



IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

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Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY)

- It focuses on integrated development of handicrafts clusters with participation of craftpersons.
- The selected artisans in these clusters are supported for sustainable development through NGO partners.
- The package of support under AHVY can be clubbed under,

1. Social Interventions
2. Technological interventions
3. Marketing interventions
4. Financial interventions
5. Cluster specific infrastructure related interventions

- The salient features are,

1. Base Line Survey & Mobilization of Artisans
2. Design & Technology Upgradation
3. Human Resource Development
4. Direct Benefit to Artisans
5. Infrastructure and Technology Support
6. Research and Development
7. Marketing Support & Services

- Under this scheme 90 clusters across the country are identified.
- It also cover aspirational districts, women clusters, weaker section and export potential clusters.
- The objective is to transform these clusters by ensuring self-sustainment of the Self Help Groups/artisans of these clusters.
- 'Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs' was organized all over the country for providing Aadhaar linked Pahchan card, marketing facilities, to artisans through Mudra loan.

Improving Milking Capacity of Cows

- Dairy activities form an essential part of the rural Indian economy, serving as an important source of employment and income.
 - India also has the largest bovine population in the world.
 - However, the milk production per animal is significantly low as compared to the other major dairy producers.
 - So, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has been implementing following schemes to improve the Milking capacity,
1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission - for conservation of bovine population thereby enhancing their productivity.
 2. National Dairy Plan-I - implemented in 18 major dairy states for enhancing milk production and productivity.
 3. Breed Improvement Institutes - It provide breeding inputs in the form of High Genetic merit bulls for Artificial Insemination and semen doses of bulls with high genetic potential.
- Unproductive animals with intact reproductive efficiency can be used as surrogate mothers under Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and IVF.
 - In Uttar Pradesh projects for establishment of two ETT labs with IVF facility have been sanctioned.
 - These initiatives are a part of doubling dairy farmers' income.

Cambodia - China secret agreement

- It gives the Chinese military exclusive rights to use part of a Ream naval base of Cambodia, in the Gulf of Thailand.
- This would include posting military personnel, storing weapons and berthing warships.
- But both China and Cambodia have denied for such a base are in work.
- The **Gulf of Thailand** also known as the **Gulf of Siam**, is a shallow inlet in the western part of the South China Sea.
- It is bordered by Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The northern tip of the Gulf of Thailand is referred to as the Bay of Bangkok.
- The Gulf of Thailand is becoming popular for whale watching and known for its coral reefs.
- The **Thai Canal** also known as **Kra Canal** or **Kra Isthmus Canal** is a proposed canal that would connect the Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea.
- China could fund the proposed 'Kra Canal' project.
- It is envisaged that the canal would improve transportation in the region.



Himalayan knotweed

- Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) is a plant species in the knotweed family.
- It is a native to the Himalayas and it was originally introduced as an ornamental garden plant.
- It grows on stream sides, hedge banks, woodland edges, roadsides, railway banks and waste ground.
- Once established this plant grows into extremely dense stands that out-compete all native vegetation.
- It can grow to about 6 feet in height, alter natural ecosystems and are difficult to eradicate.
- It is among 27 different species of invasive flora identified by Keystone Foundation.
- It became the latest threat to '**Nilgiris ecosystem**' and the rate at which they spreads becomes a serious cause for concern.
- It threatens the biodiversity along streams and rivers and the wetlands in the Nilgiris.

Himalayan Knotweed - (*Persicaria wallichii*)

Habitat: Terrestrial.
Family name: Polygonaceae



Description:

Himalayan knotweed is a rhizomatous perennial herb producing thick, hollow, erect stems easily exceeding one meter in length.



Via its rhizomes it can form dense colonies. It may also spread asexually if sections of the stem containing rooting nodes are separated and moved to a new area; chopping the plant into small pieces does not keep it from growing.

Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) is often mistaken for Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) as it bears similar long lance-like leaves. However, the leaf edge is not as serrated as Himalayan knotweed stems are bamboo-like, similar to other knotweeds.



As its name suggests, Himalayan knotweed is native to the Himalayas, with a native range spanning from Afghanistan to South-Western China.

Himalayan Balsam



Himalayan Knotweed

Himalayan knotweed has a long, tapering leaf.

The stems are normally green, although they can have alternating red-green colouration.

Brown sheaths can be found at the base of the leaf stem.

Flowers can range in colour from white to pink and are loosely clustered.

The hairy leaves are up to 20 centimeters long. The branching inflorescence is an array of lacy clusters of many small white or pinkish flowers.



Himalayan knotweed is a perennial plant, dying back in the winter months.



Knotweed winter canes

Reproduction:

It spreads vegetatively in the Ireland from cuttings and fragments.

Himalayan knotweed is not as common in Ireland as the other knotweed species, although it is considered to be in expansive in some localised areas.



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Source: PIB, The Indian Express



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