

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 23-07-2024

### **Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Khelo India Scheme**

*The Union government had promoted sports, including football, through two key schemes, Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Khelo India.*

#### **Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs)**

- The Scheme is designed to provide ***financial and technical support*** to NSFs for the development of sports in the country.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **Launched in-** 2001
- **Objectives-** To enhance the ***quality of sports*** and achieve excellence at national and international levels.
  - To provide financial assistance to athletes for training, participation in competitions, and other requirements.
  - To improve sports infrastructure and facilities.
  - To support the development of coaching standards and training programs.
- **Key Features-** It Provide financial assistance and grants for various activities, including training camps, purchase of equipment, and participation in ***international competitions***.
  - The scheme aims to enhance the bench strength of Indian athletes by implementing a robust talent identification and development system, striving for sporting excellence, and making India a sporting powerhouse.
  - It supports talent scouting and nurturing through scholarships and training programs.
  - It provides funding for anti-doping awareness and testing programs.

#### **Khelo India**

- It is a national program which aims to promote sports at the ***grassroots level***.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- **Launched in-** 2018.
- **Aim-** It aims to revive the sports culture by building a solid framework for all sports played in India and establishing our country as a sporting nation.
- It is a national scheme for the development of sports.
- It also targets at mainstreaming sports as a tool for national, economic, community and individual development.
- **Sports disciplines-** Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Wrestling.
- **Objectives of the Khelo India Scheme**
  - Mass youth participation in annual sports competitions through a structured competition
  - Identification of sports talent
  - Nurturing and guidance of the talent through a new set or existing sports academies either by the Central Government, state government, or in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
  - Creation of sports infrastructure at district, mofussil, tehsil, state levels, etc

## References

1. [PIB | Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations \(NSFs\)](#)
2. [Khelo India | ABOUT KHELO INDIA](#)

## National Bioenergy Programme

*The Union government has revised the financial assistance rates for Biomass Pellet manufacturing under the National Bioenergy Programme component.*

- The programme endeavours to promote bioenergy as a **sustainable and renewable energy source**.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Objective-** To support the setting up Waste to Energy projects for the generation of **Biogas/ BioCNG/ Power/ producer or syngas** from urban, industrial, and agricultural wastes/residues.
- The program aims to establish Biomass Briquette/Pellet manufacturing plants and support non-bagasse biomass cogeneration projects in the country.
- **Aim-** To harness bioenergy for energy security, rural development, and

environmental sustainability.

- It seeks to promote the use of biomass resources to generate energy, thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.
- **Components**
  - **Waste to Energy Programme-** This includes projects that generate energy from urban, industrial, and agricultural waste.
  - It encompasses technologies like biogas production, bio-CNG, and power generation from municipal solid waste.
  - **Biogas Programme-** This promotes the use of biogas for cooking, electricity generation, and as a vehicle fuel.
- **Central Financial Assistance-** The program provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to project developers and service charges to implementing/inspection agencies.
- The revision of CFA will enhance the utilization of Biomass in the Country including the utilization of Paddy Straw in States like ***Punajb, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh*** and would contribute to ***Air Quality Management by avoiding stubble burning.***

### **BioUrja portal**

- BioUrja portal has been developed as a single window platform to register and submit online applications for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to Waste to Energy projects
  - Biogas/ BioCNG/ Power/ producer or syngas from urban, industrial, and agricultural wastes/residues,
  - Biomass Briquette/Pellet manufacturing plants and Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration projects.
- The portal also enables registered users to track the status of their submitted applications.

### **References**

1. [PIB | National Bioenergy Programme](#)
2. [Vikaspedia | National Bioenergy Programme](#)

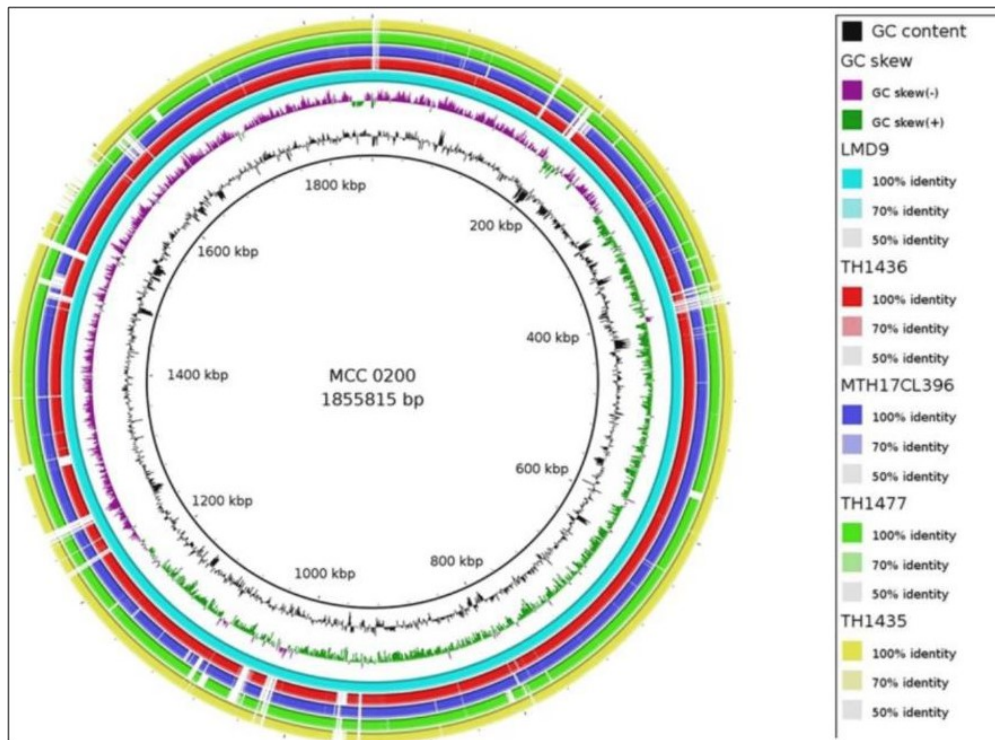
### **Strain MCC0200**

*Scientists have discovered a new strain of lactic acid bacterium with potential for broader probiotic use through collaborative genome analysis.*

*Genome analysis, also known as genomic analysis, is the study of an*

organism's genome, or complete set of genetic information.

- Strain MCC0200 identified as ***Streptococcus Thermophilus***, is a probiotic bacterium isolated from dairy products.



## Recent Findings

- It demonstrates several health-promoting traits, such as surviving
  - Gastrointestinal transit,
  - Adhering to intestinal mucosa, and
  - Exhibiting ***antioxidant and anti-hypercholesterolemic activities***.
- **Probiotic efficacy** - It withstands the harsh conditions of the gastrointestinal tract and exhibits remarkable resilience against gastric juices and bile acids.
- **Gut health**- It can adhere to mucosal surfaces, crucial factor a in promoting gut health and immune function.
- **Mitigating oxidative stress**- Genome analysis reveals its ability to produce beneficial compounds like ***folate and bacteriocins***, and enzymes that mitigate oxidative stress.
- **Production of essential vitamins**- It is considered to be a nutrient powerhouse including the production of essential vitamins like ***folate (vitamin B9)***.
- **Cardiovascular benefits**- MCC0200's ***cholesterol-lowering properties*** hold promise as a functional food ingredient with cardiovascular benefits.

## Reference

## Food Safety in Schools

*The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) revised setting new hygiene standards for food preparation in Tamil Nadu schools, including creches.*

- **Kitchens covered**- The code addresses school kitchens and centralized kitchens.
- This code currently excludes facilities for infants up to 22 months (about 2 years).
- **Food handling**- Measures for procurement, storage, preparation, and serving.
- **Infrastructure**- Required equipment and facilities in kitchens.
- **Hygiene practices**- Cleaning, pest control, and personal hygiene of food handlers.
- **Testing**- Meals should be tested every 6months for contaminants like e-coli and salmonella.
- **BIS Certification**- A checklist for certification will be prepared within 6 months based on state requirements.
- The Chief Minister's breakfast scheme and Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme are in place, with quality monitoring systems.

### Bureau of Indian Standards

- It comes under the ***Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution***.
- **Headquarters**- Delhi.
- It is established by the ***Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016*** which came into effect in 2017.
- The ***Minister in charge*** of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.

## Reference

[The Hindu | Food Safety in Schools](#)

## Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES)

*The European Space Agency (ESA) will launch a mission to study the Apophis asteroid during its close pass by Earth in 2029.*

- RAMSES is a planetary defense mission designed to enhance understanding and preparedness for ***potential asteroid impacts***.
- **Agency** - European Space Agency (ESA).
- **Objective**- The primary goal of RAMSES is to study ***Apophis asteroid*** in detail to better predict its orbit and assess any potential threat it may pose.
- It aims to improve our ability to mitigate the risks associated with near-Earth objects (NEOs).
- **Launch** - Ramses needs to launch in April 2028 to allow for an arrival at Apophis in February 2029, 2 months before the close approach.
- Ramses will rendezvous with Apophis before it passes Earth and accompany the asteroid during the flyby to observe how it is warped and changed by our planet's gravity.
- RAMSES will track Apophis with high precision to refine its orbital parameters and reduce uncertainty about its future trajectories.
- The mission will investigate the physical properties of Apophis, such as its size, shape, rotation, and surface composition.

## Apophis

- Asteroid 99942 Apophis is a near-Earth object (NEO) estimated to be about 1,100 feet (340 meters) across.
- It is named for the demon serpent in Egyptian mythology.
- Apophis was identified in 2004 as one of the most hazardous asteroids that could impact Earth.
- It is a stony asteroid believed to consist mostly of silicate materials along with iron and nickel.
- It is expected to pass within ***20,000 miles*** of Earth's surface on April 13, 2029.

*OSIRIS-Rex has been rebranded as OSIRIS-APEX is the first mission to probe the Apophis by NASA.*

## References

1. [The Indian Express | Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety](#)
2. [ESA | ESA facts](#)



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