Surajkund Fair 2025 | Haryana | 19 Dec 2024

Why in News?

The **Surajkund International Craft Fair** is scheduled **between 7th to 23rd February 2025 in Faridabad.** The authorities are likely to spend around Rs. 1.50 crore on repair work.

Key Points

- **About the Fair:**
  - It is an effective **platform to connect our craftsmen with art lovers**. This fair is both an **art exhibition and a business centre.**
  - The fair showcases the richness and diversity of the **handicrafts, handlooms and the cultural heritage of India.**
  - The department is focusing on **expanding the fair area in 2025,** with an emphasis on **increasing huts for artisans and participants.**
    - The number of additional huts is yet to be finalized and depends on the availability of open space.
    - Additional huts, designed to be weather-proof, are expected to meet the growing demand due to the fair's increasing popularity and participation.
      - In 2024, authorities provided around 1,150 huts, accommodating over 1,500 indigenous and 250 foreign craftspeople.
  - Authorities have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** for ticketing and parking facilities.
  - **Partner Nations and Theme:**
    - **BIMSTEC countries** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) remain **partner nations** for the event.
    - The **theme state for the upcoming fair is yet to be announced**, though Northeastern states like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, and Mizoram will be given special focus for showcasing art and craft.

BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC is a **regional organisation** comprising **7 member states - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.**
- It was formed in **1997** with the aim of promoting multifaceted technical and economic cooperation among the countries of the **Bay of Bengal region.**
- The region covered by BIMSTEC is home to around **1.5 billion people**, with a combined GDP of over **USD 3.8 trillion**.

Low Water Supply in Haryana and UP | Haryana | 19 Dec 2024

Why in News?

The water level of the **Yamuna** has significantly **decreased due to lack of rain in the upper hills of Himachal Pradesh**, causing a severe **shortfall in water supply in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.**

Key Points

- **Water Level at Hathnikund Barrage:**
  - The **water level at Hathnikund Barrage** rose but despite the rise, the current supply remains far below demand, **impacting irrigation, drinking water supply, and hydropower generation.**
- **Western Jamuna Canal (WJC) Shortfall:**
  - The WJC has a water demand of 9,000 cusecs, but only 1,756 cusecs were released.
  - The **canal provides drinking water to Delhi and irrigates crops in southern Haryana,** both of which have been severely affected by the shortfall.
- **Eastern Jamuna Canal (EJC) Shortfall:**
  - The EJC, which **caters to Uttar Pradesh,** requires 1,500 cusecs but received only 182 cusecs.
  - **Water supply to the EJC was stopped due to low flow in the river**, which dropped to 1,142 cusecs.
- **Impact on Hydropower Projects:**
  - **Hydropower projects in Naino Wali, Bhudkalan, Begampur, and Dadupur villages have been impacted** by the Yamuna's water shortage.

Yamuna River

- **About:**
  - The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
  - It forms an integral part of the **Yamuna-Ganga Plain**, one of the world's most extensive **alluvial plains.**
- **Source:**
  - It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier at an elevation of 6,387 meters** on the southwestern sides of **Banderpooch crests** in the lower **Himalayan ranges**.
- **Basin:**
  - It meets the **Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held)** in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.**
- **Important Dam:**
  - Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- **Important Tributaries: Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.**

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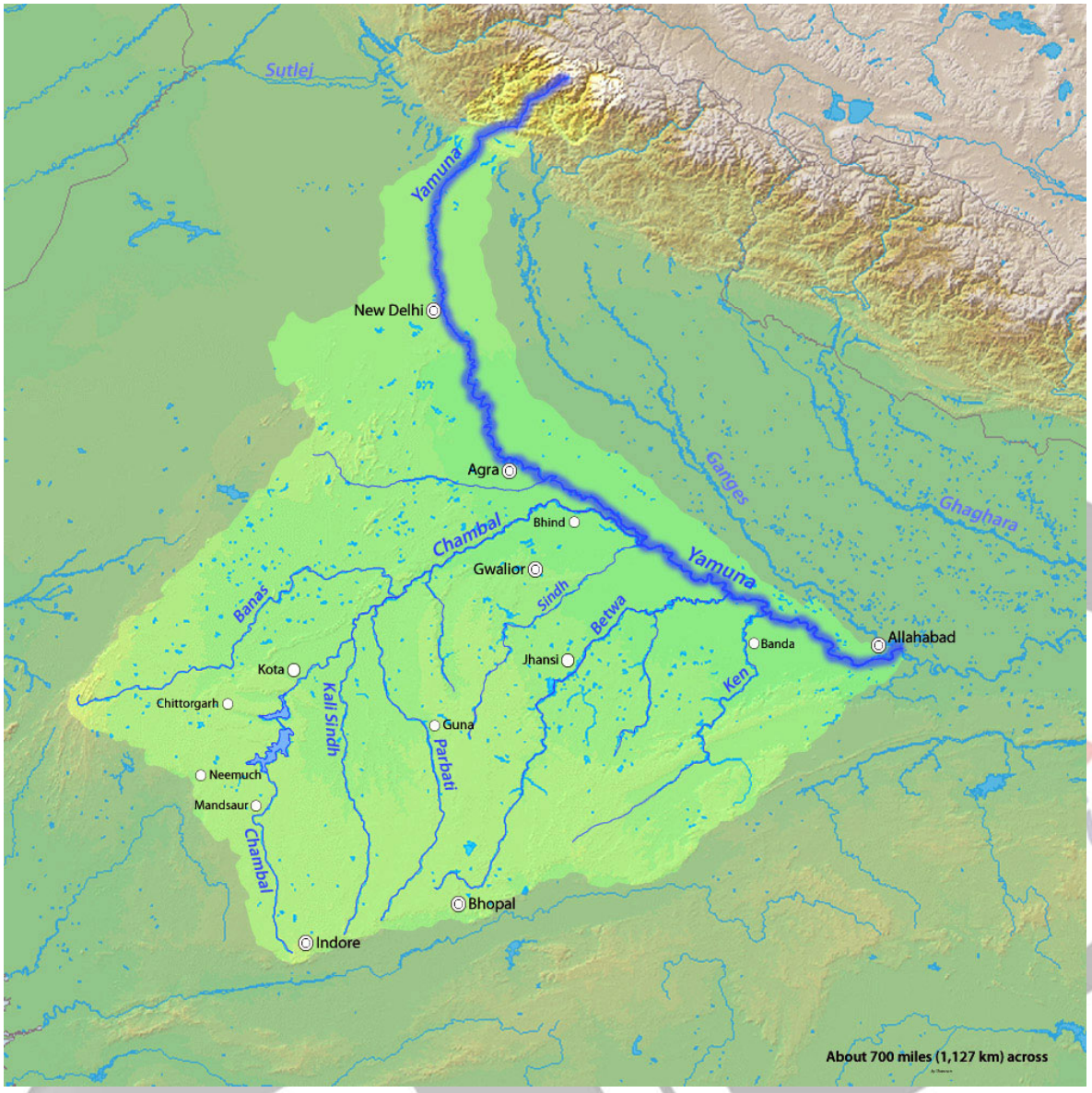

Urea-Efficient Wheat Varieties | Haryana | 19 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Indian and Japanese institutions are collaborating to develop India's first wheat varieties using **Biological Nitrification Inhibition (BNI) technology,** marking a significant step towards sustainable agriculture.

- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute(CSSRI), Karnal** is involved in this project.

Key Points

- **Aim:**
  - These varieties **aim to reduce urea dependency,** addressing challenges such as **environmental sustainability, agricultural productivity, and the financial burden of urea subsidies.**
- **Collaborative Effort:**
  - The project is also a joint initiative by **Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), and Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA).**
  - It is carried out in collaboration with the **Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)** and funded by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).**
- **Transformative Potential of BNI:**
  - According to Scientists at CSSRI, **BNI technology** can **reduce nitrogen fertiliser** demand without compromising yield or quality.
  - He added that BNI supports **sustainable agriculture by minimizing nitrogen leaching into groundwater**, thereby preserving **soil fertility and water resources.**
- **Promising Results:**
  - Senior Scientist at IIWBR, reported a **15-20% reduction in urea usage in initial experiments** without affecting yield or quality.
  - The breeding strategy for developing BNI-enabled wheat varieties is progressing well.
- **Future Implications:**
  - This breakthrough collaboration between India and Japan is set to revolutionize **wheat cultivation**, reduce urea dependency, and address global agricultural challenges.

Biological Nitrification Inhibition (BNI)

- It is a **natural plant process** that can help regulate **nitrification in agricultural systems**, and improve **nitrogen-use efficiency.**
- It can help **develop sustainable agricultural systems** that are productive but least damaging to the environment.
- High levels of nitrification can lead to **NO leaching, denitrification, and greenhouse gas emissions.**

Subsidy on Urea

- In India, **urea is the most produced, imported, consumed and physically regulated fertiliser** of all. It is subsidised only for agricultural uses.
- The Centre **pays a subsidy** on urea to fertiliser manufacturers on the basis of cost of production at each plant and the units are required to sell the **fertiliser at the government-set Maximum Retail Price (MRP)**.