



11 June 2024

National & International News

<p>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The new Union Cabinet took its first decision — to assist in the construction of three crore more rural and urban houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). <p>About PMAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Launch Date: June 25, 2015Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban AffairsObjective: To provide affordable housing to the urban and rural poor.Components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U): Targets urban areas.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS): Provides interest subsidy on housing loans for economically weaker sections (EWS), low-income groups (LIG), and middle-income groups (MIG).In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR): Utilizes land as a resource to provide houses to slum dwellers.Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP): Involves private sector participation to create affordable housing.Beneficiary-led Individual House Construction/Enhancement (BLC): Assistance provided to eligible families for constructing or enhancing their houses.PMAY-Rural (PMAY-G): Targets rural areas.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gramin (PMAY-G): Aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all houseless households and those living in kutcha and dilapidated houses.
<p>Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">India and the US have informed the World Trade Organization (WTO) about a mutually agreed solution on an outstanding issue.The dispute was regarding poultry imports from Washington.



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- With this resolution, **all seven disputes between the two nations at the WTO have been resolved.**

About (SPS) Agreement:

- A treaty of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- Came into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, **1995**.
- Sets out **basic rules for food safety and animal and plant health standards.**
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Scientific Basis:**
 - SPS measures must be based on scientific principles and sufficient evidence.
 - Allows for provisional measures in cases where evidence is insufficient.
 - **Harmonization:**
 - Encourages **alignment** of SPS measures with **international standards.**
 - International standards set by bodies like **Codex Alimentarius, OIE, and IPPC.**
 - **Equivalence:**
 - **SPS measures of other countries** should be **accepted as equivalent.**
 - Requires that these **measures achieve the same level of protection.**
 - **Risk Assessment:**
 - Countries must conduct risk assessments **to determine appropriate protection levels.**
 - Consider the **impacts of pests or diseases.**
 - **Regionalization:**
 - **Recognition of pest- or disease-free areas** and areas of low prevalence.
 - Applies even within a **single country or group of countries.**
 - **Transparency:**
 - Countries must **notify changes in SPS measures.**
 - Regulatory information must be provided through the **WTO's SPS notification system.**
 - **Dispute Resolution:**
 - Disputes can be taken to the **WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)** if consultations fail.



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<p>Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a tiger population has been found in the Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS). • Based on this evidence, a decision has been made to establish a new tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh. <p>About Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the Balrampur, Shravasti, and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh. • Establishment: It was established in 1988. • Area: The sanctuary covers an area of approximately 452 square kilometers. • The sanctuary is connected with the forest of Mahadevpuri in Nepal. • The sanctuary is located in the Bhabar-Terai Ecosystem area, known for its rich biodiversity. • The Tharu tribe, characterized by mongoloid features, has been residing in this area for a long time. • The sanctuary's vegetation is defined by a mix of deciduous and semi-evergreen woodlands.
<p>Greening Education Partnership</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Greening Education Partnership, UNESCO launches new initiatives for "greening education" in classrooms. <p>About Greening Education Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Year: 2023 • Objective: To integrate environmental sustainability into education systems and climate crisis education globally. • Target Audience: Students, educators, policymakers, and educational institutions.
<p>Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new initiative has been launched under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme. • This initiative is under Mode 2A of the programme. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is leading this initiative.



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- SECI has issued a **Request for Selection (RfS)** as part of this initiative.
- The RfS aims to select **Green Ammonia Producers**.
- The goal is to enhance the production of **Green Ammonia in India**.

About SIGHT programme:

- This scheme is a **part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission**, which falls under the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- The mission aims to **strengthen domestic electrolyzer manufacturing and green hydrogen production**.
- It includes **dual incentive mechanisms**, with a **specific incentive for Electrolyser Manufacturing**.

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