



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign

The Indian government has initiated the '**Meri Maati Mera Desh**' campaign as part of the '[Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#)' celebration of 75 years of Independence.

- Soil collected from various parts of the country will be used to **develop the Amrit Vatika Garden along the [Kartavya Path](#) in Delhi.**
- Events planned at different levels, from **panchayat and village to state and national levels.**
- **Shilaphalakam (memorial plaque)** with the names of bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice to be installed.
- Pledge taken by people affirming their commitment to the country.
- Planting **75 saplings of indigenous species** in every gram panchayat or village under '**Vasudha Vandhan**'.
- 'Veeron Ka Vandan' to felicitate freedom fighters and families of deceased freedom fighters.

Read more: [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#)

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### India's Unorganized Sector Workers

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment has mentioned about various initiatives to address the **India's Unorganized Sector Workers** in a written reply in the [Lok Sabha](#).

- As per the [Economic Survey, 2021-22](#), total number of people working in the **unorganized sector is around 43.99 crores during 2019-20.**
- The government introduced the '[Aatmanirbhar Bharat](#)' package with a fiscal stimulus of **over Rs. 27 lakh crores to mitigate Covid-19's impact on workers** and the economy.
- The '[Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana \(ABRY\)](#)' incentivized **job creation and restoration, benefiting 60.3 lakh beneficiaries.**
- To address the challenges faced by unorganized workers who returned to their home states, the '[Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan](#)' was initiated in **116 districts to offer employment and livelihood opportunities.**
- The '[Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana \(ABVKY\)](#)' scheme provided **increased relief to insured persons who lost their jobs**, offering financial support during the crisis.
- The '[Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana \(PMGKAY\)](#)' scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person was provided free of cost.

Read more: [Covid-19 pandemic](#), [Aatmanirbhar Bharat](#)

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### Fluoromix

Scientists from the **University of Oxford** developed a **safer and less energy-intensive method to obtain fluorine atoms.**

- Fluorine comes from a calcium salt called **calcium fluoride, or fluorspar.** Fluorspar is mined and then treated with sulphuric acid at a high temperature to release **hydrogen fluoride.**
- **Fluorine is a highly reactive element** used to make fluorochemicals, which in turn are used to

produce **plastics, agrochemicals, lithium-ion batteries, and drugs.**

- By taking inspiration from the **natural calcium phosphate biomineralisation process** found in bones and teeth, the researchers created a compound called **Fluoromix** by milling **fluorspar with potassium phosphate**, avoiding the use of the toxic and corrosive hydrogen fluoride.
- Fluoromix proved highly effective, **yielding around 50 different fluorochemicals with up to 98% efficiency** when combined with [organic compounds](#), presenting significant promise for industries relying on fluorochemicals.

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## Silver Cockscomb



**Silver cockscomb**, also known as **lagos spinach**, is a troublesome **weed** that can spread rapidly and hinder the growth of other crops.

- However, the **Soliga tribe in Karnataka's Chamarajanagara district** considers it a nutritious leafy green vegetable, using it in traditional dishes like **massanne and ulloppu sambar**.
- Scientific studies have shown that **silver cockscomb has beneficial properties**, including antibacterial activity, high nutrient content (vitamin **E, calcium, and iron**), and lower levels of harmful substances like **oxalic acid and phytic acid**.
- This weed, prevalent in **regions like South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and parts of the US and Australia**, has been used by communities worldwide for medicinal purposes and as a wild vegetable and fodder.
  - By documenting and exploring traditional knowledge, silver cockscomb could potentially be recognized as a valuable superfood.

**Read more:** [Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.](#)