



Viksit Chhattisgarh: A Vision For 10 Years | Chhattisgarh | 03 Jun 2024

Why in News?

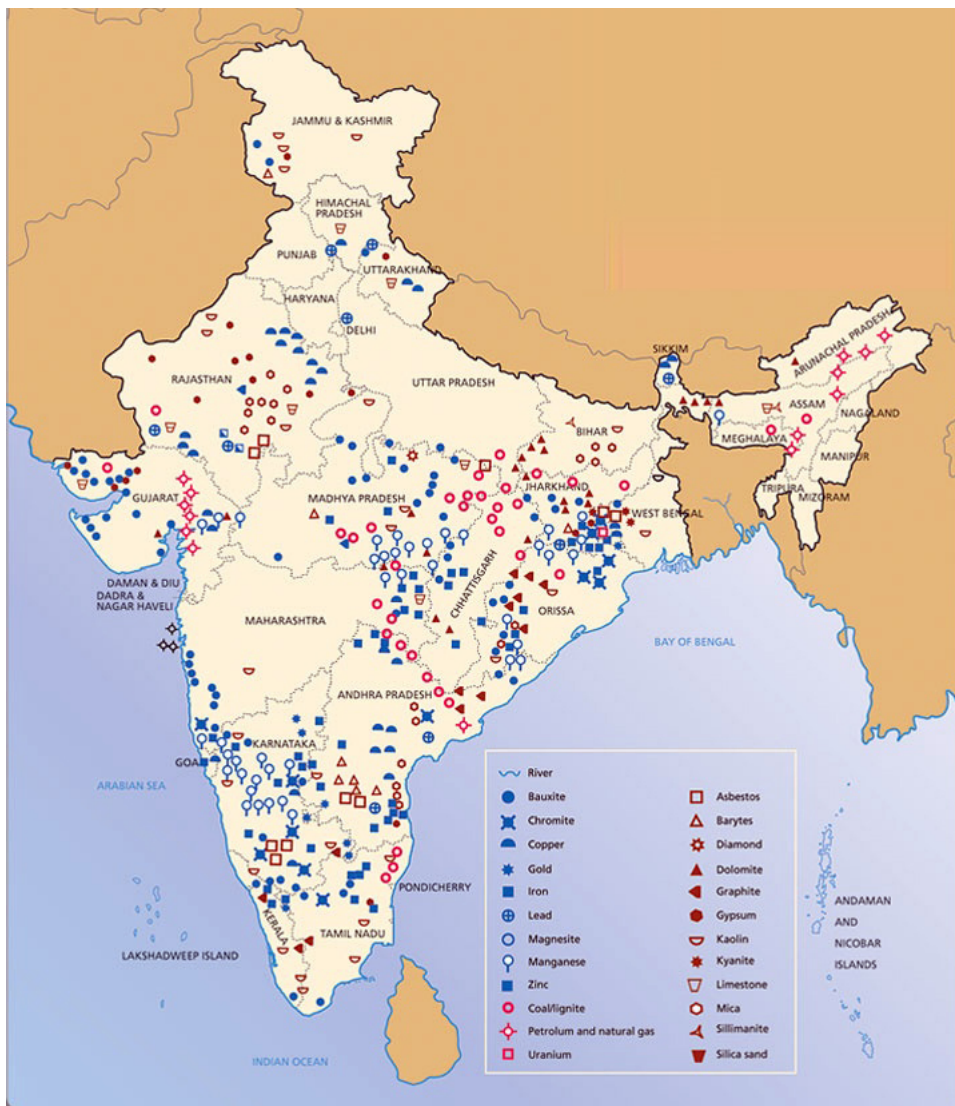
The Chhattisgarh government **organised a two-day 'Chintan Shivir' (ideation camp)** at IIM-Raipur to discuss and strategise plans for the **state's development**.

- Sessions **during the camp were conducted by the [NITI Aayog](#) CEO B V R Subrahmanyam** as well as by [G20 Sherpa](#) Amitabh Kant.

Key Points

- The camp, **aimed at designing and implementing a strategic roadmap for the vision of a 'Viksit Chhattisgarh'**, also featured subject matter experts from across the nation.
 - Viksit Chhattisgarh is in alignment with the idea of ['Viksit Bharat'](#), the goal of **developing India by 2047**.
- During the camp, the **abundance of [minerals](#) in Chhattisgarh** and the scenic landscapes in the state were highlighted.
 - Importance of balanced mineral exploitation to benefit the **state's economic interests and the development of the tourism industry** in the state was also emphasized.

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Niti Aayog

- The Planning Commission was **replaced by a new institution** – NITI Aayog on 1st January, 2015 with emphasis on ‘Bottom –Up’ approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of ‘[Cooperative Federalism](#)’.
- **It has two hubs:**
 - Team India Hub acts as an interface between States and Centre.
 - Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.

Note:

- The G20 has **no permanent secretariat**. The agenda and work are coordinated by representatives of the G20 countries, **known as ‘Sherpas’**, who work together with the finance ministers and governors of the central banks.

Socio-economic Criteria in Govt Jobs is Unconstitutional | Haryana | 03 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared the socioeconomic criteria set by the Haryana government for granting **additional marks to certain classes of candidates in state government jobs as unconstitutional** and set it aside.

- The court ruled that this criteria **violated [Articles 14, 15, and 16](#)** of the Indian Constitution.

Key Points

- The Haryana government had **introduced the socio-economic criteria** to provide additional marks **to certain classes of candidates**, including those without family members in government jobs, state-domiciled candidates, and those with family incomes not exceeding Rs 1.80 lakh per annum.
- **Petitioners argued that:**
 - The criteria further discriminates based on domicile and descent, which are **prohibited markers under Article 162** of the Constitution.
 - The petitioner argues that there is **no rationale for granting additional marks to a certain class** when reservations for EWS, Scheduled Castes (SC), and Backward Classes (BC) **are already provided for**.

Note:

- **Article 14:** No person shall be denied treatment of equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- **Article 15:** No citizen shall be discriminated on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Article 16:** Provides for equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any public office.

Fennel Production in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 03 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Following a three-year-long study, **four desert districts in Rajasthan**, where farmers depend on saline water for irrigation, are **set to emerge as hubs of fennel production**.

- The **study was conducted** in Bikaner, Nagaur, Churu, and Barmer districts

Key Points

- Taxonomically classified as *Foeniculum vulgare*, fennel is a **hardy, perennial herb with yellow flowers and feathery leaves**.
- **Rajasthan and Gujarat are the leading fennel-producing States** in India, contributing about **96% of the total production**.
 - In Rajasthan, the **highest amount of fennel is cultivated in** Nagaur district, covering 10,000 hectares. Its cultivation also **takes place** in Sirohi, Jodhpur, Jalore, Bharatpur, and

Sawai Madhopur districts.

- The **trials measured the yield and tested salt tolerance** of the different fennel varieties and found encouraging results.
 - The **fennel variety, RF-290, was found to be viable** for irrigation with saline water.
- Drip irrigation with saline water **could expand the area under fennel production** and increase productivity to make agriculture remunerative for farmers cultivating the spice.
- According to the study, **the experimental irrigation led to the production of about nine quintals of fennel per hectare** and good production of fennel can also be obtained in areas **where farming is done through tube wells.**



Food Irradiation | Uttar Pradesh | 03 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The government of India **plans to use radiation processing (Food Irradiation)** to extend the shelf life of a 100,000 tonne **onion buffer stock** in 2024, **aiming to prevent shortages and price hikes.**

- India, a major onion exporter, is **facing a 16% decline in onion output for the 2023-24 season**, bringing production down to an estimated 25.47 million tonnes.

Key Points

- Food irradiation is the **process of exposing food and food products to ionising radiation, such as gamma rays, electron beams, or X-rays.**
 - In India, irradiated food is regulated in accordance with the **Atomic Energy (Control of Irradiation of Food) Rules, 1996.**
- **Significance:**
 - It is used in food processing to help ensure food safety.
 - Seasonal overstocking and long transport times lead to food waste.
 - India's hot, humid climate is a breeding ground for spoilage-causing insects and microbes.
 - Seafood, meat, and poultry can harbour harmful bacteria and parasites that make people sick.

Onion Production in India

- India is the **second-largest (after China) onion-growing country** in the world, famous for its pungent onions available year-round.
- **Major Onion Producing States:**
 - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are the major onion-producing states.
 - **Maharashtra ranks first in Onion production** with a share of 42.53% followed by Madhya Pradesh with a share of 15.16% in 2021-22 (3rd Advance Estimate).
- **Export Destination:** Major export destinations of Indian onion include Bangladesh, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

India to Import Wheat After 6 years | Uttar Pradesh | 03 Jun 2024

Why in News?

India, the **world's second-largest wheat producer**, plans to begin wheat imports after a **six-year gap** to replenish depleted reserves and control rising prices, driven by three consecutive years of disappointing crops.

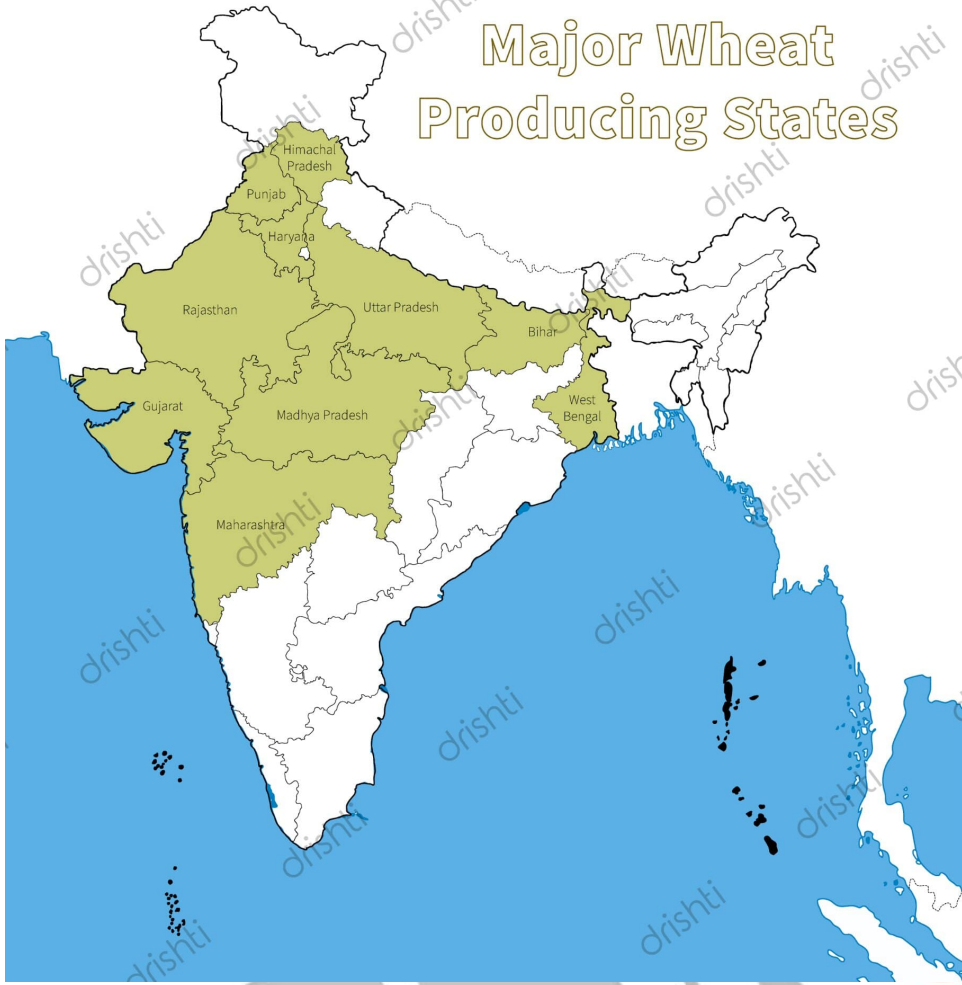
Key Points

- India's wheat production has **declined in the last 3 years due to unfavourable weather conditions**, leading to a sharp drop in wheat output.
- The government **estimates this year's wheat crop to be 6.25% lower than the previous year's (2023)** record production of 112 million metric tons.
- The government's **target for wheat procurement the year 2024 was 30-32 million metric tons**, but it has managed to buy only 26.2 million tons so far.
- Domestic wheat prices have stayed above the government's [minimum support price \(MSP\)](#) of 2,275 rupees per 100 kg and **have been on the rise recently**.
 - So, the government **decided to remove the 40% import duty on wheat to allow private traders** and flour millers to import wheat, primarily from Russia.

Wheat

- This is the **second most important cereal crop in India after rice** and main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- **Wheat is a rabi crop** that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
 - **Success of the Green Revolution** contributed to the growth of Rabi crops, especially wheat.
- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in World (2021):** China, India and Russia.
- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in India (in 2021-22):** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, [National Food Security Mission](#) and [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana](#) etc.

Major Wheat Producing States



PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/statepcs/03-06-2024/print>