



## Agri Startups with E-Commerce Platforms | Uttar Pradesh | 21 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to connect the state's **agriculture commodity startups** with central government promoted [e-commerce platforms](#) like [ONDC \(Open Network for Digital Commerce\)](#) and [e-NAM \(National Agriculture Market\)](#).

### Key Points

- The state government has instructed the agriculture department to link [Farmer Producer Organizations \(FPOs\)](#) with ONDC and e-NAM using a specialized farmer producer cell, which will be formed shortly.
  - The startups are also at liberty to join any e-commerce or digital marketing platform.
- The state plans to support an open agriculture market by **streamlining licensing procedures** for inputs like [fertilisers](#), seeds, and [pesticides](#), as well as licenses for market yards, [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#), and connecting with the ONDC and e-NAM platforms for market access.
  - Around 3,240 FPOs are currently active in Uttar Pradesh as part of the [Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana](#).
  - Under Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana, **2,725 FPOs will be formed, which will directly benefit 27.25 lakh shareholder farmers.**
- The Uttar Pradesh government has collaborated with industry partners to boost [food processing](#) and implement [artificial intelligence](#) in agriculture.
  - They also aim to organize the **Krishi Bharat global farmers' conference** in November 2024 in partnership with the [Confederation of Indian Industry \(CII\)](#).
  - Farmers from nations including the **US, Germany, Brazil, Italy, Poland, France, Spain, Indonesia, and Kenya** are anticipated to attend the four-day event in Lucknow.

### ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)

- The ONDC aims at **promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology**, using open specifications and open network protocols, independent on any specific platform.
- The project to **integrate e-commerce platforms** through a network based on open-source technology has been tasked to the [Quality Council of India](#).
- Implementation of ONDC, which is expected to be on the lines of [Unified Payments Interface \(UPI\)](#) could bring various operational aspects put in place by e-commerce platforms to the same level.
  - Various operational aspects include onboarding of sellers, vendor discovery, price discovery and product cataloguing etc.
- On ONDC, buyers and sellers may transact irrespective of the fact that they are attached to one specific e-commerce portal.

### E-NAM (National Agriculture Market)

- It is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** for agricultural commodities.
- It enables farmers to **sell their produce directly to buyers, reducing intermediaries, ensuring fair prices, and enhancing sustainability.**

## Other Government Schemes to Promote Agri-Export in India

- **Operation Greens:** [Operation Greens](#) is an initiative to stabilise the supply and prices of essential agricultural commodities, including fruits and vegetables.
  - It aims to reduce price volatility, ensure farmers receive remunerative prices, and promote sustainable agri exports.
- **Market Access Initiative (MAI):** MAI is a program that supports export promotion activities, including participation in international trade fairs, capacity building, and market research. It helps Indian agricultural exporters explore new markets and gain market access.
- **Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA):** [SAMPADA](#) aims to modernise infrastructure for agro-processing clusters, which helps reduce post-harvest losses, increase the shelf life of agricultural products, and enhance the export competitiveness of Indian agri-products.
- **National Horticulture Mission (NHM):** [NHM](#) focuses on promoting sustainable horticulture practices, including [organic farming](#), [precision farming](#), and water-use efficiency. It supports the production of high-value horticultural products for export.
- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority):** [APEDA](#) is responsible for promoting the export of scheduled products and provides guidelines for sustainability, quality, and certification requirements for exporters.
- **Setting up of Agri Export Zones (AEZs):** AEZs are established in different parts of the country to promote the export of specific agricultural commodities.
  - These zones provide a conducive environment for sustainable agri exports through infrastructure development and technology adoption.
- **Promotion of Organic Farming:** The government has initiated programs to promote [organic farming](#), which contributes to [environmental sustainability](#) and increases the export potential of organic products.

## Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- CII is a **non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization**. It was founded in 1895.
- It works to **create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India**, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

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## Campaign to Eradicate Malaria | Uttar Pradesh | 21 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched an intensified campaign to eradicate [Malaria from the state by 2027](#).

- This initiative involves thorough investigation and complete treatment of every malaria case.

### Key Points

- **June is Anti-Malaria Month** under the [National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme](#), with 771 malaria cases reported in the state this year.
  - Efforts include improved **case reporting, management**, and **increased epidemiological and entomological investigations**, as well as accelerated vector control measures.

- According to the officials, health workers are conducting **extensive surveys and tests, and community education** on malaria prevention and symptoms is ongoing.
- With the [monsoon expected in late June](#), a **critical period for mosquito-borne diseases**, extensive activities are planned to prevent malaria.
  - These include [insecticide](#) spraying and fogging, and community awareness seminars.

## Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by [plasmodium parasites](#).
  - There are **5 Plasmodium parasite species** that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species [P. falciparum and P. vivax](#) pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria is predominantly found in the [tropical and subtropical areas](#) of **Africa, South America** as well as **Asia**.
- Malaria is spread by the bite of an infected [female Anopheles mosquito](#).
  - The **mosquito becomes infected after biting an infected person**. The malaria parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person the mosquito bites. The parasites travel to the **liver**, mature, and then infect [red blood cells](#).
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and **flu-like illness**, including **shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness**. Notably, **malaria is both preventable and curable**.

## National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)

- NVBDCP is the **central nodal agency** for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. **Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis** and [Chikungunya](#) in India. It works under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

## One Family, One Identity Scheme | Uttar Pradesh | 21 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the process of issuing 'Family ID' to each family in the state and instructed for its quick implementation.

- He emphasized that the Family IDs are being issued to ensure government benefits for every family and **employment opportunities** for at least one member.

### Key Points

- Under the "**One Family, One Identity**" **scheme**, each family receives a unique ID to create a comprehensive live database of family units in the state.
- This database will **improve the management of beneficiary-oriented schemes**, timely targeting, transparent operations, and ensure 100% delivery of schemes to eligible people by simplifying access.
  - Approximately 15.07 crore people from 3.60 crore families in Uttar Pradesh are benefiting from the [National Food Security Act 2013](#), using their [ration card](#) numbers as their Family IDs.
  - Over 1 lakh families without ration cards have been issued Family IDs.

## National Food Security Act, 2013

- **Notified on:** 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.
- **Objective:**
  - To provide [for food and nutritional security](#) in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:**
  - 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under [Targeted Public Distribution System \(TPDS\)](#).
  - Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
  - Households covered under existing [Antyodaya Anna Yojana](#).
- **Provisions:**
  - **5 Kgs of foodgrains per person** per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
  - The existing AAY household will **continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month**.
  - **Meal and maternity benefit** of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
  - **Meals for children up to 14 years of age.**
  - **Food security** allowance to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
  - **Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms** at the district and state level.

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## World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Centre | Uttar Pradesh | 21 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has established the **world's first conservation and breeding center** for [Asian king vultures](#) in **Maharajganj district**.

### Key Points

- The facility aims to improve the population of Asian king vultures, which has been listed as **critically endangered** in the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list](#) since 2007.
  - The centre is named [Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre](#), where **24x7 monitoring of the vultures** is being done.
- Asian king vultures (also called [red-headed vulture](#)) are **critically endangered due to a loss of their habitats and the excessive use of diclofenac, a **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug**, in domestic animals, which becomes poisonous for vultures.
  - At present the centre has **a pair of male and female vultures**. Three more females, who are in the aviary, will gradually get their male counterparts. The aviary is **20-feet by 30-feet**.
  - The **centre aims to ensure the good health of growing vultures and provide them with a pair**. Once a female lays an egg, the pair will be left free in their natural environment.**

### Asian King Vultures



- This is one of the **9 species of Vulture which are found in India.**
- It is also called the **Asian King vulture or Pondicherry Vulture** was extensively found in India but its numbers drastically reduced after diclofenac poisoning.
- Conservation status:
  - [IUCN Red List](#): **Critically Endangered**
  - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): **Schedule 1**

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## Patna High Court Nullifies Bihar's Quota Enhancement | Bihar | 21 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

- The [Patna High Court](#) overturned the Bihar government's decision to raise the [reservation quota](#) for [backward classes](#), [scheduled castes](#), and [scheduled tribes](#) from **50% to 65% in government jobs and higher educational institutions** in the state.

### Key Points

- The Bihar government has released a **gazette notification** for two reservation bills, namely the [Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Amendment Bill, 2023](#) and the [Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill, 2023](#).
  - These bills will raise the current reservation percentage from **50% to 65%**, resulting in the

**total reservation quota in the state reaching 75%** when the additional **10%** for the [economically weaker sections \(EWS\)](#) is included.

- The amendments are violative of [the Supreme Court](#) verdict passed in the case of [Indira Sawhney versus Union of India](#) whereby a maximum ceiling of **50%** was laid down.
- The quota hike was also discriminatory in nature and violative of the [fundamental rights to equality](#) as guaranteed to the citizens by [Articles 14,15 and 16](#).

## **Indra Sawhney & Others vs Union of India, 1992**

- The Supreme Court while upholding the 27% quota for backward classes, struck down the government notification reserving 10% government jobs for economically backward classes among the higher castes.
- SC in the same case also upheld the principle that the combined **reservation beneficiaries should not exceed 50%** of India's population.
- The concept of '[creamy layer](#)' also gained currency through this judgment and provision that reservation for backward classes should be confined to initial appointments only and not extend to promotions.

## **Fundamental Rights**

- **Article 14: Equality Before Law**
  - It says that **no person shall be denied treatment of equality before the law** or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
  - The right is **extended to all persons whether citizens or foreigners, statutory corporations, companies, registered societies** or any other type of legal person.
- **Article 15: Prohibition of Discrimination**
  - It provides that **no citizen shall be discriminated on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.**
- **Article 16: Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment**
  - Article 16 of the Indian constitution provides for **equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment** to any public office.