

PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Weather Crop Insurance Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of PM Fasal Bima Yojana, weather crop insurance scheme.

Key Points

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired has approved continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with an overall outlay of Rs.69,515.71 Crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**
- ❖ The decision will help in **risk coverage of crops from non-preventable natural calamities for farmers across the country till 2025-26.**
- ❖ In addition to the same, for large scale technology infusion in implementation of the scheme leading to increasing transparency and claim calculation and settlement, the **Union Cabinet has also approved creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of Rs.824.77 Crore.**
- ❖ The fund will be utilised towards funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, **YES-TECH, WINDS**, etc as well as Research and Development studies.
- ❖ **Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH)** uses Remote Sensing Technology for yield estimation with minimum 30% weightage to Technology based yield estimates.
 - **9 Major States are currently implementing** (namely AP, Assam, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka).

- ❖ **Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS)** envisages setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at panchayat level.

➤ **9 Major States are in the process of implementing WINDS** (namely Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Puducherry, Assam, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand & Rajasthan are in progress), while other States have also expressed willingness to implement.

4th Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC

India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was submitted on 30th December, 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The BUR-4 updates the Third National Communication (TNC) and contains the National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the year 2020.
- ❖ The report also embodies information on India's national circumstances, mitigation actions, an analysis of the constraints, gaps, related finance, technology, and capacity-building needs.

As per the report:

- ❖ **GHG Emissions:** In 2020, India's total GHG emissions decreased by **7.93 per cent with respect to 2019.**
- ❖ **Sector wise contribution:** The energy sector contributed the most to overall emissions (**75.66 percent**), followed by agriculture (**13.72 percent**), Industrial Processes and Product Use (8.06 percent), and Waste (2.56 percent).

- ❖ **India's achievements in respect of the NDC targets:** India has progressively continued decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions. Between 2005 and 2020, **India's emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reduced by 36%.**

- By October 2024, the share of **non-fossil sources in the installed electricity generation capacity was 46.52%.**
- Total installed capacity of renewable power, including large hydropower, is 203.22 GW and cumulative renewable power installed capacity (excluding large hydro projects) has increased 4.5 times from 35 GW in March 2014 to 156.25 GW.
- **India's forest and tree cover has consistently increased and currently stands at 25.17% of the total geographical area** of the country. During 2005 to 2021, an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent has been created.

Outcomes

- ❖ Despite India's very low contribution to historical emissions and the current levels of global emissions, India has taken proactive actions to combat climate change in the context of sustainable development and its developmental aspirations.
- ❖ This is in light of India's national circumstances, reflecting principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), as enshrined in the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

National Sports Awards 2024

On 2nd January 2024, The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The Selection Committee for the awards was headed by **former Supreme Court Judge Justice (Retd.) V. Ramasubramanian** and eminent sportspersons, persons having experience in sports journalism and sports administrators.
- ❖ The awardees will receive their awards from the President Droupadi Murmu at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th January 2025.

Following are the winners:

- ❖ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** World Chess Champion D Gukesh, Double Medalist in Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Indian Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Gold Medalist in Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar are awarded with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ **Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024:** 32 Sportspersons are given Arjuna Award. They include Athletes Jyothi Yarraji and Annu Rani, Boxers Nitu and Saweety, Chess player Vantika Agrawal, Hockey players Salima Tete, Abhishek, Sanjay, Jarmanpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh. Para-Archer Rakesh Kumar, Para Athletes Preeti Pal, Jeevanji Deepthi, Ajeet Singh and Sachin Khilari.



- ❖ **Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024:** Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar are honoured with Arjuna Awards (Lifetime).
- ❖ **Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2024:** Para-Shooting coach Subhash Rana, Shooting coach Deepali Deshpande, Hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan, Badminton coach S Muralidharan and Football coach Armando Agnelo Colaco are presented Dronacharya Award.
- ❖ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:** The Physical Education Foundation of India is given Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.
- ❖ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy:** Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar are given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.

List of Nuclear Installations

On 1st January 2025, India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between both countries.

Key Points

- ❖ The list was exchanged **through diplomatic channels simultaneously in New Delhi and Islamabad.**
- ❖ The Agreement was signed on **31st December 1988 and entered into force on 27th January 1991.**
- ❖ It provides that India and Pakistan inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every year.

Person In News- Appointments

IPS Vitul Kumar

- ❖ He has been appointed as **DG of the Central Reserve Police Force by the central government.**
- ❖ He replaced Aneesh Dayal Singh on December 31, 2024.
- ❖ He is a **1993-batch IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre** and was serving as Special Director General of the CRPF.



Bhuvnesh Kumar

- ❖ He is an IAS officer from the 1995 Uttar Pradesh cadre he has **assumed the charge as the chief executive officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**
- ❖ Along with the new role, Kumar would continue on as the additional secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).



Important Day/Dates

Jan 1

- ❖ **Global Family Day**
- ❖ It is celebrated annually on **January 1st every year.**
- ❖ The idea was proposed in November 1997 and inspired by the book One Day In Peace.
- ❖ In 1999, all UN member states were encouraged to spend the first day of the year creating plans on maintaining peace. Due to the success of this day, the **UN declared Global Family Day an annual event in 2001.**
- ❖ **The theme for Global Family Day 2025 is 'One World, One Family: Building Bridges Across Generations.'**



Sports

Santosh Trophy

- ❖ It is a **national football championship**.
- ❖ **West Bengal** re-asserted its supremacy in the championship by clinching the title for a record 33rd time with a 1-0 win against Kerala.

FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship 2024

- ❖ **Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi** have agreed to share the **2024 FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship** title after Carlsen's suggestion seven games into their final.
- ❖ Carlsen won his eighth world blitz title, while Nepomniachtchi deservedly picked up his first.
- ❖ This is the first individual chess world championship title that has ever been shared.

Important News- Worldwide

Russia

- ❖ Russia has introduced a **new tourist tax** from **January 1, 2025**, to replace the **previous resort fee**. Travellers will pay an additional 1 percent of their lodging costs, increasing to 3 percent by 2027.

- ❖ The tax was introduced as part of amendments to the Russian Tax Code in July 2024, which added a new chapter titled "Tourist Tax," granting regional authorities discretion to implement the tax as a local levy.

Switzerland

- ❖ Switzerland **ban on burqa** came into force on 1st Jan 2025.
- ❖ The ban was supported by the voters in March 2021.
- ❖ The burqa ban is part of the new constitutional article which calls for the probation of covering the face.

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