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News: Raising and Accelerating MSME Performances (RAMP) Scheme

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance” (RAMP) scheme which would commence in FY 2022-23.\

**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performances
(RAMP) Scheme**

- Raising and Accelerating MSME Performances (RAMP) Scheme is a **World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various Covid Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).**
- It is aimed at **improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships and addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.**

Components

- Important component of RAMP is preparation of Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs), in which all states/UTs will be invited.
- The SIPs would include an outreach plan for identification and mobilization of MSMEs under RAMP, identify key constraints and gaps, set milestones and project the required budgets for interventions in priority sectors including renewable energy, rural & non-farm business, wholesale and retail trade, village and cottage industries, women enterprises etc.
- The overall monitoring and policy overview of RAMP would be done by an apex National MSME Council.
- The council will be headed by the Minister for MSME, including representation from various Ministries and supported by a secretariat.

Funding

- The total outlay for the scheme is Rs. 6,062.45 crore out of which Rs. 3750 crore would be a loan from the World Bank and the remaining Rs. 2312.45 crore would be funded by India.

Implementation Strategy

- Funds would flow through RAMP into the Ministry's budget against Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) to support ongoing MoMSME programmes, focusing on improving market access and competitiveness.
- The disbursement of funds from World Bank towards RAMP would be made on fulfilling the factors like implementing the National MSME Reform Agenda, accelerating MSME Sector Centre-State collaboration, enhancing effectiveness of Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS), strengthening Receivable Financing Market for MSMEs, enhancing Effectiveness of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and "Greening and Gender" delivery and reducing the incidence of delayed payments

Benefits of the Scheme

- **Address Challenges in the MSME Sector:** The RAMP programme will address the generic and Covid related challenges in the MSME sector by way of impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes, especially, on the competitiveness front.
- **Address inadequately Addressed Blocks in MSME:** The programme will bolster the inadequately addressed blocks of capacity building, handholding,

skill development, quality enrichment, technological upgradation, digitization, outreach and marketing promotion, amongst other things.

- **Generate Employment:** RAMP programme, through enhanced collaboration with States, will be a **job-enabler, market promoter, finance facilitator, and will support vulnerable sections and greening initiatives.**
- **Usher in Larger Formalization:** In States where the presence of MSMEs is on the lower side, the **programme will usher in larger formalization resulting from the higher impact of the schemes covered under RAMP.**
- The SIPs developed by these States would act as a roadmap for the development of an improved MSME sector.
- **Complement the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission:** RAMP will **complement the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission by fostering innovation and enhancement in industry standards, practices and providing the necessary technological inputs to the MSMEs.**

Significance of the scheme

- MSMEs are the growth **accelerators of the Indian economy, contributing about 30% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).**
- In terms of exports, they are an integral part of the supply chain and **contribute about 48% of the overall exports.**

- MSMEs also play an **important role in employment generation**, as they employ about 110 million people across the country.
- Interestingly, MSMEs are intertwined with the rural economy as well, as more than half of the MSMEs operate in rural India.
- It is in line with the **recommendations made by UK Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC)**.

News: Record nesting of Olive Ridley turtles

- As a record number of 4.92 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have crawled to the Rushikulya coast in Odisha, scientists have tagged more than 6,000 turtles to gather more information about their breeding behaviour and migration.

Olive Ridley Turtles

- Olive Riddley turtles are also known as **Pacific ridley sea turtle**.
- Olive ridley turtles are the **smallest and most abundant and are best known for their behavior of synchronized nesting in mass numbers, termed arribadas**.
- **Females return to the same beach from where they hatched**, to lay their eggs. They lay their eggs in conical nests about one and a half feet deep, which they laboriously dig with their hind flippers. In the Indian Ocean, the majority of olive ridleys nest in two or three large groups near Gahirmatha in Odisha. The

coast of Odisha in India is one the largest mass nesting site for the olive ridley, along with the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica.

- The 480-km-long Odisha coast has three arribada beaches at Gahirmatha, the mouth of the Devi river, and in Rushikulya, where about 1 lakh nests are found annually.
- Olive Riddleys are distributed throughout tropical warm waters of Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean.
- IUCN Status is Vulnerable whereas Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act and Appendix I of CITES Convention protects the turtle.
- Major threats faced include heavy predation of eggs by dogs and wild animals, indiscriminate fishing with trawlers and gill nets, accidental collision with boats, slaughtering of nesting females by human and loss of arribadas due to beach soil erosion.
- Operation Kachhapa was launched to conserve Olive Ridley Turtles. It was launched by Odisha state forest department in collaboration with Wildlife Society of Odisha and other local NGOs.
- Operation Olivia has been conducted annually since 1980s by Indian Coast Guard to protect the Olive Riddley breeding from November to December.
- Odisha has half of the world's Olive Ridley turtle population and 90% of India's turtle population.

- There are five species of turtles in Indian waters — **Leatherback** (Vulnerable), **Loggerhead** (Endangered), **Hawksbill** (Critically Endangered), **Green** (Endangered) and **Olive Ridley**. All these turtles are protected under Schedules of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- With an objective to conserve the Olive Ridley Turtles, the **UNDP Sea Turtle Project** was initiated by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as the **Implementing Agency in November 1999**.
- The following species of marine are being covered under this project - **green, hawksbill, loggerhead, leatherback, and olive ridley**.
- One of the main aims of the GOI – UNDP national sea turtle project was to **evaluate the status of and threats to marine turtles along the entire coastline** of India.
- The project is for **10 coastal states in India especially Odisha** where it has contributed towards the preparation of a map of breeding sites of Sea Turtles; identification of breeding places and habitats along the coastline, and migratory routes taken by Sea Turtles.
- The project also helped in the **development of guidelines to safeguard the turtle mortality rate and for tourism in sea turtle areas**. Amongst the major achievements of the project is the **demonstration of the use of Satellite Telemetry to locate the migratory route of sea turtles in the sea**.