



# PT CARD



## YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) Scheme

- The Ministry of Education has launched 'YUVA' Scheme an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age). **The launch of YUVA is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.**
- YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like **Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement** and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner.
- **The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education as the Implementing Agency, will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme** and published the books. To ensure the exchange of Indian culture and literature, these books will also be translated into other languages, which will promote 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest under the Mentorship Scheme who will be trained by eminent authors/mentors. A consolidated scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid.

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## One Nation One Standard Mission

- To attain **‘Nation One Standard’** vision of Govt. of India, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has launched a scheme which provides for **‘Recognition of Standard Developing Organization’**.
- Through this scheme, BIS aims at **aggregating and integrating the existing capabilities and dedicated domain specific expertise available with various organizations in the country** and enable convergence of all standard development activities in the country resulting in ‘One National Standard for One Subject’.
- **‘Research Design & Standards Organization’** of Indian Railways has become the **FIRST** Institution to be declared SDO under **‘One Nation One Standard’** mission of BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) which is an Institution under Department of Consumer Affairs.
- RDSO, Lucknow which is the sole R&D Wing of Ministry of Railways, is one of India’s leading Standard formulating Body undertaking **standardization work for railway sector**.

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## Litoria Mira

- A species of frog lives in the rainforests of **New Guinea** that appears to be made from chocolate due to its cocoa colour. Its name is inspired by the Latin adjective 'Mirum', which means surprised or strange.
- Litoria mira can be **distinguished from all other Litoria** by its unique combination of moderately large size, webbing on hand, relatively short and robust limbs and small violet patch of skin on the edge of its eyes.
- The Litoria mira **seem alike the Green Tree Frog of Australia** called Litoria cerulean, except for the colour of their skins. The reason that the chocolate frog and the green tree frog are similar is that Australia and New Guinea used to be linked by land for much of the late tertiary period (2.6 million years ago) and share many biotic elements.
- Today, **the island of New Guinea is separated from the 'Horn of Queensland' by the Torres Strait**. New Guinea is dominated by Rainforest and northern Australia by the Savannah.





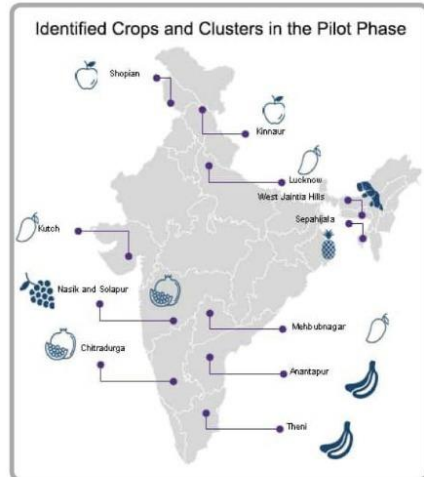


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## Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

- 'Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare' launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme to ensure holistic growth of horticulture. It is a central sector programme.
- In a pilot phase, it will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme. It will be **implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.**
- **The programme will address all major issues related to the Indian horticulture sector including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.** It's designed to leverage geographical specialisation and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
- The programme will benefit about 10 lakh farmers and related stakeholders of the value chain and is expected to attract an investment of Rs. 10,000 crore when implemented in all the 53 clusters.



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## Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine Initiative and Portal

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative and portal to support India's elderly persons. It has been launched with a view **to help such persons who are interested in entrepreneurship in the field of providing services for elderly care.**
- The **SAGE portal will be a 'one-stop access' of elderly care products and services** by credible start-ups. It has been opened for applications from 5th June, 2021 onwards.
- The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centers, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.
- India's elderly population is on the rise there is an urgent need to create a more robust elder care ecosystem in India. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been assigned for the promotion of the silver economy. A fund of upto Rs.1 crore as one-time equity will be granted to each selected start-up.
- An allocation of Rs 25 crores has been made for the SAGE project in the current financial year i.e 2021-22. Earlier a **Senior Citizen Welfare Fund was started in 2016.**

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## Anti-Hail Gun

- **An anti-hail gun is a machine that generates shock waves to disrupt the growth of hailstones in clouds.** It comprises a tall, fixed structure somewhat resembling an inverted tower, several metres high, with a long and narrow cone opening towards the sky.
- **The gun is 'fired' by feeding an explosive mixture of acetylene gas and air into its lower chamber** which releases a shock wave. These shock waves supposedly stop water droplets in clouds from turning into hailstones, so that they fall simply as raindrops. **The waves that travel faster than the speed of sound, such as those produced by supersonic aircraft.**
- To help out horticulturists who face crop damage due to hailstorms, the Himachal Pradesh government will be testing the use of indigenously developed 'Anti-Hail Guns'. Every summer from March to May, frequent hailstorms in the fruit-growing areas of Himachal destroy apples, pears and other crops, causing massive losses to farmers.
- Hail is produced by 'cumulonimbus clouds' which are generally large and dark and may cause thunder and lightning. In such clouds, winds can blow up the water droplets to heights where they freeze into ice, till the hailstones become too heavy and fall down.

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## Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme

- A crisis of medical oxygen that was needed for severely ill Covid-19 patients, the **Haryana government** to avoid such a deficit in the future, **has come out with a 'unique and first of its kind initiative'**.
- The state government has taken an initiative **to honour all those trees which are of the age of 75 years and above** and have served humanity throughout their life by producing oxygen, reducing pollution, providing shade and so on. Such trees will be identified throughout the state and these will be looked after by involving local people in this scheme.
- **A pension amount' of Rs 2,500 would be given per year** in the name of PVDPS by the Urban Local Bodies department **for maintenance of trees older than 75 years, installing plates, grilles etc.** This 'tree pension' shall continue to increase every year, on lines similar to the Old Age Samman Pension Scheme in the state.
- **The Oxy Vans will occupy 10 per cent of the 8 lakh hectares of land across Haryana.** Oxy Van are identified pieces of land, on which as many as 3 crore trees would be planted. They will be planted on land ranging from 5 acres to 100 acres.



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## Sustainable Public Procurement

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, **a new product category of Green Room Air Conditioners was launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** under the ‘Sustainable Public Procurement’ (SPP) program.
- ‘Sustainable Public Procurement’ (SPP) is a process by which public authorities seek **to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental, when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project.** These three pillars are called Triple Bottom Line.
- This innovation can provide financial savings for government buyers and will **meet evolving environmental challenges by moving towards a circular economy.** The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has been active in the promotion of Sustainable Public Procurement at regional, national and global levels since 2005.
- Public procurement spend in India is nearly 15-20% of its GDP. Introducing SPP to this huge quantum of government procurement **will further complement the country's climate policy objectives.**

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## Dihing Patkai

- The Assam government has **notified Dihing Patkai as a National Park**. The 'last remaining stretches' of the Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forests have become **Assam's seventh National Park**.
- Dihing Patkai, encompasses the erstwhile Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, the Jeypore Reserve Forest and the western block of the Upper Dihing Reserve Forest. The forest village area diverted under Forest Conservation Act has been excluded. Short stretches of the Dirak and Buri Dihing rivers have been included in the park.
- About 234 sq. km **Dihing Patkai straddling eastern Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts is a major elephant habitat** and 310 species of butterflies have been recorded there. The park has 47 species each of reptiles and mammals, including the tiger and clouded leopard.
- **Assam now has the third most National Parks** after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Before It Raimona National Park located in Kokrajhar district of western Assam has been declared as the sixth national park of Assam.
- The five older National Parks in the State are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa. **Kaziranga and Manas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites** and they are also tiger reserves along with Nameri and Orang.



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## Supersonic Overture Aircraft

- **United Airlines announced it was ordering 15 supersonic planes** with the ability to travel at Mach 1.7, faster than the speed of sound **from the Denver-based startup Boom**. Nearly two decades since the last supersonic passenger flight, of the British-French airliner Concorde took off the supersonic planes are set to return to the runways by 2029.
- Boom claims to produce an eco-friendly aircraft with 'net-zero carbon emissions' **set to fly with 100 per cent sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)**. Supersonic vehicles in the past have been flagged for their high use of jet fuels, causing extensive environmental damage.
- **The new supersonic 'Overture' aircraft will become the world's fastest commercial airliner**, reducing travel time by about half of today's planes. The Overture aircraft would travel at the speed 1,805 kmph with a range of 4,250 nautical miles. It could carry 65 to 88 passengers and reach an altitude of 60,000 ft. **It aims for Zero Overland noise.**
- Supersonic aircraft are planes that can fly faster than the speed of sound. The technology for supersonic flights is actually over 70 years old, but only recently has been used for commercial flying. Before 1976, when the first commercial supersonic flight took off, the planes were used entirely for military purposes.



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## Beed Model of Crop Insurance

- **Maharashtra has urged the central government for state-wide implementation of the 'Beed model' of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).** Located in the drought-prone Marathwada region, the district of Beed presents a challenge for any insurance company.
- During the 2020 kharif season, the state Agriculture Department decided to tweak the guidelines for the district. **The state-run Indian Agricultural Insurance Company implemented the scheme.**
- Under the new guidelines, the insurance company provided a cover of 110% of the premium collected, with caveats. **If the compensation exceeded the cover provided, the state government would pay the bridge amount.**
- **In a normal season where farmers report minimal losses, the state government is expected to get back money** that can form a corpus to fund the scheme for the following year.
- In the Beed model, the profit of the company is expected to reduce and the state government would access another source of funds. For farmers, however, this model does not have any direct benefit.

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## Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization-SMAM

- To empower the farmers through the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released funds for various activities of Farm Mechanization. **The Agriculture ministry has launched this mission in 2014-15.**
- **The objectives of this mission is increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions & difficult areas where farm power availability is low.** Under this scheme, it has been proposed to establish Village Level Farm Machinery Bank, Custom Hiring Centres and High Tech Hubs in order to facilitate easy availability of farm implements and machinery for hire by farmers.
- Agricultural Mechanization plays a vital role in optimizing the use of land, water, energy resources, manpower and other inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc to maximize the productivity of the available cultivable area and make agriculture a more profitable and attractive profession for rural youth.
- It is one of the key drivers for the sustainable development of the agriculture sector. Sustainable Agriculture mechanization growth will require appropriate and precision agricultural machinery adequately supported by the latest technology.



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### Pyrostria laljii

- A 15-metre-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family has been discovered from the Andaman Islands in June 2021. **The new species is also the first record of the genus Pyrostria in India.** Plants belonging to genus Pyrostria are usually found in Madagascar.
- The new species, **Pyrostria laljii** was first reported from the Wandoor forest in South Andaman. The other places in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the tree could be located are the Tirur forest near the Jarawa Reserve Forest and the Chidia Tapu forest.
- The tree is distinguished by a long stem with a whitish coating on the trunk and oblong-obovate leaves with a cuneate base. Its umbellate inflorescence with 8 to 12 flowers distinguish the tree from other species of the genus.
- Pyrostria laljii **has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.**
- The species has been named Pyrostria laljii after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and Head of Office, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.



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