



2 Minute Series 2nd Week of May (11th May to 16th May)

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GEOGRAPHY

<https://youtu.be/ZCsTRmk7bUM>

National Water Mission

- Recently, **first annual National Water Mission awards were presented.**
- **Presented by:** The 'National Water Mission Awards' is an initiative of **National Water Mission (NWM), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- **Objective of Awards:** To recognize **excellence in water conservation, efficient water use and sustainable water management practices.**
- **Categories:** The awards are given in ten categories **defined under five goals of NWM.**
- **Prize Money:** The prize money for the awards is: **(i) First - Rs. 2 lakh; (ii) Second - Rs. 1.5 lakh and (iii) Third - Rs. 1 lakh.**

National Water Mission

It is one of the **eight missions launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) for combating the threats of global warming.**

Objective of the National Water Mission

- To conserve water.
- To minimise the wastage of the water.
- To ensure equitable distribution across the country and within States through integrated water resources management.
- It **envisages the following five goals:**
- Goal 1: Comprehensive **water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resource.**
- Goal 2: Promotion of **citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation.**
- Goal 3: **Focused attention to vulnerable areas** including over-exploited areas.
- Goal 4: **Increasing water use efficiency by 20%.**
- Goal 5: Promotion of basin level **integrated water resources management.**
- **Under the mission, the National Water Policy would be revisited** in consultation with States to ensure basin level management strategies to deal with variability in rainfall and river flows due to climate change.

NOTE

Please read about **National Water Policy**

HISTORY

<https://youtu.be/mDxdTsbknCA>

Ahom Revolt (1828)

- In **1822 CE**, **Assam fell to the Burmese** as a direct result of a socio-religious conflict which unravelled the centuries-old Ahom state.
- Assam was rather unique in this respect — other Indian kingdoms were weakened by succession crises or petty squabbling with neighbours and became ripe for plucking by invaders.
- Just before the Burmese invaded and dealt the death blow, Assam was greatly weakened by a bitter 36 year-long civil war called the **Moamoria Rebellion**.
- In 1788, a Moamoria campaign captured Rangpur once again. King GaurinathSinha fled and sought refuge in neighbouring lands.
- By 1792 the rebel dominion had grown and the King sought the aid of the East India Company, now the eminent power in India.
- The British on their part were well aware of the Assam situation. They also realised the strategic importance of Assam, given the growing power of Burma.
- The company sent a crack force into Assam to restore Ahom rule.
- The Moamorias were no match for the British and soon retreated to their strongholds. GaurinathSinha was reinstated in 1794 and the British forces left — but the guerilla war resumed.
- In 1805, the tired belligerents agreed to a compromise.
- In return for peace the Ahoms formally ceded territory to the Moamorias where the latter established the near-independent state of Matak (“One Principle”). However, the damage was done.
- Gutted by the long civil war, the Ahom state could barely sustain itself.
- In 1817, the Burmese used a political crisis as an excuse to invade.
- The Burmese annexed Assam in five years, slaughtering Assamese regardless of faith, creed or caste.
- In 1826, the British became the new master of Assam following their victory in the First Anglo-Burmese War.
- After the First Burma War (1824-26), the British agreed to withdraw from Assam.
- But, after the war, instead of withdrawing, the British attempted to incorporate the Ahoms’ territories in the Company’s dominion.
- This sparked off a rebellion in 1828 under the leadership of GomdharKonwar, an Ahom prince, alongwith compatriots, such as DhanjoyBongohain, and JairamKharghariaPhukan.
- Assembling near Jorhat, the rebels formally made GomdharKonwar the king.
- He along with his followers burned the British armoury at Rangpur, Assam.
- They fought the British in Mariani, but the British military suppressed their revolt.
- Konwar fled to the Naga Hills but soon was arrested by the British and sentenced to seven years of imprisonment and exiled to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Though Konwar and his associated failed in their revolt against the British, they succeeded to put a sense of independence in the minds of the people.
- Finally, the Company decided to follow a conciliatory policy and handed over Upper Assam to Maharaja Purandar Singh Narendra and part of the kingdom was restored to the Assamese king.
- Also, the British returned part of the kingdom of Assam to the Assamese king.

POLITY

<https://youtu.be/DcpbU5wUIhk>

Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)

- Ministry for Human Resources Development launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for **providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).**
- **Aim:** To **enhance the employability** of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.
- SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the **initiatives of three Central Ministries**, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment via the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the National Career Service (NCS) and introduction of BA/BSc/B.Com (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.

Objective

- To forge a close functional link between education and industry/service sectors on a sustainable basis.
- To provide skills which are in demand, to the students in a dynamic manner
- To establish an 'earn while you learn' system into higher education.
- To help business/industry in securing good quality manpower.
- To link student community with employment facilitating efforts of the Government.

The primary scheme will be **operated in conjunction with National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** which provides for placing of apprentices upto 10% of the total work force in every business/industry.

The scheme will be implemented by the **Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)**, initially the Banking Finance Insurance Services (BFSI), Retail, Health care, Telecom, Logistics, Media, Management services, ITeS and Apparel. More sectors would be added over time with emerging apprenticeship demand and curriculum adjustments.

ECONOMY

<https://youtu.be/no5ZRTSDr4Y>

ATAL Pension Yojana (APY)

News

- Atal Pension Yojana' (APY) has completed **five years** of implementation (started in **2015**).

Objective

- Delivering old age **income security**.
- Particularly to the workers in the **unorganised sector**.
- Guarantee of **minimum pension** after 60 years of age.
- A defined **pension**, depending on the contribution, and its period.

Who can subscribe

- Any Indian citizen in the age group of **18-40 years**.
- Must have a **bank account**.

What does it provide

- It provides a **minimum guaranteed pension** ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- The amount of pension is **guaranteed for lifetime** to spouse on death of the subscriber.
- In the event of **death of both the subscriber** and the spouse, **entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee**.

Precedents of the Scheme

- Government had started the **Swavalamban Scheme** in 2010-11.

It is administered by

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**).

Government's Contribution

- The Central Government also **co-contributed 50%** of the total contribution or **Rs. 1000 per annum**, whichever is lower.
- The above contribution was available for:
 - A period of **5 years**,
 - Those who are **not members of any statutory** social security scheme,
 - Those who are **not income tax** payers.

Exit and Pension Payment

- Exit **before 60** years of age is **not permitted**.
- Only in **exceptional** circumstances, i.e., in the event of the death of beneficiary or terminal disease, exit before 60 years of age can be permitted.

ENVIRONMENT

<https://youtu.be/Ph29gpd06TQ>

Snow Leopard

Introduction

- The snow leopard **inhabits alpine and subalpine zones at elevations from 3,000 to 4,500 m** (9,800 to 14,800 ft), ranging from western Afghanistan to Mongolia and western China.
- In the northern range countries, it also occurs at lower elevations.
- Snow leopards play a key role as both **top predator and as an indicator of the health of their high-altitude habitat.**
- If snow leopards thrive, so will countless other species.

Distribution in India

In India, Snow Leopards are found in the **Himalayan and trans-Himalayan landscape** at an elevation between 3,000 meters and 5,400 m, spanning over 100,000 square km across **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.**

- **Hemis National Park** — Jammu and Kashmir
- **Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary** — Arunachal Pradesh
- **Nanda Devi National Park** — Uttarakhand
- **Valley of Flowers National Park** — Uttarakhand
- **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary** — Himachal Pradesh
- **Pin Valley National Park** — Himachal Pradesh

Protection Status

- It is classified as **Vulnerable** by IUCN and is under **Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.**
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from **“endangered” to “vulnerable”.**
- They are listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**) and the Convention on Migratory Species (**CMS**).

Protection

- **Project Snow Leopard** was launched in 2009 to safeguard and conserve India’s unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats.
- The “Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems” (**SECURE Himalaya**) with support from **GEF-UNDP** is an ongoing project on conservation of high altitude biodiversity and reducing dependency of local communities on natural ecosystem.
- This project is now operational in **four snow leopard range states, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.**
- The **Bishkek Declaration** is an agreement signed by **12 countries** that are home to Snow Leopards namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- The declaration was initiated in order to formulate a long-term **Global Snow Leopard Conservation Programme** by the formation of a high-level steering committee to guide programme implementation and regularly review its progress.
- The **key goals** of the programme are to evaluate and map the current status of key snow leopard populations and habitats to set baselines and indicators against which to assess future change.
- **Global Snow Leopard and Eco-system Protection Program** is a joint initiative of range country governments, international agencies, civil society, and the private sector.
- The Goal is to secure the long-term survival of the snow leopard in its natural
- Recently, **Union Environment ministry** released the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SLPAI)** at the fourth steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program (GSLEP).

- **SLPAI** has been prepared by the **Wildlife Institute of India, Nature Conservation Foundation, GSLEP committee, Global Tiger Initiative Council, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Bank, Global Tiger Forum and Wildlife Conservation Trust.**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

<https://youtu.be/WQsFrFFbH0E>

N95 Respirators

N95

- The 'N95' designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) test particles
- They are designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles
- The edges of the mask have to be sealed using ultrasonic welding technology, unlike normal cloth masks that are stitched. This ensures that the virus does not penetrate into the mask through the pinholes of the stitches
- Aerofil Filters India Private Limited, a Kochi-based start-up, working with the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and Maker Village was given the approval by the Union Government to manufacture the N95 masks, making it the third company to do so in India
- Peter Tsai, a 68-year old Taiwan-born scientist, is the man behind the present-day N95 respirator
- The mask could only be used once in vulnerable environments like hospitals before it lost its virus-stopping potency

Corona Charging

- It is the charging technology that Tsai used in 1992 to make N95 capture the virus
- He combined two technologies—melt blowing and electrostatic charging—to produce a layer of melt-blown fabric that is at the core of the mask
- Melt blowing turns fibres into non-woven fabric with very fine pores. The electrostatic charging gives the fibre electric charge that traps and stops the sub-micron viruses and bacteria

Reusable N95

- For making that reusable, Tsai recommends heat treatment
- He says heating the mask at 70 degrees for 60 minutes can deactivate the virus
- Other solutions include steaming etc. but heat treatment is most effective
- Using UV rays might degrade the polypropylene material of the mask