

### ELECTION SECURITY DEPOSIT

The state Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat have recently concluded. As with all elections, while there will be candidates who will rake in huge victory margins, there will also be contestants who will lose their security deposit – an indicator of clear rejection at the hands of the voters.



#### About:

- An **election security deposit** is an amount that is to be deposited with the **Returning Officer** when a candidate files their nomination.
- This is to be submitted either in cash, or a receipt must be enclosed with the nomination paper, showing that the said sum has been deposited on the **candidate's behalf in the Reserve Bank of India or in a Government Treasury.**
- The main purpose of this practice is to ensure that only genuinely intending candidates end up filing the nomination to be a part of the electoral process.
- The amount depends on the particular election being conducted, and the **Representation of the People Act of 1951** mentions different amounts depending on the level of election:
  - in the case of an election from a Parliamentary constituency, meaning a Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seat, the amount is Rs 25,000 and Rs 12,500 for a Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidate.
  - in the case of an election from an Assembly or Council constituency, meaning at the level of legislative bodies in the states, it is Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 for an SC/ST candidate.
  - even in the case of Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections, a deposit of Rs 15,000 is to be made.

#### When is a candidate said to 'lose' their security deposit?

- As per the same Act, the deposit has to be forfeited at an election if the number of valid votes polled by the candidate is less than 1/6th of the total number of valid votes polled.

- Or, in the case of the election of more than one member, it would be **1/6th of the total number of valid votes so polled divided by the number of members to be elected.**
- This refers to elections by proportional representation method, as is the case in Rajya Sabha.
- If the candidate does meet the threshold, “the deposit shall be returned as soon as practicable after the result of the election is declared”.
- If a candidate withdraws their nomination or passes away before the polls, the amount is returned.

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## GM MUSTARD HYBRID’S YIELD 28% MORE THAN NATIONAL CHECK MINISTER IN RAJYA SABHA

### **In News:**

- Field trials of the transgenic mustard variety, DMH-11, revealed them to be higher yielding and they didn’t deter the pollination habits of honey bees.
- This was informed by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh in Rajya Sabha.

### **GM Crop**

- Conventional plant breeding involves crossing species of the same genus to provide the offspring with the desired traits of both parents.
- Genetic engineering aims to transcend the genus barrier by introducing an alien gene in the seeds to get the desired effects.
  - The alien gene could be from a plant, an animal or even a soil bacterium.
  - Eg., Bt cotton has two alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).
    - It allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.
  - In Bt brinjal, a gene allows the plant to resist attacks of fruit and shoot borer.
- Seeds produced using genetic engineering are called Genetically Modified Seeds.

### **Legal position of genetically modified crops in India**

- In India, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- In 2002, the GEAC had allowed the commercial release of Bt cotton.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs 1 lakh under the Rules, 1989 (notified under Environmental Protection Act ,1986).

### **Background:**

- Earlier, in 2017, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had cleared the proposal for commercial cultivation of GM mustard.
- However, the Union Environment Ministry vetoed it and suggested that the panel hold more studies on the GM crop.
- In October 2022, GEAC again cleared the proposal for commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard – also known as Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11).

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## GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL IN RAJYA SABHA

### **In News:**

- In a bid to meet India’s commitment to exceed its Paris agreement climate targets, the Union Minister of Power recently introduced the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022 in Rajya Sabha.
- The Bill proposes to amend the **Electricity Conservation Act 2001** (last amended in 2010), to introduce changes such as incentivising the use of clean energy by issuing carbon saving certificates.

### **About the Energy Conservation Act, 2001:**

- It empowers the Centre to specify **norms and standards of energy efficiency** for appliances, industrial equipment and buildings.
- It established the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and the 2010 amendment extended the tenure of the Director General of the BEE from 3 to 5 years.

- According to the Act, **the Centre can issue energy savings certificates** to those industries which consume less than allotted energy and can be sold to those who consume more – **providing for a framework for energy trading.**
- The Act allows the Centre to **prohibit the manufacture, sale, purchase or import of any particular equipment** unless it conforms to specified norms.
- In case of any violations, each offence shall attract a penalty of Rs 10 lakh. Consumers will be penalised according to their excess consumption.
- **Any appeals** against any such order will be heard by the **appellate tribunal established under the Electricity Act, 2003.**

## The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022:

- **Changes proposed:**
  - **Defining the minimum share** of renewable energy to be consumed by industrial units or any establishment.
  - **Issuing carbon saving certificates** to incentivise efforts to use clean energy.
  - **Strengthening institutions such as the BEE.** For example, the bill amends the composition of the governing council of BEE.
  - **Facilitating the promotion of green Hydrogen** as an alternative to the fossil fuels used by industries.
  - **To specify a carbon credit trading scheme** for the use of clean energy to lure the private sector to climate action.
    - Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse emissions.
  - **New energy conservation code for buildings.**
    - For example, including larger residential buildings under energy conservation standards, instead of only large industries and their buildings under the old code.
- **Main objective of these proposed amendments:**
  - To **increase India's demand for renewable energy**, thereby reducing the nation's carbon emissions and hence address climate change.

- To develop India's Carbon market and boost the adoption of clean technology.
  - To meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as mentioned in the Paris Climate Agreement, before its 2030 target date.
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## GREENFIELD AIRPORTS

Government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports.



### About:

- Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the **Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008**.
- As per the Policy, a State Government or an Airport Developer, willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for **2-stage approval i.e. 'Site-Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval**.
- Such proposals are considered by MoCA as per the procedure stipulated in the GFA Policy.
- The responsibility of implementation of airport projects including funding of the projects rests with the **concerned airport developer including the respective State Government** (in case the State Government is the project proponent).
- Government of India (GoI) has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of **21 Greenfield Airports namely,**
  - Mopa in **Goa**,
  - Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in **Maharashtra**,
  - Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in **Karnataka**,
  - Dabra (Gwalior) in **Madhya Pradesh**,
  - Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in **Uttar Pradesh**,
  - Dholera and Hirasar in **Gujarat**,
  - Karaikal in **Puducherry**,
  - Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal (Kurnool) in **Andhra Pradesh**,
  - Durgapur in **West Bengal**,

- Pakyong in **Sikkim**,
- Kannur in **Kerala** and
- Donyi Polo, Itanagar in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Out of these, **9 Greenfield airports** Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar and Donyi Polo, Itanagar **have been operationalized**.

## [KRISHI UDE DESH KA AAM NAAGRIK \(KRISHI UDAN 2.0\) SCHEME](#)

**58 airports will be covered under Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0**



### **About:**

- **Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0** was announced on 27 October 2021.

### **What is the objective?**

- The main objective of the Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 is to increase share of air carriage in the modal mix for transportation of Agri-produce, which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products.
- The scheme assists farmers in transporting agriculture products so that it improves their value realisation.
- The Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost-effective, time bound, air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from North-East, hilly and tribal regions of the country.
- **Few successful examples** are air transportation of 'King Chillies, Burmese Grapes & Assamese Lemon' from Gauwahati, 'Jackfruit' from Tripura and 'Litchi' from Darbhanga.

### **Waiver:**

- For facilitating and incentivising movement of agri-produce by air transportation, Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides full waiver of Landing, Parking, Terminal Navigational Landing Charges (TNLC) and Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC) for Indian freighters and P2C (Passenger-to-Cargo) Aircraft.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also asked States to reduce sales tax on aviation turbine fuel to one per cent for airlines under the Krishi UDAN 2.0 scheme.

## Budget:

- There is no specific budget allocation under Krishi Udan Scheme.

## Ministries/Departments:

- It is a convergence scheme where **eight Ministries/Departments** namely Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region would leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce.

## E-Kushal:

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is also developing an online platform named **E-Kushal (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics)**.
- It will facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural produce.
- E-Kushal will also assist in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the Krishi UDAN 2.0 scheme.
- The MoCA has also proposed a convergence of E-Kushal with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform.

## Krishi UDAN scheme:

- The Krishi UDAN scheme was **launched in August 2020**.
- It aims to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products on international and national routes so that it improves their value realisation.

## JALLIKATTU

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court recently reserved for judgment a batch of petitions seeking to strike down a Tamil Nadu law which protects Jallikattu by claiming



that the bull-taming sport is a cultural heritage of the State and is protected under Article 29 (1) of the Constitution.

## About:

- Jallikattu (or sallikkattu) is also known as **eru thazhuvuthal and mañcuvirattu**.
- The bull-taming sport is popular in **Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts** — known as the Jallikattu belt.
- Jallikattu is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, **Pongal**.
- A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating.
- It is a traditional sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize.
- Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls.
- **Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Barugur and Malai Maadu** are among the popular native cattle breeds used for Jallikattu.

## 9TH WORLD AYURVEDA CONGRESS AND AROGYA EXPO 2022

**9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated recently at Panaji, Goa.**



## About:

- The 9th WAC aims to showcase the efficacy and strength of the AYUSH systems of medicine at the Global level.
- Objective: To provide a global platform for all the stakeholders, including industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educationists, students, medicine manufacturers, growers of medicinal plants and marketing strategists, for networking and engaging in intellectual exchange to strengthen the Ayurveda sector, envision its future, and facilitate interaction between professionals and consumers to boost Ayurveda commerce.

**AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector:**





# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- The market size of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector in the country has grown from USD 3 billion in 2014 to over USD 18 billion now, clocking a phenomenal growth of six times.
- During 2014-2020, the AYUSH industry grew 17 per cent year-on-year while the Ayurveda market is predicted to grow at 15 per cent CAGR from 2021-2026.

**Ayush Grid:**

- The Ayush Grid project was initiated by the Ministry in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.
- Digitalization of the entire Ayush Sector will lead to its transformation in fields of health care delivery at all levels, including research, education, various health programmes and drug regulations.

