

WORLD OCEAN DAY

World Ocean Day was observed on June 8, 2022 with the theme for this year is "Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean".



About:

The Day is celebrated every year on June 8.

The Day was proposed in 1992 and was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

The purpose of the Day is to raise public awareness on Oceans and its resources and also to inform the public

of the impact of human actions on the ocean.

Significance

- The ocean covers over 70 percent of the planet. According to the UN, oceans produce about 50 percent of the planet's oxygen and are home to earth's biodiversity.
- It is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world.
- The ocean is key to economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

WORLD BRAIN TUMOUR DAY

World Brain Tumour Day is being observed on June 08, 2022.



About:

It is observed to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours. The day also pays tribute to those affected by brain tumours.

- The German Brain Tumor Association started this international commemoration day in the year 2000 as a tribute to all brain tumour patients and their families.

- A brain tumour occurs when cells grow at an abnormal rate to form a mass of abnormal cells within the brain.
 - There are two main types of tumours-cancerous tumours and non-cancerous tumours.
 - Some common symptoms of brain tumor are headaches, seizures, problem with vision, vomiting, and mental changes. Patient may feel headache and vomiting in the morning.
 - More specific problems may include difficulty in walking, speaking and sensation.
 - Brain tumour can be a life-threatening disease but completely treatable. Some of the common treatments of brain tumour include surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, anti-seizure medication, steroid treatment, etc.
 - On a global scale, 330,000 children and adults worldwide are diagnosed with cancer of the central nervous system in one year.
-

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

World Food Safety Day was observed on June 07, 2022. This year, the theme is 'Safer Food, Better Health'.



About:

The day was set aside by the United Nations in 2018 to raise awareness of food safety and to encourage adequate steps to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day

- According to the United Nations, around 600 million cases of food-borne illnesses are reported every year which makes unsafe food one of the most concerning threats for human health.
 - Diseases arising from unhygienic food affect the most vulnerable people and marginalised sections of society, especially children, women and victims of conflicts. These illnesses are mostly caused by viruses, bacteria and parasites present in the contaminated food.
-

CARBON BOMBS

A group of environmentalists, lawyers, and activists have come together to identify and ‘defuse carbon bombs’– coal, oil and gas projects that have the potential to contribute significantly to global warming.



About:

The usage of the term ‘carbon bombs’ picked up after an investigative project of The Guardian from May 2022. Defining the term in its report, The Guardian said that it is “an oil or gas project that will result in at least a billion tonnes of CO2 emissions over its lifetime.”

- Whenever coal, oil, or gas is extracted it results in pollution and environmental degradation. Further, carbon emissions take place in particularly large amounts when fuel is burned.
- In total, around 195 such projects have been identified world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India. According to the report, they will collectively overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- Apart from coal, oil, and gas operations, the report highlighted the threat of methane, which “routinely leaks from gas operations and is a powerful greenhouse gas, trapping 86 times more heat than CO2 over 20 years”.

Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).

- The network working towards this goal of ‘defusing’ carbon bombs is called Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).
- Its mission is to “leave fossil fuels in the ground and learn to live without them.”
- It believes the root of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, and the 100% use of renewable energy sources is the solution.
- On its website, it has listed carbon bomb projects from all over the world. This includes the Carmichael Coal Project owned by the Adani Group, Gevra Coal Mines in Chhattisgarh owned by Coal India, and Rajmahal Coal Mines in eastern Jharkhand owned by Eastern Coalfields.

- LINGO aims to organise ground support for protesting such projects, challenge them through litigation, and conduct analysis and studies for the same.
-

GREEN JOBS

At an event to mark World Environment Day recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned India's efforts to create 'green jobs'.



About:

'Green jobs' refer to a class of jobs that directly have a positive impact on the planet, and contribute to the overall environmental welfare.

Jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means are categorised under the same. In all, they're aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.

- Awareness and training individuals regarding green jobs skills will ensure limiting greenhouse gas emissions, minimising waste and pollution, protect and restore ecosystems, support adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Skill Council for Green Jobs

- The Skill Council for Green Jobs was launched by the Union government on October 1, 2015.
- Aligned to the National Skill Development Missions, it was set up to be a not-for-profit, independent, industry-led initiative.
- Promoted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the council aims to help manufacturers and other service providers in India's 'green business' sector to implement industry-led, collaborative skills push the country on the path to truly realising the real potential and significance of 'green jobs'.

ILO projections for India

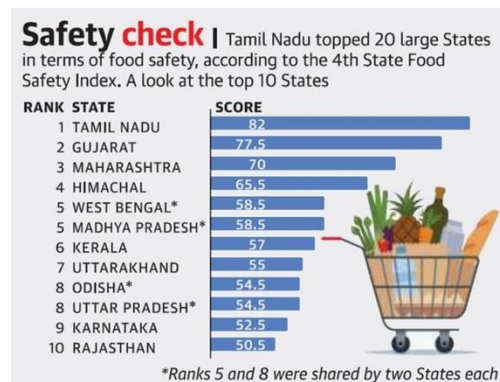
- According to the ILO, India moving to a green economy by the next decade would alone create about 3 million jobs in the renewable energy sector. The renewable energy sector created about 47,000 new jobs in 2017 accounting for a 12% increase in just the span of a year, they said.

Scenario across the world

- The International Labour Organisation, the International Trade Union Confederation, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Employers Organisation collectively launched the Green Jobs Initiative in 2008, aimed at bettering placements, training and creating opportunities for individuals to work in ‘green jobs’.

4th STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX

On the occasion of World Food Safety Day Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released the 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) for the year 2021-22.



About:

SFSI was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.

The SFSI measures the performance of States on the basis of five parameters of food safety set by the Health

Ministry.

- The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Winners

- This year, among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.

Do you know?

- The Health Minister also felicitated 11 winning smart cities of the EatSmart Cities Challenge, launched by FSSAI last year in association with the Smart Cities Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

KHARIF CROPS MSP RAISED 4-9%

In News:

- The Central government recently raised the minimum support price (MSP) of kharif crops for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) by around 4-9 per cent.

PRICE BOOST		
MSP of kharif crops for 2022-23 season		
Crop	Price (₹ per quintal)	% chg*
Soybean-Yellow	4,300	8.86
Jowar-Hybrid	2,970	8.47
Moong	7,755	6.60
Sunflowerseed	6,400	6.40
Cotton-Medium	6,080	6.18
Ragi	3,578	5.95
Groundnut	5,850	5.41
Paddy-Common	2,040	5.15
Paddy-Grade A	2,060	5.10
Maize	1,962	4.92
Urad	6,600	4.76
Tur (Arhar)	6,600	4.76
Bajra	2,350	4.44

Note: *Change over 2021-22; the crop year runs from July to June
Source: Govt

About Kharif crops:

The crops that are sown in the rainy season are called Kharif crops and it is also known as the summer or monsoon crop in India.

The crops that are sown in the winter season are called **Rabi crops**.

Kharif crops are usually sown with the beginning of the first rains in July, during the south-west monsoon season.

- The sowing time may vary in the different states of India as it depends on the arrival of monsoon.
 - For example, in southern states like Kerala, the seeds are usually sown towards the end of May and in northern states like Punjab, Haryana the seeds are sown in the month of June.
- These crops are dependent on the quantity of rainwater as well as its timing.
- Harvesting takes place in the months of September or October.

Common Kharif crops:

- Cereal crops:
 - Rice, Bajra, Jowar, Maize (corn), Millet and Soyabean
- Fruit crops:
 - Muskmelon, Sugarcane, Watermelon, Orange
- Seed/Grain crops:

- Arhar (tur), Black gram (urad), Cotton, Cowpea, Green gram (moong), Groundnut, Guar, Moth bean, Mung bean, Sesame, Urad bean
- Vegetable crops:
 - Bitter gourd (karela), Bottle gourd, Brinjal, Chilli, Ladyfingers, Sponge Gourd, Tinda, Tomato, Turmeric, French beans

About Rabi crops:

- The crops that are sown in the winter season are called Rabi crops and it is also known as the winter crop in India and Pakistan.
- Rabi crops are usually sown in October or November.
- Rabi crops are cultivated in the dry season so timely irrigation is required to grow these crops.
- Harvesting takes place in the months of March or April.

Common Rabi crops:

- Cereal crops:
 - Barley, Gram, Rapeseed, Mustard, Oat, Wheat and Bajra
- Fruit crops:
 - Almond, Banana, Ber, Dates, Grapes, Guava, Kinnow, Lemon/Citrus, Mangoes, Mulberries, Orange
- Legumes/lentils (dal) crops:
 - Chickpea, Lobias, Masoor, Mung bean, Pigeon pea, Toria, Uradbean
- Seed/grain crops:
 - Alfalfa, Coriander, Cumin, Fenugreek, Linseed mustard, Isabgol, Sunflower, Bengal gram, Red gram

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- In **1966-67**, as a part of extensive agricultural reforms, MSP was introduced for the first time by the Central Government.
- Minimum support price (MSP) is a “minimum price” for any crop that the Government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of “support”.
- It is also the price that Government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop from the farmers.

- It is a way of protecting the farmers in India from the uncertainties of the markets as well as those of the natural kind.
- There is currently no statutory backing for these prices, nor any law mandating their enforcement.

Crops covered under MSP:

- At present, the Central Government sets MSP for **23 crops**.
- These include:
 - 7 cereals (bajra, wheat, maize, paddy barley, ragi and jowar);
 - 5 pulses (tur, chana, masur, urad and moong);
 - 7 oilseeds (safflower, mustard, niger seed, soyabean, groundnut, sesame and sunflower);
 - 4 commercial crops (raw jute, cotton, copra and sugarcane).

How the Government decides on the MSP:

- The Government announces the MSP at the start of each cropping season (**Rabi and Kharif**).
- The MSP is decided after the Government exhaustively studies the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
 - CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- These recommendations are based on a pre-fixed formulae. This includes the actual cost incurred, implicit family labour as well as the sort of fixed assets or rent paid by the farmers.

How can the Government provide legal guarantee for MSP:

- Primarily, there are two ways that the government can provide legal guarantee for MSP. Both have severe economic repercussions:
 - First, the Government can declare MSP as the baseline price for the 23 crops in the market. It'll be a mandate for private players to pay MSP rates, which may lead to price rise.
 - Secondly, the Government itself can buy all 23 crops at MSP.