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20 June 2024

National and International News

Minimum support price (MSP)

Why in the news?

- The government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35%, setting it at ₹2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season, effective from June 19.

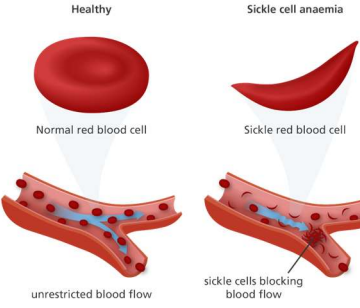
About MSP:

- MSP is a form of market intervention by the government to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- Objective: To provide a guaranteed price and assured market to the farmers, protecting them from the fluctuations in the market prices.
- Fixation Authority: The MSP is announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- Coverage: MSP is announced for 23 crops, including cereals (paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi), pulses (gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad, lentil), oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra), and others (jute, tobacco).
- Criteria for Determination:
 - Cost of production
 - Changes in input prices
 - Market price trends
 - Demand and supply
 - Inter-crop price parity
 - Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors
 - A minimum of 50% margin over the cost of production



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The MSP is implemented through procurement agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies. ○ They buy crops from farmers at the MSP, ensuring they get the announced support price. ● Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To stabilize farmer's income. ○ To incentivize the farmers to adopt new technologies and modern agricultural practices. <p>To ensure food security by stabilizing supply.</p>
<p>Sickle cell disease (SCD)</p>  <p>The diagram shows two scenarios of blood flow in a vessel. On the left, a 'Healthy' state shows a 'Normal red blood cell' (a smooth, round disc) moving through a vessel, resulting in 'unrestricted blood flow'. On the right, a 'Sickle cell anaemia' state shows a 'Sickle red blood cell' (a crescent-shaped cell) that is rigid and sticky, causing it to 'block blood flow' and narrow the vessel.</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India is progressing towards developing a gene therapy for sickle cell disease, a prevalent genetic blood disorder among Scheduled Tribes. ● Director of AIIMS, mentioned that researchers are using the CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing tool to develop this therapy. <p>About Sickle cell disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders characterized by abnormal hemoglobin, known as hemoglobin S, which distorts red blood cells into a sickle or crescent shape. ● Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The most common type is sickle cell anemia (HbSS). ○ Other types include hemoglobin SC disease (HbSC), hemoglobin Sβ0 thalassemia, and hemoglobin Sβ+ thalassemia. ● Symptoms: Symptoms of SCD include anemia, episodes of pain (crises), swelling in the hands and feet, frequent infections, delayed growth, and vision problems.



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<p>Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ramesh Karthik Naik, a 26-year-old writer from the tribal thanda Nizamabad district, was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for Telugu for his short story collection "Dhavlo" (Song of Lament, 2021). <p>About Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12 March 1954.● Awarding Body: Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.● Purpose: To recognize and promote outstanding literary works by young Indian writers.● Eligibility: Writers aged 35 or below as of January 1, 2024, writing in any of the 24 recognized Indian languages.● Categories: Fiction, poetry, drama, criticism, travelogue, autobiography, biography, and literary translation.● Prize: Cash award of ₹50,000, an engraved copper plaque, and a citation.
<p>Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Prime Minister of India recently awarded certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) as 'Krishi Sakhis' under the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP). <p>About KSCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Objective: Transform rural India through the empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi.● Training and Certification: Krishi Sakhis are trained and certified as Para-extension Workers.● Alignment: Certification course aligns with the objectives of the 'Lakhpati Didi' Program.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Training Areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agro-Ecological Practices: Training from land preparation to harvest.○ Farmer Field Schools: Organizing practical learning sessions for farmers.○ Seed Banks: Establishment and management of seed banks.○ Soil Health and Conservation: Techniques for maintaining soil health and moisture.○ Integrated Farming Systems: Combining various farming practices for sustainability.○ Livestock Management: Basic management practices for livestock.○ Bio Inputs: Preparation, use, and establishment of bio-input shops.○ Communication Skills: Essential skills for effective communication with farmers.
<p>Nalanda University</p> 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the new Nalanda University campus near Rajgir's ancient university ruins. <p>About Nalanda University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Historical Significance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nalanda University was an ancient center of higher learning in Bihar, India.○ It was established in the 5th century AD during the Gupta Dynasty.● Ancient Glory:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It was one of the first residential universities in the world, hosting over 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers.○ The university attracted scholars from various regions, including Tibet, China, Korea, and Central Asia.



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- **Destruction and Decline:**

- Nalanda University was **destroyed in the 12th century by Bakhtiyar Khilji.**
- The destruction marked the end of a great era of knowledge and learning.

- **Revival Efforts:**

- The Government of India initiated **efforts to revive Nalanda University** in the early 21st century.
- The modern Nalanda University was **re-established in 2010 by an Act of the Indian Parliament.**

- **Current Status:**

- The new campus is located in **Rajgir**, near the ancient site.
- It is an **international university** with a focus on post-graduate and doctoral studies.

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