

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying released Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2024

It was released on National Milk Day (26th November) to celebrate birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien (Father of White Revolution in India).

Key Findings for 2023-24

- Total Milk production: Estimated as 239.30 million tonnes and registered a growth of 5.62% over past 10 years (2014-15).
 - Top three milk producing States: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and, Madhya Pradesh.
- Egg Production: Estimated as 142.77 billion number and registered growth of 6.8% over past 10 years. Major contribution comes from Andhra Pradesh followed by Tamilnadu.
 - India is leading in milk production globally whereas 2nd in Egg production.
- Wool Production: Estimated as 33.69 million kg during and registered a slight growth of 0.22% over last year.

About Animal Husbandry

- Refers to livestock raising and selective breeding, in which genetic qualities and behavior of animals are further developed for profit.

Significance of Animal Husbandry

- Livestock sector has contributed around 30.19% during 2021-22 in total agriculture and allied sector GVA (at constant prices).
- Provide livelihood to 8 crore farmers and landless labourers and contributes to food security by producing milk, meat, eggs, etc.

Challenges related to Animal Husbandry

- Rising diseases like Lumpy Skin disease, Foot and mouth disease etc.; Low Productivity of indigenous breeds; Inadequate vaccination coverage, etc.

Initiatives taken to Boost Animal Husbandry Sector

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission: Launched in 2014 to conserve and develop Indigenous bovine Breeds.
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund: To incentivize investments for Dairy processing and product diversification, Meat processing, etc.
- National Livestock Mission: For employment generation through entrepreneurship development in small ruminants, poultry and piggery sector; Increase per animal productivity through breed improvement etc.

ISRO gets government approval for Venus mission “Shukrayaan”

Mission Shukrayaan or Venus Orbiter Mission(VOM) by the Department of Space, will explore the atmosphere and surface of Venus, and its interaction with sun.

About VOM:

- **Launch:** ISRO is set to launch it in 2028.
- **Key objectives of VOM:**
 - **Examining dust** in Venusian atmosphere, **mapping its surface** topography, studying the solar x- ray spectrum near Venus and **analyzing Venusian airglow**.
 - To serve as technology demonstration for ISRO, **testing aerobraking and thermal management techniques** in harsh environments.
 - Aero-braking is a **technique that uses a planet's atmosphere** to slow down a spacecraft and adjust its orbit.
- **Payloads of Mission:**
 - **Sixteen Indian payloads**, two Indian and international collaborative payloads(**VISWAS and RAVI**), and **one international payload(VIRAL)** have been recommended.

Significance of mission:

- **Scientific Exploration:** Better understanding the evolution of the solar system as well as dynamics of the planetary atmosphere.
- **Understanding Climate Change:** Atmosphere of Venus is mainly composed of CO₂ so studying its composition could shed light on greenhouse effect and other environmental issues.
- **Others:** Understanding Atmospheric composition, Earth’s evolution etc.

Challenges for mission:

- **Extreme conditions:** Extreme temperature and pressure can damage spacecraft components.
- **Corrosive Atmosphere:** Sulphuric acid clouds that dominate the Venusian surface can potentially corrode the components made of steel and titanium.
- **Other Challenges:** Harsh terrain, lack of sunlight for solar panels, technological challenges etc.

Missions To Venus

- **Past missions:** Mariner 2(USA, 1962), Venus express(ESA), Magellan(NASA), Akatsuki (Japan) etc.
- **Future missions:** Venus life finder mission(Rocket Lab and MIT), DAVINCI and VERITAS(NASA), EnVision (ESA)

President highlights importance of Constitution at 75th Constitution Day of India

Constitution Day, **also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'**, is celebrated in our country on **26th November every year** to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

- On **26th November 1949**, Constituent Assembly of India adopted Constitution of India, which came into effect from **26th January 1950**.
 - A constitution is a body of fundamental principles according to which a state is constituted or governed. It can be **written (Ex-India, USA) and unwritten (Ex-Britain)**.

Significance/Role of Indian Constitution

- **Protecting Fundamental Rights:** Articles 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights.
 - E.g. SC in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India** stated that right to privacy is part of **right to life and personal liberty** (Article 21).
- **Promoting Social Justice:** Such as abolition of untouchability (Article 14), protection of minority rights (Article 25 to 28) etc.
- **Fulfilling aspirations of a society:** Protecting and improving environment (Article 48A), education for all children (Article 45) etc.
- **Allowing minimal coordination amongst members of a society:** It establishes a framework of laws, principles, and institutions that define structure and functions of government.
- **Protecting Secularism:** Articles 25 to 28 guarantee right to religious freedom.
 - SC in **S.R.Bommai case (1994)** stated that Secularism is a part of basic structure of Constitution.

High-Level Committee (HLC) approved National Landslide Risk Mitigation (NLRM) Project in 15 States

HLC, under chairmanship of Union Home Minister, has approved funding from **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)** for disaster mitigation projects for various states.

- HLC also approved **project for training and capacity building of civil defense in all States/UTs** under Preparedness and Capacity Building component of **National Disaster Response Fund**.

Need for NLRM project

- Unlike earthquakes and tsunamis, it is **possible to prevent and predict** landslides.
- To **promote culture of scientific investigation**, analysis and management.

About NDMF

- In 2021, **Central Government had constituted NDMF** under **Disaster Management Act, 2005** based on recommendation of 15th Finance Commission.
- It shall be **applied by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
- It is **exclusively for purpose of mitigation projects in respect of disasters**.

Landslide Management in India

- **Use of remote sensing and GIS** to conduct **landslide hazard zonation** mapping and identify high-risk zones.
- **Real-time landslide monitoring** using sensors, satellite data, and drones, to develop early warning systems.
- Use of **structural measures** (retaining walls, slope stabilization), and **non-structural measures** (land use regulation, prevent deforestation) to prevent landslides.
- **Enhance coordination among agencies like NDMA**, Geological Survey of India (GSI), and State Disaster Management Authorities.

About Landslides in India

- **Movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope due to force of gravity.** Example: Kerala (Wayanad) etc.
- **India is among top four countries with highest landslide risk** (ISRO Landslide Atlas of India).
- **Factors: Natural** (Intense rainfall, Seismic activities etc.); **Anthropogenic** (Deforestation, Unplanned construction, etc.).

Other Measures taken to Manage Landslides

- **National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Program** initiated by Geological Survey of India in 2014-15.
- **Landslide Risk Mitigation Scheme** envisages financial support for site specific Landslide Mitigation Projects.
- **Guidelines on Management of Landslides and Snow Avalanches** issued by National Disaster Management Authority.

India signs the Final Act of Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT)

By signing this treaty, India reaffirms its commitment to **foster inclusive growth and strengthening its intellectual property (IP)** ecosystem.

- After nearly two decades of negotiations, member states of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have adopted the landmark DLT.
- **Design is a category of IP** consisting of a product's ornamental aspect.

Key provisions of DLT

- Allows applicants to **include several designs in a single application**, under certain conditions.
- **Set out requirements for granting of a filing date** as postponing filing date can result in loss of rights.
- Allows applicants to **keep the design unpublished for at least six months** after having secured a filing date.
- **Provides a grace period of 12 months** following a first disclosure of design, during which such disclosure will not affect its validity for registration.
- **Introduction of e-filing systems** for design and electronic exchange of priority documents.

Significance of DLT

- **Empowers startups and SMEs** by protecting their designs globally, improving their competitiveness and growth.
- Makes procedures **more predictable, less complex and more affordable**.
- **Integrates design protection with traditional knowledge and cultural expressions**, thus enhancing their protection.
- By standardizing procedural requirements, **DLT streamlines application process** across countries, **reduces administrative burdens**, thereby promoting global creativity in design.

About Intellectual Property

- It refers to **creation of mind such as inventions, designs for industrial articles**, literary, artistic work, symbols which are ultimately used in commerce.
- IP rights allow creators or owners to have benefits from their works when these are exploited commercially.
- These rights are **statutory rights** governed in accordance with provisions of corresponding legislations.
- **Other types of IP:** Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Trade secrets, Geographical Indicators.

About WIPO (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland)

- **Specialized United Nations agency** that promotes IP rights globally, established in 1967.
- **Members:** 193 countries, including India.

Supreme Court (SC) upheld the inclusion of 'socialist, secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution

The SC's order was based on a batch of petitions filed in 2020 challenging the validity of the inclusion of 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment in 1976.

- The word 'integrity' was also inserted in the Preamble by the 42nd Act, 1976.

SC observations

- **Constitution is a living document:** Addition of 'Socialist' & 'Secular' could not be invalidated merely on the ground that the Preamble retained its original adoption date of November 26, 1949.
 - Article 368 of the Constitution permits amendment of the Constitution & the power to amend unquestionably rests with the Parliament whose amending power extends to the Preamble.
- **Secularism:** State neither supports any religion nor penalizes the profession and practice of any faith, also the State maintains no religion of its own.
 - This principle is enshrined in Articles 14, 15, and 16 along with Article 25,26, 29 & 30.
- **Socialism:** Reflects the goal of economic and social upliftment and does not restrict private entrepreneurship and the right to business and trade, a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g).
- **Addition of 'Socialist' & 'Secular':** SC observed that the addition did not restrict legislations pursued by elected governments, provided such actions did not infringe upon Constitutional rights or the basic structure of the Constitution.

Important judgements quoted by SC:

- **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala and S R Bommai vs Union of India:** Secularism is a basic feature of the Constitution.
- **R C Poudyal v. Union of India:** Secularism represents the nation's commitment to treat persons of all faiths equally and without discrimination.
- **9-Judge Constitution Bench in Property Owners Association and Others v. State of Maharashtra:** Constitution allows government to adopt a structure for economic governance which would sub-serve the policies for which it is accountable to the electorate.