

February - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first Skill India Centre was inaugurated in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has announced 'bag less school' day once a week for students in classes 1 to 12 from 2024-25 academic year.
- ❖ The forest department in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda is planning to establish a turtle conservation reserve in the Sarju River, known for its rich turtle diversity.
- ❖ First-of-its-kind in north India, the 'Pizza ATM' prepares pizzas in just three minutes, was installed by the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation near Sukhna Lake.
- ❖ Digital payments provider Mswipe Technologies has been granted a payment aggregator (PA) licence by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ India recently hosted Pulses 24, the global pulses convention at New Delhi after 18 years.
- ❖ Swedish photographer Alex Dawson has been named as Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024 for his image 'Whale Bones'.
- ❖ International Solar Alliance (ISA) recently announced Malta as the 119th country to join the grouping.
- ❖ Multinational military exercise - 'Shanti Prayas IV' - kicked off in Nepal with the participation of 19 countries, including India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ❖ Pakistan batter Babar Azam has become the fastest to reach 10,000 T20 runs in 271 innings in Cricket.

NATIONAL

Fair and Remunerative Price 2024-25

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, approved ₹340/quintal as the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2024-25 at sugar recovery rate of 10.25%.
- ❖ This is about 8% higher than FRP of sugarcane for the current season 2023-24.
- ❖ The revised FRP will be applicable from October 1, 2024.

- ❖ The payment of FRP across the country is governed by the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

Cabinet Decisions

Sweet Victory FOR FARMERS


Fair & Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for Sugar Season 2024-25

- **FRP fixed at Rs. 340 per quintal** for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%
- **8% higher FRP for 2024-25** than current season
- Benefit **5 crore+ sugarcane farmers** and their families

National Livestock Mission extension

पर्यायन और डेयरी विभाग
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Enhancing Livestock Mission: Key Updates



- Establishment of entrepreneurship for horse, donkey, mule, and camel with 50% capital subsidy up to 50 lakhs for various entities.
- Assistance to state governments for breed conservation of horse, donkey, and camel.
- Central Government support of 10 crore for establishing semen stations and nucleus breeding farms for horse, donkey, and camel.
- Establishment of entrepreneurs for fodder seed processing infrastructure with 50% capital subsidy up to Rs. 50 lakhs.
- Simplification of the Livestock Insurance program, with a reduced beneficiary share of the premium for farmers (15% instead of 20-50%) and increased coverage (up to 10 cattle units).

These modifications aim to enhance livestock-related activities, improve fodder availability, and simplify insurance processes for livestock farmers.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved further modifications to the National Livestock Mission (NLM), incorporating additional activities to bolster the livestock sector.



- ❖ Individuals, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Farmer Cooperative Organizations (FCOs), and Section 8 companies can now receive a 50% capital subsidy, up to Rs. 50 lakhs, for establishing entrepreneurship ventures related to horses, donkeys, mules, and camels.
- ❖ State governments will be supported for the conservation of horse, donkey, and camel breeds.
- ❖ The central government will allocate Rs 10 crore for the establishment of semen stations and nucleus breeding farms dedicated to horses, donkeys, and camels.
- ❖ Private companies, startups, SHGs, FPOs, FCOs, JLGs, Farmers Cooperative Societies (FCOs), and Section 8 companies involved in Fodder seed processing infrastructure can avail a 50% capital subsidy.
- ❖ The Livestock Insurance programme has been streamlined, reducing the beneficiary's share of the premium for farmers to 15%.
- ❖ The current rates are 20%, 30%, 40%, and 50%.
- ❖ The remaining premium amount will be shared by the Centre and the State at a ratio of 60:40 for all states and 90:10 in the case of Union Territories.
- ❖ The number of animals eligible for insurance has been increased to 10 cattle units for cattle, sheep, and goats.

100 percent FDI for space sector

Taking Off

EXECUTIVES SAY...

LATEST FDI announcements to accelerate momentum in the satellite sector	ALLOWING 100% automatic FDI in the space sector will further augmented the ecosystem in India	PERMITTING UP to 49% FDI for launch vehicles reflects balancing foreign investment with national security	49% cap for launch vehicles reflects a cautious yet optimistic opening
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- ❖ The central government approved up to 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) for some activities in the space sector.
- ❖ The FDI in the space sector has been classified into three categories.

- ❖ The first category allows up to 74% FDI under automatic route in satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products and ground segment and user segment.
- ❖ In this category, beyond 74% FDI would be cleared via the government route.
- ❖ In the second category, FDI not more than 49% will be allowed through automatic route for launch vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft.
- ❖ In this category, beyond 49% FDI, these activities would come under government route.
- ❖ In the third category, the cabinet has approved up to 100% in the third category.
- ❖ Available Under automatic route for manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user-segment.

Financial assistance for rubber sector



- ❖ The financial assistance for the Rubber sector has been increased by 23% from Rs 576.41 crore to Rs 708.69 crore.
- ❖ This is available for the next 2 financial years (2024-25 and 2025-26).

- ❖ This is held under the ‘Sustainable & Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector’ scheme.
- ❖ Planting of rubber will be undertaken on 12,000 hectares in traditional areas during 2024-25 and 2025-26 with an outlay of ₹43.50 crore.
- ❖ For this, the rate of assistance has been increased to ₹40,000 per hectare from the earlier ₹25,000 per hectare.

Cybercrime Report



- ❖ India was placed on the 80th position in a report focusing on local threats in the year 2023.
- ❖ Additionally, nearly 34% of users in India were targeted by local threats, amounting to some 74,385,324 local incidents.
- ❖ India’s cybersecurity market reached USD 6.06 billion in 2023.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan’s New Prime Minister

- ❖ Shehbaz Sharif is all set to return as the Prime Minister and Asif Ali Zardari as the President of Pakistan after a power-sharing agreement.
- ❖ He was the Prime Minister of Pakistan till August 2023, when the National Assembly was dissolved for fresh elections.
- ❖ Before that, he served as the Chief Minister of Punjab thrice — from 1997-1999.

- ❖ Sharif, 72, is the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, the three-time former PM of Pakistan.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's 1st Pigeonpea speed breeding protocol



- ❖ The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has announced the world's first Pigeonpea Speed Breeding Protocol'.
- ❖ These new lines of pigeon pea will be crucial in bringing food security in the drylands of Asia and Africa.
- ❖ The breeding cycle that takes around seven years, can be reduced to two-four years.
- ❖ Pigeonpea is basically a six-nine months crop.

- ❖ The scientists have successfully restricted vegetative growth and triggered early flowering.
- ❖ Pigeonpea has low glycaemic index
- ❖ It is rich in thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B-6, folate, vitamin A, calcium, zinc, iron, magnesium and phosphorus.

STATES

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara

- ❖ Every two years, millions of worshippers gather from across India to celebrate the grand Sammakka Saralamma Jatara festival in Medaram, Mulugu District of Telangana.
- ❖ It lasts for four days and is the India's largest tribal festival.
- ❖ Approximately 15 million tribal attendees from states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.
- ❖ The tribal fair honors Sammakka and her daughter Saralamma, revered as deities, on the full-moon day of Magha.
- ❖ They are remembered for fighting the Kakatiya dynasty's oppression and defending their tribal community and culture by sacrificing their own lives.

