UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 12-10-2024

PM's Internship Scheme in Top Companies (TPISTPS)

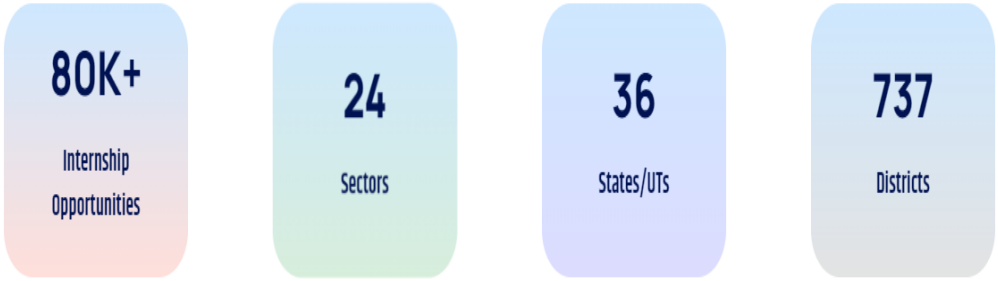
Recently, Indian government had opened up a portal for India's top 500 companies to participate in the one-year internship scheme.

- It is a ***12 months real-life experience*** in India's top companies.
- **Launched in** – October 2024, as announced in Union Budget 2023-24.
    - **Portal** - pminternship.mca.gov.in
- **Administered by** - Ministry of Corporate Affairs
    - **Partners**- FICCI and CII
- **Aim** – To *bridge the gap between skill sets* of unemployable youth and those needed by employers.
- **Target** – To train ***1 crore youth in 5 years***

Recently, on the eve of the portal opening to applicants, the number of opportunities posted in the PM Internship Scheme surged to 90,849.

Eligibility for PM Internship Scheme	
Age	21-24 years
Education	Not enrolled full time
Job Status	Not employed full time
Family (Self/Spouse/Parents)	• No member is earning more than Rs.8 Lakhs per annum • No member has a government job

- The candidates will have to self-certify their educational qualifications data and would have to share their residential pin codes as well.
- **Financial assistance** – *Monthly assistance* of
    - **By Government of India** - Rs. 4500
    - **By Industry** - Rs. 500
- *One-time Grant of Rs.6000* for incidentals.
- **Insurance coverage** – It is provided under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- **Opportunities posted by** – 193 Companies, including private players like Maruti Suzuki India, Reliance Industries, etc.



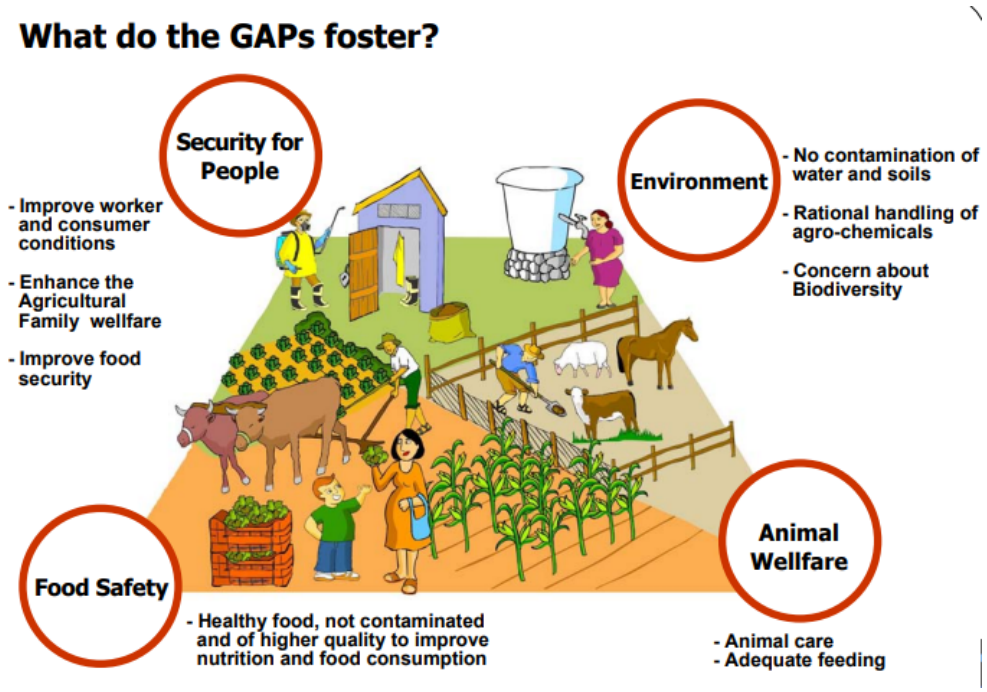
Reference

1. The Hindu| Opening of PM Internship Portal
2. PM Internship Portal| PM's Internship Scheme in Top Companies

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) & INDGAP

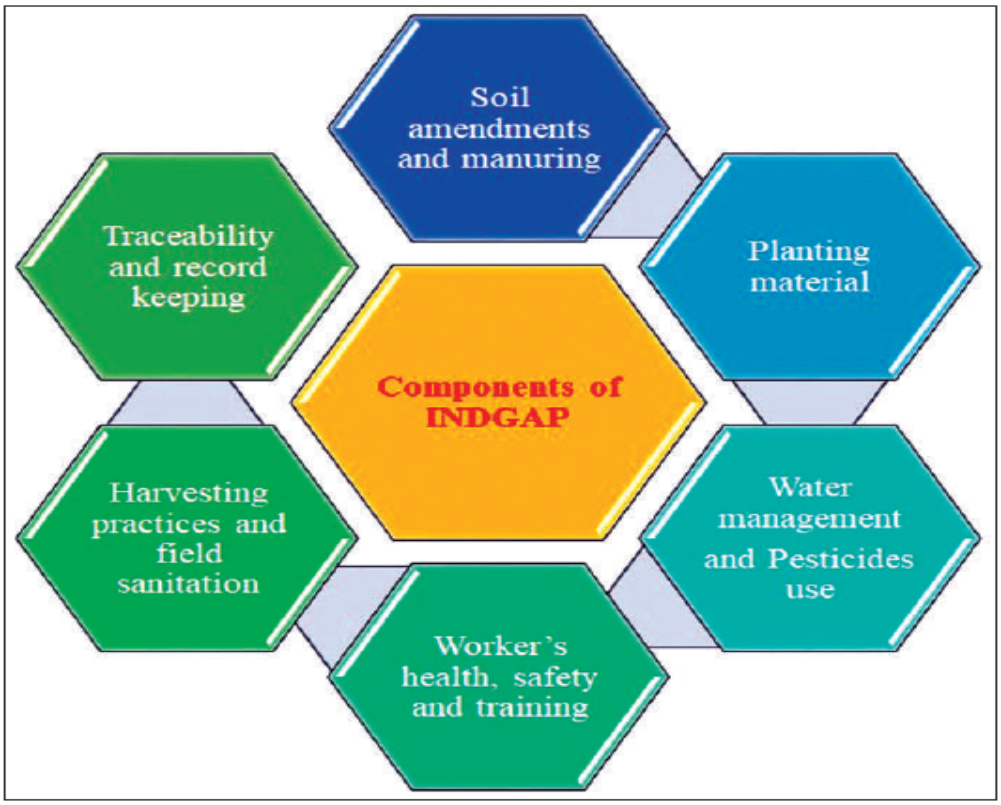
As a significant step to empower the farming community of Uttarakhand, APEDA has taken the key initiative for implementation and certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for over 350 farmers.

- **GAP** – They are some ***codes, standards, regulation*** followed in farm practices which were introduced in Europe, for the 1st time in the world, to ensure the food safety and quality.
- **Aim** – To deliver to the consumer healthy and safe high quality food and non-food products.
- **4 Pillars**
  - Economic viability
  - Environmental viability
  - Social acceptability
  - Food safety and quality
- **Stakeholders** – Governments, farmers, processors (food processing industries) and consumers.
- **Focus** – It focus at two levels
  - **Farm level focus** – From pre-harvest preparation, production and harvesting including transport to pack house.
  - **Pack level focus** – Post-harvest handling process like washing, grading, packing, storing, etc., including transport to consumers.
- **Potential benefits** – It helps *improve the safety and quality* of food and other agricultural products.
- *It reduce the risk of non-compliance* with national and international regulation, standards and guidelines.
- It also helps in *promoting sustainable agriculture*.
- It will ensure *sustainable yield* with *development of livelihood*.



Indian Good Agricultural Practices (INDGAP)

- **INDGAP** – It have been formulated to ensure the quality of our farm produce in the International market.
- These standards are *voluntary and non-discriminatory* to the growers.
- **Certification** - *Quality Council of India (QCI)* conduct voluntary certification scheme for these projects.



- **Institutional support** – It includes National Horticulture Board, APEDA, Spices Board, and National Medicinal Plants Board.

- These institutes *encourage certified GAP* and *offer training* on GAP procedures to equip farmers for globalized marketing.
- **Benefits for Uttarakhand** - This facilitates quality supply of agricultural products such as Mango & Vegetables from the state for exports to European Union (EU), UK, amongst other countries.

Reference

1. PIB| GAP Certification Scheme in Uttarakhand
2. DIHORTI| Good Agricultural Practices

Extinction of Bird Species

In a recent study, researchers have documented the extinction of 610 bird species over a period of 130,000 years.

- **3 main drivers** – ***Habitat loss, hunting*** and introduction of ***non-native species*** leads to extinction of avian species.
- Most of the documented extinctions occurred on islands.
- Capturing birds for the songbird trade is a big issue, particularly in Southeast Asia.
- Avian malaria, introduced by people, has triggered large numbers of extinctions in Hawaii, particularly among the endemic ***Hawaiian honeycreepers.***
- **Anthropogenic causes** – Of the 610 species, *90% of them* went extinct at least partially due to humans.
- It coincides with the *spread of Homo sapiens* across the globe.
- The effect of this spread has only increased in the past few years
    - For instance, the ***Kauaʻi ʻōʻōʻō, a Hawaiian songbird***, was declared extinct just last year.
- **Ecological impacts** - It includes *loss of seed dispersal*, pollination, the consumption of insects & the recycling of dead material.
- **Biodiversity impacts** – It can *precipitate secondary extinctions* of fruit bearing plants.

  Once one species goes extinct, there will likely be other extinctions or even an avalanche of them which is known as ***secondary extinction****.*

  A frugivore *is an animal that thrives mostly on raw fruits or succulent fruit-like produce of plants such as roots, shoots, nuts and seeds. Approximately 20% of mammalian herbivores eat fruit.*

- **Health impacts** – There is *rise in disease outbreaks* due to fewer scavengers consuming carrion

Case study of Dodo Extinction

• **Dodo** – A *flightless bird* that inhabited the Indian Ocean island of *Mauritius*.
• It was finely adopted to the isolated ecosystem.
• **Discovery** – It was 1st encountered by Dutch sailors *in 1598*.
• **Threat** – *Hunting, habitat destruction* and the introduction of *non-native species* doomed it in under 80 years.
• **Extinction** – It became *extinct by 1681*.

Reference

The Hindu| Extinction of 610 Avian Species

Contribution of Nanaji Deshmukh

Prime Minister pays tribute to Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh on his birth anniversary.

- **Social movement** – He played a key role in the Jaya Prakash (JP) movement against Emergency in 1974.
- **Rural development** – He set up ***alternative rural development models*** based on traditional knowledge in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Reformist** – He actively participated in the ***Bhoodan Movement*** started by Vinoba Bhave.
- He played an important role in carrying out a *social restructuring programme* in over 500 villages of UP and MP.
- He also carried out reformation of agriculture and cottage industry, rural health and rural education.

- **Educationist** – He started the country's *1st Saraswati Shishu Mandir* (SSM) at Gorakhpur in 1950.
- He founded Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) in Chitrakoot.
- He was also responsible for starting ***India's 1st rural university***, Chitarkoot Gramodya Vishwavidyalaya.

Saraswati Shishu Mandir (SSM) is said to be the educational wing of RSS.

Recognition by Indian Government

• **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of construction of hostels** – It is a centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2014-15.
• It aims to provide hostel facilities to those De-Notified Tribes (DNT) students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC to enable them to pursue higher education.
• The income ceiling for eligibility is Rs 2 lakh per annum.
• Centre provides a maximum of 500 seats per annum throughout the country.
• **Bharat Ratna** – He was *awarded posthumously* with Bharat Ratna in *2019*.

Reference

1. The Hindu| Tribute to Nanaji Deshmukh
2. Times of India| Contributions of Nanaji Deshmukh

International Day of the Girl Child

Globally, the International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated on October 11th every year.

- **Historical background** - The United Nations General Assembly passed ***Resolution 66/170*** in 2011, designating ***October 11*** as the International Day of the Girl Child.

  In 1995, the World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a turning point for advancing the rights of women and girls worldwide where the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was unanimously adopted.

- **2024 Theme** – Girls' vision for the future.
- **Significance** – It highlights the importance of gender equality, education, and opportunities for young girls.
- It acts as a reminder to create an environment where girls can thrive, ensuring they are equipped with the tools to lead and shape their futures.

Girl Child Empowerment in India
• **POCSO Act 2012** – It addresses child abuse, with updated rules in 2020 to enhance its implementation. • **Juvenile Justice Act 2015** – It ensures the care and protection of children in need. • **Mission Vatsalya** – It focuses on child development and protection, with services like the Child Helpline and the Track Child portal to assist missing children. • **Track Child portal** – It was launched in 2012 that facilitates the matching of 'missing' children being reported at Police stations with those 'found' children who are residing in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). • **PM CARES for Children Scheme** – It supports children orphaned by COVID-19. • **NSIGSE** - National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education was launched in 2008 to enhance educational opportunities for girls, particularly those from SC and ST communities. • **E-SAMPARK** – It provides for mental health and medical care.

Reference

PIB| International Day of the Girl Child

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