

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

1. Union Health Minister approves National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021.



- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister approved the “National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021” on 30th March 2021. The policy document has been uploaded on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The field of rare diseases is very complex and heterogeneous and prevention, treatment and management of rare diseases has multiple challenges. Early diagnosis of rare diseases is a major challenge owing to a variety of factors that include lack of awareness among primary care physicians, lack of adequate screening and diagnostic facilities etc.
- a very comprehensive National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 has been finalized by the Ministry of H&FW after multiple consultations with different stakeholders and experts in the area. Draft Policy for Rare Diseases was put in public domain on 13th January 2020 on which comments/views were invited from all stakeholders, general public, organization and States and Union Territories. All the comments received were examined in depth by an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry.
- The Rare Diseases Policy aims to lower the high cost of treatment for rare diseases with increased focus on indigenous research with the help of a National Consortium to be set up with Department of Health Research,
- The Policy also focuses on early screening and prevention through primary and secondary health care infrastructure such as Health and Wellness Centres and District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) and through counselling for the high-risk parents. Screening will also be supported by Nidan Kendras set up by Department of Biotechnology.
- Policy also aims to strengthen tertiary health care facilities for prevention and treatment of rare diseases through designating 8 health facilities as Centre of Excellence and these CoEs will also be provided one-time financial support of up to Rs 5 crores for upgradation of diagnostics facilities.
- A provision for financial support up to Rs. 20 lakhs under the Umbrella Scheme of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi is proposed for treatment, of those rare diseases that require a one-time treatment (diseases listed under Group 1 in the rare disease policy). Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would not be limited to BPL families, but the benefit will be extended to about 40% of the population, who are eligible under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

- the Policy also envisages a crowd funding mechanism in which corporates and individuals will be encouraged to extend financial support through a robust IT platform for treatment of rare diseases. Funds so collected will be utilized by Centres of Excellence for treatment of all three categories of rare diseases as first charge and then the balance financial resources could also be used for research.

2. Tribes India’ Contest Launched by TRIFED in Association with Mygov.In



- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has launched two interesting competitions, Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India and Be a ‘Friend’ of TRIBES INDIA Contest in association with MyGov.in, the citizen-government engagement platform.
- These competitions have been launched with the sole objective of promoting tribal craft, culture and lifestyle. Through these innovative contests, awareness about tribal heritage, arts, crafts can be enhanced among the general public. With more knowledge and awareness about tribal heritage, it is hoped that citizens will also contribute to overall tribal empowerment by purchasing more tribal products.
- Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” is inviting stories featuring any tribal product (s) from customers across the country. The stories should highlight his/ her experience in using the product and provide details of the product and the place/ shop from where it was purchased. The requirement is that the stories are in the form of short videos ranging from 30 seconds to 5 minutes. The tribal products may include gents or ladies' apparel, jewellery, accessories, paintings, metal crafts, terracotta & pottery, decorative items, food & organic items, cane & bamboo items, stationery, furniture, home furnishings, cuisine, etc.
- Participants will have to share their stories in the form of a link to the video uploaded on YouTube. The contest will be on till 14th May 2021. 50 entries will be selected and awarded a Gift Voucher which will be valid at all Tribes India Showrooms and Tribesindia.com. More details are found at <https://www.mygov.in/task/be-brand-ambassador-tribes-india/>
- Following the success of its first Quiz contest on Indian culture which was organised in association with MyGov in February,
- TRIFED has launched the second edition of the Quiz. Called “Be A Friend of Tribes India”, the quiz went live on MyGov on April 2, 2021 and will be on till May 14, 2021. 50 winners of this quiz will be

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awarded a Tribes India Gift Voucher, valid on Tribesindia.com and all Tribes India outlets. The quiz can be taken at: <https://quiz.mygov.in/quiz/be-a-friend-of-tribes-india-2021/>

- Tribes constitute over 8% of our population however, they are among the disadvantaged sections of the society. An attitude that pervades among the mainstream is the erroneous belief that they have to be taught and helped. However the truth is otherwise – the tribals have a lot to teach urban India. Characterised by natural simplicity, their creations have a timeless appeal. The wide range of handicrafts which include hand-woven cotton, silk fabrics, wool, metal craft, terracotta, bead-work, all need to be preserved and promoted.
- These initiatives, launched in association with MyGov fall in line with the Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, the PM's vision of emphasising local products and promoting local entrepreneurship.

3. Tulip Festival



- In the Kashmir Valley, five-day Tulip Festival in Srinagar was inaugurated today by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- Over 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom on the foothills of Zabarwan Mountains.
- The five-day-long Tulip Festival in Asia's largest tulip garden at the foothills of Zabarwan hills on the banks of world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar has begun.
- The Tulip Garden was opened for tourists and the general public on 25th of March. Last year the Tulip Festival could not be held because of the unprecedented situation of COVID-19. However, this time, the Tulip Festival is being organized on a large scale to attract more and more tourists.
- The Tulip Festival, to be held from 3rd to 7th of April, will showcase Kashmiri folk music apart from a painting competition.

4. The 2023 men's boxing World Championships.



- The 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent. International Boxing Association (AIBA) President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.
- The city of Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan.
- During his visit to Uzbekistan, Kremlev held a working meeting and a press conference with the chairman of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) Rustam Shaabdurakhmonov and the first deputy chairman of Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan Saken Polatov, where he discussed the development of boxing in Uzbekistan and Central Asia and the first stages of preparation for the World Championships.

5. SANKALP SE SIDDH



Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India

- Following the success of the Village and Digital connect initiative during which TRIFED's regional officials across the country went to identified villages with a significant tribal population and supervised the implementation of the various programmes and initiatives earlier in 2021,
- TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has now launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village & Digital Connect Drive. Starting from April 1, 2021, this 100 day drive will entail 150 teams (10 in each region from

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TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners) visiting ten villages each. 100 villages in each region and 1500 villages in the country will be covered in the next 100 days. The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in these villages.

- The objective of the MSP for MFP scheme is to establish a framework for ensuring fair prices for the tribal gatherers, primary processing, storage, transportation etc.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential VDVks for clustering as TRIFOOD, and SFURTI units as larger enterprises. They will also identify tribal artisans and other groups and empanel them as suppliers so that they can have access to larger markets through the Tribes India network – both physical outlets and TribesIndia.com.
- It is expected that Sankalp Se Siddhi will aid in effecting a complete transformation of the tribal ecosystem across the country.

6. 3rd phase of eCourts project



- In another major initiative the eCommittee Supreme Court has prepared the draft vision document for Phase III of the eCourts Project under the auspices of the Supreme court of India. E-Courts Project is a mission mode project undertaken by the Department of Justice, Government of India.
- The eCommittee Supreme Court of India released the Draft Vision document for Phase III of the aforementioned e-Courts Project. The Press release from ecommittee stated that the draft vision document is hosted on the ecommittee website <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/document/draft-vision-document-for-e-courts-project-phase-iii>
- in this regard, the Chairperson of eCommittee Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India also addressed various stakeholders,
- The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has been overseeing the implementation of the eCourts Project, conceptualized under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005". The eCommittee has evolved in terms of its roles and responsibilities over the last fifteen years.
- A solid foundation for the objectives of the eCommittee has been substantially achieved in the first two phases of the Project.

- The objectives of the eCommittee include: Interlinking of all courts across the country; ICT enablement of the Indian judicial system; Enabling courts to enhance judicial productivity, both qualitatively and quantitatively; Making the justice delivery system accessible, cost-effective, transparent and accountable; and Providing citizen-centric services.
- Phase III of the eCourts Project in India is rooted in two central facets—access and inclusion. Phase III of the eCourts Project envisions a judicial system that is more easily accessible irrespective of geographical distances, efficient and equitable for every individual who seeks justice, makes more efficient use of human and other resources, and absorbs the latest technology for a positive environmental impact.
- Whole-of-system approach: Phase III must aim to make processes more efficient across all three components of dispute management i.e. dispute avoidance, containment and resolution. Each of these components will require technological integration with different institutions.

7. Rafale jets



- India will receive another 8 to 9 Rafale jets from France by mid-May, with some expected later this month, completing the first squadron of the fighters in the Indian Air Force (IAF), according to a defence official.
- With the inductions this month set to complete the first squadron, which currently has 14 jets, the IAF is all set to operationalise the second Rafale squadron at Hasimara in West Bengal later this month.
- Last September, the IAF inducted the batch of five Rafales of 36 jets contracted from France under a €7.87 billion Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in September 2016 with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE).
- The first batch of five Rafale jets, three single seat and two twin seater trainers, were formally inducted into No.17 'Golden Arrows' squadron of the IAF last September at Ambala Air Force station. They arrived in India in July 2020 with a stopover at Al Dhafra airbase in United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The second batch of three Rafales arrived in India last November, also flying non-stop from France with three in-flight refuellings supported by French Air Force mid-air refuelling aircraft. The third

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batch of three Rafales arrived in India in January. The fourth batch of three jets arrived on March 31 and were refueled in-flight by UAE Air Force tankers.

- Last December, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria said the Force would get 3 to 4 Rafales every two to three months till all 36 jets are delivered and added that the first squadron would be fully ready by end 2021 and the second squadron by 2023.

8. Aces awards 2021



- M.C. Mary Kom, the six-time boxing world champion, won the Sportstar of the Decade award at the 2021 Sportstar Aces – Giants of the Decade edition on Sunday.
- Mary Kom won a gold medal at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, after winning bronze at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. When she earned her fifth gold medal at the 2017 Asian Championships, the Manipur pugilist who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian decoration, became the first boxer to win five gold medals at the Asian Championships.
- With eight medals (six gold, one silver and one bronze), 'Magnificent' Mary is the most decorated boxer in World Championships history. Her crowning glory came at the 2012 London Olympics, where she won bronze in the 51kg division. The legendary boxer, on the other hand, is guided by the pursuit of an elusive Olympic gold.
- The giants of the decade in Indian sport were honoured at the Sportstar Aces Awards in 2021, with the winners being judged on their results and consistency from 2011 to 2020.
- Eleven awards were given out in the common choice category, which was open to public voting, as well as 14 jury awards and special appreciation awards in two new categories – Sports for Good and Giants off the Field – that recognise the work of organisations and individuals that have used sports to improve society.

9. inflation target(April 2021 and March 2026)



- On the last day of the financial year 2020-21, the Finance Ministry announced that the inflation target for the five years between April 2021 and March 2026 will remain unchanged at 4%, with an upper tolerance level of 6% and a lower tolerance level of 2%.
- This is the retail inflation target that will drive the country's monetary policy framework and influence its decision to raise, hold or lower interest rates.
- India had switched to an inflation target-based monetary policy framework in 2015, with the 4% target kicking in from 2016-17.
- Many developed countries had adopted an inflation-rate focus as an anchor for policy formulation for interest rates rather than past fixations with metrics like the currency exchange rate or controlling money supply growth. Emerging economies have also been gradually adopting this approach.
- In adopting a target for a period of five years, the central bank has the visibility and the time to smoothly alter and adjust its policies in order to attain the targeted inflation levels over the medium term, rather than seek to achieve it every month.

10. Islamic scholar Maulana Wali Rahmani dies in India.



- Eminent Islamic scholar Maulana Wali Rahmani died in India on Saturday.
- Rahmani, 78, a former general secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), had tested positive for the novel coronavirus last week.



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- He died at a private hospital in Patna in the eastern state of Bihar.
- Nitish Kumar, chief minister of Bihar, also expressed condolences on Rahmani's demise.
- Born in 1943, Rahmani was a member of the Bihar Legislative Council from 1974 to 1996
- He was also head of the Imarat-e-Shariah, a socio-religious organization working in India's Bihar, Orissa, and Jharkhand states.
- He also launched Rahmani30 in 2009 to provide free tuitions to poor Muslim students.

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