

NEWS TODAY

CABINET APPROVES MISSION KARMAYOGI- NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CIVIL SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING (NPCSCB)

- It aims to make Indian Civil Servant more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.
- NPCSCB will be for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian Culture and sensibilities and also learn from the best institutions and practices across the world.
 - It will cover around 46 lakh Central employees.
 - A sum of Rs.510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- Core guiding principles of NPCSCB
 - Transition from Rules based to Roles based Human Resource management.
 - Emphasize on 'on-site learning' to complement the 'off-site' learning.
 - Calibrate all Civil Service positions to a Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies approach.
 - Partner with the best-in-class learning content creators including public training institutions, universities etc.
 - An opportunity for civil servants to continuously build and strengthen their Behavioral, Functional and Domain Competencies.
- Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training-iGOT Karmayogi Platform.

MISSION KARMAYOGI: THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF NPCSCB

Accountability and Transparency by Design



PM's HR Council - to provide strategic direction to civil services reforms and approve capacity



Cabinet Secretary Coordination Unit - will comprise of select Secretaries & Cadre Controlling Authorities



Capacity Building Commission for standardization & harmonization of the entire capacity building eco-system



SPV - 100% wholly-owned entity which will own manage and maintain iGOT Karmayogi digital platform

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR MONSOON SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT

- As per revised schedule
 - There will be no Question Hour. However, MPs can ask Unstarred questions.
 - Zero Hour will be restricted in both Houses.
- Generally, first hour of a sitting of Parliament is devoted to Questions and this hour is called Question Hour. During this MPs ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for functioning of their ministries.
- Questions are of four types:-
 - **Starred:** Member desires an oral answer from Minister, distinguished with an asterisk, supplementary questions may be asked.
 - **Un-starred:** Member desires written answer, no supplementary question can be asked thereon.
 - **Short Notice Questions:** On a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than 10 days.
 - **Questions to private members:** If question relates to some Bill, Resolution or other matter for which that Member is responsible.
- **Zero Hour starts immediately following Question Hour** and lasts until the agenda for the day i.e regular business of House. It allows member to raise matters without any prior notice.
 - It is not formally recognised in parliamentary procedure.

ADVISORY ISSUED ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RURAL WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) SERVICE PROVIDERS

- With lockdown eased out and socio-economic activities resumed, it is imperative for WASH service providers to follow precautions to avoid contraction and spread of virus.
 - During lockdown Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti had issued an advisory to all States/UTs for ensuring safe drinking water.
- Advisory includes arranging hand-washing equipment, ensuring potable water in quarantine/ isolation centres, Prioritize retrofitting in schools/ anganwadis etc.
- Due to the interdependent nature of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, these three core issues are grouped together under WASH.
 - For example, without toilets, water sources become contaminated; without clean water, basic hygiene practices are not possible.
- Strengthening WASH is needed to reduce diarrhoeal deaths of children under five years, address Chemical contamination of water, reduce neonatal mortality rate etc.
- Implementation of WASH projects include: increased availability of toilets, improved access to drinking water, behaviour change on hygiene and sanitation, greater accessibility to government schemes related to water and sanitation, strengthened community-based institutions.
- India has adopted programs like Swachh Bharat Mission, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, WASH in Schools, WASH in health facilities etc.

FINDINGS, PROGRESS SO FAR IN OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBC) SUB-CATEGORISATION

- A Commission, headed by Justice G. Rohini (retd), to Examine Sub-categorisation of OBCs was formed in 2017. It has been setup under Article 340 that empowers President to appoint a commission to investigate conditions of backward classes.
 - Terms of reference of Commission includes: To examine extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among OBCs, study various entries in Central List of OBCs and recommend corrections etc.
 - OBCs are granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under central government.
- Sub-categorisation means creating categories within OBCs for reservation to ensure "equitable distribution" of representation among all OBC communities.
 - The question of sub-categorisation arises out of the perception that only a few affluent communities among the over 2,600 included in the Central List of OBCs have secured a major part of OBC reservation.
- Key findings so far by commission:
 - 97% of all jobs and educational seats have gone to just 25% of all sub-castes classified as OBCs.
 - 37% of the total OBC communities have zero representation in jobs and educational institutions.
 - 25% of these jobs and seats have gone to just 10 OBC communities.

UN REPORT FLAGS CHANGES IN FOOD SYSTEM TO BOOST CLIMATE ACTION

• Report titled **'Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Food Systems'** seeks to guide policymakers to **increase ambition in NDCs**, which they revise or resubmit under Paris Agreement.

> It was published by WWF, UN Environment Programme, EAT and Climate Focus.

• Under Paris Agreement, **countries will engage in Global Stocktake every five years** to assess collective progress toward the Agreement's long-term goals.

• **Key findings:**

> Food systems account for up to **37% of all greenhouse gas emissions**.

➤ Food system includes **all elements and activities** that relate to production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food and their socio-economic and environmental impacts.

> Over **90% of NDCs fail to take food systems approaches** to reduce these emissions.

> If food production and consumption continue current trajectory, it will **exhaust emissions budgets compatible with 1.5° target (Paris Agreement)**.

> **Adding diet and food loss to climate change plans** can improve mitigation and adaptation contributions towards food systems by as much as 25%.

> Report identifies **ways to address the issue** which includes (see infographic).



ALSO IN NEWS

<p>UNSC Committee 1267</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Security Council (UNSC), has rejected Pakistan's attempts to list Indians as designated terrorists under its 1267 Committee for Counterterrorism Sanctions. • UNSC Committee 1267 was established in 1999, by Resolution 1267, which imposed a limited air embargo and asset freeze on the Taliban. • Over time, measures became a targeted asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities.
<p>Government banned 118 mobile applications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move comes amid fresh incursion bid by the Chinese troops at Line of Actual Control. • Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology banned these apps invoking its power under section 69A of Information Technology Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Under Section 69A, if a website threatens India's defence, its sovereignty and integrity, friendly relations with foreign countries and public order, government can ban it.
<p>Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GII, by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), provides detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 131 countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Its 80 indicators explore a broad vision of innovation, including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication. > WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. • Switzerland is ranked first followed by Sweden. India has been ranked 48th (52nd in 2019).
<p>Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking (WUR) 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE assessed performance of 1527 higher education institutes from 93 countries or regions on several parameters including teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook. • 63 universities from India qualified for the ranking (highest ever from India). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > However, none could make it to top 300. > Among India varsities, the highest rank is occupied by Indian Institute of Science. • United States is the most represented country with 59 entries in top 200. • Top spot: UK's University of Oxford.
<p>National Initiative For Developing And Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, NIDHI-EIR Brochure featuring Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) was launched. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EIR Programme under NIDHI supports aspiring or budding entrepreneur of considerable potential for pursuing a promising technology business idea. • NIDHI is an umbrella program, pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology, for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
<p>Nerve agent Novichok</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per German government, Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a variant of Novichok, a Soviet-era nerve agent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Novichok means newcomer in Russian, and applies to a group of advanced nerve agents developed by Soviet Union in 1970s and 1980s. • Nerve agents cause their toxic effects by preventing the proper operation of an enzyme that acts as the body's off switch for glands and muscles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Without an off switch, glands and muscles are constantly being stimulated.
<p>Shree Narayana Guru (1856–1928)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a saint & social reformer from Kerala. He belonged to the Ezhava caste which was considered avarna. • He gave the universal message, One caste, one religion, one God. • He lent support to the Vaikom Satyagraha for temple entry (1924-25) in Travancore for the lower castes. • Shri Narayana Dharma ParipalanaYogam (SNDP) was founded in 1903 by Dr. Padmanabhan Palpu under his guidance.

8468022022, 9019066066
www.visionias.in

