

Daily Current Affairs

20 September 2024

ICAR-NISA

- President Droupadi Murmu will address the **centenary celebrations of the ICAR – National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA)** at Namkum in Ranchi. The President is scheduled to interact with present and former scientists of the institute about research and innovation.
- This institute was formerly known as **Indian Lac Research Institute**. The innovation by the institute generated **additional income of 100 crore** and provided stability to lac production across the country.



- The event is expected to be attended by VC's of various universities, scientists and **8 to 10 thousand farmers through** virtual mode.
- The Institute has helped millions of farmers in scientific cultivation and processing of **Lac in the last one century**, mainly tribal and poor farmers residing in backward districts of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and West Bengal benefitting 10 lakh agricultural families.
- President Droupadi will release Special Postal Cover and Postal Stamp **commemorating 100 years of ICAR- National Institute of Secondary Agriculture**. The President will plant saplings as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at premises of the Institute.

PM-JI-VAN Yojana

- **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has taken several key decisions during the **first 100 days** of the third term of the NDA government.
- Sources in the Ministry said that recently the government approved the modified **Pradhan Mantri Jai Indhan Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Awashesh Nivaran (PM-JI-VAN) Yojana**.

प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना



- Scheme aims to provide **remunerative income to farmers** for their agricultural residue and address environmental pollution.
- They added that with the amendments in the scheme, financial assistance is available for advanced biofuels, and preference will be given to new technologies and innovation in project proposals. The scheme also helps create local employment opportunities and contributes to India's energy security and self-reliance.



Bio-RIDE Scheme

- Union Cabinet has approved the **Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE)** scheme to boost biotechnology research, innovation, and entrepreneurship with an **outlay of ₹9,197 crore** for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- The scheme **merges two existing programs** — Biotechnology Research and Development (R&D) and Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development (I&ED) — and introduces a new component called **‘Bio-manufacturing and Bio-foundry.’**



- This initiative aims to foster innovation, **strengthen bio-entrepreneurship**, and elevate India’s global position in bio-manufacturing and biotechnology. It will support research, product development, and the transition from academic research to industrial applications, aligning with national and global goals in healthcare, agriculture, sustainability, and clean energy.
- **Combines Biotechnology R&D, I&ED, and introduces** ‘Bio-manufacturing and Bio-foundry’ components.
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹9,197 crore for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- **Objectives:** Drive innovation, support startups, and promote bio-entrepreneurship with seed funding, incubation, and mentorship.
- **Target Areas:** Research grants will focus on synthetic biology, bio-pharmaceuticals, bio-energy, and bio-plastics, with a significant emphasis on sustainable practices in bio-manufacturing aligned with India’s green goals.

Bio-RIDE

Cabinet approves 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio- RIDE)'



- Bio-RIDE is a merger of Biotechnology Research and Development & Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development (I&ED) of Department of Biotechnology with a new component i.e. Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry

- Proposed outlay of the unified scheme is Rs.9197 cr from 2021-22 to 2025-26

- Implementation of Bio-RIDE Scheme will

- Promote Bio-Entrepreneurship
- Advance Innovation
- Facilitate Industry-Academia Collaboration
- Encourage Sustainable Biomanufacturing
- Support researchers through Extramural funding
- Nurture Human Resource in Biotechnology sector



Cabinet Decision: 18th September, 2024

India & European Union

- **India and the European Union (EU)** agreed to enhance cooperation in sustainable water management at the 6th EU-India Water Forum held on the sidelines of the **8th India Water Week, in New Delhi**.
- **6th EU-India Water Forum** serves as a key platform for discussing water sector challenges, sharing best practices, and enhancing business and research opportunities.

- As India and the EU continue to advance their cooperation in water management, this forum reaffirms their commitment to achieving sustainable water resource management for future generations.
- The shared commitment between the EU and India to address global water issues through technological collaboration, policy exchange, and sustainable investment strategies.



- **The current phase (Phase III) prioritizes government and business partnerships**, aligning with India's National 2030 Agenda and the EU's Global Gateway Strategy, which promotes sustainable investments, connectivity, and infrastructure development focused on green, digital, and inclusive growth.
- **The forum explored trilateral collaboration** between East Africa, India and the EU, to address challenges in East Africa's water bodies such as Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, leveraging the combined strength of India and the EU. India – EU Water Partnership consists of five components.



6th India-EU Water Forum

Within framework of 8th India Water Week

18 September 2024 | Time: 09:30 to 17:00 IST
Venue: Bharat Mandapam Hall, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

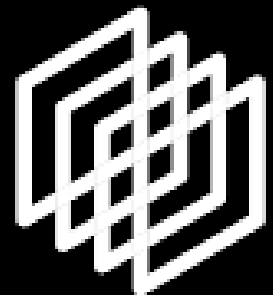


- **EU and Ministry of Jal Shakti cooperation** based on the Joint Declaration and MoU
- The EU and BMZ funded IEWP Action
- EU Member States
- Research and Innovation
- Businesses
- EU and India are collaborating on river management on **Tapi and Ramganga River Basins**.
- Under Phase III, the partnership will extend its efforts to other key basins like the Brahmaputra. Both regions have co-jointly funded 7 research and innovation water projects with €37.4 million (EU €23.4 M + India €14 M), bringing together 743 participants from the EU and India.

India-UAE

- **7th edition of the Sharjah Investment Forum (SIF 2024)** meeting concluded today, after two days of intense discussions on “**A Futuristic Vision for Smart Economies.**”
- The forum saw a significant presence of Indian business leaders and investors, underscoring the growing economic ties between the UAE and India.
- A key session titled “**CEPA: Unlocking New Horizons for Bilateral Trade and Investment**” focused on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.

منتدى الشارقة للاستثمار
SHARJAH INVESTMENT FORUM

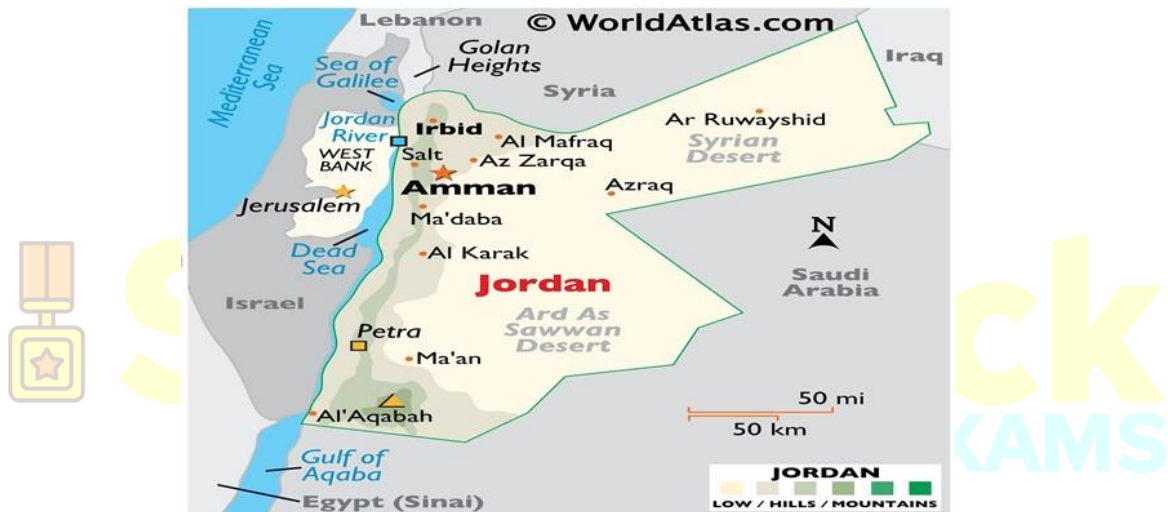


- Discussion highlighted CEPA’s role in enhancing market access across various sectors, including technology, agriculture, and manufacturing.
- **The Sharjah Investment Forum, recognized as a leading investment** conference in the region, is organized annually by the Sharjah FDI Office. This year’s event covered a wide range of topics, including the latest developments in finance,

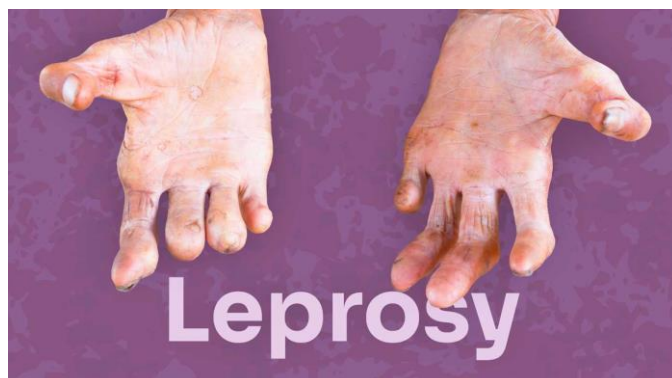
renewable energy, future technologies, and the evolving skills required for success in the digital era.

Jordan Becomes First Leprosy Free Nation

- **World Health Organization** WHO declared **Jordan as the first country** in the world to eliminate leprosy, marking a significant milestone in global public health efforts.
- Congratulating Jordan on this milestone, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, Leprosy has afflicted humanity for millennia, but efforts have been made to stop its transmission and freeing individuals, families, and communities from its suffering and stigma country-by-country.



- WHO said that **Jordan has not reported any autochthonous cases** of leprosy for over two decades.
- The declaration was made after commissioning an independent team to assess this situation. The disease continues to **occur in more than 120 countries**. More than two lakh new cases are reported every year.



PM-AASHA Scheme

- Union Cabinet Has Approved The Continuation Of The **PM-AASHA Schemes To Ensure Fair Pricing** For Farmers And Manage Price Volatility Of Essential Commodities. PM-AASHA (**Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan**) Aims To Provide Remunerative Prices To Farmers, Ensuring They Receive A Guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) For Their Produce.



- **Price Deficit Payment Scheme (Pdps)**: Compensates Farmers When Market Prices Fall Below The Msp. The Central Government Covers The Difference, Limited To 15% Of MSP.
- **Price Support Scheme (Pss)**: Provides Market Intervention To Purchase Crops Directly At Msp. **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)**: Aims To Stabilize Prices Of Essential Commodities.

MODI GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO AUGMENTING INCOME OF THE "ANNADATA"

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) launched

Price Support Scheme (PSS)
Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra to be done by Central Nodal Agencies along with State govts. Central govt to bear procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement up to 25% of production.

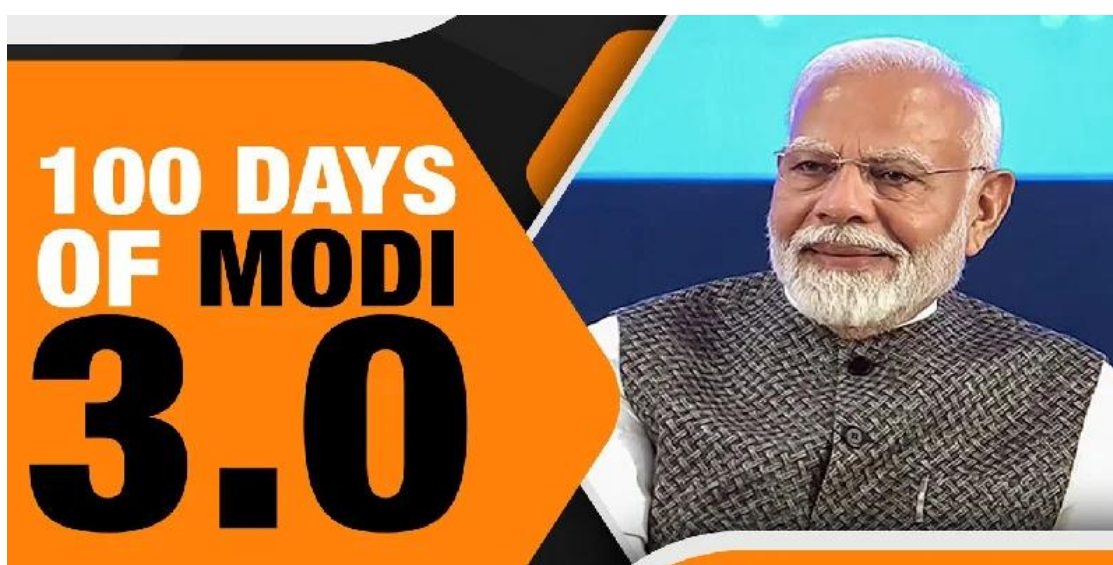
Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
Will cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Farmers will get direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling price.

Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPPS)
Participation of private sector in procurement operation to be piloted. For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out the scheme on pilot basis in selected district/APMC(s) involving private stockist.

- **Market Intervention Scheme (Mis):** Focuses On Managing Price Volatility Through Strategic Purchases.
- **PM-AASHA** (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks han Abhiyan) is an Indian government initiative aimed at safeguarding farmers' incomes and ensuring fair prices for their produce.
- **Launched in 2019**, it encompasses three major schemes: PM's MSP (Minimum Support Price), the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, and the Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund.
- The program focuses on enhancing **farmers' access to markets, promoting** agricultural diversity, and providing financial support. Its implementation involves collaboration with state governments and aims to reduce the income disparity among farmers nationwide.

Rs 12,554 Crore For Disaster Relief

- **Central government has allocated Rs 12,554 crore** to various states this year for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by natural disasters.
- This includes funding from multiple disaster relief and mitigation funds. Disaster Relief: Rs 12,554 crore has been disbursed from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund, National Disaster Response Fund, State Disaster Mitigation Fund, and State Disaster Response Fund for urban flood management, fire services, and risk mitigation from glacial lake outburst floods.

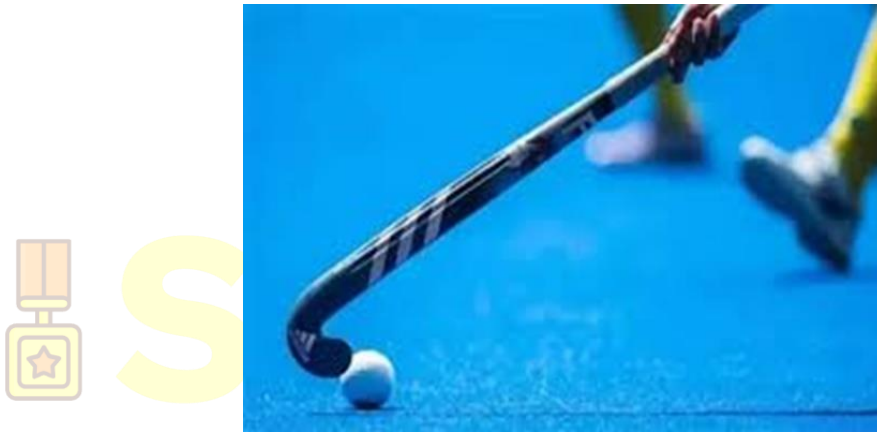


- **Fire Services:** Rs 890.69 crore has been sanctioned by the Union Home Ministry for the expansion and modernization of fire services in five states.

- **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Mitigation:** Rs 150 crore allocated to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh for mitigation measures.
- **Urban Flood Management:** Rs 2,514.36 crore allocated for integrated urban flood management projects.

Junior Men's National Championship Trophy

- **Punjab defeated Uttar Pradesh** to clinch the 14th Hockey India Junior Men's National Championship 2024 at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar today. After a 3-3 finish, the match was decided in the shootout, with Punjab winning 4-3 to lift the trophy. Haryana defeated Karnataka 5-0 to secure third place on the podium.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. First Leprosy Free Nation Declared By WHO

- A. Nigeria
- B. Algeria
- C. Jordan
- D. Italy

ANSWER: C

2. What Is "Bio-Decomposer"

- A. Microbial liquid spray
- B. Invasive weed
- C. Nocturnal species
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: A

3. Where National Symposium 'Exercise AIKYA' On Disaster Management Held

- A. Chennai
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Varanasi
- D. Indore

ANSWER: A

4. Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And Waterways Appointed Which Olympic Medalist Shooter As Its Brand Ambassador

- A. Sarabjot Singh
- B. Manu Bhaker
- C. Vijay Kumar
- D. Swapnil Kusale

ANSWER: B

5. Who Became The New Chief Minister Of NCT Delhi

- A. Vijay Singla
- B. Arvind Kejriwal
- C. Atishi Marlena
- D. Raghav Chadha

ANSWER: C

6. Which Country Won 'Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024'

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Pakistan
- D. South Korea

ANSWER: A

7. Where Was Second Edition Of 'National Anti Doping Agency India Inclusion Conclave' Held

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Hyderabad
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D

8. Where Was International Conference On 'Exploring Life And Living Legacy Of Guru Padmasambhava' Held

- A. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- B. Ayodhya, UP
- C. Nalanda, Bihar
- D. Kutch, Gujarat

ANSWER: C

9. Saora Tribe, Primarily Resides In Which State

- A. Haryana
- B. Bihar
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: D

10. Grom-E1 Missile, Is Developed By Which Country

- A. China
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. Japan

ANSWER: C

11. Which States Recorded Highest Growth In Real GSDP in FY24

- A. Manipur, Odisha and Jharkhand
- B. Gujarat, Assam and Punjab
- C. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana
- D. Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan

ANSWER: D

12. Bedouin Community, Belongs To Which Country

- A. Iran
- B. Iraq
- C. Israel
- D. Qatar

ANSWER: C

13. What Is 'Tariff Rate Quota'

- A. It Sets A Fixed Amount Of Goods That Can Be Imported At No Tariff
- B. It Allows A Certain Quantity Of Goods To Be Imported At A Reduced Tariff Rate
- C. It Bans The Import Of Specific Goods After A Certain Threshold
- D. To Promote Exports Of Local Goods

ANSWER: B

14. What is 'Acetanilide

- A. Falcon
- B. Grape
- C. Pay See
- D. Orange

ANSWER: C

15. What Is 'Tartrazine'

- A. Asteroid
- B. Food dye
- C. Critical mineral
- D. Drugs for TB

ANSWER: B

16. Paraguay River, Flows Through Which Three Countries

- A. Guyana, Bolivia, Peru
- B. Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina
- C. Venezuela, Colombia, Chile
- D. Peru, Suriname, Venezuela

ANSWER: B

17. Which Organization Developed And Launched The Air Quality Management Exchange Platform

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
- C. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- D. World Health Organization (WHO)

ANSWER: B

18. "Soyuz Spacecraft", Belongs To Which Country

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Germany

ANSWER: A

19. Which Ministry Recently Launched "Trade Connect e-Platform"

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: A

20. Which Among Following Was The First Registered Trade Union Of India

- A. Hindu Mazdoor Sabha
- B. Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh
- C. Madras Labour Union
- D. United Trade Union Congress

ANSWER: C