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News: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- Recently, **Maharashtra has signaled that it may opt out** of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Scheme.
- Earlier, **Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal – all predominantly agriculture states – have already opted out** of the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is set up under **One-Nation, One-Scheme plan** of Union ministry of **Agriculture and Family Welfare**.
- It is a comprehensive **insurance cover against crop failure**. (as part of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022).
- All food and oilseed crops and annual commercial/horticulture crops are eligible to get insurance.

Premium to be paid by farmer

- Kharif crops- 2%

- Rabi crops-1.5%
- Annual commercial/horticulture crops- 5%
- The Centre has decided to limit the PMFBY premium rates – against which it would bear 50% of the subsidy – to a maximum of 30% in un-irrigated and 25% in irrigated areas.
- Recently, it was decided that Centre would bear 90% of premium in North eastern states against the 50:50 in other states.
- The scheme was **compulsory for loanee farmers availing Kisan Credit Card** for notified crops. Moreover, the **scheme is voluntarily available for all farmers**.
- To address the demand of farmers, the scheme has been made **voluntary for all farmers from Kharif 2020 season**.
- The Scheme shall be implemented through a multi-agency framework by selected insurance companies under the **overall guidance & control of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India (GOI) and the concerned State** in co-ordination with various other agencies.
- Recently, **Maharashtra became the first state to integrate its land records with the web portal of PM – FBY**.

Losses covered under PM – FBY

- Prevented Sowing/Planting/Germination Risk
- Standing Crop (Sowing to Harvesting): Comprehensive risk insurance is provided to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks, viz. Drought, Dry spell, Flood, Inundation, widespread Pests and Disease attack, Landslides, Fire due to natural causes ,Lightening, Storm, Hailstorm and Cyclone.
- Post-Harvest Losses.
- Localized Calamities: Loss/damage to notified insured crops resulting from occurrence of identified localized risks of Hailstorm, Landslide, Inundation, Cloud burst and Natural fire.
- Add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by wild animals
- Losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks shall be excluded.

News: Devika River Project

- River Devika project, built at the cost of over Rs 190 crore, will be complete by June, 2022.

Devika River Project

- The work on the project was started in March 2019 under the **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)**.
- Under the project, **bathing “ghats” (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored and catchment areas will be developed along with cremation ground.**
- The project also includes the construction of **three sewage treatment plants, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.**
- On completion of the project, the **rivers will see reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality.**

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)

- National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is a centrally funded scheme launched in 1995 aimed at preventing the pollution of rivers.
- Programs for river conservation are being implemented under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).
- The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga, has replaced the NRGBA.

Activities covered under NRCP

- Interception and Diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low Cost Sanitation works to prevent open defecation on riverbanks.
- Electric Crematoria and Improved Wood Crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River Front Development works such as improvement of bathing ghats.

- **Public awareness** and public participation.
- **Human Resource Development (HRD)**, capacity building, training and research in the area of River Conservation.
- Other miscellaneous **works depend upon location specific** conditions including the interface with human population.

River Devika

- Devika River **originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it **merges with the Ravi River**.
- The river holds **religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river Ganga**.
- In June 2020, Devika Bridge was inaugurated in Udhampur. Apart from taking care of traffic congestion, the Devika Bridge was also meant to help smooth passage of Army convoys and vehicles.

News: Epilepsy

- Every year the **second Monday of February** is observed as **International Epilepsy Day (IED)**.

Epilepsy

- Epilepsy is a **central nervous system (neurological) disorder** in which **brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures or periods of unusual behavior, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness.**
- Epilepsy is defined as having **two or more unprovoked seizures.**
- Epilepsy is **one of the world's oldest recognized conditions**, with written records dating back to 4000 BCE.
- Around **50 million people worldwide have epilepsy**, making it one of the most common neurological diseases globally. **In India, nearly 60 lakh people have epilepsy.**
- Anyone can develop epilepsy, but it's **more common in young children and older adults.**
- There's **no cure for epilepsy**, but the disorder can be managed with medications and other strategies.

- In 2019, a report **Epilepsy, a public health imperative** was released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- It is the **first global report on epilepsy summarizing the available evidence on the burden of epilepsy and the public health response required at global, regional and national levels.**
- The **WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)** aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low- and middle-income.

News: 4 police stations declared ‘Eat Right Campus’ by FSSAI

- Four police stations of New Delhi district have been certified as ‘Eat Right Campus’ by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Eat Right Campus

- Eat Right Campus is an **initiative under Eat Right India mission to identify premises that can be declared as Eat Right Campus.** ‘Sehatmand Delhi’ was launched by New Delhi government as part of Eat Right Campus.

- ‘Sehatmand Delhi’ focused on the health of its personnel across canteens, kitchens and mess in the district.
- The programme included a preliminary audit of the campus, identifying the gaps and rectifying them, creation of standard operating procedures, followed by final the audit by third party agencies.

Eat Right Movement

- Eat Right Movement is a flagship mission launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2019.
- The objective of Eat Right Movement is to ensure that the citizens of the country get safe and nutritious food.
- The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.
- It also aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.
- FSSAI has put in place robust regulatory measures under three major pillars: Eat Safe, Eat Health and Eat Sustainably for the programme.
- FSSAI has prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

Eat Right Station Certification

- The 'Eat Right Station' certification is awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to railway stations that set benchmarks (As per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.
- The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5.
- Recently, Chandigarh Railway Station has been awarded a 5-star Eat Right Station certification. It is the fifth station in India to get this recognition.
- The other four stations are Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai), Mumbai Central Railway Station (Mumbai) and Vadodara Railway Station.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

(FSSAI)

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is constituted under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** through the **regulation and supervision of food safety**.
- The FSSAI has its headquarters at **New Delhi**. The authority also has **6 regional** offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai.
- **14 referral laboratories** notified by FSSAI, **72 State/UT laboratories** located throughout India and 112 laboratories are NABL accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.
- Recently, through an amendment of Food Safety and Standards Regulations, FSSAI limited the Trans-fat use in Oils.
- FSSAI publishes the annual **State Food Safety Index**.

News: Solar Waste handling policy

- Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) R.K. Singh recently said that a committee had been constituted under the chairmanship of the Ministry's Secretary to propose an action plan to evolve a "circular economy" in solar panel, through reuse/recycling of waste generated.
- Recently, The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimated that the global **photovoltaic waste will touch 78 million tonnes by 2050, with India expected to be one of the top five generators of such waste**.

- Solar panels have **an estimated life of 25 years**, and given that India's solar manufacturing industry took off around 2010, most of the installed systems were new and early in their calendar lifecycle and therefore unlikely to generate a large quantity of solar waste for the near future.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- International Renewable Energy Agency is an **intergovernmental organisation; it was officially founded in Bonn, Germany, in January 2009.**
- Currently it has **164 members; India is the 77th Founding Member of IRENA.**
- It has its **headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.**
- The **World Bank– Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), in partnership with, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and International Solar Alliance (ISA) developed** the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI or “the Initiative”) was established recently.

Major Functions

- It **supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence,**

and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.

- It promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.
- Recently, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) released the ‘Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020’ report.
- Energy Progress Report 2020 was jointly published by IRENA (as this year Chairperson), International Energy Agency, United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and WHO.
- World Energy Transitions Outlook Report was recently released by IRENA.