

# NEWS TODAY

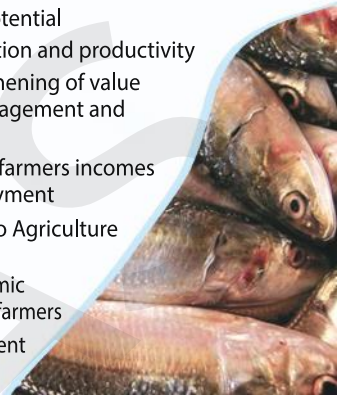
## PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHED PM MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY)

- PMMSY (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and dairying) intends to **address critical gaps in fish production and productivity**, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management etc.
- It primarily focuses on adopting '**Cluster or Area based approaches**' and **creation of Fisheries clusters through backward and forward linkages**.
- It will be implemented as an umbrella scheme with **two separate Components**-
  - > Central Sector Scheme (100% central funding) i.e entire project/unit cost will be borne by central Government.
  - > Centrally Sponsored Scheme include:
    - » Enhancement of Production and Productivity
    - » Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Management
    - » Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework
- It will be implemented **from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25**.
- PMMSY **envisage suitable linkages and convergence with various other schemes** such as MGNREGS for ponds construction and water bodies development; NRLM for marketing; Sagarmala project for fishing harbours.
- **PM also launched e-Gopala app**, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
  - > It will help in managing livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms, guiding farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate medicine etc.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

#### Aims and Objectives

- Harnessing of fisheries potential
- Enhancing of fish production and productivity
- Modernizing and strengthening of value chain - post -harvest management and quality improvement
- Doubling fishers and fish farmers incomes and generation of employment
- Enhancing contribution to Agriculture GVA and exports
- Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers
- Robust fisheries management and regulatory framework



## ELECTION COMMISSION (EC) PROPOSES 10% HIKE IN POLL CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE CAP

- EC has argued that in order to **follow EC's restrictions on rallies and meetings during a pandemic**, a candidate has to make added expenditure.
- **Rule 90 of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961** prescribes that total election expenditure by candidate shall not exceed maximum limit. (**For Lok Sabha: 70 lakhs, Assembly: 28 lakh**).
  - > A limit has been fixed for all expenses **such as prints and electronic advertisements, public meetings, etc.**
  - > EC imposes limits on campaign expenditure incurred by a candidate, **but not by a political party**.
- It is **mandatory for all candidates to open an account in bank for expenses**, payment of which will be made through cheque.
  - > Candidates are required to submit their **expenditure statement to EC within 30 days of completion of the elections**.
  - > An incorrect account, or expenditure beyond the ceiling, **can attract disqualification for up to three years**.
- **Issues with expenditure limit:** Candidate do not provide true poll expenses, Political Parties are not covered, Limit is counter-productive as honest candidate who can raise white money openly cannot spend more than maximum limit.

## LEVELS AND TRENDS IN CHILD MORTALITY REPORT 2020

- Report shows child mortality rates, from newborns to adolescents, as well as progress made toward meeting SDG targets by 2030.
- **Key Findings:**
  - > Under-five mortality rates (**U5MR**) **have declined by almost 60% since 1990**, from 93 to 38 in 2019. SubSaharan Africa has the highest U5MR.
    - » **Nigeria and India account for almost a third.**
  - > **Newborn mortality is not decreasing as quickly** as mortality among children aged 1 to 59 months.
    - » In 2019, 47 % of all under-five deaths occurred in the neonatal period (40% in 1990).
  - > **Adolescent mortality has declined** by nearly 40% since 1990
  - > In 2019, **122 countries had achieved U5MR below SDG target** of 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births.
  - > **India witnessed a decrease in neonatal mortality** rates between 1990 and 2019 from 57 to 22.
    - » Sex-specific U5MR in 1990 stood at 122 males and 131 females. It has declined to 34 males and 35 females in 2019.
- **Access to life saving interventions is critical** to ensuring steady mortality declines in low- and middle-income countries.

## INDIA, JAPAN INK MUTUAL MILITARY LOGISTICS AGREEMENT

- India and Japan signed Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) for **Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces** of India and The Self-Defence Forces of Japan.
  - > Such an agreement is also known as Mutual Logistics Services Pact. India signed similar agreements with **USA, Australia, France, South Korea, Oman, Singapore**.
    - » Pact with Russia is under consideration.
- The agreement will remain in force for 10 years and will be automatically extended for periods of 10 years unless one of the parties decides to end it.

#### Significance

- It allows their **militaries to access each other's bases** during bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief etc.
- **Considering China's** fast opening up bases (eg. Djibouti) in Indo-Pacific region, such pact gives India access to the region **without setting up its own expensive overseas military bases**.
  - > **Earlier pacts signed with the US and France** provide for accessing crucial bases in **Djibouti, Guam and Reunion Islands** among others.
- It is part of India's efforts in **expanding overall strategic cooperation** with Japan in Indo-Pacific region under the framework of **four nation coalition 'Quad'** (USA-Australia-India-Japan)

- **Under-five mortality rate:** It is probability of dying between birth and exactly 5 years of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.
- **Neonatal mortality rate:** Probability of dying between birth and 28 days of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.
- **Adolescent (ages 10-19) mortality rate:** Probability of dying between 10 and 19 years of age, expressed per 1,000 children aged 10.

# FINANCE MINISTER UNVEILS DOORSTEP BANKING SERVICES AND DECLARES EASE 2.0 INDEX RESULTS

- **Doorstep Banking Services** is envisaged as part of EASE (**Enhanced Access and Service Excellence**) Reforms to provide convenience of banking services to customers at their door step.
  - > This is provided through universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App.
  - > Customers can also track their service request through these channels.
- **EASE** reform agenda for public sector banks (PSB) was launched in 2018. It aims at **institutionalizing clean and smart banking**.
  - > **Capital infusion in PSBs** was dependent on PSB performance on these reform themes.
- **EASE is based on 6 themes (See Box)**
- EASE 2.0 **builds on the foundation of EASE 1.0** and introduces new reform Action Points across six themes to make reforms journey **irreversible, strengthen processes and systems, and drive outcomes**.
- EASE reforms index **measures the performance of each PSB** on 120+ objective metrics across six themes. It provides all PSBs a comparative evaluation vis-à-vis benchmarks and peers on the Reforms Agenda.

- **Customer Responsiveness:** EASE for customer comfort
- **Responsible Banking:** Financial stability, governance for ensuring outcomes, and EASE for clean & commercially prudent business
- **Credit Off-take:** EASE for the borrower and proactive delivery of credit
- **PSBs as Udyami Mitra:** EASE of financing and bill discounting for MSMEs
- **Deepening Financial Inclusion & Digitalisation:** EASE through near-home banking, microinsurance and digitalisation
- **Ensuring outcomes - HR:** Developing personnel for Brand PSB

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>New clause in defence Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the existing policy, <b>defence industry can bring FDI up to 49% under the automatic route, and up to 75% under government route</b>, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.</li> <li>• New policy, raising FDI cap through <b>automatic approval in the defence sector from 49% to 74%, has a National Security clause as a condition</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Government now reserves the right to review any foreign investment</b> in the Defence Sector that may affect national security.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>India Post launches Five Star Villages Scheme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It aims <b>to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Schemes covered under this include:</b> Savings Bank accounts, Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts, Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It seeks <b>to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services</b>, especially in interior villages.</li> <li>• If a village attains <b>universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status</b>; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shipping Ministry launched SAROD-Ports (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will help in settlement of <b>disputes through arbitrations in maritime sector</b>, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.</li> <li>• It is <b>established under Societies Registration Act, 1860</b> with following objectives:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Affordable and timely resolution of disputes</b> in fair manner.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism</b> with panel of technical experts as arbitrators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/ Concessionaire/ Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guidelines for cigarette, bidi butt disposal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Green Tribunal has directed Central Pollution Control Board to lay down guidelines</b> for disposal of cigarette and bidi butts within the next three months.</li> <li>• Earlier, <b>MoEF had claimed that Cellulose acetate</b> a major component of cigarette and beedi butts is a <b>nontoxic, non-irritant, and biodegradable material</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>US Spacecraft to be named after Kalpana Chawla</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next spacecraft carrying supplies to International Space Station <b>will be called SS Kalpana Chawla</b>.</li> <li>• Kalpana Chawla was <b>born in Karnal, Haryana on March 17, 1962</b>. She began her <b>career at NASA in 1988</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Her work concentrated on the simulation of complex air flows encountered by aircraft flying in ground-effect.</li> <li>&gt; She became the <b>first woman of Indian descent to go to space</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>She lost her life during the STS-107 mission</b> (2003) when Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere.</li> </ul>
<p><b>125th birth anniversary of Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was a <b>Telugu writer</b> whose works included poetry, novels, drama, short stories and speeches.</li> <li>• In 1971 he was awarded with <b>Jnanpith Award for his book "Ramayana Kalpavriksham"</b>. He was the <b>first telugu writer</b> to receive Jnanpith Award.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Jnanpith Award is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith (a literary and research organisation) to an author for their outstanding contribution towards literature.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• His <b>'Veyipadagalu'</b> was translated into Hindi by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao as <b>Sahasraphan</b>.</li> <li>• Some of his <b>poems and novels have been translated</b> into English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Urdu and Sanskrit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SC stays reservation to Marathas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC <b>stayed implementation of 2018 Maharashtra law granting reservation to Marathas</b> in education &amp; jobs.</li> <li>• It referred the case to a <b>Constitution bench</b> (5 or more judges' bench).</li> <li>• The appeals challenging the Maratha quota law contended it has breached the <b>50% cap on reservation declared</b> by a SC in Indra Sawhney case.</li> </ul>

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