

testbook MONTHLY GOVERNMENT SCHEME CAPSULE

OCTOBER 2018

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES MONTHLY CAPSULE OCTOBER 2018

Assam becomes the first state to launch Wage Compensation Scheme For Pregnant Women In Tea Gardens.

- Assam Government has become the first Indian state to launch Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.
- **The announcement was made by the State's Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.**
- The scheme will be launched by Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati.
- Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of their unborn baby and also self-care during pregnancy.
- The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments – Rs.2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs.3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs.3,000 for registration of the child's birth.
- Jagdish Mukhi is the Present Governor of Assam.
- Dispur is the Capital city of Assam.

Assam

- **Capital:** Dispur
- **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi
- **CM:** Sarbanand Sonowal

India's 1st Comprehensive City-Level Flood Forecasting and Warning System launched in Kolkata.

- Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City.
- **It is also India's first** comprehensive city-level Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) launched by Kolkata.
- This warning system will reduce economic loss and impacts on livelihood and improve flood awareness and safety at the community level.
- The design and implementation of the FFEWS through a \$1 million technical assistance to KMC is done by Asian Development Bank (ADB) from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility.

- The Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in 1966 with its Headquarter at Manila, Philippines.
- Takehiko Nakao is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.

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SATAT Initiative launched by Petroleum Ministry.

- An innovative initiative titled SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) is launched by Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- This initiative by the Petroleum Ministry would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- SATAT has been launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up Compressed Biogas

(CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance inaugurated by Prime Minister.

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi.
- The same event also marked the inauguration of the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).
- The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

Odisha Government Launches Food Security Scheme.

- Recently Odisha government has launched the **State's own food security scheme to cover the poor** people of the State.
- **Under State's own food security** scheme, 25 lakh poor people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act, will get rice of 5 kg per month for one rupee.
- The government will spend Rs.442 crore per year for implementation of the scheme.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme via video conferencing at the State Secretariat in Bhubaneswar.

\$240 Million Loan signed between India And ADB For Safe Drinking Water Service For West Bengal.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and The government of India have signed \$240 million loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water for West Bengal.
- This will provide help to 1.65 million people in three districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- The signatories to the West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project were Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance; and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

'Udyam Abhilasha' a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign launched by SIDBI.

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.

- This campaign was launched to mark the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- SIDBI was set up on 2nd April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament with its headquarter at Lucknow.
- Mohammad Mustafa is the present CMD of SIDBI.

First Regional Conference to be held in Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice'.

- The First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' will be organised by The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.
- This will help in ensuring better implementation of Prison Reform and Rehabilitation Program in order to improve the conditions of Women Inmates and their Access to Justice.
- The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Acharya Devvrat, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Supreme Court has constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms.

"Mission Gange" launched by NMCG in partnership with TSAF.

- A month-long rafting expedition will be launched by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in partnership with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) with of team of 40 members.
- **This mission will be led by India's first woman to scale Mount Everest Ms. Bachendri Pal.**
- The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5th 2018 traversing a distance of around 1500 km encompassing 8 major towns.
- Mission Gange will finally conclude in Patna, Bihar.

Lucknow to host Indian International Science Festival 2018.

- Lucknow, UttarPradesh will host a four-day Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2018.
- Science Festival (IISF) 2018 with its focal theme **"Science for Transformation" will have 23 special events.**
- Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that about ten thousand scientists and experts, including science teachers and students, will participate in the event.
- The IISF is being organised in the state for the first time.
- President Ramnath Kovind will formally inaugurate the festival IISF-2018.
- Last year IISF 2017 was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Coast Guards of India, Vietnam Hold Joint Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018'.

- A Vietnam Coast Guard ship, on its maiden visit to Chennai, undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018', off the city coast aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between them.
- Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and interceptor boat C-431 along with a Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise.

Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy to be adopted by 21 IORA Countries.

- 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The Delhi Declaration calls for collaboration among IORA member states in meeting the growing demand for renewable energy in the Indian Ocean littorals as described by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- These 21 IORA nations adopted the Delhi Declaration post the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida.

Assam launches India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program'

- Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program" marking a historic day for India.
- 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.
- The program was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman at Namrup.

SIRIUS Signs MoU with Atal Innovation Mission.

- India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS an Educational Foundation had exchanged an MOU to promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia.
- MOU was exchanged in the presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin, in New Delhi.

'Unnati Scheme' to Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities launched by Karnataka.

- For the betterment of the communities, The Karnataka Government has launched 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities.
- The state government, under the Unnati scheme, will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end

- support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.
- This scheme was announced by Karnataka Social Welfare Minister Priyank Karge.

Karnataka

- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala
- **CM:** H. D. Kumaraswamy

'Nirman Kusuma' Scheme launched by Odisha Government.

- Odisha Government Launches 'Nirman Kusuma' Scheme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state.
- The children of construction workers would get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- An ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600, a diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum.
- Scheme launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will benefit a total of 1,878 students under this programme.

Indian Air Force Launches Mobile Health App 'MedWatch'.

- The Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch' to mark the occasion of its 86th anniversary.
- 'MedWatch' is the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services and was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.
- The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in-house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with ZERO financial outlay.

2nd World Conference On Access To Medical Products inaugurated by J P Nadda.

- '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products for Achieving the SDGs 2030' in New Delhi is inaugurated by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda.
- The Information Sharing Platform Gateway for South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing wa launched by J P Nadda.
- This will promote regulatory and health collaboration among the countries of the South-East Asia Region.

Country's 1st Biofuel Plant to be set up by BPCL in Odisha.

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete the setup of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.
- This is the first biofuel plant in the country where ethanol will be produced from rice straw.
- The proposed plant by BPCL involves an investment of Rs 1000 crore.
- Dharmendra Pradhan is the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Odisha

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal
- **CM:** Naveen Patnaik

Goa International Film Festival to have Jharkhand as partner State.

- Jharkhand To Become Partner State At Goa International Film Festival, that will be held in November 2018.
- This Film Festival will allow Jharkhand to showcase its culture and favourable filmmaking incentives announced by the state government.
- The decision was taken in meeting between Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Amit Khare and Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Sudhir Tripathy at Ranchi.
- Chief Minister of Jharkhand -
- Governor of Jharkhand - Draupadi Murmu.

Jharkhand

- **Capital:** Ranchi
- **Governor:** Draupadi Murmu
- **CM:** Raghubar Das

Merger of NCVT And NSDA for establishing NCVET approved by Cabinet.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) into the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.
- The primary functions of NCVET will include -
 - Approval of qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs);
 - Indirect regulation of vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies;

- Recognition and regulation of awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information provider
- Research, information dissemination and Grievance redressal.

Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency signs MoU with IIT-Madras.

- Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) signs MOU with IIT-Madras to enhance data-driven governance.
- Through this MOU, the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC DSAI) at IIT-Madras has agreed to support the State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges.
- The collaboration is expected to contribute towards various aspects of governance, including (but not limited to) education, healthcare, and agriculture, says a press release from IIT-Madras.

NLC signs MoU with Coal India for 5000 MW Power Generation.

- NLC India (NLCIL), formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Coal India will jointly set up 5000 MW of power generation capacity of which 3000 MW would be solar powered while the rest 2000 MW would be coal-fuelled.
- The MoU extends for setting up of 2,000 MW of thermal power generation **across CIL's subsidiaries.**
- Coal India has been tasked to become a net zero emission energy company by the ministry of coal, a move which requires it to generate 3,000 MW of solar power.

First India-Israel Innovation Centre Opens in Bengaluru.

- The country's **first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)**, an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.

New AI-based Assistant 'Disha' launched by IRCTC to help resolve problems.

- IRCTC has launched a new AI-based assistant, 'Ask Disha' for its website.
- This new assistant will be prompt in answering generic queries about most frequently asked questions on the ticket booking platform
- The AI chatbot called Disha is powered by CoRover, a Bengaluru-based startup that owns the platform which is built on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

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'Swastha Bharat Yatra' Campaign launched by Government.

- The government launched a national campaign 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' on the World Food Day (16th October) under which a pan-India cycle rally is

being organized to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy.

- It was announced by the FSSAI chief executive Pawan Kumar Agarwal.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is leading this campaign where about 7,500 cyclists are expected to participate in over 18,000 km relay cycle rally travelling across six tracks through almost every state and UT over 100 days to propagate a powerful message 'Eat Right India'.

Mizoram to organize Indo-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian'.

- India and Japan to hold the first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' for promoting Military cooperation, involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Mizoram, India.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while the Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.

'Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali' Campaign launched by Environment Ministry.

- Environment Ministry has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign to minimize noise and air pollution.
- This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein a large number of school children participated and took a pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
- The Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign is now merged with "Green Good Deed" movement that has been initiated as a social mobilization for conservation and protection of the environment.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the present Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

'Main Nahi Hum' Portal launched by PM in New Delhi.

- The Prime Minister launched the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and app which works on the theme "Self for Society" will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.
- Professionals from about 100 locations across India joined the event through video-conference.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals and key industry leaders from across the country in New Delhi.

Web Portal of SPARC launched by HRD Minister in New Delhi.

- Web portal “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)” is launched by The Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.
- SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

PM Modi Inaugurated Krishi Kumbha in Lucknow.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a farmers’ conclave ‘Krishi Kumbh 2018’ in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing.
- The Kumbh witnessed two of the world’s top economies, Israel and Japan, as official partners while Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states.
- The three-day ‘Krishi Kumbh’ is being organized to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income.

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