

# NEWS TODAY

## DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS RANKED 3RD AMONGST 65 MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS IN SURVEY REPORT ON DATA GOVERNANCE QUALITY INDEX (DGQI)

- Survey was conducted by **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)** to assess Ministries /Departments' performance on implementation of Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- DGQI exercise is a self-assessment based review of data preparedness levels across ministries/departments to **drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning** from best practices.
  - In the survey, an online questionnaire was **prepared under six major themes of DGQI** -- data generation; data quality; use of technology; data analysis, use and dissemination; data security and Human Resource capacity and case studies.
  - To avoid straightforward irrelevant comparisons, **ministries/departments were classified into six categories:** Administrative, Strategic, Infrastructure, Social, Economic and Scientific.
- About DMEO**
  - It is an **attached office under NITI Aayog**, aimed at fulfilling the organization's **monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate** and building the M&E ecosystem in India.
  - Objectives of DMEO:** To enable data-driven policy making, to mainstream rigorous outcome monitoring and evaluation, to provide data and tools to drive effectiveness and efficiency of government programs, help identify weaknesses and bottlenecks etc.

### ABOUT CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CS) AND CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES (CSS)

- CS are **100% funded by the Union government** and implemented by the Central Government machinery. These are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List.
- Under CSS a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments. **There are 29 CSS.** These are broadly divided into two categories – core of the core schemes and core schemes.



## DENYING OVERTIME WAGES AFFRONT TO WORKER'S RIGHT TO LIFE: SUPREME COURT (SC)

- SC was hearing a **petition against notifications issued by Gujarat government granting temporary relaxations to employers** related to working hours and payment of wages under the Factories Act, 1948.
  - State sought to justify changes **stating COVID-19 pandemic is a public emergency** as defined in Section 5 of the Act.
  - Under Section 5, in a public emergency **State Government can exempt all registered factories from various provisions relating to weekly hours, daily hours, intervals for rest etc.**
- SC quashed government's notification and made following observation**
  - Notification is an **affront to workers' right to life and right against forced labour** that are secured by Articles 21 and 23 of Constitution.
  - Economic slowdown created by the COVID-19 pandemic **does not qualify as an internal disturbance threatening the security of state.** So government cannot provide a blanket exemption to all factories.
  - Blanket exemption is indicative of the **intention to capitalize on the pandemic to force an already worn-down class of society**, into chains of servitude.
- SC also invoked its powers under Article 142 and **directed that all workmen who had worked overtime be paid overtime wages** at double the ordinary rate of wages.

## NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU (NCRB) DATA SHOWS SEDITION CASES UP IN 2019 BUT CONVICTION AT ALL-TIME LOW

- NCRB data show that **93 sedition cases were filed in 2019 (70 in 2018) but only 3% of cases resulted in conviction.** Karnataka saw maximum sedition cases, followed by Assam.
- Section 124A of Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860** defines sedition as an act that brings or attempts to bring into **hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India** by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise.
  - Under this Section, a person is liable to be punished with imprisonment for life or up to three years with fine.
- Sedition case **comes under Offences Against State category** that also includes other cases filed under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, damage to property Act, Official Secrets Act and under IPC Sections 121 (waging or attempting to wage war against the State) etc.
- Verdicts in Romesh Thappar case, Kedar Nath Singh case, Kanahiya Kumar case **have redefined and narrowed ambit of seditious act** only if it had essential ingredients as-Disruption of public order, attempt to violently overthrow a lawful government and threatening security of State or of public.

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MoRTH) PUBLISHES RULES FOR THE PROTECTION OF GOOD SAMARITANS (GS)

- Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, inserted a new section "Protection of good Samaritans"** which provides for protection of GS from any civil or criminal action.
  - In last ten years, road crashes have killed over 13 lakh people in India. **Three out of four people are hesitant to help injured accident victims** on roads due to fear of police harassment, detention at hospitals, and prolonged legal formalities.
- Now MoRTH has published the rules which includes:**
  - Right of **GS to be treated respectfully without any discrimination** on the grounds of religion, nationality, caste or sex.
  - GS shall not be compelled to disclose his/her name, identity, address or any such other personal details.** However, he may voluntarily choose to disclose the same.
  - Every public and private hospital shall **publish a charter in Hindi, English and vernacular language** stating the rights of GS under the Act.
  - Detailed **guidelines and process for questioning or examination** if a person has voluntarily agreed to become a witness in the case in which he has acted as a GS.

A Good Samaritan is a person who, in good faith, without expectation of payment or reward and without any duty of care or special relationship, voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency situation.



# HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES 'DECADE OF HEALTHY AGEING (2020-2030) (DHA) ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS' (1ST OCT)

- Healthy Ageing is the **process of developing and maintaining functional ability** that enables wellbeing in older age.
- DHA, endorsed by World Health Assembly in August 2020, is an opportunity to **bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, private sector etc for ten years** of collaborative action to improve lives of older people, their families, and communities in which they live.
- In India, **DHA will include evolving convergence within various national health programs and also promoting inter-sectoral coordination with other line Departments/Ministries.**
  - As per Health in India report, **percentage of aged persons (age 60 and above)** was 6.6% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India.
- **Initiatives taken in India**
  - **Integrated Programme for Older Persons** to improve quality of life by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care etc.
  - **National Programme for Health Care for the Elderly** to provide an easy access to promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services through primary health care approach.

## 10 PRIORITIES TOWARDS A DECADE OF HEALTHY AGEING (BY WHO)

1. Establishing a Platform for Innovation and Change
2. Supporting country planning and action
3. Collecting better global data on Healthy Ageing
4. Promoting research that addresses the current and future needs of older people
5. Aligning health systems to the needs of older people
6. Laying the Foundations for a Long-term-Care System in Every Country
7. Ensuring the Human Resources Necessary for Integrated Care
8. Undertaking a Global Campaign to Combat Ageism
9. Defining the economic case for investment
10. Enhancing the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Community

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Ministerial panel to clear FDI from border countries</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>inter-ministerial committee will evaluate the proposals initially</b> before pushing them forward to the relevant ministries and departments for a final decision.</li> <li>• Earlier, government made its prior <b>approval compulsory for foreign direct investments (FDIs) from all the bordering countries to prevent opportunistic takeovers</b> of domestic firms following COVID-19 pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ India shares land border with <b>China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP) granted an additional borrowing limit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to Covid-19, central government allowed additional borrowing limit of up to 2% of <b>gross state domestic product (GSDP)</b> to states for year 2020-21.</li> <li>• <b>1% of this is subject to implementation of 4 state-level reforms:</b> (weightage of each reform is 0.25% of GSDP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System.</li> <li>➢ Ease of doing business reform.</li> <li>➢ Urban Local body/ utility reforms.</li> <li>➢ Power Sector reforms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• UP and AP were granted additional borrowing permission <b>for undertaking reforms in public distribution system and ease of doing business.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Atal Tunnel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the <b>longest highway tunnel in the World</b> and reduces the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km.</li> <li>• The 9.02 Km long tunnel <b>connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.</b> Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall.</li> <li>• It is <b>built in the PirPanjal range of Himalayas</b> at an altitude of 3000 Mtrs from the Mean Sea Level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Minister of Jal Shakti launches 100-days Campaign for water supply in schools</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Mode Campaign, under National Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), aims <b>to provide potable piped water supply in Schools &amp; Anganwadi Centres.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ JJM aims at the universal coverage of provision of <b>tap water connection to every rural home by 2024.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• These facilities will be <b>operated and maintained by the Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee</b> i.e. Village Water &amp; Sanitation Committee or Paani Samiti.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bongosagar</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the <b>second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise.</b></li> <li>• <b>Other military exercise between India and Bangladesh:</b> Ex SAMPRITI, IN-BN CORPAT, IN-BN BILAT, IN-BN SF EXERCISE, TABLE TOP EX, SAMVEDNA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Antisera</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological E, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, has developed highly purified antisera that <b>can be used in prevention and treatment of COVID-19.</b></li> <li>• Antisera are <b>blood sera that contain antibodies against a specific viral toxin or antigen.</b> Therapy works <b>similar to plasma therapy, but here plasma is obtained from horses</b> that have recovered from viral infection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Plasma therapy is not so reliable because <b>profile of antibodies, their efficacy and concentration keep varying from patient to patient.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Tribes India e-Marketplace</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an initiative through which <b>TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products</b> across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ The suppliers comprise of individual tribal artisans, tribal SHGs, Organisations/ Agencies/ NGOs working with tribals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It will connect tribal forest dwellers and artisans with national and international markets and <b>will further enable their economic welfare and also bring them closer towards mainstream development.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Pakur Honey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>pure Multiflora Honey collected</b> from a variety of flowers and floras <b>by Santhal and Paharia (PVTGs) tribes of Pakur District, Jharkhand.</b></li> <li>• It is 100% natural made from pollen and nectar collected by bees and is a <b>good source of anti-oxidants and antiseptic vitamins, nutrients, enzymes and other herbal properties.</b></li> </ul>

8468022022, 9019066066  
www.visionias.in



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



/c/VisionIASdelhi



/Vision\_IAS



/visionias\_upsc



/VisionIAS\_UPSC