

Daily Current Affairs 30/07/2021

1. India ranks 9th in global agricultural exporters in 2019: WTO Report



Why in News

• In 2019, **India ranked 9th with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports** as per a report by **World Trade Organization (WTO)** on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years (from 1995).

Key Points

- India has entered the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in the year 2019 with a sizable share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat.
- The USA, which topped the list in 1995, was overtaken by the European Union (EU) in 2019.

Rank	Country	Share of Global Agriculture Exports in 2019
1	European Union (EU)	16.1 %
2	US	13.8 %
3	Brazil	7.8 %
9	India	3.1 %

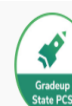
- The top exporting nations of **rice** in 1995 were Thailand (38%), India (26%), and the US (19%). In 2019, **India topped with 33%**.
- India is the 3rd largest cotton exporter (7.6%) and the 4th largest importer (10%) in 2019.
- In the largest traded Agri product, soya beans, India (0.1%) has a meagre share, but was ranked 9th in the world.
- In the “meat and edible meat offal” category, India secured 8th rank in the world with a global share of 4%.
- India’s share of foreign value-added content in its Agri exports clocked 3.8% share primarily due to high tariffs on Agri imports to boost the domestic markets and local farmers.

Indian government schemes in agriculture sector:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
- Soil Health Card
- Kisan Credit Card



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- Micro Irrigation Fund scheme
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana
- PM-Kusum

Source: newsonair

2. SCO Defence Ministers' meeting 2021 in Tajikistan



Why in News

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting 2021** took place in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
- **Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh** addressed the meeting.

Key Points

- Rajnath Singh said that India accords “high priority to the consolidation of trust in the security domain within SCO as well as strengthening ties with SCO partners bilaterally on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding”.
- India reiterates its resolve to work within the SCO framework for helping create and maintain a peaceful, secure and stable region.

India and SCO:

- **Regional Security:** security-related cooperation with the SCO and its **Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)**
- SCO is also a platform to advance **India's Connect Central Asia policy**.
- SCO provides India with a forum where it can constructively engage both China and Pakistan in a regional context and project India's security interests.
- **Bringing Stability in Afghanistan:** So far India completed 500 projects in Afghanistan and is continuing with some more, with a total development aid of \$3 billion.
- Strategic Importance

Note: **Tajikistan** is chairing the SCO meeting this year and hosting a series of Ministerial and official-level meetings.

Facts about Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- **Formed:** 15 June 2001
- **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China
- India became a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.

Source: **Indian Express**

3. Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021



Why in News

- Parliament passed the **Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021**, which aims to replace the over **90-year-old Lighthouse Act 1927**.

Key Points

About the Bill:

- The Bill

incorporates the global best practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation to make the legislative framework user-friendly and to promote ease of doing business.

- The bill aims to adopt state-of-the-art technologies of marine navigation which were not covered under the statutory provisions of the old Lighthouse Act 1927.

Background:

- The administration and management of Lighthouse and Lightships in India is governed by Lighthouse Act 1927 for safe navigation.
- **At the time of enactment of Lighthouse Act 1927, there were only 32 Lighthouses** in the then British India spread across six regions viz. Aden, Karachi, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon.
- **Presently, there are 195 Lighthouses** and a number of advanced radio and digital aids to navigation administered under the said Act.
- As the technology evolved, systems were put in place where with the help of Radar and other sensors, vessels were advised from shore about the position and thus **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)** came into existence and found wide acceptability.
- These modern, technologically improved aids to marine navigation systems have changed their profile from a **'passive' service** to that of **'passive as well as interactive' service**.



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Note: Recently, Parliament has passed the **National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.**

Source: PIB

4. Kandla becomes first Green SEZ



Why in News

- **Kandla SEZ (KASEZ)** was awarded **IGBC Platinum Rating.**
- **KASEZ** is the **first Green SEZ** to achieve the **IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating** for Existing Cities.

Key Points

- The efforts of **KASEZ** were appreciable for water conservation and afforestation in

Bhuj region of Gujarat.

- **IGBC Platinum rating** has been awarded for ‘Green master planning, policy initiatives and implementation of green infrastructure’ by **CII’s Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).**

About Kandla SEZ (KASEZ):

- It was Asia’s first Export Processing Zone (EPZ).
- It was set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965.

About Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

- A Special Economic Zone is an area in which the trade and business laws are different from the rest of the country.
- SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.
- The **Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy in India** first came into inception on April 1, 2000. The prime objective was to enhance foreign investment and provide an internationally competitive and hassle free environment for exports.
- The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005**, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 which received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005.

Source: PIB



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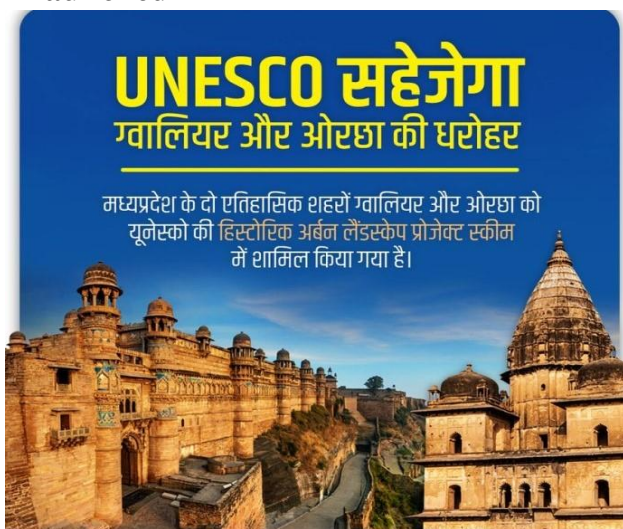


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5. UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' Project for Gwalior, Orchha launched



Why in News

- In Madhya Pradesh, **Gwalior and Orchha** cities have been selected by UNESCO under its '**Historic Urban Landscape**' Project.

Key Points

- **6 cities of South Asia**, including **Ajmer** and **Varanasi** in India are already involved in this project. **Gwalior and Orchha** have been included as the **7th and 8th cities**.

- The cities will be jointly

developed by UNESCO, Government of India and Madhya Pradesh by focusing on their historical and cultural improvement.

Note:

- **Gwalior** was established in the 9th century and ruled by Gurjar Pratihars, Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaho and Scindias. Gwalior is known for its temples and palaces.
- **Orchha** is popular for its palaces and temples and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.

About Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Project:

- HUL Project was started in the year 2011, for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage.

Source: newsonair

6. Veteran Actress Jayanthi passes away



- Veteran actress Abhinaya Sharade Jayanthi, was known for her work in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada movies, passed away.

- Jayanthi acted in more than 500 films in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.

- She had received 7 Karnataka State Film Awards

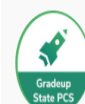
and 2 Filmfare Awards.

- She won the Padmabhushan Dr. B. Saroja Devi National Award, 2017.

Source: The Hindu



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