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PM Narendra Modi has Inaugurated Asia's Biggest Bio-CNG Plant ,Gobar-Dhan

Prime Minister (PM) of India Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Asia's biggest Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) plant at the cost of Rs 150 crore in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

The principle of Bio-CNG plant is to implement “waste to wealth”, and “circular economy” to maximise resource recovery.

i.The plant produces around 17,000 to 19000 kg of biogas and 100 tonnes of organic compost per day.

ii.The plant has the capacity to treat 550 tonnes per day of segregated wet organic waste (of fruits, vegetables, raw meat, stale food, green leaves and flowers).The plant is based on the concept of “zero landfill models”.

Note

Zero landfill model is nothing but “Zero waste” involving zero pollution to land, water and air due to efficient Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM), zero waste going to landfills and sustainability.

Other

The recent initiative of the PM, the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, aims to create “Garbage Free Cities”



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and ensure grey and black water (used water) management in all cities.

Benefits of Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Plant

- i. Reduction in greenhouse gas emission.
- ii. Providing green energy along with organic compost as fertiliser.
- iii. The technology will help purify the air quality of densely populated cities by mitigating 1,30,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Public Private Partnership (PPP)

The project is being implemented by Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd which was set up by Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) .

The investment of Rs.150 crore was invested by Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd (IEISL) under PPP for this project.

Purpose of Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Plant

- i. The 50% of CNG produced by the plant will be purchased by IMC to run 400 city buses on CNG and the remaining will be sold in the open market.
- ii. The organic compost will replace chemical fertilisers for agricultural and horticultural purposes.



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About Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd (IEISL)

Directors – Kuldipkumar Dayaram Kaura , Rishi Rajesh Kumar Shukla and Parvez Keki

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

PM Modi Virtually Inaugurates ‘Kisan Drone Yatra’:Flagged off 100 ‘Kisan Drones’ To Spray Pesticides In Farms

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the ‘Kisan Drone Yatra’, an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd and flagged off 100 ‘Kisan Drones’ in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of India.

This is a special initiative aimed to support the farmers across India.

- The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

Key Points:

- i.The farmers can use the high-capacity Kisan drones to transport their produce such as fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets in a minimal time and boost their income.
- ii.While Inaugurating, PM addressed the farmers in Manesar, Haryana.The Kisan Drone Yatra was flagged off from the Manesar in Gurgaon, Haryana.



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iii. The Kisan Drones will also be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

Note – Garuda Aerospace has set a target of manufacturing one lakh drones in the next two years, and this will provide ample employment to youth.

Union Budget Focuses on Drones

i. In the Union Budget 2022-2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the major stimulus for the agriculture and farming sector and announced the drone facility for farmers named “Kisan Drones”.

ii. She highlighted that the government of India (GoI) will promote Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to the farmers across India during the financial year 2022-2023.

iii. She also stated that the startups will be promoted to facilitate the “Drone Shakti Programme”, which will promote the use of drones as a service.

Recent Related News:

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has amended the guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) to provide a 100 percent grant (up to Rs



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10 lakh) to Agricultural Institutes for the purchase of drones for Farming and its allied activities.

- The financial assistance and grants would be available until March 31, 2023.

About Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd:

Founder and CEO-Agnishwar Jayaprakash
Headquarter– Chennai, Tamil Nadu

IUCN Declares Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram as India's 1st OECM site

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana as India's 1st 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECM) site on the occasion of World Wetlands Day (2nd February 2022).

About OECM tag:

- i. The OECM tag is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- ii. Under OECM tag, there are no legal, financial or management implications, but it designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

Background:



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The proposal to declare Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site was sent by the National Biodiversity Authority to the IUCN in December 2020.

- In April 2021, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hero MotoCorp Limited for the ecological restoration and conservation of the Aravalli Biodiversity Park till 2031 and formally handed over its management in July 2021.

About Aravalli Biodiversity Park:

i. The Aravalli Biodiversity Park is spread across 390 acres and has semi-arid vegetation, with around 300 native plants, 101,000 trees, 43,000 shrubs, and several species of birds.

The work of transforming the park into a city forest from a 40-year-old mining site started in 2010, when a citizens group called 'IAmGurgaon', began to save the Aravallis and create a public space.

About Aravallis:

i. The Aravallis is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, considered the green lungs of Delhi- National Capital Region (NCR), a crucial water recharge zone.

ii. The 2018 study of the Centre for Environmental Research and Education(CERE), covering biodiversity aspects, oxygen generation, the value of trees and a host of other criteria revealed that Aravalli Biodiversity Park supplies



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around 7.07 percent of the oxygen for the Delhi-NCR.

About Haryana:

Chief Minister – Manohar Lal Khattar

Dance – Loor dance, Gugga Dance, Jhumar Dance, Ghumar Dance

Lakes – Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, Surajkund





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GSI Approves India's First Geo Park in Madhya Pradesh

On 30th January 2022 the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, approved the setting up of India's 1st geopark at Lamheta village, on the banks of the Narmada River in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

About the GSI funding:

- i. The GSI has sanctioned Rs. 1.30 crore for the formation of Geopark in 5 acres of land at the Lamheta village which is located 20 km away from the Jabalpur district headquarters
- The estimated cost of this project is Rs 35 crore and any additional funds can be sanctioned if required.

About Geopark:

- i. Definition : A geopark is a unified area that protects the geological heritage and promotes sustainable, well-being of the people living in that area.
- ii. This geopark to be formed in MP is already in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) geo-heritage tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage.
- Several dinosaur fossils had been found in the Narmada valley, particularly in the Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat area of Jabalpur, MP.



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• In 1828, the 1st dinosaur fossil was collected from the Lameta Bed by Indian Civil Service (ICS) officer William Sleeman.

iv. MP will also establish a science centre at the cost of Rs 15.20 crore, shared by the Centre and the state (MP) (Rs 8.65 crore will be financed by state government and remaining Rs 6.55 crore will be provided by National Science Museum, Kolkata) at Bhedaghat, Jabalpur, MP that is known for white marble rock formations and also a famous tourist hotspot.

• This project will be established on a 7 acres area which has already been transferred by the Jabalpur district administration to the MP Science and Technology Council.

About UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp):

i. UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

ii. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks.



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About Madhya Pradesh (MP):

Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

National Park – Sanjay National Park, Kanha national park, Madhav National Park.

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary, Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary





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India to Replace Diesel with Renewable Energy in Agriculture by 2024

On 12th February 2022, in a virtual meeting held to discuss the role of States and UTs towards achieving India's energy transition goals and meeting climate commitments, Union Power Minister R K Singh pointed out that India will achieve the target of zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.

- Objective – To ensure the state's participation in fulfilling India's climate commitments and each State and Union Territories (UT) can be assigned energy saving targets.
- Participants – The Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Power or Energy Departments of states & Union Territories (UTs).

Highlights:

i. The commercial buildings must follow ECBS and the domestic buildings should follow Energy Conservation New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable Homes (ECO NIWAS).

- All commercial and domestic buildings are directed to follow energy savings codes of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and all the power demand has to be met by non-fossil fuel methods with the help of energy storage.



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- ii. The cooperation from states is necessary to facilitate development of the State Energy Efficiency Action Plan, its adoption and implementation.
 - BEE will hand hold states in preparing State Specific Action Plans for achieving targeted goals.
- iii. This meeting was organised in line with the Prime Minister's commitment at 26th Council of Parties (COP26), towards reducing the carbon intensity of India.

About India's COP26 Commitment:

At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November 2021, India committed to achieve 500 GigaWatts (GW) non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and meeting 50 percent of energy requirements through renewable energy.

About Ministry of Power:

Union Minister – Raj Kumar Singh (Arrah, Bihar)
Minister of State – Krishan Pal (Faridabad, Haryana)

MoA&FW estimates Foodgrains production of over 316.06 MT for 2021-22

In the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for the year 2021-22 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), India's estimated foodgrains production is 316.06 million tonnes.



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- It is higher by 5.32 million tonnes than the production of foodgrains during 2020-21.

Highlights:

i. The production during 2021-22 is also higher by 25.35 million tonnes than the previous five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of foodgrains.

The estimates show the foodgrains output in 2021-22 is expected to be 6 million tonnes (MT) which is nearly 2% more than the overall production of 310 MT in 2020-21.

Product wise projections:

Rice- the total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 127.93 million tonnes. It is higher by 11.49 million tonnes than the last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of 116.44 million tonnes.

Wheat- the total production of Wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at record 111.32 million tonnes. It is higher by 7.44 million tonnes than the average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes.

Nutri / Coarse Cereals– the production of Nutri / Coarse Cereals estimated at 49.86 million tonnes, which is higher by 3.28 million tonnes than the average production.



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Pulses- Total Pulses production during 2021-22 is estimated at 26.96 million tonnes which is higher by 3.14 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 23.82 million tonnes.

Oilseeds- Total Oilseeds production in the country during 2021-22 is estimated at record 37.15 million tonnes which is higher by 1.20 million tonnes than the production of 35.95 million tonnes during 2020-21 and it is also higher by 4.46 million tonnes than the average oilseeds production.

- Higher down area of oilseeds is registered from most oilseeds producing States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat etc.

Sugarcane- Total production of Sugarcane in the country during 2021-22 is estimated at 414.04 million tonnes which is higher by 40.59million tonnes than the average sugarcane production of 373.46 million tonnes.

Cotton- Production of Cotton is estimated at 34.06 million bales (each of 170 kg) is higher by 1.12 million bales than the average cotton production of 32.95 million bales.

Jute- Production of Jute & Mesta is estimated at 9.57 million bales (each of 180 kg).

About Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW):

Union Minister- Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency- Morena, Madhya Pradesh)



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Minister of State- Shobha Karandlaje (Udupi Chikmagalur, Karnataka) Kailash Choudhary (Barmer, Rajasthan)

GoI Reduced Agri-cess on Crude Palm Oil From 7.5% To 5%

The Government of India(GoI) has reduced agri-cess for crude palm oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5% with effect from 12th February 2022. Following the reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%.

- This will benefit the domestic edible oil refiners and also check the prices of cooking oils.
- The GoI has also extended the current basic rate of import duty of 0% on CPO, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil till September 30, 2022.

Cess is a kind of special-purpose tax which is levied over and above basic tax rates.

The Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) is a tax that the government imposes on the commercial production of agricultural produce.

GoI Targets 44.4 MT of Wheat Procurement, 4.3 MT of Rabi Rice

On 25th February 2022 the Government of India(GoI) announced the purchase of 44.4 million tonnes (MT) of wheat and 4.29 MT of rabi-grown rice during 2022-23 under the minimum support price (MSP) programme



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- Food Corporation of India (FCI) in collaboration with state government-owned agencies will procure wheat from farmers in the key producing states, including Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during April-June 2022.
- The state-wise procurement target of wheat: Punjab (13.2 MT), Madhya Pradesh (12.9 MT), Haryana (8.5 MT), Uttar Pradesh (6 MT), and Bihar (1 MT).

Targets:

i. Rice – The target of 4.29 MT rabi-grown rice crop has been estimated for procurement during the forthcoming rabi crop in the current season (October-September 2022) from seven procuring States.

ii. Wheat – According to the 2nd advance estimates of foodgrain production, the Ministry of Agriculture had estimated India's wheat production at 111.32 MT and the government agencies would be purchasing close to 40 percent of the total wheat production.

- In the 2021-22 (marketing session), the government had purchased 43.34 MT of wheat from the farmers by paying the minimum support price (MSP). Whereas in 2022 the government will pay an MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal to farmers for wheat.

About Food Corporation of India FCI:



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i.FCI is the central agency that manages procurement, storage, and transportation of rice and wheat to states for distribution mainly for the National Food Security Act (NFS) and other welfare schemes.

Note – The Union Budget (2022-23) has made around 28 percent less provision for food subsidy allocation of Rs 2.06 lakh crore in 2022-23 against the revised estimates of Rs 2.86 lakh crore in 2021-22.

iii.FCI was setup under the Food Corporation Act 1964 under the ownership of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- Chairman & Managing Director (MD) – Shri. Atish Chandra
- Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Rajasthan's First-ever Agriculture Budget presented Separately

i.The CM also presented Rajasthan's first-ever agriculture budget separately, with a provision of Rs 4,127.12 crore for the Agriculture Department. Rs 5,000 crore allocated for Krishak Sathi Yojana and adoption of mission mode for 11 thematic areas.

• The allocation for CM Krishak Saathi Yojna was Rs 2,000 crore in the last Budget.

ii.Rs 2,700 crore budgeted for the Rajasthan Micro Irrigation Mission, under which 5 lakh farmers will be benefitted.



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iii. A Provision of Rs 1,439.49 crore was made for the Horticulture Department and of Rs 574.78 crore for the Animal Husbandry Department.

PMKSY Scheme Extended Till FY26 with Rs 4,600 Crore Outlay

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been extended for a period of 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 (till March 2026). The government of India (GoI) has allocated Rs 4600 crore for the scheme.

- The GoI launched the Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA) in 2017 with an allocation of Rs 6000 crore.
- In August 2017, the scheme was renamed as PMKSY, incorporating several ongoing schemes of the MoFPI like Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure,

Food Safety and Quality Assurance

Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities and Operation Greens

GoI Celebrates 3rd Anniversary of PM-KISAN

24th February 2022 marks the 3rd anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme.



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It was launched on 24th February in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- It is 100% Funded by the central government under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW)
- Objective – To provide income support to all landholding farmer's families irrespective of the land size in order to meet their expenses related to agriculture and domestic needs.

About PM-KISAN scheme:

i.Under the Scheme, Farmers will receive an amount of Rs.6000 per year in 3 equal instalments of Rs.2000 directly into their bank accounts.

• So far, ~1.80 lakh crore rupees have been transferred directly into the bank accounts of the farmer families under the PM - KISAN Scheme.

ii.Initially, the Scheme provided income support to all families of Small and Marginal Farmers having cultivable land up to 2 hectares which was then expanded to cover farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

Budget Allocation 2022-23:

Government of India(GoI) has allocated Rs 68,000 Crore for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) in the Union Budget 2022-23, which is just 4.6 per cent higher than the



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Budget Estimates of Rs 65,000 crore for 2021-22 and only 0.74 per cent higher than the revised estimates of Rs 67,500 crore for the current financial year(FY22).

About Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW):

Union Minister – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

Minister of State (MoS) – Shobha Karandlaje (Constituency – Udupi Chikmagalur, Karnataka) ;Kailash Choudhary (Constituency – Barmer, Rajasthan)

NABARD launches ‘JIVA Programme’ to promote Natural Farming under its existing Watershed & Wadi Programmes

On 9 February 2022, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the ‘JIVA programme’ to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.

Objective:

To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.

Key points:

i.JIVA is an agroecology based programme, an amalgamation of several projects under the watershed programme



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of NABARD and will be implemented in 11 states covering five agro-ecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas.

ii. The JIVA programme will be implemented on a pilot basis in 25 projects across the 11 states covering five agro-ecological zones with investment of Rs 50,000 per hectare.

iii. Each project will be implemented in 200 hectares of land in every selected village, and the learnings from which will be used for further implementation to the whole village.

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

- It is a statutory body established under 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981'.
- It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.

Chairman- G R Chintala

Founded- 12th July 1982

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Yes, Bank Launches an Annual Start-up Program – 'Agri Infinity program'

On 14th February 2022 Private sector lender Yes Bank Limited announced the launch of an annual startup



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enabler program, YES BANK Agri Infinity, which seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field.

- The program will last up to 6 months, based on the maturity and readiness of the solution.

Eligibility:

i. Agri-fintech startups working on financial innovations across the food and agriculture value chain: could include origination, farmer on-boarding, farmer KYC, credit scoring, risk assessment, monitoring and mitigation, disbursement & recovery solutions, and cash management systems among others.

ii. Food and agritech start-ups.

iii. Pivoting into agri-fintech and exploring the opportunity of adding a financing layer to their core proposition.

iv. Looking at prototyping and rolling out modern digital cash management and transaction banking solutions across the food & agriculture value chain.

Benefits:

i. The eligible start-ups will receive Mentoring by senior banking professionals on credit scoring models, risk assessment and risk mitigation.



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- ii. Start-ups will also get access to the lender's digital banking infrastructure and network including collaborative opportunities to pilot new solutions and fundraising advisory.
- iii. The program will also enable opportunities to work with bankers to design and prototype innovative digital financial solutions.
- iv. The eligible start-ups will receive the guidance and support necessary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain

About Yes Bank Limited:

- Establishment – 2004
- Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO & Managing Director (MD) – Prashant Kumar
- Tagline – Experience Our Expertise

IndusInd Bank empaneled with e-NAM Portal to facilitate Digital Transactions

The Small Farmers Agri- Business Consortium (SFAC) has empanelled IndusInd Bank with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal to facilitate digital collection and settlement services, for facilitating transactions between farmers and traders across India.

Highlights:

- i. IndusInd Bank will be directly integrated with e-NAM platform to provide safe and hassle-free payments,



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clearing and settlement services to the farmers and traders.

ii. It will offer various transaction services through digital modes including multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer), RTGS (Real-time gross settlement), IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) and UPI (Unified Payments Interface) to the buyer and seller of the agriculture produce.

iii. As of January 2022, there are over 1.7 crore farmers, and 1.8 lakh traders registered on e-NAM. The total value of agri-produce traded on eNAM is about ₹1.72 lakh crore.

About IndusInd Bank:

Headquarters- Pune, Maharashtra
MD & CEO- Sumant Kathpalia
Founded- April 1994

About Small Farmers Agri- Business Consortium (SFAC):

SFAC is an autonomous society promoted by the Department of Agriculture, cooperation and farmer welfare of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW). It was registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860.

Established- 8th January, 1994

Managing Director- Neelkamal Darbari

About National Agriculture Market (eNAM):

It is an online trading platform for agricultural commodities. The market facilitates farmers, traders and buyers



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with online trading in commodities.

Founded- 2016 Under- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)

World Wetlands Day 2022 – February 2

The United Nations(UN)’s World Wetlands Day is annually observed across the globe on 2nd February to create awareness about the critical importance of Wetlands and their roles in maintaining the natural cycles and supporting a wide range of biodiversity.

The theme of World Wetlands Day 2022 is “Wetlands Action for People and Nature”.

Campaign 2022: The message of the 2022 World Wetland Day campaign is Value, Manage, Restore, and of course – Love – Wetlands.

Background:

- i. World Wetlands Day awareness campaign is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands.
- ii. Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands have been celebrating World Wetlands Day since 1997.
 - The first ever World Wetlands Day was observed in 1997.
- iii. The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/75/317 on 30th August 2021 and



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decided to proclaim the 2nd February of every year as World Wetlands Day.

- The 2nd February 2022 marks the observance of the first ever UN-recognised World Wetlands Day.

Significance:

- i. The day marks the date of the adoption of the “Convention on Wetlands of International Importance” held in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- ii. The day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Wetlands and the SDGs:

Wetlands play a major role in achieving several Sustainable Development Goals(SDG).

- Goal 6: focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 14: focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Goal 15: focuses on life on land.



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Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention):

- i. The Convention on Wetlands adopted in 1971 is the intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for the conservation and use of wetlands and their resources.
- ii. At present, the convention has been adopted by 172 countries, and each country that joined the convention must designate at least one wetland included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance – Ramsar sites.

India gets 2 New Ramsar sites on World Wetlands Day:

- i. On the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2022, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary (“Ramsar Site” no. 2464) in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (Site no. 2465) in Uttar Pradesh(UP) were declared as the Ramsar sites.
- ii. The ‘National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas’ was also released on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2022.
- iii. The original Wetland Atlas was released in 2011.
- iv. As of February 2022, there are 49 Ramsar sites in India, which covers a total area of 10,93,636 Ha, the highest in South Asia.

Key Points:

- i. Around 40% of all the plants and animals species lives or breed in wetlands.



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- ii. The wetlands across the globe (both inland and marine/coastal wetlands) has decreased by around 35%, the wetlands are disappearing 3 times faster than forests.
- iii. Coastal wetlands sequester and store carbon up to 55 times faster than tropical rain forests.

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

Executive Director– Inger Andersen
Member States– 193
Founded in 1972
Headquarters– Nairobi, Kenya

