

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## National Seminar on 'Sustainable Rural Livelihoods'

NITI Aayog hosted a National Seminar on 'Sustainable Rural Livelihoods', chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog.



### Key Point

- ❖ The seminar focused on critical topics such as enhancing rural livelihoods, market linkages, rural value chains and investments, microfinance, entrepreneurship, job creation for rural youth, resilient agriculture, and water security.
- ❖ The event brought together thought leaders, policymakers, academicians, and community innovators from diverse sectors.
- ❖ The second session focused on sustainable livelihoods amidst climate change and associated vulnerabilities. Experts from institutions like NAARM, ICAR, CWC, and IWMI shared innovative research on agriculture, water security, and rural development.

## New Chief Information Commissioner of the State

Madhya Pradesh government has appointed retired DG Vijay Yadav as the new Chief Information Commissioner of the state.



### Key Point

- ❖ After a 5-month gap, the following four appointments were made for the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners.
- ❖ Information Commissioners were also appointed and they included Dr. Shivkumar, Dr. Omprakash Pachauri and Dr. Vandana Gandhi.
- ❖ Another Information Commissioner who was appointed was Retired Judge Omkar Nath.
- ❖ Dr. Pachauri and Dr. Gandhi are the members of the RSS, While Dr. Pachauri is associated with the ABVP as well.

- ❖ These appointments to the State Information Commission were made by the BJP led government, and Cabinet Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was instrumental in the said appointments.
- ❖ Mr. Vijay Yadav, who held the position of Director of Lokayukta in the past, conducted important investigations.

#### About State Information Commissions

- ❖ The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of not only the Central Information Commission but also a State Information Commission at the state level
- ❖ The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners.
- ❖ Appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of-
  - Chief Minister as Chairperson,
  - Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly
  - State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.

- ❖ The State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier (RTI amendment 2019)

#### World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation & Breeding Centre

Uttar Pradesh is set to establish the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures or red-headed vultures in Maharajganj.



#### Key Point

- ❖ The facility will improve the population of critically endangered species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list since 2007.
- ❖ The center is named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.
- ❖ Asian king vultures are endangered due to the loss of their habitats and

the excessive use of diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, in domestic animals, which becomes poisonous for vultures.

- ❖ The centre aims to ensure the good health of growing vultures and provide them with a pair. Once a female lays an egg, the pair will be left free in their natural environment.

#### About Asian King Vulture

- ❖ Scientific Name: *Sarcogyps calvus*
- ❖ Primary Habitat: North India
- ❖ Conservation Status: Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)

#### First Paperless Voting in India

India is launching its first-ever paperless voting system in Berasia Panchayat, located in the Bhopal district.



#### Key Point

- ❖ The voting will commence in Ratanpur Panchayat, along with nine other districts in the state. Elections will be held for 49 sarpanchs and 26 panchayats.

- ❖ As part of a pilot project, two online voting formats will be implemented in Ratanpur Panchayat. Instead of written ballot papers, voting data will be made available to agents online, providing instant access to voter identification and the number of votes cast.
- ❖ After voting concludes, results will be sent to returning officers via email.
- ❖ This marks the first time the Election Commission is testing a fully paperless and error-free voting process in India, where the entire procedure will be managed digitally.

#### Sevarkhedi-Silarkhedi project

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav chaired meeting of the Council of Ministers was held in Mantralaya. The Cabinet decided to construct the Sevarkhedi-Silarkhedi project with Rs 614 crore 53 lakh.



#### Key Point

- ❖ According to the decision, the water storage capacity of the reservoir will be enhanced by raising the height of the Silarkhedi reservoir.



- ❖ Irrigation facility will be available in 18 thousand 800 hectares of area of about 65 villages by keeping the Kshipra river clean and flowing with the water stored in the project by storing water in the Chitavad mega project.
- ❖ The Cabinet has given revised administrative approval of Rs. 49 crore 94 lakhs and catchment area of 2940 hectares for micro irrigation system by lifting water from Pipariya branch canal to the remaining command area of Dokrikheda reservoir of Narmadapuram district.

### Indotestudo Elongata

The elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), a critically endangered species, was observed in Haryana's Damdama region during a research survey conducted in the Aravalli hills.



- ❖ The elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) is also known as Sal Forest Tortoise.

- ❖ It is widely distributed over eastern as well as northern India and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The tortoise, found in the Sal deciduous and hilly evergreen forests, is distributed across Southeast Asia from northern India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in the west, eastward through Myanmar, Thailand, and all of Indochina, north to Guangxi Province of China and south to Peninsular Malaysia.
- ❖ Conservation Status:
  - IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
  - CITES: Appendix II
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule IV
- ❖ Threat: Hunted for food, local use such as decorative masks and international wildlife trade.

### First Governing Board Meeting Of ANRF

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first governing board meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)



### Key Point

- ❖ The newly established ANRF, created by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act 2023, aims to foster a strengthened research ecosystem across the country
- ❖ Among the key initiatives announced was the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) program.
- ❖ This multi-institutional endeavor will facilitate collaboration between top-tier institutions and those with limited research capabilities, promoting transformational research through a Hub and Spoke framework.
- ❖ The program aims to systematically enhance research excellence and efficiently spread research culture across institutions.
- ❖ Another significant initiative unveiled was the Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA). This mission-mode program will focus on priority-driven, solution-focused research in strategic areas.

### Short News

- ❖ Sh. Rajesh Verma, an officer of the 1987 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Odisha

Cadre, has taken charge today as the new full-time Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM).

- ❖ Home Minister Amit Shah has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.
- ❖ Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane will undertake a visit to Manila to co-chair the fifth meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) on September 11, 2024.
- ❖ India and Abu Dhabi Emirate signed five memorandums of understanding (MoU)/agreements to strengthen cooperation in fossil fuels, the nuclear sector, and food parks.
- ❖ Recently, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan released a joint doctrine for amphibious operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting.
- ❖ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024 to the Nursing professionals on September 11, 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- ❖ Turkey heads to the Arab League meet for the first time in 13 years.
- ❖ Union Bank of India Joins PCAF: On September 9, 2024, Union Bank of India became the first major Indian bank to join the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- ❖ India has become the world's second-largest 5G handset market in the first half of 2024, surpassing the US and trailing only China, according to Counterpoint's Market Monitor service.



Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Where is the world's first conservation and breeding center for the critically endangered Asian king vulture being launched?

- (a) Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Bhopal Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- (d) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer-A

2. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh?

- (a) Arvind Kumar
- (b) Rajesh Sharma
- (c) Anil Mehta
- (d) Vijay Yadav

Answer-D

