



AIR Discussions (September 2nd Week)

ALL INDIA RADIO SUMMARY (8 September -14 September, 2020)

SPOTLIGHT (11 September, 2020)

GS-III: Agricultural reforms

PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

Context: Govt. gives nod to 27 integrated cold chain development projects under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

Introduction:

- Even as India suffers from a serious level of hunger, still it wastes a significant portion of its farm produce due to a weak cold chain infrastructure, with 16% of fruits and vegetables being wasted every year.
- India ranks 103 among 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2018, sharing the rank with Nigeria.
- India lacked in Inadequate food supply, which is one of the three major parameters in calculating GHI.
- Up to 10 per cent oilseeds, pulses and cereals grown in India are also completely wasted.

Need of the scheme:

- Perishable products like fruits and vegetables are wasted due to unavailability of cold storage and improper transportation facilities.
- The bottleneck in the supply chain between farmers and consumers is keeping the benefits of surplus production away from farmers and consumers
- As per the study “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India” carried out by the Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Food wastage in India is driven by the
 - lag in many stages of the supply chain in the country
 - Lack of cold chain and proper storage facility, exports, transportation, adequate processing facilities, and marketing

Agricultural products and their cumulative loss (%) in 2019

- Cereals: 4.65 to 5.99
- Pulses: 6.36 to 8.41
- Oil seeds: 3.08 to 9.96
- Fruits & Vegetables: 4.58 to 15.88
- Milk: 0.92
- Meat: 2.71
- Poultry meat: 6.74



Government measures:

- Government gave its nod to 27 projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana for **development of integrated cold chains and value addition infrastructure** in the country.
- The new integrated cold chain projects will **generate direct and indirect employment for over 16,000 people and benefit nearly 2,57,000 farmers**.
- Saving the perishable produce, by provisioning adequate infrastructure, will help in augmenting **farmers' incomes** and will also act towards **making India self-reliant** in the fruits and vegetables sector.
- The projects will **help in streamlining the agricultural supply chain and generate direct and indirect employment opportunities in rural areas**.
- These 27 new projects will leverage a total investment of **Rs 743 crores for the creation of modern, innovative infrastructure and effective cold chain facilities** for the food processing sector across various states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- 85 Cold Chain Projects have also been considered for financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana:

- A Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2017.
- This umbrella scheme has now been renamed as the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)" to be implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).



OBJECTIVES OF PM KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA



- Creation of modern infrastructure for food processing mega food parks/ clusters and individual units
- To create effective backward and forward linkages - linking farmers, processors and markets
- To create robust supply chain infrastructure for perishables.

The following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana :

- Mega Food Parks
- Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
- Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
- Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
- Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure

Benefits of the scheme:



Reference:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt.-gives-nod-to-27-integrated-cold-chain-development-projects-under-PM-Kisan-SAMPADA-Yojana&id=398784>

ADDITIONAL NEWS

India joins Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment as Observer

Context: India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, DCOC/JA, as Observer.

Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment:

- DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India has joined Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.
- The DCOC, established in January 2009.
- It is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.
- India is looking forward to working together with DCOC/JA member states towards coordinating and contributing to enhanced maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.



<http://newsonair.com/News?title=India-joins-Djibouti-Code-of-Conduct%2f-Jeddah-Amendment-as-Observer&id=400004>

Govt. prepares draft of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020

Context: Power Ministry has drafted rules providing for Rights of Electricity Consumers for the First Time.

- Draft of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 has been prepared for the first time by the government.
- **Aim:** To provide consumer satisfaction, it is imperative to identify the key services, prescribe minimum service levels and standards with respect to these services and recognize them as rights of consumers.
- State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) will fix average number and duration of outages per consumer per year for DISCOMs.
- Only two documents will be required for connection up to load of 10 KW.
- No estimation of demand charges will be required for loads up to 150 KW to expedite giving connection.
- **Time-limit to provide new connection:** There will be a time period of not more than seven days in metro cities, 15 days in other municipal areas and 30 days in rural areas, to provide new connection and modify existing connection.
- There will be option to pay bills in cash, cheque, debit cards and net banking but bills of Rs. 1,000 or more have to be paid online.

[http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-prepares-draft-of-Electricity-\(Rights-of-Consumers\)-Rules%2c-2020&id=399976](http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-prepares-draft-of-Electricity-(Rights-of-Consumers)-Rules%2c-2020&id=399976)

ITEC Day observed by High Commission of India in Dhaka

Context: 56th ITEC day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka.

- In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, specialised e-ITEC courses on COVID-19 management strategies were organised for health-care Professionals and Administrators from Bangladesh.
- Over 4000 young Bangladeshi professionals have benefitted from various ITEC programmes since 2007.
- These training programmes provide an opportunity to share best practices, which benefit both the countries.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)

- Instituted in 1964, ITEC is a flagship programme of the Government of India to provide development assistance to developing countries across the globe.
- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is a bilateral assistance programme run by the Government of India.
- More than 10 thousand training slots are offered every year to more than 160 partner countries for training courses in various areas like Accounts, Audit, Management, SME, Rural Development, Parliamentary Affairs etc.
- It is a demand-driven, response-oriented programme that focuses on addressing the needs of developing countries through innovative technological cooperation between India and the partnering nation.
- ITEC covers 158 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and several Pacific and Caribbean nations.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=ITEC-Day-observed-by-High-Commission-of-India-in-Dhaka&id=399915>



100 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi criticized people for polluting rivers, other water bodies, air

- In 1909 in his book 'Hind Swaraj', Gandhiji cautioned Indians against unrestricted industrialism and materialism.
- Almost 100 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi criticized people for polluting the rivers and other water bodies and mills and factories for polluting the air with smoke and noise.

Famous sayings by Gandhiji:

- He said - "The earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our fore fathers but on loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us".
- He believed that India, with its large population and western model of development may exhaust the resources of mother earth.
- He said that earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed.
- It is only possible to follow his advice if one can distinguish between their real needs and artificial wants.
- He believed that one must be the change that one wants to see in the world and hence he practiced what he preached.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=100-years-ago%2c-Mahatma-Gandhi-criticized-people-for-polluting-rivers%2c-other-water-bodies%2c-air&id=399867>

Parliament passes National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill and National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill

Context: Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2020.

Aim: Ensuring availability of high quality medical professionals both for homeopathic treatment as well as for the Indian System of Medicine.

The National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020

- It seeks to repeal the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 and to set up a National Commission for Homoeopathy.
- The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of 20 members, which will include a Chairperson, the President of the Homoeopathy Education Board, the Director General of National Institute of Homoeopathy, the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Homoeopathy in addition to other members.

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020

- It seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and set up a National Commission for Indian System of Medicine.
- The Commission will consist of 29 members including a Chairperson, the President of the Board of Ayurveda, President of the Board of Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa, in addition to other members.

Other key highlights

- The two acts propose constitution of Advisory Councils for Homoeopathy as well as for Indian System of Medicine.



- These Councils will be the primary platform through which the states and union territories will put forth their views and concerns before the two Commissions.
- The Advisory Councils will also suggest measures to the Commission to determine and maintain standards of medical education in the country.
- It envisages a National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to both undergraduate and Post-Graduate courses of Homoeopathy and for various disciplines of Indian System of Medicine.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Parliament-passes-National-Commission-for-Homoeopathy-Bill-and-National-Commission-for-Indian-System-of-Medicine-Bill&id=399833>

India beats China to become member of UN's Commission on Status of Women

Context: India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- India will be a member of the prestigious body for four years from 2021 to 2025.
- It is endorsement of India's commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all the endeavours.
- India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women.

Commission on Status of Women

- The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- A functional commission of the ECOSOC, it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.
- It promotes women's rights, highlights the reality of women's lives throughout the world and helps in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- 45 member states of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=India-beats-China-to-become-member-of-UN%26%2339%3bs-Commission-on-Status-of-Women&id=399862>

Hindi Diwas being observed across the country

Context: On 14 September, 1949 the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country.

- Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.
- Government has taken several steps to promote the Rajbhasha and at the international forums, Hindi is being well received.
- In China, Hindi is being taught in around 18 universities and around 500 Chinese students are learning Hindi.
- Hindi was adopted as one of the two official languages of the Republic of India by Constituent Assembly of India due to the efforts of Beohar Rajendra Simha along with Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupta and Seth Govind Das.
- Under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as one of official languages.
- In all, there are 22 Scheduled languages of India.



<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Hindi-Diwas-being-observed-across-the-country&id=399787>

SCTIMST develops device for prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis

Context: Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has developed a device for the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)

- The formation of a blood clot in a deep vein, usually in the legs or Deep Vein Thrombosis can lead to life threatening complications.
- Scientists have come up with a device that can facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs thus preventing DVT.
- Device can bring relief to patients affected by prolonged immobility, bed ridden state, post-operative immobilization and paralysis of legs.
- Such devices which are so far imported cost between 2 lakh to 5 lakh rupees whereas the device developed by SCTIMST team can be placed in the market for less than one lakh rupees.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=SCTIMST-develops-device-for-prevention-of-Deep-Vein-Thrombosis&id=399773>

PM Modi digitally launches Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana & e-Gopala App

Context: Prime Minister digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

e-Gopala App

- A comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- This digital medium will help livestock owners to choose advanced livestock.
- This app will give all information related to productivity, health and diet to the cattle owners.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of over Rs. 20 thousand crores.
- **Aim:** Enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25.
- Fish producers will get new infrastructure, modern equipment and new market.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-digitally-launches-Pradhan-Mantri-Matsya-Sampada-Yojana-%26-e-Gopala-App&id=399490>

ECI tightens norms to crack down on criminals in politics; issues revised guidelines

Context: Election Commission issued revised guidelines for publishing details of criminal antecedents by candidates and the political parties regarding candidates nominated by them.

- As per the revised guidelines, the candidates as well as the political parties, regarding candidates nominated by them, will publish the details of criminal antecedents, if any, in newspapers and television.



- The first publicity will be within the first four days of the last date of withdrawal.
- Second publicity will be within the 5th to 8th day of the last date of withdrawal.
- The third publicity will be from 9th day till the last day of campaign which is two days prior to the date of poll.
- The timeline will help the voters in exercising their choices in a more informed manner.
- Uncontested winner candidates as well as the political parties who nominate them shall also publicise the criminal antecedents, if any, as prescribed for other contesting candidates and political parties.
- A compendium of all instructions and formats issued so far, in this matter, is being published for the benefit of stakeholders.
- It will help in creating more awareness amongst the voters and other stakeholders.
- All instructions, in this regard, must be complied by the contesting candidates with criminal antecedents and the political parties regarding their nominated candidates.
- The modified instructions will apply with immediate effect.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=ECI-tightens-norms-to-crack-down-on-criminals-in-politics%3b-issues-revised-guidelines&id=399623>

RBI issues guidelines for appointment of CCO in banks

Context: Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.

New guidelines:

- CCO must be appointed for a minimum fixed period of three years.
- The person should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position or he could also be recruited from outside.
- There shall not be any responsibility, which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially the role relating to business.
- He must not be a member of any committee, which brings his/her role in conflict with responsibility as member of the committee, including any committee dealing with purchases/sanctions.
- No vigilance case or adverse observation from the RBI should be pending against the candidate identified for appointment as the CCO.
- Selection of the candidate for the post of the CCO should be done on the basis of a well-defined selection process and recommendations made by the senior executive-level selection committee constituted by the board for the purpose.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=RBI-issues-guidelines-for-appointment-of-CCO-in-banks&id=399649>

Govt forms three-member expert panel to assist in assessment of relief to bank borrowers

Context: Government has constituted a three member expert committee to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers.

Rajiv Mehrishi committee

- The committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi will measure the impact on the national economy and financial stability of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related moratorium.



- It will also give suggestions to mitigate financial constraints of various sections of society in this respect and measures to be adopted in this regard.
- The move came as various concerns have been raised during the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court in the matter regarding relief sought in terms of waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest and other related issues.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-forms-three-member-expert-panel-to-assist-in-assessment-of-relief-to-bank-borrowers&id=399578>

India, Japan ink agreement for reciprocal supplies & services between armed forces

Context: India and Japan have signed an Agreement between the two countries concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

- This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services.
- The agreement will also enhance the interoperability between the Armed Force of India and Japan thereby further increasing the bilateral defence engagements under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=India%2c-Japan-ink-agreement-for-reciprocal-supplies-%26-services-between-armed-forces&id=399531>

Unicef report says Child Mortality Rate in India has declined substantially

Context: Country's child mortality rate has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019.

- According to the new mortality estimates released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group, the under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined to 34 in 2019 from 126 in 1990.
- The country registered a 4.5 per cent annual rate of reduction in under-five mortality between 1990-2019.
- The number of under-five deaths in India dropped from 3.4 million in 1990 to 824,000 in 2019.
- The infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined from 89 in 1990 to 28 last year.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Unicef-report-says-Child-Mortality-Rate-in-India-has-declined-substantially&id=399434>

SC stays reservation for Marathas in govt jobs & educational institutions in Maharashtra

Context: The Supreme Court has stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra.

- A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao referred the case to a larger bench to consider the constitutional validity of 2018 Maharashtra government law providing reservation to Marathas in the State.
- Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 16 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.



- The law was challenged before Bombay High Court which in June 2019 upheld its validity but reduced the quota to 12 per cent in educational institutions and 13 per cent in jobs.
- Appeals were filed before Supreme Court stating that the reservation would lead to breach of the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Apex Court in its 1992 judgment of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India.
- Maharashtra government had on August 26th asked the Court to place the matter before a larger bench considering the fact that it involves determination of substantial legal questions.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=SC-stays-reservation-for-Marathas-in-govt-jobs-%26-educational-institutions-in-Maharashtra&id=399492>

Public Sector Banks' doorstep banking services launched by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Context: Finance Minister inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks.

- As part of the EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App.
- Customers can also track their service request through these channels.
- The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centres across the country.
- At present only non-financial services like pick up of negotiable instruments, new cheque book requisition slip, 15G / 15H forms, IT / GST challan, issue request for standing instructions, request for account statement are available to customers.
- The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges.
- A common reform agenda for PSBs, EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018.
- PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Public-Sector-Banks%26%2339%3b-doorstep-banking-services-launched-by-FM-Nirmala-Sitharaman&id=399480>