

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

**GS : 3 - ENVIRONMENT**

**Rajasthan to set up bustard breeding centre**

(The Hindu)

- The Rajasthan government will set up India's first captive breeding centre for the great Indian bustard in an attempt to boost the wild population of the country's most critically endangered bird, which is the State bird of Rajasthan.

**Key facts:**

- Its last remnant wild population of about 90 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of the total world population.
- A state-of-the-art egg hatching centre will be raised in the Desert National Park.
- After the chicks are raised, they would be transported to the desert for reintroduction in the wild.
- Captive breeding had succeeded with houbara in UAE and great bustard in Spain.



**Status**

- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES, as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List and the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).
- It has also been identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

**GS : 2 - GOVERNANCE**

**Centre allows beacon use for emergencies**

(The Hindu)

- The Centre has issued a notification allowing officials on **emergency and disaster management-related duties** to use beacons on top of their vehicles.
- The notification allows use of multi-coloured - **red, blue and white light** - beacons on top of official vehicles related to "**control of fire, police duty, defence forces or paramilitary forces for maintenance of law and order**".
- Officials on disaster management duties related to "natural disasters, including earthquake, flood, land slide, cyclone, tsunami, and man-made disasters such as nuclear disaster, chemical disaster and biological disaster" can use vehicles with multi-coloured beacons.
- The Transport Department of each State will need to issue a notice enlisting the list of authorities to whom the permission to use vehicles with multi-coloured lights.

**GS : 3 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**3D printed cartilage to treat osteoarthritis**

(Business Line)

- Researchers have successfully generated cartilage tissue using a 3D bioprinter, an advance that could lead to new treatments for **osteoarthritis**.

**Key facts:**

- In future, it should be possible to use 3D bioprinting to generate cartilage based on a patient's own, "backed-up" stem cells.
- This bioprinted tissue can be used to repair cartilage damage, or to treat osteoarthritis, in which joint cartilage degenerates and breaks down.
- The team used cartilage cells harvested from patients who underwent knee surgery, and these cells were then manipulated in a laboratory, causing them to rejuvenate and revert into "**pluripotent stem cells** — cells that have the potential to develop into many different types of cells.
- The stem cells were then expanded and encapsulated in a composition of nanofibrillated cellulose and printed into a structure using a 3D bioprinter.
- Following printing, the stem cells were treated with growth factors that caused them to differentiate correctly, so that they formed cartilage tissue.

- Each individual stem cell is encased in nanocellulose, which allows it to survive the process of being printed into a 3D structure.

### GS : 2 - GOVERNANCE

#### “One IP- Two Dispensaries” and “Aadhaar Based Online Claim Submission” Schemes on International Labour Day (PIB)

- Under One IP- Two Dispensaries scheme ESIC has given an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for family through an employer.
- This will benefit all IPs, especially migrant workers who are working in other than home State, while their families are living in their native States.

#### Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme:

- Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme all EPF Members who have activated their UAN and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final settlement, Pension withdrawal benefit and PF part withdrawal from the their UAN Interface directly.

### GS : 3 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Now, a portal to check radiation levels of mobile towers

- To clear ‘myths and misconceptions’ about radiation from mobile phone towers, the government launched a portal, ‘**Tarang Sanchar**’, to allow people to check electro magnetic radiation (EMF) compliance status of mobile towers.
- Detailed information about any tower site, if requested, will be sent on email to the users. Additionally, any person can request for EMF emission measurement at a location by paying a nominal fee of ₹4,000 online, the **Department of Telecom (DoT)**, which has launched the portal.
- The tests will be conducted by the local Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field unit of DoT and the test report will be provided on request.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Prakash Javadekar Launches VIDYA VEERTA ABHIYAN

- The Minister for Human Resource and Development has launched Students for soldiers- a nationwide **Vidya – Veerta Abhiyan** to encourage Universities and educational institutions across the country to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers.
- Last year, the HRD Ministry had also unveiled Veergatha books on the 21 Param Veer Chakra awardees for educating school children about the sacrifices made by the Param Veer Chakra awardees.
- The Param Veer Chakra (PVC) is India’s highest military decoration awarded to officers or enlisted personnel from all branches of the Indian military for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime.

#### Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- Government of India has approved the introduction of a new credit linked subsidy programme called Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by merging the two schemes that were in operation till 31.03.2008, namely **Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)** and **Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)** for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.
- PMEGP is a central sector scheme **administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**.
- At the national level, the Scheme is being implemented by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a **statutory organization** under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single **nodal agency**.
- At the State level, the Scheme will be implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.
- The Government subsidy under the Scheme will be routed by KVIC through the identified Banks for eventual distribution to the beneficiaries / entrepreneurs in their Bank accounts.

**Eligibility**

- Individuals **above 18 years of age**
- **VIII Std.** pass required for project above Rs.10.00 lakhs in manufacturing and above Rs. 5.00 lakhs for Service Sector
- Self Help Groups and Charitable Trusts
- Institutions Registered under Societies Registration Act- 1860
- Production based Co-operative Societies

**Salient features of the scheme**

- The Scheme is implemented through KVIC and State/UT Khadi & V.I. Boards in Rural areas and through District Industries Centres in Urban and Rural areas in ratio of **30:30:40 between KVIC / KVIB / DIC** respectively.
- No income ceiling for setting up of projects.
- Assistance under the Scheme is available **only to new units to be established.**
- Existing units or units already availed any Govt. Subsidy either under State/Central Govt. Schemes are not eligible.
- Any industry including Coir Based projects excluding those mentioned in the negative list.
- Per capita investment should not exceed **Rs. 1.00 lakhs in plain areas and Rs. 1.50 lakhs in Hilly areas.**
- Maximum project cost of **Rs. 25.00 lakhs in manufacturing sector and Rs. 10.00 lakhs in Service Sector.**

**Food fortification**

- As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), fortification refers to "the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, ie. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food irrespective of whether the nutrients were originally in the food before processing or not, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and to provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health", whereas enrichment is defined as "synonymous with fortification and refers to the addition of micronutrients to a food which are lost during processing".

**Food for thought**

Fortification of eatables is aimed at fighting malnutrition

**What it means**

Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals, such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamins A & D, to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content



- The nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing
- It is a simple, proven, cost-effective and complementary strategy in use across the globe
- The draft Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2016, prescribe the standards for fortification of salt, oil, milk, and rice

**SpaceX makes first U.S. military launch**

(The Hindu)

- SpaceX has blasted off a secretive **U.S. government satellite**, known only as **NROL-76**, marking the first military launch for the **California-based aerospace company** headed by billionaire tycoon **Elon Musk**.
- The payload for the **National Reconnaissance Office**, which makes and operates **spy satellites** for the United States, soared into the sky atop a **Falcon 9 rocket**.