



STATE **PCS CA** CONSOLIDATION

HARYANA



**JUNE
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Lado Lakshmi Scheme

Why in News?

The Haryana government is set to launch the **Lado Lakshmi Scheme**, offering monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,100 to women from economically weaker sections.

Key Points

Lado Lakshmi Scheme:

- ✦ According to the **Department of Information, Public Relations, Language and Culture (DIPR)**, the Haryana government will implement the Lado Lakshmi Scheme later this year.
 - ✎ The state government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for the successful rollout of the Scheme.
- ✦ Women above 18 years of age who are permanent residents of Haryana and belong to **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families are eligible under the scheme.
- ✦ The beneficiaries will receive funds directly in their bank accounts through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- ✦ The aim of the scheme is to **empower women in Haryana** by promoting independence through improved access to **education, health, and safety**.
 - ✎ The scheme also seeks to **enhance their financial stability** by supporting women in starting their own businesses.

Government Initiatives Related to Women Empowerment

- ✦ **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:** Provides access to affordable credit for women entrepreneurs and self-help groups.
- ✦ **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** Focuses on generating awareness and improving women's welfare through education.
- ✦ **Mahila E-Haat:** An online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs and self-help groups.
- ✦ **Mahila Shakti Kendra:** Facilitates empowerment programs and resources at the village level for skill development and entrepreneurship.

- ✦ **Working Women Hostel:** Supports safe and affordable accommodation for working women in urban areas.
- ✦ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:** It ensures housing under women's names.

Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTs) under Nirbhaya Framework

Why in News?

In a significant move to enhance safety on public transport, the Haryana government has decided to equip all public transport vehicles with **Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTs)**.

Key Points

Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTs)

About:

- ✦ Developed under the **Nirbhaya framework** by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, VLTs provide real-time location tracking and emergency alert features.

Integration:

- ✦ The system will be **integrated with the emergency response service (112)** for swift action in distress situations.

Significance:

- ✦ The introduction of VLTs is expected to be a milestone in creating a **safer transport environment for women and children**, offering an additional layer of security and accountability.

Nirbhaya Framework

- ✦ The Nirbhaya Framework refers to a series of safety initiatives introduced by the **Indian government to enhance the safety and security of women**, particularly in the wake of the **2012 Delhi gang rape incident**.
 - ✦ **Nirbhaya Fund:** The Government established the **Nirbhaya Fund** to support projects enhancing the safety and security of women.

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- ✍ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** serves as the nodal authority for reviewing and recommending proposals and schemes for funding under this fund.
- ✦ **112 Helpline Service:** An initiative under the Nirbhaya funds scheme for ensuring the safety of women and children. **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)** is a pan-India single-number-based emergency response system for citizens in emergencies.
 - ✍ It is an integration of police (100), fire (101) and women (1090) helpline numbers.
- ✦ **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013:** Also known as the **Nirbhaya Act**, it strengthened penalties for sexual offenses, introduces the **death penalty for repeat rape offenders**, and enhances provisions for the protection of survivors, including stricter **definitions and punishments for crimes such as rape, stalking, and harassment**.

Initiatives Related to Women Safety in India

- ✦ **International Conventions:** India ratified key international conventions, including the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** in 1993.
 - ✦ India also endorsed the **Mexico Plan of Action (1975)** aimed at full gender equality and ending gender discrimination and the UN General Assembly Session on Gender Equality and Development and Peace for the 21st century.
- ✦ **National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001:** Aims for women's advancement and empowerment, addressing violence against women and providing mechanisms for prevention, assistance, and action.
- ✦ **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Provides support for women victims of **domestic violence**, including shelter and medical facilities, with mandatory Protection Officers.

- ✦ **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (PoSH) Act, 2013:** The POSH Act addresses sexual harassment faced by women in the workplace, aiming to ensure a safe work environment.
- ✦ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** Protects children from sexual offences, providing a legal framework for their protection and ensuring strict penalties for offenders.

India's largest Gati Shakti Multimodal Cargo Terminal

Why in News?

India's largest **Gati Shakti** Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal was inaugurated in **Manesar**, Haryana.

Key Points

About the Terminal:

- ✦ It is developed under the **Prime Minister's Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.
- ✦ The terminal aims to strengthen multimodal connectivity, streamline freight movement nationwide, and boost Haryana's position as a leading automobile manufacturing hub.
- ✦ It is a joint venture of Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HRIDC), Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA).

Significance:

- ✦ **Enhanced Freight Connectivity:** The terminal will link vehicle consignments from Maruti's Manesar and Gurugram plants to 17 hubs across 380 Indian cities.
 - ✍ It will also connect to major export ports such as Pipavav and Mundra in Gujarat.
- ✦ **Support to the Automobile Sector:** Haryana produces nearly 50% of India's cars.

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- ✍ The internal railway siding built by HRIDC at Maruti supports the state's commitment to 'ease of doing business.'

- ✦ **First Cargo Train:** The first cargo train from the terminal was flagged off.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- 💡 **About:** It was launched in 2021 with the aim of transforming India's infrastructure in five years.

- ✦ It has been developed as a Digital Master Planning tool by BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

- ✦ **Purpose:** The plan seeks to speed up project execution, cut delays, break inter-ministerial silos, and enhance India's ease of living and global competitiveness through world-class infrastructure.

✦ Key Features:

- ✍ **Digital Integration:** A unified digital platform connecting 16 ministries for coordinated planning and execution.

- ✍ **Multi-Sector Collaboration:** Integrates major programmes like **Bharatmala**, **Sagarmala**, inland waterways, dry ports, and **UDAN**.

- ✍ **Economic Zones:** Focuses on developing clusters and corridors in **textiles**, pharmaceuticals, **defence**, and **agriculture**.

- ✍ **Use of Technology:** Uses advanced spatial tools and **ISRO satellite data** for better planning and real-time monitoring.

- ✦ **Key Drivers:** Seven core sectors drive growth and connectivity, supported by energy, IT, water, sewerage, and social infrastructure for seamless logistics and synergy.

- ✦ **Six Pillars:** The six pillars of PM Gati Shakti are **Comprehensiveness, Prioritisation, Optimisation, Synchronisation, Analytical Capability, and Dynamic Monitoring**.

Direct Stamp Duty Benefits

Why in News?

The Haryana government has decided to allocate 1% of total **stamp duty revenue** to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** to strengthen their financial capacity.

Key Points

💡 About Stamp Duty:

- ✦ Stamp duty is a **tax levied by state governments in India** on property transactions, governed by the **Indian Stamp Act of 1899**.
- ✦ The rates for stamp duty vary by state and are an essential part of the registration process for legal documents and property ownership.

💡 Panchayati Raj Institution:

- ✦ The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** granted **constitutional status** to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), introducing a uniform three-tier structure across the country.
- ✦ It mandated regular **elections**, reservation of seats for **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes**, and women, and promoted the **devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries** to strengthen grassroots governance.

- ✍ **Three levels of Panchayats** (in most of the states)- gram sabhas (village or group of small villages), panchayat samithis (block council), and zila parishads (district).

- ✦ **Article 243G** empowers state legislatures to enable **Panchayats to function as self-governing bodies for local planning and economic development**.

✦ Constitutional Provisions for Financial Empowerment of Panchayats:

- ✍ **Article 243H** empowers state legislatures to allow Panchayats to levy, collect, and utilize taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.

- ✍ **Article 280(3)(bb)** requires the Central Finance Commission to recommend ways to supplement state funds for Panchayats based on the State Finance Commission's advice.

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- ✎ **Article 243-I** mandates a State Finance Commission every five years to review Panchayats' finances and advise on tax distribution, resource improvement, and related financial matters.
- ✦ The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** looks into all matters relating to the Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It was created in May 2004.
- 💡 **Strengthening Financial Autonomy of PRIs:**
 - ✦ The state government's decision aims to financially **empower Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads**, giving them greater autonomy in planning and executing local development works.
 - ✦ Under this scheme, the government plans to transfer Rs 572 crore to PRIs.
- 💡 **Revenue Distribution Structure:**
 - ✦ The government will transfer 1% of total stamp duty revenue to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), distributed as follows:
 - ✎ 0.5% to Gram Panchayats
 - ✎ 0.25% to Panchayat Samitis
 - ✎ 0.25% to Zila Parishads
- 💡 **Previous Steps to Empower Panchayats:**
 - ✦ The government had already established **inter-district councils** and **enabled direct fund transfers to Panchayats**.
 - ✦ These measures allow PRIs to carry out departmental functions independently, enhancing **local governance**.

Inter-Basin Indus Water Transfer Plan

Why in News?

India has begun work on a major **inter-basin water transfer plan** to fully use its share of **Indus waters**. A feasibility study is underway for a **113-km canal linking the Chenab to the Ravi-Beas-Sutlej system** to divert

surplus water from Jammu & Kashmir to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

Key Points

- 💡 **Objective of the Project:** To optimally use both eastern (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) and western (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) rivers, thereby reducing excess water flowing into Pakistan under the **Indus Waters Treaty framework**.
- 💡 **Canal Integration Plan:** The proposed 113-km canal will link the Chenab with the Ravi-Beas-Sutlej system.
 - ✦ This **canal network will integrate with 13 existing canal systems** across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, and will eventually feed into the **Indira Gandhi Canal** (longest canal in the country), ensuring regional water redistribution.
 - ✦ This internal reallocation will also enhance India's water resilience amid growing climate variability and changing rainfall patterns.
- 💡 **Supporting Infrastructure Developments:** Under the Canal Integration Plan Centre is considering doubling the length of the Ranbir canal, and the long-pending **Ujh multipurpose project in Kathua** district is being revived.
 - ✦ The second Ravi-Beas link, previously planned to prevent excess Ravi water from flowing into Pakistan, will now become part of the broader canal network. This project involves constructing a barrage and a tunnel to transfer water from the Ujh (a Ravi tributary) to the Beas basin.
- 💡 **Ongoing Short-Term Measures:** India continues to **desilt Baglihar and Salal hydroelectric reservoirs on the Chenab** to improve water storage and usage.
 - ✦ India is accelerating work on key hydroelectric projects like Pakal Dul on a tributary Marusadar River (1,000 Megawatts (MW)), **Ratle (850 MW)**, Kiru (624 MW), and Kwar (540 MW) on Chenab river to enhance Indus basin water utilisation.

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Indus River



💡 **Source:**

- ✦ The Indus (In Tibetan called Sengge Chu/'Lion River'), a major river in South Asia, **originates in Tibet** near Mansarovar Lake in the Trans-Himalaya.
- ✦ The river flows through **Tibet, India and Pakistan** and about 200 million people live in the area of its drainage basin.

💡 **Course and Major Tributaries:**

- ✦ It enters India through Ladakh and flows through Jammu and Kashmir before reaching Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region.
- ✦ The major **left-bank tributaries** of the Indus River are the Zaskar, Suru, Soan, **Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Satluj**, and Panjnad rivers.
- ✦ The major **right-bank tributaries** are Shyok, Gilgit, Hunza, Swat, Kunar, Kurram, Gomal, and Kabul rivers.
- ✦ The Indus River **empties into the Arabian Sea** near the city of Karachi in southern Pakistan.

- 💡 **Indus Water Treaty (IWT):** The IWT signed in 1960, between **India and Pakistan** and was brokered by the **World Bank**.

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- ✦ The treaty sets out a **mechanism for cooperation and information exchange** between the two sides on the use of the water of the **Indus River** and its five tributaries **Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab**.
- ✦ **India has suspended the IWT** until Pakistan ceases its support for cross-border terrorism. It reflects a shift in India's strategic calculus, using **hydrological leverage** as a pressure tool.

Chenab River

Source:

- ✦ The river is formed by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga rivers** at Tandi in the **upper Himalayas**, located in the **Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh**.
- ✦ The Chandra and the Bhaga originate from the south-west and north-west faces of Barelacha pass respectively in the Himalayan canton of Lahul and Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh.

💡 **Flows Through:** It flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River.

Ghar-Ghar Shaurya Samman Initiative & Kargil Vijay Diwas

Why in News?

As part of the 'Ghar-Ghar Shaurya Samman' initiative, the **Indian Army** paid **tribute to the valour of soldiers** who laid down their lives in the **Kargil War** by presenting their families with a certificate of honour and a memento.

- 💡 As the country prepares to observe the **26th Kargil Vijay Diwas** on 26th July 2025, this initiative exemplifies the Army's unwavering dedication to its soldiers and their loved ones.

Key Points

Kargil Vijay Diwas:

- ✦ On 26th July, 1999, the Indian Army declared the **success of Operation Vijay**, marking victory in the nearly three-month-long Kargil conflict.
- ✦ Key **battle sites** included **Tololing and Tiger Hill**, known for their extreme altitudes and harsh terrain.
- ✦ During the **Kargil War**, the region was part of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - 💡 After the **2020 reorganisation**, Kargil now lies in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, known for its rugged landscape and high-altitude terrain.

Background:

- 📎 India and Pakistan have a history of conflicts, including a significant one in 1971 that led to the creation of **Bangladesh**.
- 📎 Post-1971, both nations faced ongoing tensions, particularly vying for control over the **Siachen Glacier** through military outposts on nearby mountain ridges.
- 📎 In 1998, both countries conducted **nuclear tests**, escalating tensions. The **Lahore Declaration** in February 1999 aimed to resolve the **Kashmir conflict** peacefully and bilaterally.
- 📎 During the winter of 1998-1999, Pakistani armed forces covertly trained and deployed troops across the **Line of Control (LOC)** to seize fortified positions overlooking NH 1A in the **Drass and Batalik Sectors of Kargil, Ladakh**.
- 📎 Indian troops initially mistook the **infiltrators for terrorists or 'jihadis'**, but it soon became clear that the attack was a well-organised **military operation**.
- 📎 It was fought in the summer of 1999 along a 170km mountain frontier, stretching from **Mashkoh Valley to Turtuk** in the Kargil sector.
- 📎 In response, **India launched Operation Vijay**, deploying over 200,000 troops to the region to counter the incursion.

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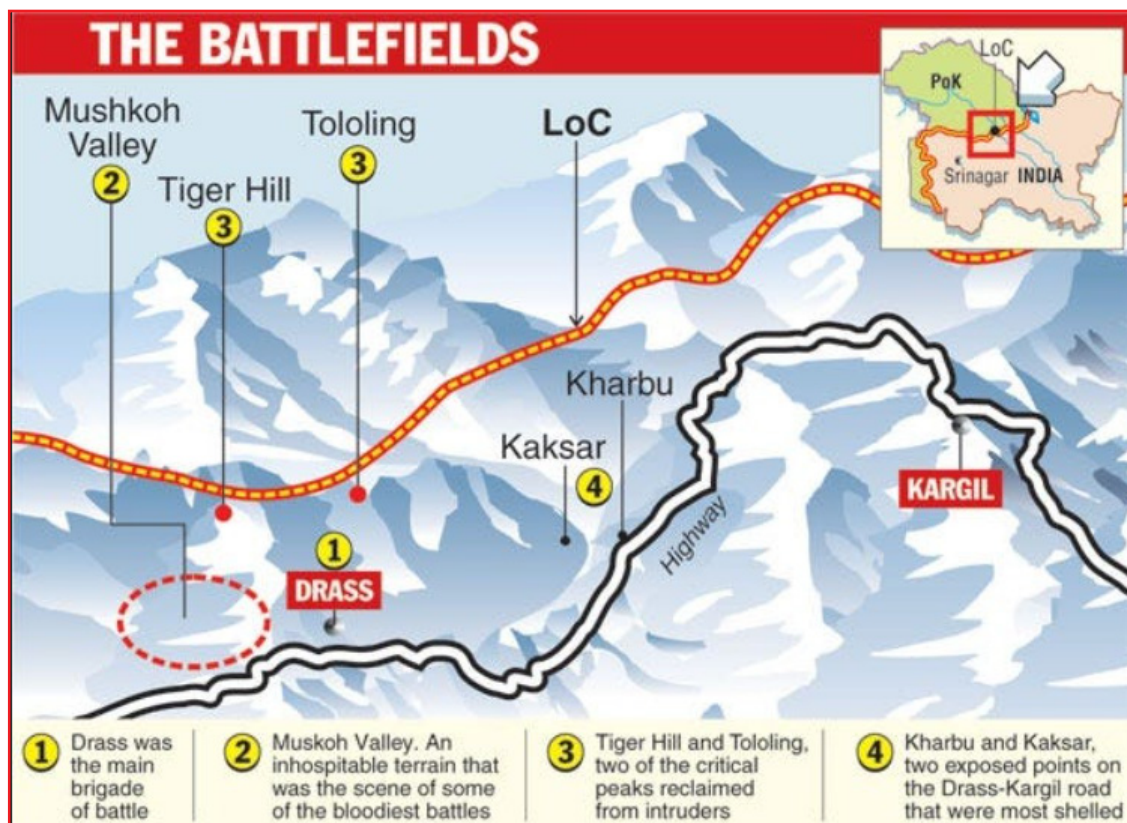


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★ Significance of Kargil War Diwas:

- ✎ Since 1999, 26th July has been observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas to **remember and honour** the **supreme sacrifices** made by Indian soldiers during the war.
- ✎ The **Kargil War memorial** in Dras was built in 2000 by the Indian Army to commemorate the **success of Operation Vijay** in 1999.
- 🏠 It was later renovated in 2014. It is also known as the **“Dras War Memorial”** due to its location in the **town of Dras** in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✎ The **National War Memorial**, inaugurated in 2019, is dedicated to soldiers who sacrificed their lives in various conflicts and missions, including the **Sino-Indian war in 1962**, **Indo-Pak wars in 1947, 1965, and 1971**, **Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka 1987-90**, and the **Kargil Conflict in 1999**.



Government Approves Procurement Under PSS

Why in News?

The Government has approved the procurement of **Moong in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat**, as well as **Groundnut in Uttar Pradesh**, under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** for the 2025–26 summer crop season.

Key Points

💡 Procurement of Pulses:

- ★ To boost domestic pulse production and reduce import dependency, the Government allowed procurement of **Tur (Arhar), Urad, and Masur** up to 100% of state production under the **PSS** for the procurement year 2024–25.

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- ✦ In the **Union Budget 2025**, the Government extended PSS initiative for four more years till 2028–29, authorizing Central Nodal Agencies **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** and **National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)** to procure pulses up to full state production levels.

PM-AASHA:

- ✦ **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)**, launched in 2018, has been approved for continuation during the **15th Finance Commission** Cycle up to 2025-26.
- ✦ In September 2024, the government approved the continuation of the Integrated scheme of PM AASHA with the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**, **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** & **Market intervention Scheme (MIS)** as its components.
- ✦ The scheme aims to ensure **assured and fair prices for farmers' produce**, protect their income, and safeguard them against market volatility.
- ✦ The PSS is triggered when market prices of notified pulses, **oilseeds**, or copra fall below the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** during peak harvest, ensuring farmers receive remunerative prices.

Note:

- 💡 The Government implements the **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** to safeguard farmers from distress sales during sharp price drops, especially for perishable agricultural and horticultural produce during peak harvest periods.
- 💡 The **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** is a mechanism to compensate farmers for price fluctuations when the market price of their produce falls below the MSP.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd

- 💡 NAFED is registered under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- 💡 It was set up in 1958 with the objective to **promote Cooperative marketing of Agricultural Produce to benefit the farmers**.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)

The rate at which the govt. purchases crops from farmers; based on a calculation of at least 1.5x the cost of production incurred by the farmers

RECOMMENDED BY

Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) (recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and Fair and Remunerative Price for Sugarcane)

22 MANDATED CROPS

(14 Kharif, 6 Rabi and 2 Other Commercial crops)

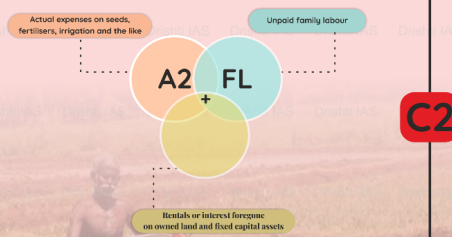
7 CEREALS	Paddy, Wheat, Barley, Jowar, Bajra, Maize And Ragi
5 PULSES	Gram, Arhar/tur, Moong, Urad And Lentil
7 OILSEEDS	Groundnut, Rapeseed mustard, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Safflower And Niger Seed
RAW COTTON	
RAW JUTE	
COPRA	

MSP is the price at which the govt. is supposed to procure the mandated crops from farmers if the market price falls below it

FACTORS FOR RECOMMENDING MSP

- ▷ Cost of cultivation
- ▷ Demand-Supply situation for the crop
- ▷ Market price trends
- ▷ Inter-crop price parity
- ▷ Implications for consumers (inflation)
- ▷ Environment (soil and water use)
- ▷ Terms of trade b/w agri and non-agri sectors (ratio of farm inputs and outputs)

Considers both A2+FL and C2 costs



MSP has no statutory backing — a farmer cannot demand MSP as a matter of right

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New Wasp Species Found in Chandigarh

Why in News?

A new parasitic wasp species *Losgna occidentalis* was discovered in Chandigarh, marking the rediscovery of the *Losgna* genus in India after almost 60 years.



Key Points

About the Discovery:

- ✦ The wasp belongs to the parasitic *Ichneumonidae* family, known for laying eggs on or inside other arthropods.
- ✦ The genus *Losgna* had not been recorded in India since Heinrich's 1965 monograph.
 - ✍ No Indian institution held records, specimens, or literature on *Losgna* after 1965, suggesting it had vanished from its known range in northeast India.
- ✦ It was discovered on a windowsill in Chandigarh during winter 2023–24.
- ✦ The species was named *Losgna occidentalis* to reflect its location in western India.
- ✦ Earlier sightings were limited to tropical forests of eastern India and nearby Southeast Asia.

Historical Specimens:

- ✦ The only known specimens of *Losgna* prior to this discovery were preserved in:
 - ✍ Natural History Museum, London
 - ✍ The Hope Collection, Oxford University
 - ✍ Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM), Munich

Scientific & Conservation Significance:

- ✦ **Taxonomy Revival:** Revives study of the forgotten *Losgna* genus and emphasizes the critical role of **taxonomy** in biodiversity conservation.
- ✦ **Importance of Hymenoptera:** Wasps in this group serve as **pollinators** and biological control agents, contributing to ecological balance.
- ✦ **Urban Biodiversity Spotlight:** The find highlights the rich biodiversity of urban habitats, even those considered degraded like dry scrub forests.

Hymenoptera

- ✦ The Hymenoptera, insects commonly known as ants, bees, wasps and sawflies, comprise a significant proportion of arthropod diversity in most terrestrial habitats.
- ✦ They are one of the four mega-diverse orders of insects, along with the **Coleoptera** (beetles), **Diptera** (flies), and **Lepidoptera** (moths and butterflies).

Aravalli Green Wall Initiative

Why in News?

On **World Environment Day** (5 June, 2025), the Prime Minister extended the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' campaign initiative as part of the '**Aravalli Green Wall project**' to reforest the **Aravalli mountain range** from Delhi to Gujarat.

- ✦ As part of the initiative, the Haryana government will restore 25,000 hectares of degraded forest land.

World Environment Day (WED)

About & History:

- ✦ World Environment Day was established in 1972 during the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** held in Stockholm.
 - ✍ Later that year, the **UN General Assembly** officially designated June 5 as World Environment Day.

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- ✦ The **first celebration** took place in **1973 with the theme "Only One Earth,"** marking the beginning of what would become the largest global platform for environmental awareness.

- ✦ WED celebration in 2021 started the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)** which is a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the seas.

💡 WED 2025:

- ✦ The **Republic of Korea** will host WED 2025 with a focus on **ending plastic pollution globally.**
- ✦ The **theme for 2025** is "**Beat Plastic Pollution,**" a global focus on reducing plastic waste.
- ✦ **India** hosted the 45th celebration of World Environment Day in **2018** under the **theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.**

Key Points

💡 About the Aravalli Green Wall Project Presentation:

- ✦ Inspired by **Africa's Great Green Wall initiative**, the Aravalli Green Wall project aims to-
 - ✍ Restore over **1.1 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2027.**
 - ✍ Focus on **afforestation** with native species, soil health improvement, and **groundwater replenishment.**
 - ✍ Develop an **"ecological wall"** to mitigate urban heat islands and act as a carbon sink for NCR.

💡 Environmental Threats to the Aravallis:

- ✦ The Aravalli range, one of the oldest mountain ranges in India, **spans Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.**
- ✦ The region faces severe environmental degradation due to **illegal mining** and rapid urbanisation.

💡 Nursery Development Plan:

- ✦ The government will **develop 1,000 nurseries across 29 districts** of the Aravalli range to

support large-scale afforestation under the Aravalli Green Wall project.

- ✦ To **mitigate degradation**, the government plans to increase tree plantation and expand green cover along the range.
- ✦ The initiative aims to **restore biodiversity, stabilise soil, and rejuvenate ecological balance.**

💡 Distribution of Degraded Areas:

- ✦ **Rajasthan** holds the majority of degraded land: **81%.**
- ✦ **Gujarat** accounts for **15.8%.**
- ✦ **Haryana** has **1.7%.**
- ✦ **Delhi** contains **1.6%** of the total degraded area.

Aravali Mountain Range



💡 About:

- ✦ The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountain on Earth.** Geological studies indicate that it is three billion years old.
- ✦ It spans **from Gujarat to Delhi** (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- ✦ The **highest peak** in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu.**

💡 Impact on Climate:

- ✦ The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
- ✦ During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus **helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains.**
- ✦ During the winter months, it **shields the fertile alluvial river valleys of the Indus and Ganga** from the harsh **cold westerly winds** blowing in from Central Asia.

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Ecological Role of the Aravalli Range:

- ✦ The Aravalli range acts as a natural shield against desertification by preventing the **eastward expansion of the Thar Desert**.
- ✦ It protects major cities such as Delhi, Jaipur, and Gurugram from desert encroachment and rising aridity.

Rivers:

- ✦ The range serves as the origin point for several important rivers, **including the Chambal, Sabarmati, and Luni**.
- ✦ These rivers are crucial for agriculture, drinking water, and regional ecosystems across northwestern India.

Biodiversity Hotspot:

- ✦ The forests, **grasslands**, and **wetlands** in the Aravalli support numerous endangered plant and animal species, making it a critical ecological habitat.

Threats to the Aravalli Ecosystem:

- ✦ **Deforestation, illegal mining, overgrazing, and human settlements** are accelerating land degradation across the range.
- ✦ These activities are damaging underground aquifers, drying lakes, and weakening the range's ability to support wildlife and biodiversity.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

- ✦ **About:** It aims to **honor mothers by encouraging tree planting in their names**, combining environmental conservation with a tribute to motherhood, symbolizing how mothers, like trees, nurture and sustain life.
- ✦ It was launched by the **Prime Minister** on **World Environment Day, 5th June, 2024**.
- ✦ **Objective:** To promote **environmental preservation, increase forest cover**, and support **sustainable development** while **honoring mothers**.
- ✦ **World Record Achievement:** On **22nd September 2024**, 128 Infantry Battalion & Ecological Task Force of the Territorial Army planted over 5 lakh saplings in one hour in Jaisalmer.

Operation Shield

Why in News?

On 31st May, the **Haryana** authorities carried out a **statewide civil defence** exercise called **"Operation Shield"** to **strengthen emergency preparedness** and response capabilities.

Key Points

- ✦ **Simulated Emergency Scenarios:** The **mock drills** included scenes of volunteers acting as injured victims, firefighting operations, and emergency evacuations.
- ✦ The drills focused on scenarios like **air raids, drone attacks, and other wartime emergencies** to test response mechanisms.
- ✦ The **exercise witnessed seamless coordination** among various departments including **Fire and Emergency Services, Police Forces, Health Departments, Disaster Management Authorities, Civil Defence**, along with trained volunteers from **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**.

National Service Scheme (NSS)

- ✦ The **NSS is a Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**, launched in **1969** with the **objective of developing the personality and character of student youth** through voluntary community service.
- ✦ The ideology of NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Its motto is **"Not me but You."**
- ✦ The **scheme provides opportunities for student youth in 11th and 12th classes at the +2 Board level**, as well as students of technical institutions, undergraduate, and postgraduate colleges and universities across India **to participate in various government-led community service activities and programmes**.

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National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- 💡 **About:** The NCC was formed in 1948 (on the recommendation of **H. N. Kunzru Committee-1946**), and has its roots in British era uniformed youth entities like University Corps or **University Officer Training Corps**.
 - ✦ Its history can be traced back to the '**University Corps**', which was created under the **Indian Defence Act 1917** with an objective to make up for personnel shortage in the **Indian Army**.
 - ✦ The NCC also expanded later on to **include the Girls Division in 1949** to provide equal opportunities to **women** willing to serve the country's defences.
 - ✦ NCC is the largest **uniformed youth organisation in the world**. It **enrolls cadets at high school and college level** and also awards certificates on completion of various phases.
 - 📎 The NCC **cadets receive basic military training** at various levels and also have **academic curriculum basics** related to Armed forces and their functioning.
- 💡 **Ministry:** The NCC falls under the purview of the **Ministry of Defence** and is headed by a Director General of three-star military rank.

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Summary

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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