



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Recently, the [Vice President of India](#) inaugurated the **36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela** at Faridabad, Haryana where he urged everyone to **consider locally produced handicraft items** when looking for gifts to their friends and relatives.

This fair is **held every year in the month of February**, organised by the **Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism** in collaboration with **Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs**. The aim is to **promote the pool of skilled artisans**, who used indigenous technology, but were suffering due to the cheaper machine-made imitations.

The [North Eastern Region \(NER\)](#) is the **Theme State for the year 2023** as the NER is a very important stakeholder in India's Look-East & Act-East Policy. The partner country for year 2023 is [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#).

The [Union Budget 2023-24](#) has also envisaged the **PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman**, to help craftsmen expand the reach and quality of their creations. Other initiatives include [Mudra Yojana](#), [One District, One Product](#) and **Unity Malls, etc.**

Read More - [Surajkund International Crafts Mela](#)

VIHANGAM Drone Technology

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL), the **premier CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprise)** under the Ministry of Coal has introduced **drone technology in coal mines by launching a web-based portal VIHANGAM** along with a drone and ground control system.

The portal allows **an authorised person to access real time drone video from the mine**. There is a **control station that flies the drone which can be operated anywhere via the portal**. This pilot project is currently operational at **Bhubaneswari and Lingaraj** opencast mines of Talcher Coalfields (Odisha).

Drone technology is being used for environmental monitoring and photogrammetric mapping of mine for digitalisation of the mining process. MCL has **also introduced a Robotic Nozzle Water Sprayer** in its coal stockyard to carry out difficult jobs like firefighting and dust suppression.

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) **contributes more than 20% of the total coal produced** in India.

Read More - [VIHANGAM, Drone Technology](#)

Operation SADBHAVANA

As part of '**Operation SADBHAVANA**', Indian Army is undertaking multiple welfare activities such as **Army Goodwill Schools, Infra-development projects, education tours etc.** for the children living in remote areas of **UT of Ladakh**.

The Indian Army is presently running 7 Army Goodwill Schools under 'Operation SADBHAVANA' in Ladakh Region. **More than 2,200 Students are currently studying in these schools.**

Under this initiative (in FY 22-23), **medical camps, veterinary camps**, provision of medical equipment, upgradation of medical infrastructure and **staffing of Medical Aid Centres** have been provided at various remote locations in Ladakh. **Women in remote areas of Ladakh are also being inducted in Vocational Training Centres**, Women Empowerment Centres and Computer Centres organised and funded through SADBHAVANA.

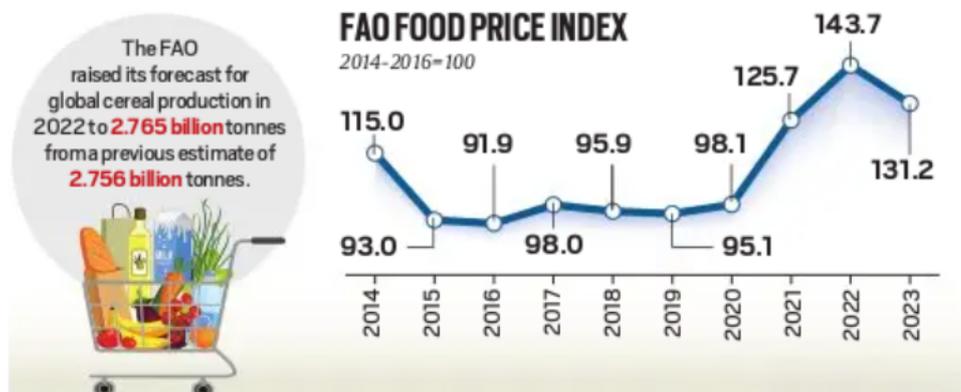
Operation SADBHAVANA (Goodwill) is a unique humane initiative **undertaken by Indian Army and formalised in 1990s** in the erstwhile State of J&K **to address aspirations of people affected by scrooge of terrorism.**

FAO's Findings on World Food Prices

// World food prices fall for 10th straight month in Jan

World food prices in January are now down some 18% from a record high hit last March following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations food agency said on Friday.

A FALL IN PRICES OF DAIRY, VEGETABLE OILS AND SUGAR HELPED PULL DOWN THE INDEX. CEREALS AND MEAT WERE LARGELY STABLE, THE FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION SAID.



As per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the **World food prices fell in January 2023 for the 10th consecutive month**. The **FAO Food Price Index**, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged **131.2 points in Jan'23** against 132.2 for Dec'23 - the lowest since Sept 2021.

In separate cereal supply and demand estimates, **FAO raised its forecast for global cereal production in 2022** to 2.765 billion tonnes from a previous estimate of 2.756 billion tonnes. **International wheat prices declined 2.5%** as production in Australia and Russia increased more than expected.

FAO is a UN specialised agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It is one of the **UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy)**. Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

Read More - [Food and Agriculture Organization's \(FAO\)](#), [World Food Price Index: FAO](#)