

Prelim Bits 29-05-2017

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

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- It aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner.

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- RGM is a focussed project under **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**, with an outlay of Rs 500 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan.

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- The Mission will be implemented with the objectives to:\n

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- development and conservation of indigenous breeds

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- undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock;

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- enhance milk production and productivity;

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- upgrade nondescript cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and

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- distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

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- Under this component it is proposed to establish Integrated **Indigenous Cattle Centres or Gokul Grams** in the breeding tracts of indigenous breeds.

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- The Gokul Gram will be self sustaining and will generate economic resources from sale of A2 milk, organic manure, vermi-composting, urine distillates, and production of electricity from bio gas for in house consumption and sale of animal products.

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- The Gokul Gram will also function as state of the art in situ training centre for Farmers, Breeders and MAITRI's.

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'See-through' frog

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- A newly identified frog species, with transparent skin through which its beating heart is visible, is under threat of extinction.

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- The frog, discovered in the **Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador**, has unique physical and behavioural traits.

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- The dark green spots on its back and its reproductive behaviour mark it out as different from known frogs.

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- Glass frogs **need pristine streams to breed in**. Males guard the eggs, which are attached below a tree's leaves, until they hatch and fall on the water stream below.

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- If the stream dries up, or becomes polluted, the frogs can't survive.

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3 cases of Zika virus in Gujarat

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- WHO has reported the first three "laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus disease" in India — all from Bapunagar area of **Ahmedabad**.

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- Zika virus is a member of the virus family Flaviviridae. It is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (**Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus**).

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- Its name comes from the **Zika Forest of Uganda**, where the virus was first isolated in 1947.

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- It can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

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- There is **no vaccine or medicine for Zika**.

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- Zika infection during pregnancy can cause a birth defect of the brain called

microcephaly and other severe brain defects. It is also linked to other problems, such as miscarriage, stillbirth, and other birth defects.

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- There have also been increased reports of **Guillain-Barré syndrome**, an uncommon sickness of the nervous system, in areas affected by Zika.

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rs145556679* - an unique gene

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- Scientists have identified a unique gene variant in people living in isolated **Greek villages** that **protects them from heart diseases**.

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- The variant, rs145556679*, is associated with lower levels of both 'bad' natural fats and 'bad' cholesterol, the factors that lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

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- The cardioprotective variant was found in Mylopotamos in northern Crete, where the population is isolated and live a long life despite having a diet rich in animal fat.

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