



Banning Land Purchase | Uttarakhand | 03 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand government decided to **ban land purchase by outsiders** for agriculture or horticulture purposes.

Key Points

- The official release stated that the **District Magistrates (DMs) will not issue permission** to outsiders to purchase land for the purpose of agriculture and horticulture.
- On 22nd December 2023, the government constituted a **five-member drafting committee** under the **chairmanship of additional chief secretary** (home) Radha Raturi for a detailed examination of the report submitted by the committee on land laws.
- The government is allegedly taking the steps in accordance with the public's sentiments which it places paramount in this case.
 - CM Dhama had set up a high-level committee to make recommendations for **striking a balance between the requirement of land for industrial development projects** in the state and the preservation of land that is currently available in Uttarakhand.
- **Specific demands are being raised by public such as**, in all projects, and industries set up in hilly areas, in which land acquisition or purchase is mandatory or will be done in the future, **25% share of local villagers and 25% share of native residents of the district must be ensured**. And 80% employment should be ensured to local people in these projects,'.
- It is **necessary to introduce these measures to ensure that natives have the first right to resources of the state** – jal (water), jangal (forests), jameen (land) – and will ensure employment for the locals.

Cashless Health Facility | Haryana | 03 Jan 2024

Why in News?

On the occasion of the new year, the Haryana government has brought in a cashless health facility **for government employees and their dependents**.

Key Points

- The Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya in the presence of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, inaugurated the **cashless health facility under [Ayushman Yojana](#)**.
- The scheme was started on a pilot basis, initially covering employees from the **Fisheries and Horticulture departments**, offering cashless healthcare facilities starting November 1, 2023.
 - The coverage has expanded to include **all regular government employees**.
Furthermore, the scheme is being **extended on a pilot basis** to encompass employees of

the department of horticulture and fisheries, as well as IAS, IPS, and IFoS, along with their dependents.

- Implementation of this scheme is carried out through the **Ayushman Bharat Haryana health protection authority** (state health authority).
- **Procedures under the scheme are completely cashless** and the hospitals will get their claims approved from a single platform within a specified time frame.
 - The scheme will provide more efficient, seamless, hassle free and time bound services to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- Apart from **six life-threatening emergencies** which are, cardiac emergency, cerebral hemorrhage, coma, electric shock, third and fourth stage cancer patients, and any kind of accidents as per the existing provisions; **the scheme covers all types of indoor treatments**, day care procedures catering to the health care needs.
- Services will be available to the beneficiaries in all the **hospitals empaneled with Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)** under this scheme.
 - **E-card/CCHF** card will be issued to all the beneficiaries to avail benefits. The entire expenditure under the scheme will be borne by the state government.

Extreme Weather and Human Casualty | Madhya Pradesh | 03 Jan 2024

Why in News?

As per the preliminary reports of the [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#), **Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest number of casualties** due to extreme weather events in 2023.

Key Points

- Witnessing over **2,376 casualties** due to extreme weather events, the year 2023 was the warmest on record since 1901 as per the IMD.
- The annual mean **land surface air temperature** averaging over India during 2023 was 0.65 degree Celsius above the long-term average (1981-2010 period), making it the second warmest year on record since 1901.
- Globally, the year **2023 was the "warmest year on record"** with the global mean temperature around 1.40 (\pm 0.12) degree Celsius above the pre-industrial level (1850 - 1900 average) till October.
 - **Final figures will be released later by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** considering the global average temperatures of November and December.
- The significant rise in global temperatures, as well as in India, could be attributed to **El-Nino conditions** (warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that impacts monsoon negatively).
 - The WMO has already identified that **the warming El Nino event is likely to "contribute to the heat in 2024"**.
- **Thunderstorms and lightning**, put together, were the **biggest killers** in the country followed by **floods and heavy rain**.

UP's Economic Growth | Uttar Pradesh | 03 Jan 2024

Why in News?

In [Ease of Doing Business](#) ranking, the state has jumped to the 2nd spot in the country in 2018 from the 14th rank in 2017. This **underscores the state government's commitment in making Uttar Pradesh a preferred investment destination** in the country.

Key Points

- The state government has set a target of becoming a **trillion-dollar economy** and serious efforts in that direction were seen when **UP Global Investors Summit** (GIS) was held in February 2023 which received total investment proposals over Rs 38 lakh crores.
- Organising MotoGP in Greater Noida **was a great way to boost tourism and hence investments into the state.**
- The first international trade show, held in Greater Noida, provided a global platform for entrepreneurs, manufacturers and exporters from diverse sectors such as Information Technology and its Enabled Services; Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; education; agriculture; health; [tourism](#), etc.
- Apart from the 25 sectoral policies that have been implemented to ensure ease of doing business, **a lucrative FDI ([Foreign Direct Investment](#)) policy was rolled out offering incentives** such as front-end land subsidy upto 80%, capital subsidy upto 35% and Net **SGST (State Goods and Services Tax)** reimbursement.
 - Japanese company Fuji Silvertch Concrete Pvt Ltd **became the first company to get subsidy under the policy.** The entire process of providing subsidy was completed in a record time of three days.
- A single window clearance system - **Nivesh Mitra** - **provides necessary permits and certifications.** It has over 8.8 lakh registered users, offering services related to more than 454 licenses across over 37 departments.
 - The portal has processed over 13 lakh applications for NOC/licenses in the last four years, with a remarkable 97% success rate.
 - It has a grievance redressal rate of 93%.
- **Nivesh Sarathi** is an investor relationship management system enabling investors and entrepreneurs in the state to revert to the incentives online.

Expansion of Litchi Cultivation Across India | Bihar | 03 Jan 2024

Why in News?

The cultivation of **Litchi**, traditionally restricted to Muzaffarpur Bihar, has witnessed a significant expansion **across 19 Indian states, highlighting the Horticulture boost in India.**

- This development stems from the efforts of the **National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL)** based in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

What are the Key Facts about Litchi?

- **Botanical Classification:** Litchi belongs to the Sapindaceae family and is known for its delicious, juicy, translucent aril or edible flesh.
- **Climatic Requirements:** Litchi thrives in **sub-tropical climates and prefers moist conditions.** It grows best in regions with low elevation, up to an altitude of around 800 meters. [//](#)

- **Soil Preference:** The ideal soil for litchi cultivation is **deep, well-drained loamy soil** rich in organic matter.
- **Temperature Sensitivity:** Litchi is sensitive to extreme temperatures. It does not tolerate temperatures above 40.5 degrees Celsius in summer or freezing temperatures in winter.
- **Rainfall Impact:** Prolonged rain, especially during flowering, can interfere with pollination and affect the crop adversely.
- **Geographical Cultivation:** In India, the commercial cultivation was traditionally restricted to the north in the foot hills **of Himalayas from Tripura to Jammu & Kashmir** and plains of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
 - But due to increased demand and viability, cultivation has expanded to states **like Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh.**
 - Bihar alone accounts for nearly **40% of India's litchi production.** Bihar is followed by West Bengal (12%) and Jharkhand (10%).
- **Global Production:** India ranks as the **second largest producer of litchi globally**, following China. Other significant litchi-producing countries include Thailand, Australia, South Africa, Madagascar, and the United States.

Horticulture

- **About:**
 - Horticulture refers to **the science, art, and practice of cultivating fruits**, vegetables, flowers, ornamental plants, and other crops.
 - It encompasses a broad spectrum of activities **related to plant cultivation, management, propagation, and improvement** for human use and enjoyment.
- **Initiatives for Horticulture:**
 - **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):**
 - **MIDH** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables and other areas.
 - Under MIDH, Government of India contributes 60% of the total outlay for developmental programmes in all the states (except North Eastern and Himalayan states where GOI contributes 90%) & 40% is contributed by State governments.
 - **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme:**
 - It is a **central sector programme** aimed at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
 - Horticulture cluster is a regional/geographical concentration of targeted horticulture crops.