Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

Key Points:

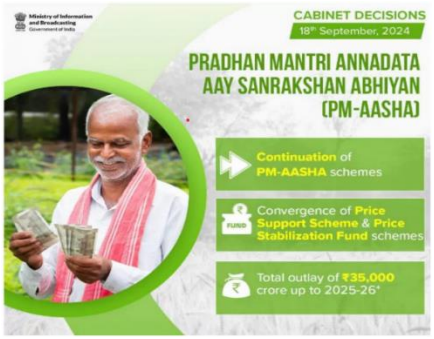
- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA) scheme, allocating Rs 35,000 crore for the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26.
- This significant decision aims to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and manage price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.
- The PM-AASHA scheme consolidates the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) into a unified program to enhance its effectiveness.

Aspects	Description
About	1. The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is a comprehensive scheme introduced by the Government of India. 2. Launched to support the goal of doubling farmers' income, the scheme aims to shield farmers from market fluctuations. 3. It addresses price volatility in the agricultural sector, ensuring fair compensation for farmers' crops.
Aim	To guarantee that farmers receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce.
Objective	To protect farmers from sharp declines in crop prices, the secure MSP system boosts their confidence to invest in quality inputs and sustain productivity, which is vital for national food security.

Components of PM-AASHA	1. **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** This scheme enables the government to procure pulses, oilseeds, and copra at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), ensuring that farmers receive fair compensation for their produce. 2. **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):** Under this scheme, farmers are compensated for the difference between the MSP and the actual market price when the latter falls below the MSP, safeguarding them from financial losses. 3. **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):** This scheme aims to protect farmers from distress sales during periods of surplus production and declining market prices. 4. **Price Stabilization Fund (PSF):** The fund is used to maintain buffer stocks of essential commodities like pulses and onions, stabilizing prices and ensuring their availability at affordable rates. 5. **Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS):** This experimental scheme, introduced on a pilot basis for oilseeds, involves the participation of private players in procuring crops at MSP.
Operational Framework	1. States and Union Territories (UTs) can opt for either the PSS or PDPS for oilseeds during a particular procurement season, but only one scheme can be implemented for a specific commodity within a state. 2. States can implement the PPSS on a pilot basis for oilseeds, with private stockists playing a central role in the procurement process. 3. Pulses and copra are procured under the PSS, while oilseeds may be covered under either the PSS or PDPS, depending on the state's decision.

- Starting from the 2024-25 season, the procurement of notified pulses, oilseeds, and copra at Minimum Support Price (MSP) will cover 25% of national production.
- This change aims to increase the amount of these crops procured at MSP, reducing the risk of distress sales.

- Notably, the procurement ceiling will not apply to Tur, Urad, and Masur for the 2024-25 season, as the government plans a 100% procurement of these pulses.
- The government has also renewed and increased its guarantee for the procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and copra, raising it to Rs. 45,000 crore.
- This move is expected to enhance the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (DA&FW)** ability to buy these commodities from farmers at MSP, including those registered on the **eSamridhi portal** of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the **eSamyukti** portal of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). This initiative aims to boost domestic production, reduce import dependency, and encourage cultivation of these crops.
- The extension of the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme will help mitigate extreme price fluctuations of agrihorticultural commodities.
- By maintaining strategic buffer stocks of pulses and onions, the PSF aims to control hoarding and speculation, ensuring that consumers have access to affordable prices.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) will manage the procurement of pulses above MSP and maintain buffer stocks to stabilize prices.

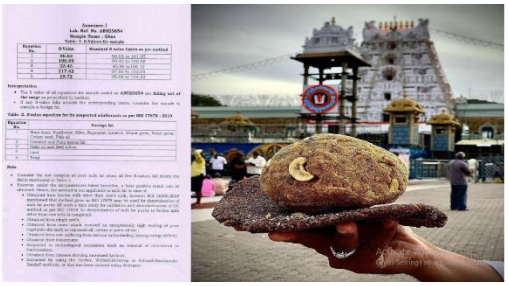


- Additionally, the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) has been extended and modified to better support farmers of perishable horticultural crops.
- The coverage has been increased from 20% to 25% of production, and a new option allows for direct differential payments to farmers' accounts instead of physical procurement.
- To further support farmers, the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) coverage for notified oilseeds has been increased from 25% to 40% of state production, with an extended implementation period of four months. The scheme will compensate farmers for the difference between MSP and the market price, with the central government covering up to 15% of MSP.

Chandrababu Naidu alleges animal fat in Lord's laddu

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that during the previous YSRCP regime, animal fat was used to prepare the Tirupati laddu prasadam at Tirumala.
- The opposition has rubbished the allegation and challenged Naidu to provide evidence. Naidu told a meeting of the NDA legislature party at Amaravati on Wednesday (September 18): "Even Tirumala laddu was made with substandard ingredients...
- They used animal fat instead of ghee." The TDP-led NDA government had sanitised the process and improved the quality of the laddus, he claimed.





- Tirupati is a city in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Its Sri Venkateswara Temple sits atop one of the the 7 peaks of Tirumala Hills, attracting scores of Hindu pilgrims.
- The famous prasadam of Lord Venkateswara is now more than 300 years old; the temple at Tirupati started offering the laddu to the Lord and as prasadam to devotees in 1715. The prasadam is prepared in a special kitchen known as Potu, by laddu makers who belong to a particular sect that has been doing this work for centuries.
- In 2014, the Registrar of Patents, Trademarks and Geographical Indications awarded GI status to the Tirupati laddu.
- This means that no one can sell a laddu by naming it "Tirupati laddu" . Pure, aromatic, high-quality ghee is one of the 10 ingredients that go into the preparation of the laddu. Apart from ghee, chickpea gram flour, sugar, small sugar cubes, cashew nut, cardamom, camphor, and raisins go into the preparation of the laddu.
- Every day, at least 400-500 kg of ghee, 750 kg of cashew nuts, 500 kg of raisins, and 200 kg of cardamom are used to prepare the laddus and other offerings to the Lord.

- The TTD procures the ghee for the laddus every six months, and purchases 5 lakh kg of ghee every year.
- According to this official, the quality of the ghee is tested on several parameters, including moisture content, aroma, free fatty acids, mineral oil, foreign colours, melting point, and rancidity."If the ghee fails on any one of these parameters, it is rejected.
- From July 2022 to July 2023, TTD rejected at least 42 truckloads of ghee from various suppliers for failing to meet the standards," the official said.
- Amul, which has forayed into Andhra Pradesh in recent years, is one of the main suppliers of the ghee, the official said.
- The TTD has a state-of-the-art food testing laboratory that conducts quality checks on a laddu from each batch. Each laddu must have precise quantities of cashew, sugar, and cardamom, and the weight of the laddu should be 175 grams. (The precise measurements are also a requirement for the GI tag.)
- The TDP claimed that the adulteration in the prasadam has been confirmed by Gujaratbased livestock laboratory, NDDB CALF Ltd on the ghee samples.
- Party spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy in a press conference displayed the purported lab report, which apparently confirmed the presence of "beef tallow" in the given ghee sample.
- But, there was no official confirmation on the lab report from either the state government or the TTD. The purported report also claimed the presence of "lard" (relating to pig fat) and fish oil in the samples. The sample receipt date was July 9 and the report was dated July 16.

10th Indian Bowler to take 400 International Wickets : Jasprit Bumrah

- Indian fast bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah became the sixth Indian fast bowler and 10th overall to claim 400 wickets in international cricket matches (Test matches, One Day Internationals and T-20 Internationals combined).
- Jasprit Bumrah achieved this milestone in the first test match

against Bangladesh at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Bangladesh's batsman Hasan Mahmud was Jasprit Bumrah's 400th victim at the international level.



- India defeated Bangladesh by 280 runs in the match to go 1-0 up in the 2-Test match series. Ravichandran Ashwin was named man of the match for his magnificent 113 runs in the first innings and matchwinning spell of 6/88 in the second innings.

T20 to all format bowlers:

- Jasprit Bumrah, who plays for Gujarat in domestic cricket, was initially considered an effective T-20 bowler due to his exploits in the Indian Premier League.
- He burst into fame in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as an excellent death bowler with a perfect yorker.
- While playing for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, he learned the art of bowling pinpoint yorkers from Sri Lankan great Lasith Malinga.
- Jasprit Bumrah, who has an awkward bowling action, debuted for India in a One Day International match against Australia in Sydney, Australia, on 23 January 2016.
- He played his first test match against South Africa in Cape Town on January 5-8, 2018.

Record of Jasprit Bumrah:

- Jasprit Bumrah has played 196 international matches, including the first test match against Bangladesh. He has taken 401 wickets at an average of 21.01, with the best bowling figures of 6/19 against England in a One Day International.
- In 37 Tests, Bumrah has taken 163 wickets at an average of 20.49, with the best figures of 6/27 against West Indies. He has 10 five-wicket hauls in the Test matches.
- In 89 One Day Internationals, Bumrah has taken 149 wickets at an average of 23.55, with the best figures of 6/19 against England.
- In T20Is, Bumrah has taken 89 wickets at an average of 17.74, with the best figures of 3/7 against Afghanistan.

Following is the list of the top 10 wicket-takers of India in International matches

1. Anil Kumble (spinner)- 953 wickets in 401 matches
2. Ravichandran Ashwin (spinner)- 750 wickets in 282 matches
3. Harbhajan Singh (spinner)- 707 wickets in 365 wickets
4. Kapil Dev(fast bowler)- 687 wickets in 356 matches
5. Zaheer Khan (fast bowler)- 597 wickets in 303 matches
6. Ravindra Jadeja (spinner)- 570 wickets in 344 matches
7. Javagal Srinath (fast bowler)- 551 wickets in 296 matches
8. Muhammad Sami (fast bowler)- 448 wickets in 188 matches
9. Ishant Sharma (fast bowler)- 434 wickets in 199 matches
10. Jasprit Bumrah (fast bowler)- 402 wickets in 196 matches.

Bhupendra Yadav launches Clean the Beach Campaign 2024 in Mumbai

- The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, led the country in this year's Clean the Beach Campaign on the occasion of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024.
- The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai. The Clean the Beach Campaign was simultaneously undertaken on more than 100 beaches across the country.
- The campaign is part of the government of India's "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" and "Swachh Sagar Abhiyan," which call for a mass cleanliness and sanitation campaign in the country with public participation.

Clean the Beach Campaign

- The Clean the Beach Campaign was launched by the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 5 June 2018 on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The campaign focuses on encouraging citizens to clean up coastal areas of man-made trash like plastic bottles, cigarette buts, glass, etc., and create awareness about preserving and protecting the oceans and waterways.
- The 2024 Clean the Beach Campaign has been undertaken by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and the coastal State/Union Territories government.

Coastal State and Union Territories in India

- The Clean, the Beach Campaign was undertaken along the beaches of the following States/Union Territories of India: Gujarat, Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Union Territory Lakshadweep, Union Territory Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, and the Union Territory Andaman and Nicobar islands.

About the International Coastal Clean-up Day

- Since 1986, the International Coastal Clean-Up Day has been observed on the third Saturday of September. In 2024, it will be observed on 21 September.
- The International Coastal Clean-Up Day was first observed in 1986 in the United States of America.
- It was founded by Linda Maraniss and Kathy O'Hara, who worked for a nonprofit organisation, Ocean Conservancy of the United States of America. On this day, volunteers go to local beaches and collect the trash left over by people visiting the beaches. Since then, it has grown into an international movement that has spread worldwide.

Jordan became the first country to eliminate Leprosy

- In a historic achievement, Jordan has become the first country to eliminate leprosy, receiving official verification from the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- This milestone reflects the country's commitment to eradicating a disease that has plagued humanity for centuries and signifies a major breakthrough in global public health efforts.
- Jordan's journey to this remarkable achievement began many years ago with targeted public health campaigns, early detection programs, and free, accessible treatments for all citizens.



What is Leprosy?

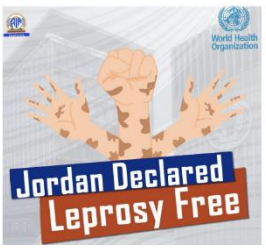
- Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria called "Mycobacterium leprae".

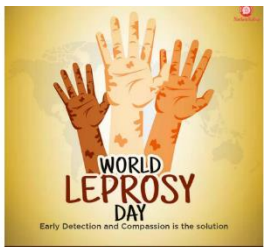
- The disease affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes.
- Leprosy is known to occur at all ages ranging from early childhood to old age. Leprosy is not inherited, but it is transmitted via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.




About Jordan

- Capital- Amman
- Currency- Jordanian Dinar
- King- Abdullah II
- Continent- Asia
- Official language- Arabic





- World Leprosy Day is observed every year on the last Sunday of January. In India, it is observed on 30th January every year, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- What is the Purpose of World Leprosy Day Observation? The theme for World Leprosy Day 2024 is "Beat Leprosy".
- This theme encapsulates the dual objectives of the day: to eradicate the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote the dignity of people affected by the disease.
- The primary objective of the day is to raise awareness among the general public about the stigma associated with leprosy.
- Educating people that leprosy is caused by a specific bacteria and is easily treatable forms a crucial part of the awareness campaign.

Global Burden of Leprosy:

- Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) that still occurs in more than 120 countries, with more than 200,000 new cases reported every year. In 2022, 182 countries reported over 1.65 lakh cases of leprosy, including 174,087 new cases. According to the WHO, most countries with high rates of new leprosy cases are in the WHO African and South-East Asia Regions.

India and Leprosy:

- India has achieved the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem as per WHO criteria of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at the National level in 2005. Leprosy is endemic in several states and union territories of India. The prevalence rate of leprosy is 0.4 per 10,000 population in the country

National Strategic Plan (NSP) & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27):

- It is launched to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027 i.e. three years before the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3. SDG 3.3 is by 2030, to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Anurag Garg appointed as DG of Narcotics Control Bureau

- Anurag Garg has been appointed as the new director general of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- Garg is currently working as an Additional DG in the Border Security Force (BSF) at its headquarters here. Garg is the 1993 batch Indian Police Service officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre.



India extends USD 50 million budgetary support to Maldives for another year

- India has extended budgetary support to the Maldives government in the form of a rollover of the USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's request.
- At the request of the Maldivian government, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed the USD 50 million government Treasury Bills (T-bills) issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Maldives for a period of one more year upon the maturity of the previous subscription



- This is the second rollover granted by the Indian government this year,

following the first rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill in May.

- Earlier in May 2024, SBI had similarly subscribed a USD 50 mn T-bills under same mechanism, again on the request of the Government of Maldives.
- These subscriptions have been made at the special request of the Government of Maldives as emergency financial assistance.

International Day of Peace

- International Day of Peace is observed every year on 21 September.
- The Day is observed by humanity to promote a culture of peace, advocate a halt to hostilities and conflict around the world and resolve disputes and differences through dialogue and peace education.
- Theme 2024 – Cultivating a Culture of Peace Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.



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