



Uttar Pradesh to Set Up Crop-Specific Boards | Uttar Pradesh | 05 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh plans to establish **crop-specific commodity boards** as a step toward achieving the **goal of annual agro shipments worth Rs 50,000 crore.**

Key Points

- This initiative **aims to boost farm productivity, catalyze food processing, and re-energize the agro value chain** over the next four years.
 - To generate employment, the government is promoting **agriculture-focused startups.**
 - There is a huge demand for **horticultural produce** like strawberries, dragon fruit, and flowers in the state.
- State-level horticultural commodity boards would be set up on the lines of the [Spices Board of India.](#)
- **The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)** has **constituted the UP State Agriculture Council** to promote agro industry and exports.
 - It would **foster coordination between the government, agro experts, and farmers.**
 - The council will focus on **promoting sustainable agricultural practices**, enhancing market access, and supporting exports.
 - It will host a **'Agro World 2025' summit in February 2025 in Lucknow.**

Spices Board of India

- [Spices Board](#) was constituted on 26th February 1987 under the **Spices Board Act, 1986** with the merger of the erstwhile **Cardamom Board (1968)** and **Spices Export Promotion Council (1960).**
- There are **five statutory Commodity Boards** under the Department of Commerce.
 - These Boards are responsible for **production, development and export of tea, coffee, rubber, spices and tobacco.**
- It is responsible for the **export promotion** of the **52 scheduled spices** and the **development of Cardamom.**
- Spices Board is the **flagship organisation** for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.
- The Board is an **international link** between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad.

Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)

- Formerly known as the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, was **founded in 2015.**
 - It is the **apex body in India**, working on **business, policy, and development agendas** while serving as a global platform for **trade facilitation, partnerships, technology, and agribusiness services.**
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Putin Expresses Condolences for Hathras Stampede Tragedy | Uttar Pradesh | 05 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Russian President Vladimir Putin** expressed condolences over the [stampede at a religious congregation in Uttar Pradesh](#) in which 121 people were killed.

- Stampede is an impulsive mass movement of a crowd that often results in injuries and deaths.

Key Points

- The stampede took place in **Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh**. The victims were part of the **crowd of thousands that had gathered near Phulrai village** in the Sikandrara area **for the 'satsang' by a religious preacher**.
- An [First Information Report \(FIR\)](#) has been filed by the Uttar Pradesh Police **against the organizers** of the religious congregation.
 - The organizers are **accused of hiding evidence and violating conditions** by allowing 2.5 lakh people to gather for the event, despite a permit for only 80,000 attendees.

First Information Report (FIR)

- It is a **written document** prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a [cognizable offence](#).
 - It is a report of **information that reaches the police first at that point of time** and that is why it is called the First Information Report.
 - It is generally a complaint lodged with the police by the victim of a cognizable offence or by someone on his/her behalf. **Anyone can report the commission of a cognizable offence either orally or in writing.**
 - The term FIR is **not defined in the [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\), Code of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\), 1973, or in any other law.](#)**
 - However, in police regulations or rules, information recorded under [Section 154 of CrPC](#) is known as First Information Report (FIR).
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Justice Sheel Nagu: Punjab & Haryana Chief Justice | Haryana | 05 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Justice Sheel Nagu** of Madhya Pradesh high court has been appointed as [Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court](#).

Key Points

- He was appointed as Madhya Pradesh high court judge in 2011. His contribution to the judiciary by way of [disposal of cases](#), during his tenure of **over 12 years** has authored **more than 499**

reported judgments.

Appointment of HC Judges

- **Article 217 of the Constitution:** It states that the **Judge of a High Court** shall be **appointed by the President** in consultation with the [Chief Justice of India \(CJI\)](#), the [Governor of the State](#).
 - In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the **Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted**.
- **Consultation Process:** High Court judges are recommended by a [Collegium](#) comprising the **CJI and two senior-most judges**.
 - The proposal, however, is **initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court** concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
 - The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the **proposal to the Union Law Minister**.
 - The **Chief Justice of the High Court** is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.
 - The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.

Haryana Cities Among India's Most Polluted | Haryana | 05 Jul 2024

Why in News?

According to a report by the [Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air \(CREA\)](#), **Haryana accounted for more than half of India's top 10 most polluted cities** in June 2024.

Key Points

- **Rohtak was the most polluted** among the 251 Indian cities included in the study.
 - In June, Rohtak's average concentration of [PM2.5 \(tiny inhalable particles\)](#) was $116\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, **more than twice the safe level** of $60\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ set in India.
- In the top 10 most polluted cities in June, Rohtak was featured in the list 28 times, followed by **Charkhi Dadri and Panchkula**, each appearing 16 times, **Ballabhgarh** 11 times, and **Faridabad** 10 times.
- A total of 60 cities appeared on the daily most polluted cities list. Among these, 23 cities made the list at least five times. **Only Faridabad is part of the [National Clean Air Programme \(NCAP\)](#).**
- According to the **2021 Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)** report by the University of Chicago, **India is the world's second most polluted country**, where fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens the average citizen's life expectancy by 5.3 years.

Particulate Matter

- Also called **particle pollution**, a term for a **mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air**. It **causes respiratory problems and also reduces visibility**.
- **It includes:**
 - **PM10:** inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.
 - **PM2.5:** fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- **Sources of PM:**
 - Some are emitted directly from a source, such as **construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires**.

National Clean Air Programme

- It was **launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in January 2019.
- It is the **first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management** with a time-bound reduction target.
- It **seeks to cut the concentration of coarse** (particulate matter (PM) of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) **and fine particles** (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or [PM2.5](#)) by at least 20% **in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.**
- It **covers 132 non-attainment cities** which were identified by the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#).

Ladli Behna Yojna | Haryana | 05 Jul 2024

Why in News?

According to the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh** Dr. Mohan Yadav, **14th installment of [Ladli Behna Yojana](#)** is credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Key Points

- Under the scheme, the **government will provide Rs.1250 to women every month.**
- This scheme was **launched in 2023** by the Madhya Pradesh Government.
- It **aims at promoting financial independence for women, sustained enhancements in their health and nutrition.**
- Due to which the **effective role of women in taking decisions** at the family level **will also be encouraged.**

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