

30 – 12 – 2021

News: Apatani Weaving

- An application for geographical Indication (GI) tag for the **Arunachal Pradesh Apatani textile product** has been filed by a firm, Zeet Zeero Producer Company Ltd.

Apatani textile product

- The Apatani weave **comes from the Apatani tribe living at Ziro, the headquarters of Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The woven fabric of this tribe is **known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and for its angular designs.**
- The Apatani community **weaves its own textiles for various occasions including rituals and cultural festivals.**
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as **jig-jiro, and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.**
- The people use **leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing** of the cotton yarns in their traditional ways.
- Only **women folk are engaged in weaving.**

- The traditional handloom of this tribe is a **type of loom, which is called Chichin, and is similar to the traditional handloom of the Nyishi tribe.** It is **portable, easy to install and operated by a single weaver,** especially the female members of the community.

News: BRICS New Development Bank

- Recently, **Egypt** has joined the BRICS New Development Bank as its member.
- Earlier, in September **Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay** have joined in September.

New Development Bank

- New Development Bank is **headquartered in Shanghai.**
- At the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi (2012) the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank was considered **to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development** projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in **Fortaleza (2014) the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).**
- Fortaleza Declaration stressed that the **NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial**

institutions for global development thus contributing to sustainable and balanced growth.

- In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.
- The NDB's credit rating is AA+, one short of the maximum, which other development banks such as AIIB have. This is despite many of its members, notably Brazil and South Africa, facing tough economic times domestically.
- NDB's key areas of operation are clean energy, transport infrastructure, irrigation, sustainable urban development and economic cooperation among the member countries.
- The NDB functions on a consultative mechanism among the BRICS members with all the member countries possessing equal rights.
- Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power.
- The first president of the Bank was from India and the first regional office of NDB was set up in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Bank's Articles of Agreement specify that all members of the United Nations could be members of the bank however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.

Major Projects funded by NDB in India

- It has committed funding to a number of major infrastructure projects in India, including the Mumbai Metro rail, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System and many Renewable Energy projects.
- The NDB has so far approved 14 Indian projects for an amount of nearly USD 4.2 billion.
- In 2020, India announced a 1 billion USD loan pact with NDB to boost rural employment and infrastructure.

News: PM to release 10th installment of PM-KISAN on 1st January

- In line with the continued commitment and resolve to empower grassroot level farmers, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will release the 10th installment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on 1st January, 2022 at 12:30 PM via video conferencing.
- This will enable the transfer of an amount of more than Rs. 20,000 crore to more than 10 crore beneficiary farmer families.

Pradhan Manthri Kisan Samman Nidhi- PM KISAN

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is a **Central sector scheme** with 100% funding from Centre implemented by **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- Under this scheme, Gov. transfers **6000/- per year in three equal instalments** directly to the bank account of farmers, **irrespective of the size of their farm holdings**.
- The scheme when launched was available only to small and marginal farmer families having combined landholding/ownership of up to 2 hectares. The provision is now taken away for including **all land holders to be the beneficiaries** of the scheme with some exceptions.

Exceptions to the beneficiaries of PM KISAN Yojana

- All Institutional Landholders.

Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to the following categories:

- Former and present holders of **constitutional posts**.
- Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and **former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative**

Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.

- All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees).
- All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/- or more (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees).
- All Persons who paid Income Tax in the last assessment year.
- Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.
- Definition of the family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- The identification of beneficiary of this scheme is entirely on the hands of State/ UT govt.
- For availing benefits under the scheme, Aadhaar is mandatory.

- Recently, on the first anniversary of PM-KISAN program, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched **PM-KISAN mobile App in collaboration with National Information Centre.**
- The farmers can view the status of their application, edit details like Aadhar Number and Bank Account numbers.
- **All OBC beneficiaries involved in Agricultural activities and getting coverage under the PM Kisan shall be eligible for coverage under Interest Subvention scheme Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana.**

Definition of Farmer

- There is **no well-defined definition of 'Farmer' for the programme - PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi).**
- Instead, the **definition available in the National Policy for Farmers, which was drafted by the National Commission on Farmers, headed by M.S. Swaminathan and officially approved by the centre in 2007 is used.**

The Definition clause of Farmers in the National Farmers Policy reads like:

- “For the purpose of this Policy, the term ‘Farmer’ will refer to a person actively engaged in the economic and/or livelihood activity of growing crops and

producing other primary agricultural commodities and will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting labourers, as well as the persons engaged in various farming related occupations, such as sericulture, vermiculture and agroforestry. The term will also include tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.”