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1. First Advance Estimates of production of major kharif crops released (Sept. 22, 2022)

First Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2022-23 have been released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 21 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- According to the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ministry, foodgrain production of 149.92 million tonnes is estimated in the kharif season.
- It is higher by 6.98 million tonnes than the average foodgrain production of previous five years' from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- The total production of Kharif rice during 2022-23 is estimated to be 104.99 million tonnes, an increase of 4.40 million tonnes over the last five years.
- Maize production in the country is estimated to be a record 23.10 million tonnes during 2022-23, which is higher by 3.21 million tonnes than the average maize production of 19.89 million tonnes.
- The production of Kharif nut/coarse cereals is estimated at 36.56 million tonnes, which is higher by 2.92 million tonnes than the average production of 33.64 million tonnes.

First Advance Estimates of major kharif crops for 2022-23 :

- Foodgrains - 149.92 million tonnes
- Rice - 104.99 million tonnes
- Nutri / Coarse Cereals - 36.56 million tonnes
- Maize - 23.10 million tonnes. (record)
- Pulses - 8.37 million tonnes
- Tur - 3.89 million tonnes
- Oilseeds - 23.57 million tonnes
- Groundnut - 8.37 million tonnes
- Soyabean - 12.89 million tonnes
- Cotton - 34.19 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- Jute & Mesta - 10.09 million bales (of 180 kg each)
- Sugarcane - 465.05 million tonnes (record)

2. Union Ministry of Food Processing & Agriculture launches Convergence Portal (Sept. 22, 2022)

The Government launched a Joint Convergence Portal for various schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing and Agriculture on 21st September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The portal has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (**MoAFW**) and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**).
- The portal has been launched between the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**, **Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Yojana** and **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)**.
- The portal was launched in the presence of Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Food Processing Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Chaudhary.
- This initiative is going to add a new chapter in the life of micro units engaged in food processing.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund :

- It was launched in 2020 as a stimulus package against the Covid-19 crisis.
- Its objective is to facilitate medium-long-term debt financing for investment in viable projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farm assets.

Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Yojana :

- The Ministry of Food Processing launched the Centrally Sponsored PMFME Scheme on June 29, 2020.
- Its objective is to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro enterprises in the unorganized sector of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector.
- Under this scheme, financial, technical and commercial assistance is provided for the up-gradation of micro food processing enterprises in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana :

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- The objective of the scheme is to create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

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4. Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches capacity building training programme (Sept. 22, 2022)

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on 21 September launched a capacity building training programme in New Delhi for 14,000 youth volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The aim of this ambitious online training program is to enhance the life skills of young volunteers so that they can contribute effectively to national development.
- The content of the training program has been carefully crafted and includes in-depth exercises on communication skills, leadership skills and decision making.
- This will help create the world's largest skilled workforce.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan :

- It was established in 1972.
- Its objective is to provide rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skills.
- It is working on various fronts of youth development with various youth programs of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and special programs in coordination and collaboration with other Ministries.

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6. Union Cabinet clears 2nd tranche of PLI scheme (Sept. 22, 2022)

The Union Cabinet on September 21 approved the second phase of the Rs 19,500 crore Generation Based Incentive (PLI) scheme for the National Program for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- It aims to create an ecosystem for manufacturing high efficiency solar PV modules.
- Solar PV manufacturers to be selected through a transparent selection process.
- Under this, about 65 thousand MW manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules will be installed annually.
- This scheme will bring direct investment of about Rs.94 thousand crore and will provide direct employment to about 2 lakh people and indirect employment to about eight lakh people.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme :

- It is an initiative that provides incentives to domestic industries to promote production at the local level.
- Through this scheme, the government aims to incentivize companies to increase the sales of manufactured products in domestic units.
- The objective of the scheme is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to become a global champion in manufacturing.
- The government has launched this scheme with an outlay of around Rs 2 lakh crore for 14 sectors including Automobiles and Auto Components, White Goods, Pharma, Textiles, Advanced Chemistry Cell and Specialty Steel.

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8. India wins UN awards for its “India Hypertension Control Initiative (Sept. 21, 2022)

The “India Hypertension Control Initiative” has won the United Nations” 2022 UN Interagency Task Force, and WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Award”. This information was tweeted by Union Minister for Health and Family welfare Mansukh Mandaviya on 21 September 2022.

The award was announced in New York, United States on 21 September 2022.

The award recognizes outstanding commitment and action of India to: (i) prevent and control Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and (ii) deliver integrated people-centric primary care.

The India Hypertension Control Initiative was launched in 2017. It is a collaborative initiative of the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), State Governments and World Health Organization-India.**

Under the initiative, more than 34 lakh people with hypertension in 130 districts of 23 states are taking treatment in government health facilities.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Every year **17 May is observed as World Hypertension Day** to bring awareness and attention to this silent epidemic.
- The theme of the world hypertension day 2022 is **“Measure your blood pressure, control it, live longer.**
- Hypertension is a disease characterized by high blood pressure persistently being recorded in the range of 140/90 or more.
- **The normal healthy human’s ideal blood pressure shall be 120/80.**

9. 11th Foundation Day of Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) (Sept. 21, 2022)

The 11th Foundation Day Celebration of Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) was held on 20 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- **R K Singh**, Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy graced the occasion as **Chief Guest.**
- Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Chemicals and Fertilizers was the Guest of Honour.
- As part of 11th Foundation Day, a series of events were organized including the planting of 1100 trees, blood donation camp in which 88 units were donated.
- Distribution of 2100 food packets, guest lectures for around 2200 school-kids, indoor sports tournament consisting of Table-tennis, Chess, Carom, Football and various team-building activities was the part of the event.

About Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd :

- It is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), set up on 20th Sept, 2011.
- It is the only CPSU dedicated to the Solar Energy Sector.
- The company holds Category 1 Power Trading Licence and is active in this domain through trading of Solar Energy from the projects set up under the schemes being implemented by it.

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