



10 Aug 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.
<p>Nandini Sahakar Yojana</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minister of Cooperation recently informed the Rajya Sabha about the Nandini Sahakar Scheme. <p>About Nandini Sahakar Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective: To assist women cooperatives in taking up business model-based activities under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) framework.• Framework:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Women-focused financial assistance, project formulation, hand-holding, and capacity development.



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:

- ▶ **NDC** 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.



- 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.

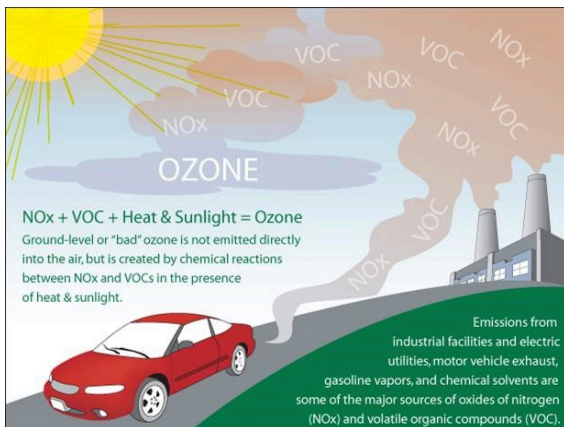
About Monkeypox (Mpox):

- 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.
 - 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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