA, 2020; Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, 2018) suggests that within the transport sector, road transport contributes to more than **90% of the total CO2 emissions**.
- A need is felt to create a favourable ecosystem for different stakeholders to leverage and streamline EVs across the country.
- Thus, the initiative fulfils the objective of providing a common platform to multiple stakeholders.
- The launch of the **'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'** was held virtually and inaugurated by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. Dignitaries from various ministries and NDC-TIA project partners, along with stakeholders from the mobility and the energy sector, were present at the launch.
- In his keynote address, CEO, NITI Aayog said, "The Stakeholder Forum on Transport Decarbonization is a defining milestone for the electric mobility ecosystem in the country. It will bring together CEOs, researchers, academics, multilateral agencies, financial institutions as well as the Central and state government on a common platform. This will help in the development of innovative business models resulting in targeted results and the holistic growth of the electric mobility space in India. Through effective collaboration, cooperation, and convergence, we must work together to usher clean mobility in India."

SAMRIDH Scheme to Help Startups in the Early Stage

- **SAMRIDH** will create a conducive platform for **Indian software product startups** to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- The programme is being implemented by **MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH)**.
- Government will support **startups and entrepreneurs** in the most challenging phase which is the **initial risk phase**.
- The **SAMRIDH initiative** will not only provide funding support to startups but will also help in bringing skill sets together which will help them become successful.
- The SAMRIDH programme will focus on accelerating **300 start-ups** by providing **customer connect, investor connect, and international expansion opportunities in the next three years**.
- Also, an investment of up to **Rs 40 lakh to startups**, based on their current valuation and **growth stage** will be provided through selected accelerators. It will also facilitate equal matching investment by the accelerator or investor.
- The programme aims to further the Indian startup growth which has seen the emergence of **63 unicorns (Startups with over \$1 billion valuation)**, making India the third largest unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of **\$168 billion**.

India-ISA Energy Transition Dialogue 2021

- Union Minister of Power and MNRE, Shri R.K. Singh, delivers keynote address at the '**India-ISA Energy Transition Dialogue 2021**'.
- Emission reduction of **28% over 2005 levels**, against the target of **35% by 2030** already achieved by India.
- Achieving coveted milestone of **100 GW of installed Renewable Energy Capacity** matter of joy and pride for Indian power sector.
- Rising demand necessitates power system flexibility and introduction of various storage technologies.
- India taking the lead to support a global energy transition that is just, inclusive, and equitable.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The results of the election announced on 23 May 2019, led to the formation of the

- A. 15th Lok Sabha
- B. 16th Lok Sabha
- C. 17th Lok Sabha
- D. 18th Lok Sabha

ANSWER: C

2. The heads of the states of _____ countries were invited as guests of honor for the swearing-in ceremony of 2019 Council of Ministers.

- A. BIMSTEC
- B. SAARC
- C. ASEAN
- D. SCO

ANSWER: A

3. The _____ Ministry of the Republic of India is the Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi that was formed after the 2019 general election.

- A. 19th
- B. 20th
- C. 22nd
- D. 25th

ANSWER: C

4. Department of Atomic Energy is headed by

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Dr Harsh Vardhan
- C. Dr Jitendra Singh
- D. Narendra Modi

ANSWER: D

5. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Narendra Singh Tomar
- C. Dr Jitendra Singh
- D. Ram Vilas Paswan

ANSWER: A

6. Minister of Education

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Dharmendra Pradhan
- C. Ramesh Pokhriyal
- D. Ram Vilas Paswan

ANSWER: B

7. Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- A. Mahendra Nath Pandey
- B. Dharmendra Pradhan
- C. Ramesh Pokhriyal
- D. Ram Vilas Paswan

ANSWER: B

8. Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- A. Mahendra Nath Pandey
- B. Pralhad Joshi
- C. Nithin Gadkari
- D. Narayan Rane

ANSWER: D

9. Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

- A. Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- B. Pralhad Joshi
- C. Nithin Gadkari
- D. Sarbananda Sonowal

ANSWER: D

10. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

- A. Thawar Chand Gehlot
- B. Arjun Munda
- C. Virendra Kumar Khatik
- D. Sarbananda Sonowal

ANSWER: C





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