



03 August 2024

National and International News

<p><b>World's largest grain storage plan</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Government of India</b> has approved the proposal to set up the <b>world's largest grain storage plan</b> in the <b>cooperative sector</b> on a pilot basis.</li> <li>• The project will be implemented by the <b>National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To provide <b>better storage facilities for farmers</b>, <b>reducing post-harvest losses</b>, and ensuring <b>better prices for crops</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It will <b>strengthen the food security</b> of the country.</li> <li>• <b>Agri infrastructure</b> to be created at the <b>Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)</b> level includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Warehouses</li> <li>○ Custom hiring centers</li> <li>○ Processing units</li> <li>○ Fortified price shops</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>The project will be implemented in a decentralized manner with support from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (<b>NABARD</b>)</li> <li>○ NABARD Consultancy Services</li> <li>○ Food Corporation of India (<b>FCI</b>)</li> <li>○ National Buildings Construction Corporation (<b>NBCC</b>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Axis of Resistance</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>recent airstrike in Tehran</b> resulted in the <b>assassination of a Hamas leader</b>.</li> <li>• Experts believe this event may lead <b>Iran to increase attacks against Israel through its allied groups</b>, known as the <b>Axis of Resistance</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Axis of Resistance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalition:</b> Iranian-backed groups known as the '<b>Axis of Resistance</b>'</li> <li>• <b>Inspiration:</b> Named after former US President George W. Bush's term '<b>axis of evil</b>' (<b>Iran, Iraq, North Korea</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Formation:</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Originated from the <b>Iranian Revolution of 1979</b></li> <li>○ Established to <b>expand Iran's influence in a Sunni-majority region (US-ally Saudi Arabia)</b></li> <li>○ Aimed to <b>deter threats from Israel and the US</b></li> <li>○ <b>Iran views Israel's creation in 1948 as a strategic influence by the US and the West</b></li> <li>● <b>Group Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Hezbollah:</b> Shiite militant organization</li> <li>○ <b>Hamas:</b> Palestinian Sunni militant group in Gaza</li> <li>○ <b>Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ):</b> Sunni Islamist militant group, Palestine</li> <li>○ <b>Houthis:</b> Zaydi Shia militant group, Yemen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Women Entrepreneurship Program</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)</b> has launched the <b>Women Entrepreneurship Program</b> aimed at <b>empowering women entrepreneurs</b> and <b>promoting economic growth.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Women Entrepreneurship Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> Address challenges women face in <b>starting and growing businesses.</b></li> <li>● <b>Target:</b> Empower approximately <b>25 lakh women</b> across India.</li> <li>● <b>Partnership:</b> Collaborates with <b>Britannia Industries Limited.</b></li> <li>● <b>Support:</b> Provides skills, knowledge, and resources for business success.</li> <li>● <b>Financial Aid:</b> Offers financial grants to women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>● <b>Visibility:</b> Features products and services on the <b>Skill India Digital Hub.</b></li> <li>● <b>Support Organizations:</b> <b>NSDC</b> and <b>National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).</b></li> <li>● <b>Languages:</b> Courses available in <b>multiple languages.</b></li> <li>● <b>Topics Covered:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Entrepreneurial skills</li> <li>○ Enterprise setup</li> <li>○ Finance basics</li> <li>○ Digital skills</li> <li>○ Market analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Centre</b> recently allowed state governments to directly <b>buy rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) without participating in e-auction</b> under the <b>open market sale scheme (domestic).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About OMSS:</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objectives of OMSS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance the supply of food grains during the lean season.</li> <li>○ Moderate open market prices.</li> <li>○ Ensure food security.</li> <li>○ Control inflation, especially in deficit regions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>About Food Corporation of India (FCI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sells surplus food grains (wheat and rice) from the central pool to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains, etc.</li> <li>○ Operates on government instructions.</li> <li>○ Maintains buffer stocks and provisions for National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).</li> </ul>
<p>Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The bill seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, aimed at effective disaster management.</li> </ul> <p>About Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It proposes the constitution of "Urban Disaster Management Authority" for state capitals and large cities with municipal corporations, excluding Delhi and Chandigarh.</li> <li>● The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities will prepare disaster plans at national and state levels, respectively, replacing the National and State Executive Committees.</li> <li>● NDMA will have the authority to appoint experts and consultants to fulfill its functions effectively.</li> <li>● A "disaster database" will be created at national and state levels, including disaster assessment, fund allocation, expenditure, preparedness and mitigation plans, and risk registers.</li> <li>● The bill grants statutory recognition to the National Crisis Management Committee and the High-Level Committee.</li> <li>● It includes provisions for the establishment of a "State Disaster Response Force" by state governments.</li> <li>● A new Section 60A empowers the Central and State Governments to direct individuals to take necessary actions or refrain from them to mitigate disaster impacts, with penalties for non-compliance up to ₹10,000.</li> </ul>

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