

10th July, 2024

Governance

Sampoornata Abhyan: Transforming Manzgam Block

Context: The Indian government's NITI Aayog has initiated the Sampoornata Abhyan, a comprehensive development program, in Manzgam Block, Kulgam.

The launch event was attended by numerous local government officials and school representatives.

- ❖ The program aims to elevate Manzgam from an Aspirational Block to an Inspirational Block through the saturation of key development indicators.

Recent Initiatives

- ❖ The program was officially launched at the Government Higher Secondary School in Manzgam.
- ❖ Key figures such as Mohd Afzal Parrey, Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, and Athar Aamir, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, were present.

- ❖ The primary objective is to demonstrate progress across all measures within three months, aiming to significantly improve the block's social and economic conditions.

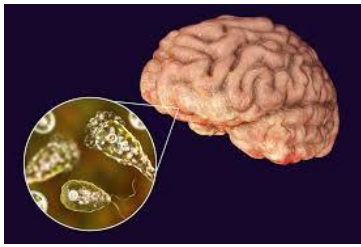
Program Goals and Implementation

- ❖ Deputy Commissioner Athar Aamir outlined specific targets for achieving full saturation of development indicators, crucial for the overall advancement of Manzgam Block.
- ❖ Emphasis was placed on the coordinated efforts of local line departments to ensure timely execution of the program.

Science & Technology

Rare and Fatal Brain-Eating Amoeba Infection

Context: Recently, three individuals in Kerala succumbed to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a rare and lethal brain infection. Among the victims was a 12-year-old boy from Feroke in the Kozhikode district, who passed away at a private hospital.



Understanding Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

- ❖ PAM is an acute and often fatal disease caused by the amoeba *Naegleria fowleri*. This microorganism thrives in warm freshwater environments such as lakes and rivers.
- ❖ The infection typically occurs when contaminated water enters the body through the nose during activities like swimming.
- ❖ *Naegleria fowleri*, often referred to as the "brain-eating amoeba," devastates brain tissue, leading to severe inflammation and often death.

Infection Mechanism

- ❖ The amoeba enters the body through the nasal passage when individuals are exposed to contaminated water. It then migrates to the brain, where it begins its destructive process.

- ❖ Infections are most common in warm water conditions, which favor the amoeba's proliferation due to elevated temperatures and reduced water levels.

International Relation

ADB to Build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat

Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a significant loan of Rs 1,460 crore to the ENGIE group to support the construction of a 400-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar, Gujarat.

- ❖ This initiative aligns with India's ambitious goal to achieve at least 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel energy output by 2030.



Financial Structure and Partnerships

- ❖ The financing arrangement includes a loan of Rs 14.6 billion (approximately \$175.9 million), with major contributions from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), each providing Rs 7.3 billion.
- ❖ This financial partnership underscores the commitment of major international banks to sustainable growth.

Impact on Climate Change and Local Economy

- ❖ This project is a cornerstone in India's transition to cleaner energy and contributes to the global fight against climate change. Suzanne Gaboury, ADB Director General for Private Sector Operations, highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in this transformation.
- ❖ The solar plant will utilize bifacial photovoltaic power modules manufactured in the United States, supporting the domestic solar module industry and enhancing the supply chain.

India and Bangladesh to Renegotiate Ganga Waters Treaty

Context: India and Bangladesh will enter discussions to renew the Ganga Waters Treaty, originally signed in 1996. This agreement focuses on the equitable sharing of the Ganga River's waters, which flow through both countries. The treaty is due for renewal in 2026.



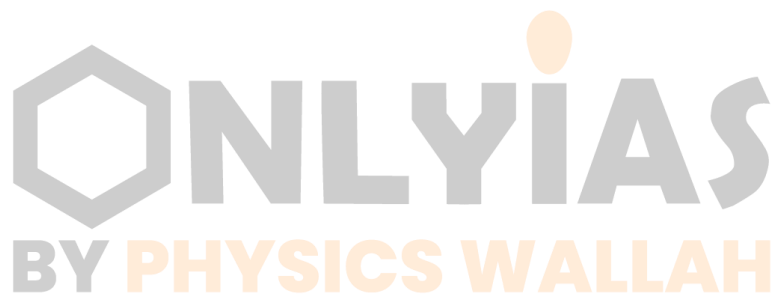
Treaty Renewal

- ❖ The decision to renegotiate the treaty came during Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to New Delhi, where Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the need for a new agreement.
- ❖ Both leaders acknowledged the urgency to address emerging challenges, particularly those posed by climate change, which affect water flows.

Role of the West Bengal Government

- ❖ The West Bengal government will play a crucial role in the upcoming negotiations. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's approval is essential for any international agreement involving shared water resources.

- ❖ Previous negotiations, such as those concerning the Teesta River, have been delayed due to concerns from the West Bengal government about potential impacts on the state's water supply.



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