



03 Aug 2024

National and International News

<p>World's largest grain storage plan</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of India has approved the proposal to set up the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector on a pilot basis. • The project will be implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To provide better storage facilities for farmers, reducing post-harvest losses, and ensuring better prices for crops. • It will strengthen the food security of the country. • Agri infrastructure to be created at the Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) level includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Warehouses ◦ Custom hiring centers ◦ Processing units ◦ Fortified price shops • The project will be implemented in a decentralized manner with support from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) ◦ NABARD Consultancy Services ◦ Food Corporation of India (FCI) ◦ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)
<p>Axis of Resistance</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent airstrike in Tehran resulted in the assassination of a Hamas leader. • Experts believe this event may lead Iran to increase attacks against Israel through its allied groups, known as the Axis of Resistance. <p>About Axis of Resistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition: Iranian-backed groups known as the 'Axis of Resistance' • Inspiration: Named after former US President George W. Bush's term 'axis of evil' (Iran, Iraq, North Korea) • Formation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Originated from the Iranian Revolution of 1979 ◦ Established to expand Iran's influence in a Sunni-majority region (US-ally Saudi Arabia) ◦ Aimed to deter threats from Israel and the US ◦ Iran views Israel's creation in 1948 as a



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



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure food security. ○ Control inflation, especially in deficit regions. <p>About Food Corporation of India (FCI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sells surplus food grains (wheat and rice) from the central pool to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains, etc. ○ Operates on government instructions. ○ Maintains buffer stocks and provisions for National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).
<p>Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The bill seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, aimed at effective disaster management. <p>About Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It proposes the constitution of "Urban Disaster Management Authority" for state capitals and large cities with municipal corporations, excluding Delhi and Chandigarh. ● 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. ● NDMA will have the authority to appoint experts and consultants to fulfill its functions effectively. ● A "disaster database" will be created at national and state levels, including disaster assessment, fund allocation, expenditure, preparedness and mitigation plans, and risk registers. ● The bill grants statutory recognition to the National Crisis Management Committee and the High-Level Committee. ● It includes provisions for the establishment of a "State Disaster Response Force" by state governments. ● 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.



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