

PIB gist : March Part 1

1. Centre releases **guidelines for celebrities, social media influencers**. The guidelines called "Endorsements Know-hows!" state that endorsements must be made in simple, clear language, and terms such as "advertisement," "sponsored," "collaboration" or "paid promotion". The guidelines aims to ensure that individuals do not mislead their audiences when endorsing products or services and that they are in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act and any associated rules or guidelines.
2. The **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I** is India's largest social impact fund specifically formed for completing stressed and stalled residential projects.
The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is managed by **SBICAP Ventures Ltd.**, a State Bank Group company.
It is a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI
SWAMIH has so far provided final approval to about 130 projects with sanctions worth over Rs 12,000 crore.
Launched in 2019
The Fund has completed 20,557 homes
Aims to complete over 81,000 homes in the next three years across 30 tier 1 and 2 cities.
3. Ministry of Defence, recently signed contracts with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for procurement of **70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft**.
The HTT-40 is a turbo prop aircraft possessing good low speed handling qualities and provides better training effectiveness.
4. **Bureau of India Standards (BIS)** has prohibited the sale of hallmarked gold jewelry or gold artefacts without **6 digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID)** after 31st March 2023.
Hallmarking was started by the BIS in the year 2000.
Mandatory hallmarking was implemented in 288 districts of the country with effect from June 23, 2021, through the Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order, 2022
5. The Central Government has launched a **High Price Day Ahead Market and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHP)** – an initiative to ensure greater availability of power during the peak demand season
6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an '**Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)**' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) recently.
It was earlier classified as 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'
7. **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022: Findings**
 - Total milk production in the country during 2021-22 is 221.06 million tonnes.
 - In the current year 2021-22, the milk production has registered an annual growth rate of 5.29%.
Top five major milk producing States are Rajasthan (15.05%), Uttar Pradesh (14.93%), Madhya Pradesh (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%).
 - In 2021-22, the total egg production in the country is 129.60 billion nos which has increased by 6.19% as compared to previous year.

- Total five major egg producing States are Andhra Pradesh (20.41%), Tamil Nadu (16.08%), Telangana (12.86%), West Bengal (8.84%) and Karnataka (6.38%).
 - The total meat production in the country is 9.29 million tonnes for the year 2021-22 with an annual growth rate of 5.62%.
 - The total five major meat producing States are Maharashtra (12.25%), Uttar Pradesh (12.14%), West Bengal (11.63%), Andhra Pradesh (11.04%), and Telangana (10.82%).
 - The total wool production in the country during 2021-22 is 33.13 thousand tonnes which has decline by 10.30% as compared to previous year.
 - The top five major wool producing States are Rajasthan (45.91%), Jammu and Kashmir (23.19%), Gujarat (6.12%), Maharashtra (4.78%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.33%).
 - The per-capita availability of milk is 444 gram/day during 2021-22 increased by 17 gram/day over previous year.
8. Invest India, the Board appointed Ms. **Manmeet K Nanda**, IAS, West Bengal Cadre (2000 Batch) as the Managing Director & CEO (Addl charge) of Invest India until a full time regular appointment.
 9. National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely **DigiClaim** under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) Launched in 2016 and is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
 10. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a subsidy of Rs.200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year to be provided to the beneficiaries of **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**. Launched in May 2016 to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) Government has also fixed a target of providing piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts.
 11. A function was held to commemorate the success of "**SWAYATT**", an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government eMarketplace (GeM) in New Delhi. first launched in February 2019
 12. **BHAVISHYA** is a Portal for Pension Payment and Tracking System is being integrated with Pension Seva portal of SBI and will enable Pensioners to get all information and services at one place with single login in the form of the newly created "**Integrated Pensioners' Portal**" (<https://ipension.nic.in>) to ensure "Ease of Living for the elder citizens".
 13. **Anubhav'** is an online initiative that enables submission and display of commendable work done by retiring employees. Initially this facility is being provided only to retiring Central government employees. It is an initiative of the Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India
 14. **NISAR** was envisioned by NASA and ISRO eight years ago in 2014 as a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before. The spacecraft will orbit the Earth in a sun synchronous orbit of 747 Km with an inclination of 98.4 degree for a 12-day repeat cycle. NISAR an Earth-observation satellite, is being jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory.

15. India has been ranked 10th in Medical Tourism Index (MTI) for 2020-2021 out of 46 destinations of the world by Medical Tourism Association.
16. Power Minister launches the **iDEEKSHA Portal**, a platform designed to serve as a one-stop-shop for all energy efficiency and decarbonisation needs of Indian energy-intensive industries.

STAR Rating Programme

This program is for multi-door refrigerators, table and wall-mounted fans, pedestal fans, and induction hobs.

This program is expected to save approximately 11.2 billion units of electricity by 2030 and will enable the reduction of CO2 emission close to 9 million tonne by 2030 and shall support India to transition towards low carbon sustainable growth and achieve its ambition of net zero by 2070. To enhance the impact of PAT, a program namely DEEP (Demonstration of Energy Efficient Project) is being implemented.

17. The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is envisaging a new and unified scheme to strengthen the PDS technology components by standardization of its operation and implementation of data driven decision making through the data analytics.

This scheme aims to transform the entire PDS IT ecosystem by leveraging the usage of Cloud and new age technology which shall be named as Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System -**SMART-PDS**

18. **MSME Competitive (LEAN)** Scheme launched. Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, Visual workplace, Poka Yoka etc under the able guidance of trained and competent LEAN Consultants to attain LEAN levels like Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

19. **Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS)** being rendered for the benefit of farmers in the country under the 'Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa' (GKMS) scheme. The Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the GKMS is operated to prepare biweekly weather based bulletins

20. An umbrella scheme **Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT)** is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for capacity building.

It consists of the following sub-schemes:

R&D in Earth System Science (RDESS)

International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean)

Program for Development of Skilled manpower in Earth System Sciences (DESK)

21. The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (**PM-DevINE**) Scheme was announced as a new Central Sector Scheme in the Union Budget 2022-23. About PM-DevINE Scheme The Scheme with 100% Central funding, will have a total outlay of Rs. 6,600 crore for the 4 year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

PM-DevINE scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) through North Eastern Council or Central Ministries/agencies or State Government agencies.

MCQ for Practice

Q1. Consider the following statements about Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022: Findings:

1. The per-capita availability of milk is 444 gram/day during 2021-22 increased by 17 gram/day
2. Major producer state for meat is Maharashtra
3. Major Producer for Milk is Rajasthan

Choose the correct statements

- (a) 1,2
- (b) 2,3
- (c) 1,3
- (d) 1
- (e) 1,2,3

Ans(e)

Q2. Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) is being implemented by

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) None of these

Ans(c)

Q3. How many digits are there in Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID)?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 12

Ans(b)

Q4. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) iDeeksha portal is for teachers to get trained
- (b) PushP initiative is for greater availability of power during the peak demand season
- (c) SMART-PDS is based on cloud computing and data analytics
- (d) Hallmarking was started by the BIS in the year 2000.
- (e) None

Ans(a)

Q5. In which year SWAYATT program was first launched?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2021
- (e) 2023

Ans(c)