

Current Affairs of the Day

Centre looking to use stubble as biofuel

PLAN OF ACTION

Utilisation of IARI's Pusa Bio-decomposer Technology

HARYANA
Free to farmers for covering **1 lakh acres**

DELHI
Target to cover more than **4,000 acres** of area under paddy

UP
10 lakh capsules (covering 6.1 lakh acres) to be distributed for free
Nearly 4 lakh acres to be covered under innovative programme, allowing exchange of stubble with cowdung-based manure

PUNJAB
Target **7,413 acres**
More than 25,000 farmers registered by a private company to use it for free, covering over 5 lakh acres

Use of non-Basmati paddy straw as fodder

PUNJAB Stubble will be used as 'pashu-aahar' (fodder) in Kutch, Gujarat
A task force has been constituted to scale up its use


Use of stubble as biofuel
National Thermal Power Corporation to use 20 million tonnes of stubble for four years


In situ management of stubble
States are being assisted by the Centre for providing machinery (Happy seeder and other equipment) to farmers and customer hiring centre

FUNDS RELEASED SO FAR ₹690.2 CRORE

Punjab	Haryana	UP
₹331.9 crore	₹193.4 crore	₹159.9 crore

For awareness programme **₹5 crore**





- The Union Government is working on a plan to use stubble as a biofuel and manure as part of an effort to deal with stubble burning that was often cited as a source of pollution in northern India.
- Making a short intervention during a discussion on climate change in the Lower House, the Minister said the National Thermal Power Corporation had procured 3,000 tonnes of stubble to be used as bio-fuel and would study the results.
- A sum of ₹700 crores had been allocated to get rid of the stubble. About one lakh acres of manure and compost from stubble were used in Punjab and Haryana.



THE HINDU

11.12.2021

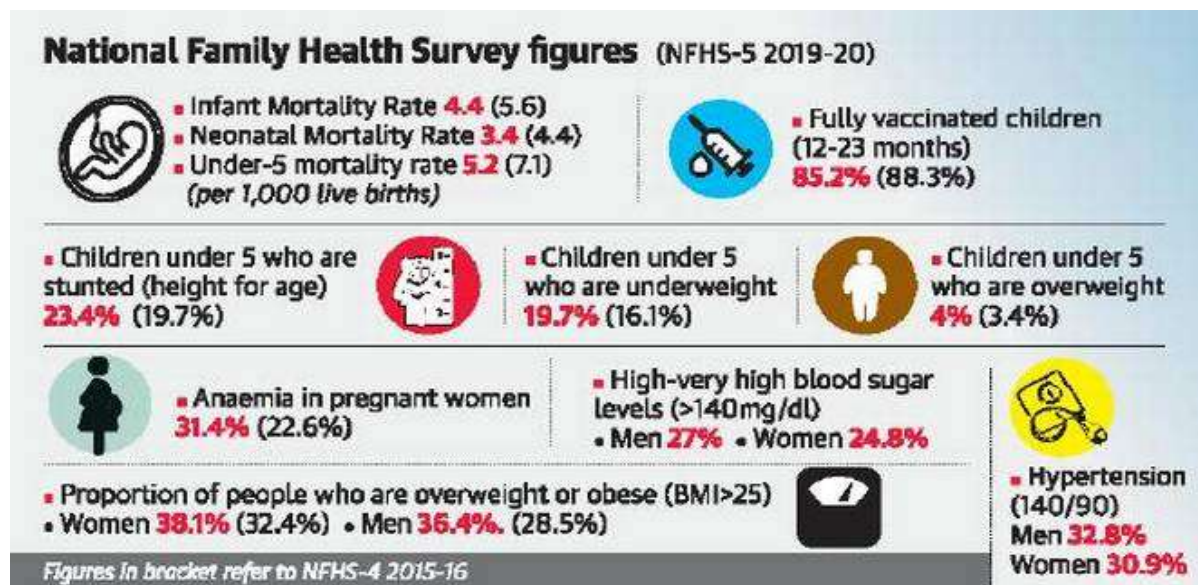
Saturday



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In LS, Minister lists steps for supplementary child nutrition

1. To ensure continuous nutritional support to beneficiaries, Anganwadi workers and helpers distributed supplementary nutrition at the doorstep of beneficiaries once in 15 days during COVID-19 as all Anganwadi centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of the pandemic.
2. Studies have shown that the pandemic could lead to an increase in malnutrition due to loss of livelihood, disruption in food and health services.
3. It is really important that we have data on what has been going on with children and families in what has been a challenging time. There are methods for collecting rapid data during emergencies.



Family Health Survey

1. Though the National Family Health Survey-5, which was made public recently, measures malnutrition indicators, researchers argue that there are difficulties in studying the impact of COVID-19.
2. There are challenges in understanding NFHS-5 data. We have to compare the data district by district to understand the changes in relation to what was happening during COVID-19 in those districts.
3. Moreover, we need to account for seasonality in data collection since that could also differ between survey rounds for the same geographic areas.
4. There can be vast differences if data are recorded during the monsoon season when there can be a paucity of available food versus post-harvest season when diets are relatively better.



11.12.2021 Saturday



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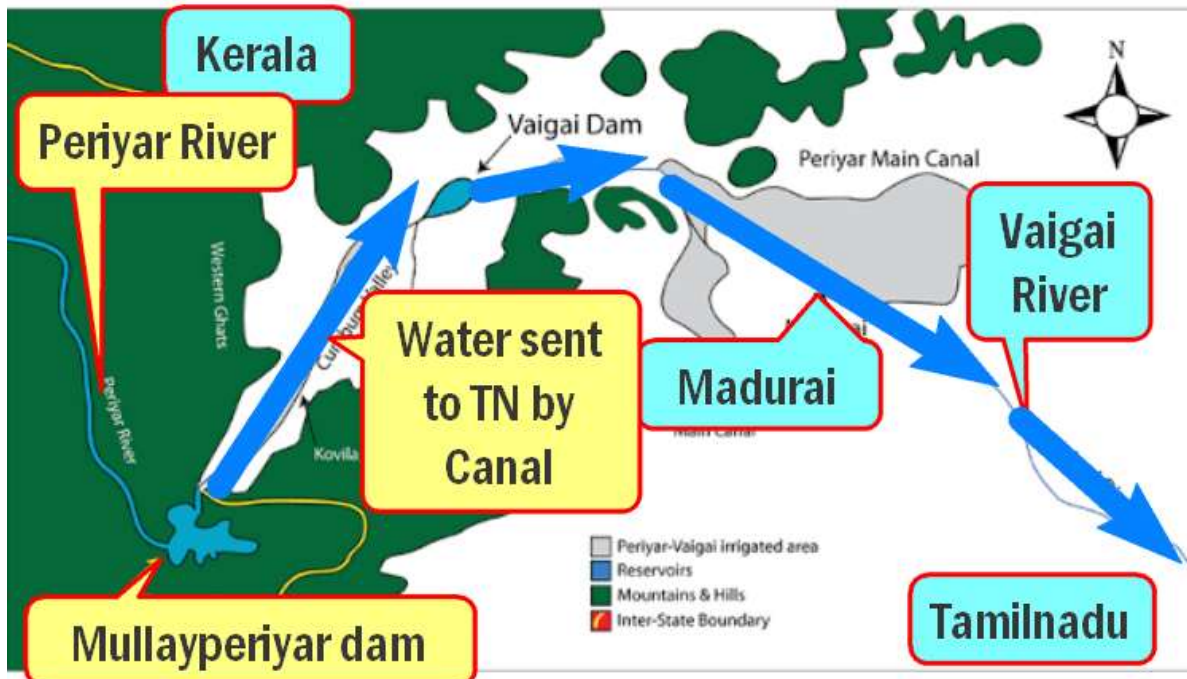
'80% of funds for Beti Bachao was spent on media campaigns'

<h2>BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO</h2>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ PM Modi launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojna today ▶ Scheme targets to improve child sex ratio from 918 girls to every 1,000 boys 	<p>PM Modi and HRD minister Smriti Irani present Sukanya Samridhi account passbook to a girl during the scheme launch in Panipat</p>				
<h3>ACTION PLAN</h3>	<h3>SUKANYA SAMRIDHI ACCOUNT</h3>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote early registration of pregnancy and institutional delivery ▶ Ensure panchayats display gudda-guddi board with number of newborn boys and girls every month ▶ Hold panchayats responsible for child marriage ▶ Create parliamentary forum of MPs representing 100 districts 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Account opened in girl child's name any time before she attains the age of 10 </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Govt will provide rate of interest of 9.1% for the savings account; no income tax will be charged </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum deposit required Rs 1,000; any amount in multiple of Rs 100s can be deposited subsequently, up to a maximum Rs 1.5 lakh in a year </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 50% money can be withdrawn by the girl child after 18 years ▶ Account will remain operative till girl is 21 years </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Account opened in girl child's name any time before she attains the age of 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Govt will provide rate of interest of 9.1% for the savings account; no income tax will be charged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum deposit required Rs 1,000; any amount in multiple of Rs 100s can be deposited subsequently, up to a maximum Rs 1.5 lakh in a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 50% money can be withdrawn by the girl child after 18 years ▶ Account will remain operative till girl is 21 years
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1. The Government spent 80% of the funds under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme on media campaigns and must now revisit this strategy and invest in measurable outcomes in health and education for girls, the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women has noted in its report.
2. Over the last six years, through focussed advocacy BBBP has been able to capture the attention of political leadership and national consciousness towards valuing the girl child.
3. Now, it is time to focus on other verticals by making ample financial provisions to help achieve measurable outcomes related to education and health envisaged under the scheme.
4. The scheme was launched in 2015 with the aim to address sex-selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio, which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.



SC to hear Mullaperiyar case on Dec. 15



The 126-year-old dam in the Idukki district of Kerala is under the control of Tamil Nadu.

1. Recently, the Kerala Government moved the court complaining that Tamil Nadu was not giving prior information to it before opening the spillway shutters of the dam.
2. It submitted that heavy flow from the dam was a source of unease for those living downstream. It sought the formation of a technical committee comprising representatives of both States to ensure that water is released from the dam on its recommendation and after giving due warning to the disaster management authorities in Kerala.
3. Kerala had been demanding a reconsideration of the rule curve as the dam is situated in a seismic zone. Petitioners are expressing their apprehensions about the lack of proper supervision of water levels in the dam located along the Periyar tiger reserve.



MAINS DAWP

Q. Discuss reforms needed to make Indian agriculture sustainable in long term and reduce greenhouse emissions from the agricultural and allied sectors.

MCQs

Q. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

	Tiger Reserve	State
1	Periyar Tiger Reserve	Kerala
2	Panna Tiger Reserve	Chattishgarh
3	Simplipal Tiger Reserve	Odisha

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3