

11 May 2024

Sugarcane Subsidy Issue

The US and Australia claimed that India is breaching the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) subsidy limitations.



Key Points

- ❖ India's sugarcane subsidies are examined in recent filings to the WTO's Committee on Agriculture, covering four years (2018-19 to 2021-22).
- ❖ The submissions show a regular trend of subsidies over the 10% allowable threshold.
- ❖ India challenged the WTO panel's determination that FRP and SAPs fall under the AoA's definition of market price support.

Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)

The AoA is a core component of the WTO agreements, negotiated during the Uruguay Round, and came into effect in 1995. Its primary goals are:

- ❖ **Market Access:** Reducing tariffs and other barriers to agricultural trade.

- ❖ **Domestic Support Reduction:** Phasing down trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to farmers.
- ❖ **Export Competition:** Disciplining the use of export subsidies.

Wildlife Corridors

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) in Maharashtra will host tigers that are scheduled to be translocated from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). This move emphasizes the significance of wildlife corridors, particularly the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor, for tiger conservation efforts.



Key Point

- ❖ **Wildlife Corridor:** To facilitate gene flow, dispersal, and mobility across landscapes disrupted by human settlements and infrastructure, wildlife corridors serve as links between disparate populations of wildlife.
- ❖ These corridors are essential to tiger conservation because they preserve genetic variation,

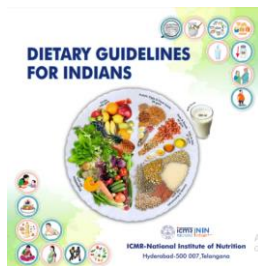
prevent local extinctions, and allow tigers to travel between different habitats.

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

- ❖ It is located in Maharashtra's Sahyadri Ranges in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It forms the border of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa.
- ❖ The reserve includes Chandoli National Park (CNP) and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS), two protected sites.

Dietary Guidelines

The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in India has released comprehensive guidelines that address the growing concerns about malnutrition among vulnerable groups and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



Key Points

- ❖ Nutritional changes are crucial because poor diets account for about 4% of all diseases in India.
- ❖ 80% of Type 2 diabetes cases can be avoided with a good diet and regular exercise.

- ❖ Heart disease and high blood pressure can also be greatly reduced.
- ❖ To ensure appropriate growth and development, prevent various forms of malnutrition and obesity, and maintain optimal nutrition throughout critical times such as pregnancy, nursing, and early childhood (up to age 2), optimal nutrition is essential.
- ❖ The 2019 Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey revealed concerning prevalence rates of lifestyle-related disorders in kids and teens, including diabetes, pre-diabetes, and overweight or obesity.

Hailstorms to Pelt Madhya Pradesh

The rain system is active in Madhya Pradesh for three days, due to which most of the districts of the state will remain cloudy and there is a possibility of hailstorms on May 11-12.



Key Points

- ❖ Several cyclonic circulations and a trough are encircling West India, the Northeast, East, and South India.
- ❖ On Saturday, May 11, a red alert was issued for rain in Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Betul, Chhindwara,

Seoni, Balaghat, Mandla, and a yellow alert everywhere else.

- ❖ On the same day, there is a possibility of rain in some parts of Damoh, Katni and Rajgarh and wind will blow at the speed of 60 to 70.

Hailstorm

- ❖ It is a weather phenomenon involving a heavy fall of hail.
- ❖ Hailstorms occur when strong thunderstorm updrafts carry raindrops into extremely cold areas of the atmosphere where they freeze into ice.

- ❖ These ice pellets can then grow larger as they are circulated within the storm clouds, eventually becoming heavy enough to fall to the ground.
- ❖ Hailstorms can cause damage to crops, vehicles, and buildings, depending on the size of the hailstones and the intensity of the storm.

Daily Question

1. How are disputes between member countries resolved in the WTO?
 - (a) By the UN Security Council
 - (b) Through bilateral negotiations
 - (c) By the WTO Dispute Settlement Body
 - (d) By the International Court of Justice

Answer- (c)

2. What is a wildlife corridor?
 - (a) A fenced-off area within a national park
 - (b) A designated area for hunting wildlife
 - (c) A strip of natural habitat that connects fragmented habitats
 - (d) A corridor for transporting wildlife between zoos

Answer- (c)

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