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## Tribal Health Care Research Program (THCRP)



- The Tribal Health Care Research Program (THCRP) was started by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous organization under Central Government, in 1982.
- The project involves studies of the living conditions of tribal people including health related demography; documentation of folk claims and Local Health Traditions (LHT); use of common medicinal plants in the area; propagation of knowledge about hygiene and prevention of diseases; and extending medical aid at door steps.

The objectives of the project are as under:

- To Study the living conditions of tribal people
- To Collect information related to health statistics
- To study dietetic habits, nature and frequency of prevalent diseases, use of common medicinal plants in the area
- To provide medical aid at the door steps of tribals.
- To propagate knowledge about Ayurvedic concept of Pathyapathya including hygiene habits, dietary practice.
- To prevent diseases by adopting healthy way of living & clean environment (Swachhata)
- To provide health care facility to tribal population
- To promote healthy living among tribes
- To collect and document the folk claims and local health traditions to enable research etc.
- The project was executed in 14 states through 15 research institutes under the Council.

# Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) Programme



- The programme was launched in 1974-75 and was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme in 2004

- The scheme has been implemented as a State Sector Scheme during the XI Five Year Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12). During XII Plan, the CADWM programme has been implemented pari-passu with Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).
- Now the programme is being implemented under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY) – Har Khet Ko Pani from 2015-16. The ongoing CADWM programme has now been restricted to implementation of CAD works of 99 prioritized AIBP projects.

## Objective

- The main objective of CADWM Programme is to enhance utilisation of irrigation potential created and improve agriculture productivity and production on a sustainable basis through integrated and coordinated approach involving a multidisciplinary team.

## 'Asom Mala' road project



- PM Modi to lay foundation stone of two hospitals and launch 'Asom Mala' road project in Sonitpur district of Assam today
- 'Asom Mala', aimed at helping improve state highways and major district roads networks in the state
- The Asom Mala program which is expected to be completed within 5 years will provide quality inter-linkage roads between the National Highways and the rural roads network as well as facilitate seamless multi-modal transportation.
- It will interconnect economic growth centres with transportation corridors and improve inter-state connectivity.

## Cold wave grips Himachal Pradesh



- In Himachal Pradesh, tourist hotspot Manali, Kufri, Keylong and Kalpa are shivering at sub-zero temperature after recent snowfall in the state.
- Minimum temperature in the state plunged one to two degrees celsius in the past 24 hours.
- Tribal Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong continued to be the coldest place in the state at minus 13.7 degrees celsius whereas Kalpa recorded a low of minus 6 degrees celsius.
- The minimum temperatures in Manali and Kufri settled at minus 2.4 and minus 0.7 degrees celsius respectively.
- Shimla and Dalhousie registered a low of one and 1.1 degrees celsius.

## Haryana's Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) Scheme



- Recently, there has been a privacy concern with respect to Haryana's Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) Scheme.
- PPP scheme was formally launched in July 2019 to achieve Haryana government's vision for 'paperless' and 'faceless' delivery of schemes, services and benefits offered by the state government.
- Under this, each family is considered a single unit and gets an 8-digit unique identification number, called family ID.
- Family IDs are also linked to independent schemes like scholarships, subsidies and pensions, so as to ensure consistency and reliability.
- It also enables automatic selection of beneficiaries of various schemes, subsidies and pensions.
- The primary objective of Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) is to create authentic, verified and reliable data of all families in Haryana.
- The PPP, mathematically, is an integral number of Aadhaar
- While Aadhaar represents an individual as a unit, a PPP represents a family as a unit
- Most of our government schemes are structured around the family
- It is not structured around an individual
- For example, ration eligibility is there for the family but the family can split it into various members as long as they are above 18 years and say they are separating entitlements for all individuals



## Monpa Handmade Paper



- The Monpa Handmade Paper (1000-year old heritage art) of Arunachal Pradesh has been revived by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The fine-textured handmade paper, which is called Mon Shugu in the local dialect, is integral to the vibrant culture of the local tribes in Tawang.
- The paper has great historic and religious significance as it is the paper used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.
- The Monpa handmade paper is made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng, which has medicinal values too.
- The art of making Monpa handmade paper originated over 1000 years ago.
- Gradually the art became an integral part of local custom and culture in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Once produced in every household in Tawang, this handmade paper was a major source of livelihood for the locals.
- The handmade paper industry almost disappeared in the last 100 years.
- KVIC commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang which not only aimed at reviving the art but also engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.
- The revival is aligned with the Prime Ministers Mantra of Vocal for Local.

## Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana



- Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India
- It was introduced in 2017 and is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development
- It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth
- It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.
- In 2013, the scheme was brought under the National Food Security Act, 2013 to implement the provision of cash maternity benefit of ₹6,000 stated in the Act.
- The government's maternity benefit scheme, or Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, has crossed 1.75 crore eligible women till financial year 2020

# Tax on EPF interest proposed in Budget 2021



- Interest on employee contributions to provident fund of over ₹2.5 lakh per annum would be taxed, starting from 1 April.
- Under the existing tax provisions, interest received/accrued from employee's provident fund (EPF) is exempt from tax.
- It is proposed that the interest earned on the EPF contributions (only employee contribution) above ₹2.5 lakh a year will now be taxable

## Key Points :

- Up to ₹2.5 lakh has been kept as the deposit limit for which interest is tax exempt, finance minister said.
- The move is aimed at taxing high-value depositors in the Employees Provident Fund. At least 12% of an employee's basic salary and performance wages is compulsorily deducted as provident fund, while the employer contributes another 12%.
- Anyone who earns more than ₹20.83 lakh a year will attract his or her interest on EPF contribution being taxed.
- "If employees' contribution to provident fund on or after 1 April 2021 exceeds ₹2.5 lakh in any year, interest earned on contribution over ₹2.5 lakh shall be taxable.
- It may be noted that the new provision only takes into account employees' contribution and not the total contribution to the fund during any year.
- This will have a limited impact specifically on the high-income salaried individuals

source : live mint

## Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)



- It is mandatory for any company with 20+ employees to comply with the EPF schemes of the government.
- As per this scheme, the employer, as well as the employee, are required to contribute some part of the monthly salary of the employee (generally 12%) into the EPF investment account.

## Voluntary Provident Fund (VPF)

- As the name suggests, it is a voluntary scheme which allows employees to voluntarily contribute to their PF account after contributing 12% as per the EPF guideline
- The interest rate with VPF is similar to EPF and employees can contribute up to 100% of their salary.

For EPF, the minimum contribution for employee and employer is 12 per cent of the basic pay + dearness allowance of the employee. With VPF, an employee can contribute any amount up to 100% of their salary + dearness allowance.

# Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana



कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम  
Employees' State Insurance Corporation  
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India)

## अटल बीमित व्यक्ति कल्याण योजना



- It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
- It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
- The Scheme was introduced in 2018.
- In 2020, eligibility criteria for availing the relief were relaxed, as under:
  - The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50% of average of wages from earlier 25% of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
  - Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
  - The Insured Person can submit the claim directly to ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly in the bank account of IP.
  - The Insured Person should have been insurable employment for a minimum period of 2 years before his/her unemployment and should have contributed for not less than 78 days in the contribution period immediately preceding to unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining 3 contribution periods in 02 years prior to unemployment.

## Pheran



- With new designs, traditional gown 'Pheran' in great demand during winters in Kashmir.
- Pheran or phiran is the traditional outfit for both males and females in the Kashmir Valley
- The pheran consist of two gowns, one over the other.
- The traditional pheran extends to the feet, which was popular up to the late 19th century C.E.
- However, a relatively modern variation of the pheran extends to below the knees, which is worn with a suthan inside (loose form of shalwar) similar to the styles worn in Afghanistan
- It is optional to wear the suthan with a long phiran as traditionally lower garments are not worn with pherans. The traditional pheran do not have side slits.
- According to some sources, the pheran was introduced by Mughal emperor Akbar when he conquered the valley in 1586.
- In summer, the pheran are made of cotton, but in winter, the pheran is made of wool, covering and protecting the body from the cold especially during snow
- These dresses are used by the residents of the Kashmir valley and Kashmiris residing in Chenab Valley.



## Odisha's oldest, most popular art form 'Pattachitra' preserved in Raghurajpur



- Pattachitra or Patachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal
- Pattachitra artform is known for its intricate details as well as mythological narratives and folktales inscribed in it.
- Pattachitra is one of the ancient artworks of Odisha, originally created for ritual use and as souvenirs for pilgrims to Puri, as well as other temples in Odisha
- Pattachitras are a component of an ancient Bengali narrative art, originally serving as a visual device during the performance of a song
- The popular forms of Pattachitra are the paintings on cloth depicting scenes from mythology and epics, the tassar cloth Pattachitra are also quite popular, the Pattachitra etched on dried palm leaves are picked up by tourists as souvenirs, so also the paper mache masks, paintings on coconut and betel nut . Apart from these, artists also engage in making toys out of stone and wood and painting them.
- The theme of Odia painting centres round the Jagannath and the Vaishnava sect
- Since beginning of Pattachitra culture, Lord Jagannath who was an incarnation of Lord Krishna has been the major source of inspiration.
- The subject matter of Patta Chitra is mostly mythological, religious stories and folk lore.

## Five Bridges Between India And Nepal In Pithoragarh Allowed To Open For Traffic



- The Pithoragarh district administration has ordered the opening of all five bridges on the Indo-Nepal border on a daily basis from Friday.
- “We have instructed sub-divisional-magistrates of Dharchula, Pithoragarh Didihat and Seema Suraksha Bal battalions guarding the border to open all five bridge situated on the Indo- Nepal border in the district in tune with the SOP issued by the Central government to check the spread of Covid-19,” said VK Jogdande, district magistrate Pithoragarh.
- According to district officials, the Nepal government had ordered the opening of all bridges on the Indo-Nepal border last week.
- “After receiving a letter from Nepalese officials, we had sent the same to our officers and we were waiting for their response.

- On Friday, we received the nod from the state government to open the bridges on a daily basis from our side. So now all the border bridges will remain open every day,” said AK Shukla, SDM Dharchula.
- The border bridge had been closed after the Covid-19 epidemic began to check the spread of the disease.

## Vivad se Vishwas



- Vivad se Vishwas (the Scheme) is an attempt by the Government of India (GoI) to put an end to pending direct tax disputes
- The benefit under the Scheme is maximised if taxpayers avail it before 1 April 2020, though the Scheme is likely to be available till 30 June 2020.
- This is a direct tax scheme announced in Budget 2020, for settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department.
- Earlier, the scheme offered complete waiver on interest and penalty to the taxpayers with a full and final settlement of the dispute if the scheme was availed by March 31, 2020.
- An individual opting for settlement after March 31, 2020, was required to pay an additional 10 percent penalty on the disputed tax amount.
- However, due to the latest extension in deadline an individual can file the declaration on or before February 28, 2021, and make the payment of the disputed tax amount without any additional dues on or before March 31, 2021.
- Under the scheme, individuals can file a declaration to avail the benefit under the scheme before the deadline and pay the 100% of their disputed taxes on or before March 31, 2021.
- Do keep in mind that any payment made after March 31, 2021 (but before a date which is yet to be notified) would require taxpayers to pay an additional 10% amount of the disputed tax.

## 'Internet startup leaders' total value at \$180 billion by 2025'



- The country's internet startup leaders are now on the cusp of listing, a HSBC Global Research report said, putting their combined value at \$180 billion by 2025
- Over \$60 bn has been invested in India's internet start-ups in the past five years, with around \$ 12 billion in 2020 alone
- \$180bn Total sector value (ex-Fintech) by 2025



## LISTING PLANS:

- Many of these leaders, which operate businesses ranging from food delivery, e-commerce to online insurance, are now on the cusp of listing
- **E-COMMERCE** is the largest opportunity, worth an estimated \$67 billion by 2025, its aid adding this was worth \$ 31 billion 2019 after expanding at an impressive five-year CAGR of 39 percent . AMAZON AND FLIPKART control over 80 percent of the industry to day but the contours of the competitive landscape are still evolving
- **ED-TECH** is the second-largest opportunity with a market size of \$ 48 billion by 2025 .Although still quite fragmented, it is one of the most profitable segment

## KEY DRIVERS OF GROWTH:

- Mobile penetration
- Demographics
- Consumer awareness
- Convenience

## Microbiome



- The microbiome is the genetic material of all the microbes - bacteria, fungi, protozoa and viruses - that live on and inside the human body.
- The number of genes in all the microbes in one person's microbiome is 200 times the number of genes in the human genome.
- The microbiome may weigh as much as five pounds.

## Cloudless, hot Jupiter



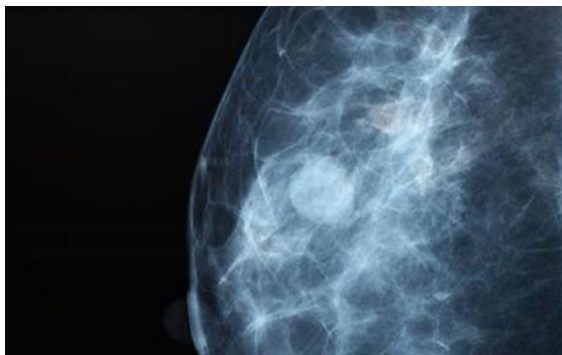
- For the first time, astronomers have come across a huge planet with about half the mass of Jupiter which is cloudless and unblocked by haze
- Named WASP-62b, this planet was first found in 2012 but was not studied in detail until now
- It is 575 light years away and orbits its star in just four-and-half days
- The study was published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

## Water scarcity likely in the Himalayan catchment if warming continues



- The team studied five basins in the central Himalaya – Sutlej, Thulo Bheri, Kali Gandaki, Dudh Kosi and Arun.
- They analysed the daily precipitation, maximum and minimum daily temperatures, wind speeds, land cover, elevation and soil properties.
- “We developed a new glacier melt model and integrated it to the currently used land surface model.
- The results show that the glacier-melt increases about 15% to 70% in a warmer environment with its present volume, but then decreases to 3%–38% substantially when the glacier volumes shrink.
- However, such a decrease can be compensated if there is increased rainfall and if a wetter scenario persists.
- “Snowpacks and glaciers are two important water storage units in the Himalaya
- Though snow is lower density and will melt easily in a warming climate, the reduced snowfall will in turn reduce the amount of snow-melt.
- Though glacier melt will increase initially, they will shrink in size quickly and the amount of glacier melt will also decline in the latter end of the century
- The team notes that proper water-management and governance are urgently required.
- “Changing patterns of precipitation systems — Indian Summer Monsoon and Western Disturbances — are important for the future situation of water resources in Himalayan catchments,

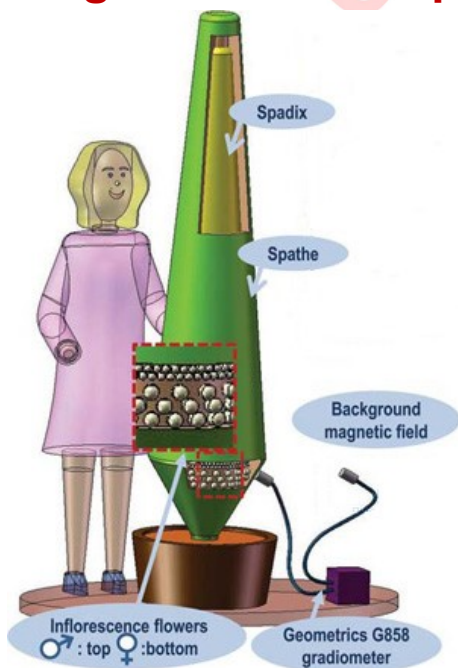
## Silk-protein-based tumour models for testing out cancer drugs



- Improving on techniques for testing cancer drugs, researchers from IIT Guwahati have come up with silk-protein-based tumour models.
- An alternative to testing cancer drugs using patient-derived cell lines or animal models, the research involves fabrication of a bio-active composite of silk proteins from two species of silk moths and building a scaffolding that provides a three-dimensional base for growing tumouroids.

- As an alternative to existing cancer models, this tissue-engineered 3D silk-based tumour model imitates native tumour microenvironment, complex tumour physiology and metastasis, thus improving drug screening efficacy,” says G. Janani, who is an author of the paper published in Journal of Colloid and Interface Science.
- The scientists mixed the silk fibroins extracted from the cocoons of the domestic silk moth (Bombyx mori) and the silk glands of the muga silk moth (Antheraea assama) in equal proportions and used them to build up scaffolds on which they grew breast and liver tumour cell cultures.
- “The Bombyx mori silk fibroin has been well explored for healthcare applications and is also FDA approved,” says Biman B Mandal of IIT Guwahati who led the study
- A. assama silk fibroin possesses inherent cell-adhesion RGD ligands [cell attachment sites], which provide better cell attachment and growth conditions in a 3D environment; porosity and tuneable mechanical strength [which] assist in proper nutrient diffusion.”
- As a proof of concept, the researchers created breast and liver tumouroids and these showed similar tumour physiology in 3D spatiotemporal arrangements and drug-resistance, as in native solid tumours.
- They also tested the screening capacity of the tumours on known anticancer drugs, Doxorubicin and Paclitaxel.
- The tumoroids grown on the silk composite exhibited increased resistance to cancer drugs (as in native conditions) compared to monolayers and spheroids.

## Magnetic fields in plants



- A recent study (Scientific Reports) from Germany found that the Venus flytrap (Dionaea muscipula) plant is capable of generating small magnetic fields
- When these plants send electrical signals to trigger the closure of their traps, to catch an insect, a biomagnetism phenomenon was observed
- The leaf stalk, or petiole, is not excitable and is electrically insulated from the trap.
- Using new and advanced atomic magnetometers, the team was able to measure the magnetic signals, which had an amplitude of up to 0.5 picotesla, which is millions of times weaker than the Earth's magnetic field. “The signal magnitude recorded is similar to what is observed during surface measurements of nerve impulses in animals,
- The trap is electrically excitable in a variety of ways: in addition to mechanical influences such as touch or injury, osmotic energy, for example salt-water loads, and thermal energy in the form of heat or cold can also trigger action potentials.



## African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat re-elected for second term



- Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, has been re-elected for another four-year term.
- The AU summit comes almost exactly one year after Egypt recorded the first coronavirus case in Africa, prompting widespread fears that member states' weak health systems would quickly be overwhelmed.
- But despite early doomsday predictions, the continent has been hit less hard than other regions so far, recording 3.5 percent of virus cases and 4 percent of deaths worldwide, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

## CRPF inducts 34 female commandos into elite anti-Naxal CoBRA unit for 1st time



- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the first time inducted 34 women commandos in its elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit.
- The women will undergo strenuous pre-induction training for three months before being sent to Naxal-hit areas of the country, CRPF said.
- The induction took place on the occasion of 35th Raising Day of CRPF's 88th Mahila Battalion.

## Cameras with head-count software to be installed in Kumbh Mela to limit crowds



- To manage the crowd and to adhere to COVID-19 norms, Haridwar's Kumbh Mela administration has installed cameras with head-count software at the Ganga Ghats.
- In case if the crowd increases beyond the set limit, the police will be alerted.
- Reportedly, this year devotees also have to take an online appointment for a holy dip during the Shahi Snan period.