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Economy

SAMARTH Scheme

• **SAMARTH –** Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector.
• It is a flagship skill development scheme approved in *continuation to the Integrated Skill Development Scheme* for 12th FYP.
• **Implemented by –** Ministry of Textiles.
• **Objectives –** To provide *demand driven, placement-oriented skilling programmes* to supplement the efforts in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors.
• To cover the entire value chain of textiles, *excluding Spinning and Weaving in organized sector.*

Agriculture

FASAL project

• **FASAL –** Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations.
• **Implemented by –** Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre.
• **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
• **Coverage –** Rice, wheat, tur, rapeseed & mustard, rabi, jowar, cotton, jute, sugarcane, soybean, lentil & gram.
• **Partner agencies –** India Meteorological Department, Institute of Economic growth, Space Application Centre, National Remote Sensing Centre.
• **Significance –** Drought Monitoring and providing technological support to *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).*

Namo Drone Didi

• It is a *Central Sector Scheme* for providing *drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHG).*
• **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
• **Objectives –** To improve efficiency, enhanced crop yield & reduce cost of operation.
• To empower SHGs as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them.

Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)

• **Initiated under –** Startup India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
• **Aim –** To build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem.
• **Features –** Peer-to-peer interaction, partnerships, and collaborative engagements.
• **Significance –** It will bridge the gap between startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders, allowing for seamless interaction across sectors.

Environment

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

• **Statutory body in –** 1972, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
• **Objectives –** To provide support to the seafood industry.
• To produce and promote quality seafood and market it across the world.
• **Significance –** Market promotion, capture fisheries, culture fisheries, processing infrastructure & value addition, quality control, research and development.

World Lion Day

• **Annual event on –** 10th August.
• **Launched in –** 2013 by Derek & Beverly Joubert under *Big Cat Rescue.*
• **Aim –** To bring global attention to the declining number of lions and the urgent need for their conservation.

World Elephant Day 2025

• **Celebrated annually on –** 12th August.
• **Initiated in –** 2012, by Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation with Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims.
• **Aim –** To strengthen measures to ensure their long-term survival.
• **In India –** Accounts for 60% of the global wild elephant population, with 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified Elephant Corridors as per the 2023 Report.

Science

Animal Stem Cell Biobank & Laboratory

• **Established at –** National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad.
• **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Science & Technology.
• **Objectives –** To focus on *regenerative medicine and cellular therapies* for livestock.
• To *store and preserve high-quality stem cells* from various animal species.
• **Significance –** It will advance research in disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.

National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB)

• It is an autonomous institute of the *Department of Biotechnology*.
• **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Science and Technology.
• **Registered under –** Andhra Pradesh Government Act, 2001.
• **Objectives –** To harness existing and emerging biotechnologies to build a strong and competitive animal-based industry.
• To focus on key areas like animal genetics, biotechnology, disease research, the creation of vaccines, and nutrition to improve farm animal health.
• To support businesses developing farm animal products by offering a helpful and innovative environment.

Miscellaneous

23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

• **Started in –** 2003 by *Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances* annually.
• **Aim -** To recognize significant achievements, foster the sharing of effective practices, and promote innovations in digital governance.