



10 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Kasturi Cotton Bharat</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Textiles has enabled cotton ginners nationwide to produce the Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand, utilizing QR code certification technology according to established protocols. <p>About Kasturi Cotton Bharat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative: Kasturi Cotton Bharat is an initiative by the Ministry of Textiles, Textile Trade Bodies, and Industry. • Objective: Aims to create premium value for Indian cotton through traceability, certification, and branding as per benchmarked specifications. • Formalization: The program was formalized with an MoU between the Cotton Corporation of India and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council on 15 December 2022. • Traceability and Certification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ QR-based certification technology is used at each stage of processing. ○ A Blockchain-based software platform provides end-to-end traceability and transaction certificates. • Promotion: The Kasturi Cotton Bharat program is promoted at both national and international levels.
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Nandini Sahakar Yojana

Nandini Sahakar

Empowering Women through Cooperatives

Objective:

- ▶ Enhance the socio-economic status of women.
- ▶ Support entrepreneurial dynamism via women cooperatives.

Eligibility:

- ▶ Cooperative societies with at least 50% women as primary members.
- ▶ Minimum of three months in operation.

Benefits:

- ▶ Credit linkage for infrastructure term loan and working capital.
- ▶ Subsidy or interest subvention from other government schemes/agencies.

Incentives:

- ▶ **NCDC** provides a **2% interest** subvention on its term loan interest rate for new and innovative activities.
- ▶ **1% interest** subvention on its term loan interest rate for all other activities, lowering borrowing costs.



Why in the news?

- The **Minister of Cooperation** recently informed the Rajya Sabha about the **Nandini Sahakar Scheme**.

About Nandini Sahakar Yojana:

- **Objective:** To assist women cooperatives in taking up **business model-based activities** under the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** framework.
- **Framework:**
 - **Women-focused financial assistance**, project formulation, hand-holding, and **capacity development**.
 - **No minimum or maximum limit on financial assistance** to projects by **women cooperatives**.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Any **cooperative society in operation for at least three months** is eligible to apply.
 - **Women cooperatives** must either be **registered under any State/Central Act** or have a **minimum of 50% women as primary members**.

Places in news: Kursk



Why in the news?

- A state of emergency has been declared in Kursk due to a **Ukrainian incursion** into the **Russian border region**.

About Kursk:

- **Location:** Kursk is a city and administrative centre of Kursk oblast, situated in **Russia**.
- **Geography:** Located in the **Black Earth territory**, known for its fertile soil.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **Kursk is one of the oldest cities in Russia**, first mentioned in documents from **1032**.
 - In World War II, Kursk was the site of the **Battle of Kursk (July–August 1943)**, the largest tank battle in history, resulting in a **decisive defeat for the Germans**.



Monkeypox (Mpox)

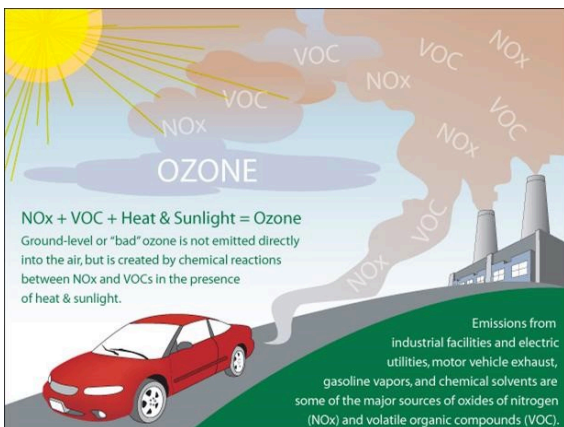
Why in the news?

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** recently held an **emergency meeting to address the surge in Monkeypox (Mpox) cases**, particularly from **Congo**.

About Monkeypox (Mpox):

- Mpox is a **viral zoonotic disease** caused by the **monkeypox virus**.
- The virus is **part of the same family as the virus that causes smallpox**.
- The **first human case was recorded in 1970** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**.
- The **source of the disease remains unknown**, despite its name "monkeypox."
- **Mostly found in Africa** but has spread to other regions globally.

Ground-level ozone



Why in the news?

- **Ground-level ozone surges in 10 major cities**, presents a new urban crisis in India.

About Ground-level ozone:

- **Ground-level ozone (O₃) is a harmful air pollutant and a key component of smog.**
- Unlike the protective ozone layer in the upper atmosphere, **ground-level ozone is a pollutant at the Earth's surface.**
- **Formation:**
 - Formed by **chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x)** in the presence of sunlight.
 - **Common sources of VOCs and NO_x include vehicle emissions, industrial facilities, power plants, and chemical solvents.**
- **Health Impacts:**
 - Exposure to ground-level ozone can cause **respiratory issues such as coughing, throat irritation, and difficulty breathing.**
 - It can **aggravate asthma, reduce lung function, and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.**



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- Long-term exposure may lead to **chronic respiratory diseases, decreased lung capacity, and increased mortality.**
- **Environmental Impacts:**
 - Ground-level ozone **damages crops, trees, and other vegetation by interfering with their ability to photosynthesize.**
 - It **reduces agricultural yields, harms forests, and decreases biodiversity.**

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