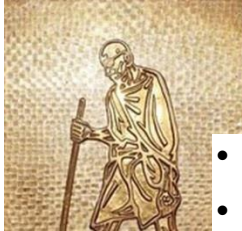


### GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur.



#### About Gandhi Peace Prize:

- It is an annual award instituted by the Government of India in 1995,
- It was instituted on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi.

- The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- The award carries an amount of **1 crore, a citation**, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
- The prize can be given to **institutions, individuals and organisations**.
- Recent awardees include Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Oman (2019) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020), Bangladesh.

#### Key facts about Gita Press

- It was established in 1923, Gita Press is one of the **world's largest publishers**, having published 41.7 Crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 Crore Shrimad Bhagvad Gita.
- In recognition of its outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES LIMITED (EESL)

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) CEO recently pledged his support to the implementation of Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change, especially in the MSME sector.

- EESL is promoted by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, as a Joint Venture of four reputed public-sector undertakings NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.

- It is **registered under the Companies Act, 1956** on 10th December 2009.
- EESL was **formed to create and sustain market access to energy efficient technologies**, particularly in public facilities like municipalities, buildings, agriculture, industry etc. and to **implement several schemes of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.**
- EESL is also **leading the market-related activities of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).**

#### **National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE):**

- It is **one of the eight national missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).**

**Aim:** To **strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating a conducive regulatory and policy regime** and envisage fostering innovative and sustainable business models in the **energy efficiency sector.**

- The Mission is **implemented since 2011.**
- **Initiatives under NMEEE:** It consists of **four initiatives to enhance energy efficiency** in energy-intensive industries, which are as follows:
  - **Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT):** Implementing a market-assisted compliance mechanism to accelerate the implementation of cost-effective improvements in energy efficiency in large energy-intensive industries.
  - **Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE):** Accelerating the shift to energy-efficient appliances in specific applications through innovative measures to make the products more affordable.
  - **Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP):** Facilitating Financial Institutions to invest in Energy Efficiency Projects and Programmes.
  - **Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED):** Developing fiscal instruments to leverage financing for Energy Efficiency through risk mitigation.
- **Implementation agencies:**
- **BEE:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

- EESL: Energy Efficiency Services Limited

## LEED CERTIFICATION

According to the Green Business Certification Inc. India ranks first globally in LEED Zero-certified green building projects surpassing the US and China.



### About LEED Certification:

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the world's most widely used **green building rating system** in the world.

- It is available for virtually all building types.
- This certification provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings, which offer environmental, social and governance benefits.
- It is a globally recognized **symbol of sustainability achievement** and leadership.
- To achieve LEED certification, a project earns points by adhering to prerequisites and credits that address **carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials**, health and indoor environmental quality.
- Projects go through a verification and review process by GBCI and are awarded points that correspond to a level of LEED certification: **Certified** (40-49 points), **Silver** (50-59 points), **Gold** (60-79 points) and **Platinum** (80+ points).
- This rating system is **developed** by the **United States Green Building Council (USGBC)**.

## INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

The International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) recently lauded India for reviving focus on millets and exporting 1.8 million tonnes of wheat to 18 countries that faced an acute shortage of food last year.



International Fund For Agricultural Development  
(IFAD)

### About International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

- It is an **international financial institution** and a **specialised agency of the United Nations**.



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- It was established as an international financial institution in 1977 through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/107 (15 December 1977) as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.
- **Headquarters: Rome, Italy**
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- **Governance:**
  - Its **Governing Council**, consisting of representatives of more than 160 member states, is the **principal decision-making body**.
  - Its **18-member Executive Board** oversees daily operations.

## Functions:

- It **focuses exclusively on rural poverty reduction**, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to **eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition; raise their productivity and incomes**; and improve the quality of their lives.
- IFAD seeks to **empower rural people to increase their food security**, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes through **funding of grants and low-interest loans to several projects**.
- The IFAD assists **vulnerable groups** such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists, foresters, fishers and small-scale entrepreneurs **in rural areas by providing, among others, access to weather information, disaster preparedness, social learning and technology transfer** that enables farmers to feed growing populations and increase the climate resilience of rural farming systems.

## What are Millets?

- Millets are **coarse grains with a high nutritional value**.
- They are **rich in protein, vitamins, minerals, and fibres**.
- Unlike other cereals, **millets require little water and ground fertility**.
- They're also able to **survive in harsh environments and less fertile soil**.

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## [MIYAWAKI FORESTS](#)

## Why in news?

- PM Modi during his latest ‘Mann ki baat’ episode spoke about Miyawaki plantation, the Japanese method of creating dense urban forests in a small area.
- The PM also cited the example of a Kerala-based teacher, Raafi Ramnath, who used the Miyawaki technique to transform a barren land into a mini forest called Vidyavanam by planting 115 varieties of trees.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has also been creating Miyawaki forests in several open land parcels of Mumbai.

## Miyawaki forests

- Miyawaki forests or Miyawaki technique, refer to a unique approach to afforestation and ecological restoration developed by Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**.
- The methodology was developed in the 1970s, with the basic objective to densify green cover within a small parcel of land.
- The method involves creating dense, multi-layered forests that grow rapidly and mimic the natural biodiversity of **native forests**.

| WHAT IS THE MIYAWAKI METHOD?   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki who invented it</li> <li>➤ It involves planting of several species very close together in a small pit</li> <li>➤ Plants draw nutrients from each other and become healthy</li> </ul>     |   |  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A dense forest, which grows naturally in 300 years is created in 30-35 years</li> <li>➤ Trees grow 10 times faster, and absorb 30 times more carbon dioxide</li> <li>➤ Density is 30 times that of normal tree plantations</li> </ul> | <p><b>MIYAWAKI FORESTS IN VADODARA</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>Private farm, Sun Pharma Road</b><br/>                     Area   12,000 square feet<br/>                     Number of trees planted   3,500                 </td> <td> <b>VMC's Rajivnagar STP, Harni</b><br/>                     Area   16,000 square feet<br/>                     Number of trees planted   4,000                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <b>Bhoj village, Padra Forest department's demonstration plot</b><br/>                     Area   30 x 10 metre<br/>                     Number of trees planted   831                 </td> </tr> </table> | <b>Private farm, Sun Pharma Road</b><br>Area   12,000 square feet<br>Number of trees planted   3,500 | <b>VMC's Rajivnagar STP, Harni</b><br>Area   16,000 square feet<br>Number of trees planted   4,000 | <b>Bhoj village, Padra Forest department's demonstration plot</b><br>Area   30 x 10 metre<br>Number of trees planted   831 |  |
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| <b>Bhoj village, Padra Forest department's demonstration plot</b><br>Area   30 x 10 metre<br>Number of trees planted   831   |  |  |  |  |  |

- This method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square metre.
- The plants used in the Miyawaki method are mostly self-sustaining and don't require regular maintenance like manuring and watering.
- In this method, the trees become self-sustaining and they grow to their full length within three years.

## PADDY AND THE PRICE OF WATER

### Context

- So far, the southwest monsoon season (June-September) has registered **2% deficient rain**.
- **With looming crisis El Nino** (which typically suppresses rainfall in India) to fully set in by this month-end, **the outlook for the rest of the season does not look great**.



## Paddy Crop and the Impact of Monsoon

- Paddy is the most important food crop of India covering about one-fourth of the total cropped area and providing food to about half of the Indian population.
- It is a very **high water-intensive crop** and therefore a weak monsoon can **impact the yield of paddy (rice and husk)**.

## Conventional Method: Transplanting of Paddy Crop

- The cultivation entails preparing nurseries, where the seeds are first raised into young plants that are uprooted and re-planted around 30 days later in the main field.
- During the nursery stage, water equivalent to one round of irrigation is given.

## Disadvantage of Conventional Method: Use of High amount of Groundwater

- The real water consumption starts **after the transplantation**.
- The field in which the seedlings are transplanted is usually irrigated once, before being “puddled” or tilled in standing water.
- Puddling churns the soil, making it softer for transplanting, and breaks its capillary pores through which water percolates down.
- This operation alone consumes **water equivalent to three irrigations**.
- For the first two weeks or more after transplanting, farmers must irrigate every 1-2 days to maintain a water depth of 4-5 cm, necessary to prevent weed growth during the crop’s early stage.
- **In all, the conventional transplanting route requires some 28 irrigations.**
- It can go up if high temperatures force more frequent watering, and go down if there is enough rain.
- **Each irrigation consumes roughly 5 hectare-cm or 500,000 litres of water** (one hectare-cm is one cm of standing water in one hectare area, equal to 100,000 litres).

## DSR (Direct Seeding of Rice): New Paddy Cultivation Method

- Direct seeding of rice (DSR) is a new method. **In Haryana and Punjab**, farmers are being encouraged to use this method for their paddy crop.

- In this method, Paddy is sown directly in the field without any nursery preparation, puddling or flooding.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of DSR

- **Advantages**
  - **It is labour saving.** This advantage is the main reason for its current focus in times of large-scale labour shortages.
  - **It is water saving.** It requires 30-40% lesser water compared to the transplantation method.
- **Disadvantages**
  - **The seeds required under the DSR method is higher.** While transplantation method requires 4-5 kg of seeds/ acre, the DSR method requires double the quantity (8-10 kg of seeds/ acre).

## Why are Farmers Still Reluctant to Use DSR?

- **Subsidised or Free Electricity:** A key reason is subsidised or even free electricity for irrigation, providing farmers little incentive to deploy water-saving technology.
- **Lack of Good Machines**
  - The recommended spacing for paddy is 20 cm row-to-row and 15 cm plant-to-plant, allowing for a plant population of 33 per square meter.
  - The DSR seed drill machines mostly sow row-to-row and do not get the plant-to-plant distance right.

**Steps Taken by the Government to Encourage DSR:** The Haryana and Punjab governments are offering farmers Rs 4,000 and Rs 1,500 per acre respectively to grow paddy using DSR, instead of transplanting.

## Conclusion

- The traditional methods of rice cultivation are labour intensive and require a high amount of groundwater.
- The government must work with farmers to explore new methods to save the groundwater.
- When farmers are not ready to shun paddy sowing, **any technique that claims to save groundwater must be researched and promoted.**

## DRUGS TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Recently, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) recommended banning the manufacture, sale and distribution of two non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac.



### About Drugs Technical Advisory Board:

- It is the highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in India.
- It is established as per **the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- It is part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Function:** It advises the **Central Government and the State Governments** on **technical matters** arising out of the administration of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, of 1940 and to carry out the other functions assigned to it by this Act.

### What are Non-steroid Anti-inflammatory Drugs?

- These are medicines that are widely **used to relieve pain**, reduce inflammation, and bring down a high temperature.
- These drugs block the production of certain body chemicals that cause inflammation.
- The most popular examples of drugs in this group are **aspirin and ibuprofen**.

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## DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR REGULATION OF FISHING BY INDIAN FLAGGED FISHING VESSELS IN THE HIGH SEAS, 2022

### Why in News?

- The Union government had issued draft guidelines on high-seas fishing (fishing in international waters off India coast, beyond the 200 nautical mile jurisdiction) in 2022.
- The Kerala State Fisheries Coordination Committee is getting ready to launch a protest against what it called “anti-fisherman” guidelines for regulating fishing by Indian-flagged vessels on the high seas.



## Need for the Draft Guidelines:

- The notification accepts that marine fisheries are the livelihood of 4 million people in the country, it stresses the need for **regulation to avoid over-exploitation and ensure sustainable use of the resources.**
- The guidelines are necessary as currently, **a considerable number (900+) of Indian vessels are fishing in areas outside the Indian EEZ** without any protection or security from the GoI.

## The Draft Guidelines for Regulation of Fishing by Indian Flagged Fishing Vessels in the High Seas, 2022:

- Any person engaging in deep sea fishing **should obtain a valid permit from the issuing authority.**
- The permit fee for boats more than 24m long is Rs 5 lakh while that of boats between 15m and 24m is Rs 1 lakh. The fee for boats between 12m to 15m is Rs 50,000.
- The licence issuing authority is the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**, and the validity of the permit is **two years.**

## Concerns Regarding the Draft Guidelines:

- **The regulations are issued as a guideline** and not as part of the proposed Indian Marine Fisheries Regulation Act.
- **The proposal to issue a permit to all Indian citizens** for fishing on the high seas is also unacceptable.
- **The licence fee is exorbitant** and should be reduced by half so that it does not put a burden on the small-scale fishermen.
- Though the preamble talks highly about the small-scale fishers in India, the guideline goes on to **support private players.**