

07 August 2024

India retains eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023: WTO



Key Points:

- ❖ Despite a drop in its agriculture exports in 2023 to \$51 billion from \$55 billion in 2022, India maintained its position as world's eighth largest exporter of agriculture products in the year as seven of the top ten exporting nations witnessed a decline, per figures collated by the WTO.
- ❖ Among the leading exporters of agricultural products, Brazil, the European Union and Thailand increased their exports by 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively in 2023.
- ❖ The other seven economies in the top 10 saw a decrease in their exports of agricultural products.
- ❖ Brazil's agriculture exports increased to \$157 billion in 2023 from \$148 billion in 2022 while it retained the third spot.
- ❖ China was the fourth largest agriculture exporter in 2023 with shipments valued at \$95 billion which was marginally below exports worth

\$96 billion in 2022. Other countries among top ten agriculture exporters include Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and Australia.

- ❖ India retains eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023: WTO The EU maintained its top position in 2023 by exporting agriculture produce valued at \$836 billion compared to \$799 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The US, too, continued at the second spot despite a drop in agriculture exports in 2023 to \$198 billion as opposed to \$222 billion in the previous year.

Jakarta hosts 5th AITIGA joint committee meeting progresses ASEAN-India trade relations



Key Points:

- ❖ The 5th meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) joint committee was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ AITIGA Joint Committee had initiated discussions for review of AITIGA in May 2023 and after finalising its Terms of Reference and Negotiating Structure,

AITIGA JC and its SubCommittees started negotiations in February 2024.

- ❖ The first 2 rounds of negotiations were held in February 2024 in New Delhi and in May 2024 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
- ❖ During the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all eight SubCommittees focused on 'National Treatment and Market Access', 'Rules of Origin', 'Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures', 'Sanitary and Phytosanitary', 'Legal and Institutional Issues', 'Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation', 'Trade Remedies', and 'Economic and Technical Cooperation' convened alongside the 5th AITIGA JC and engaged in substantive discussions, making significant progress.

Kelly Ortberg appoints as new CEO of Boeing



Key Points:

- ❖ Longtime aerospace executive Robert "Kelly" Ortberg has been selected as the CEO of Boeing. She will replace Dave Calhoun.

- ❖ Ortberg, 64, started his career at Texas Instruments before joining Rockwell Collins, an aviation tech company, in 1987.
- ❖ He oversaw the acquisition of Rockwell by United Technologies Corporation in 2018 and retired in 2021. He joined Rockwell as a program manager and worked his way up to become its CEO in 2013.
- ❖ Rockwell was named one of the best large employers in the country by Forbes under Ortberg's leadership.

Daljit Singh Chawdhary takes over additional charge of Director General, BSF



Key Points:

- ❖ Daljit Chawdhary has been appointed to helm the BSF a day after incumbent director general Nitin Agarwal was repatriated prematurely to his parent Kerala cadre Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- ❖ Daljit Singh Chawdhary has taken over the additional charge of Director General, Border Security Force.
- ❖ Chawdhary is a senior IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He assumed the

charge of DG SSB in January this year.

- ❖ Daljit Singh Chawdhary, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, took charge as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday.
- ❖ Chawdhary is currently director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Chawdhary has been appointed to helm the BSF a day after incumbent director general Nitin Agarwal was repatriated prematurely to his parent Kerala cadre.
- ❖ The Centre also sent back 1990 IPS officer Yogesh Khurania back to his parent Odisha cadre, wherein he has been appointed as director general of police (DGP)

Manu Bhaker named flag bearer at Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony



- ❖ India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker is set to be India's flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
- ❖ India's men's flagbearer for the closing ceremony is yet to be confirmed. The closing ceremony of the Paris

Olympics will take place on August 11.

- ❖ Bhaker brought her A-game in Paris and broke numerous accolades to claim two bronze medals in the Summer Games.
- ❖ Bhaker is the first athlete from the Indian contingent after independence to get two medals in a single edition of the Paris Olympics.
- ❖ Earlier in the 1900 Olympics, Norman Pritchard won two medals while representing India, both silver in the 200m and 200m hurdles.
- ❖ Bhaker also joined an elite group of athletes to have multiple individual medals at the Olympics: PV Sindhu (badminton silver at Rio 2016 and bronze medal at Tokyo 2020) and Sushil Kumar (wrestling bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics).

India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal



Key Points:

- ❖ India has signed an MoU with and Vietnam to develop the National

Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat.

- ❖ This partnership, rooted in centuries-old maritime connections, highlights the enduring bond between the two countries and their commitment to preserving and celebrating their shared heritage.
- ❖ This MoU marks a significant step forward in the collaborative efforts to bring the NMHC to life, further strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations.
- ❖ The collaboration on the NMHC will involve various aspects aimed at showcasing the maritime heritage of both nations.
- ❖ The complex will emphasize the historical and cultural ties between India and Vietnam, highlighting the closeness and longevity of their shared maritime history.
- ❖ The project, which commenced in March 2022, is being developed at a cost of around Rs. 4500 crores and will include several innovative and unique features.
- ❖ These include a Lothal mini recreation to replicate Harappan architecture and lifestyle, four theme parks (Memorial theme park, Maritime and Navy theme park, Climate theme park, and Adventure and Amusement theme park), and fourteen galleries highlighting India's maritime heritage

from the Harappan times to the present day.

- ❖ Additionally, there will be a Coastal States pavilion displaying the diverse maritime heritage of India's states and Union Territories.

Veteran Bharatanatyam dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy dies



Key Points:

- ❖ Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy died at the age of 83.
- ❖ Born on December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to Sanskrit scholar M. Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- ❖ Ms. Krishnamurthy received the Padma Shri at the young age of 28 in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016.
- ❖ She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

Former England batter Graham Thorpe passes away



Key Points:

- ❖ Former England batter and coach Graham Thorpe passed away.
- ❖ Shortly before that, he had accepted the job as head coach of Afghanistan. Thorpe played 100 Tests for England, scoring 16 centuries, before retiring in 2005.
- ❖ He started his coaching career in Australia before joining the England and Wales Cricket Board as a batting coach.
- ❖ He was an assistant coach for the men's team under Trevor Bayliss and Chris Silverwood.

Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in Assam



Key Points:

- ❖ At the Tata Group's ₹27,000-crore greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam, which is expected to be operationalised by next

year, around 15 billion chips will be packaged annually for customers globally.

- ❖ The chips, which will be packaged at the Jagiroad facility in Assam, will power electric vehicles, healthcare devices, mobile phones, laptops, and other key products of leading global companies around the world.
- ❖ This assembly and test facility will be able to directly ship semiconductor chips to end-users and OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) in India and the world.
- ❖ The facility is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region.
- ❖ The project is envisioned under the Government of India's Semiconductor policy, which is driven by the India Semiconductor Mission and the Government of Assam's Electronics policy.

Veteran Gandhian Shobhana Ranade passes away



Key Points:

- ❖ Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away at the age of 100. She was

honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for her social work in 2001.

- ❖ Ranade's work for destitute women and children is remarkable. She helped set up the Gandhi National Memorial Society at Aga Khan Palace, Pune, and a training institute for women. She established a children's village called 'Baal Gram' and gave a home to hundreds of orphan children.
- ❖ She was an active member of the Save Ganga Movement, a movement established to prevent pollution of the Ganga River through the Gandhi National Memorial Society.

RIL top-ranked Indian Company on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List



Key Points:

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) maintained its status as the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list.
- ❖ Nine Indian companies were included in the 2024 list, with RIL improving its rank from 86 to 88. Only eight Indian companies were included in

the list in 2023, and HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.

- ❖ Companies are ranked on the Fortune Global 500 by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ending on or before March 31, 2024.
- ❖ The 2024 Fortune Global 500 List was released by the global multi-platform media company Fortune on 5 August 2024. American company Walmart retained its top position on the list for the 11th consecutive year.

Hiroshima Day

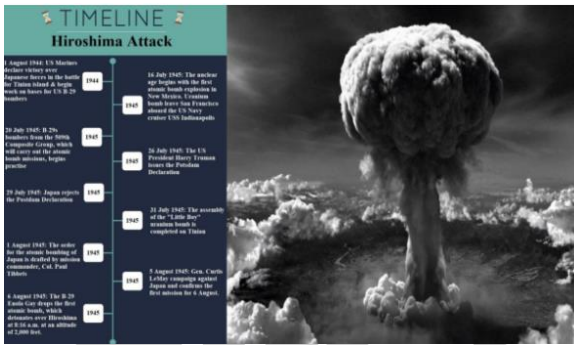


Key Points:

- ❖ Hiroshima Day is observed every year on 6 August.
- ❖ Objective – To raise awareness of the catastrophic consequences of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima.
- ❖ On 6 August 1945, a United States warplane dropped the powerful "Little Boy", the first atomic bomb, over Hiroshima in Japan, killing over 140,000 people.
- ❖ A US B-29 bomber aircraft dropped the bomb at 8:15 am. Three days later, Nagasaki was bombed after the US

dropped, “Fat Man”, another atomic weapon, in its war against imperial Japan.

- ❖ This year commemorated the 79th anniversary of this event.



Chief adviser of Bangladesh's post-Hasina government



- ❖ Muhammad Yunus, the winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, will become the chief adviser to the interim government in Bangladesh.
- ❖ On Monday (August 5), Army Chief Waker-uz-Zaman announced the formation of an interim government after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country in the

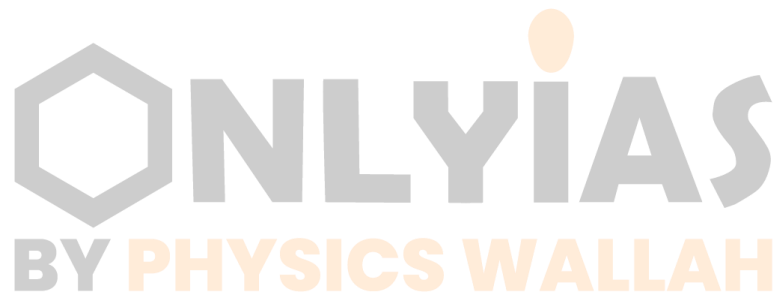
face of ongoing protests that began over quotas for the kin of freedom fighters in government jobs.

- ❖ Yunus, now 84 years old, is a globally recognised economist and has pioneered a system of microfinance that is believed to have helped a large number of Bangladeshis break out of extreme poverty.
- ❖ Born in 1940 in Chittagong, Yunus received his PhD in economics from Vanderbilt University in the United States in 1969, and began a teaching career.
- ❖ He returned after Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan, and was appointed head of the economics department at Chittagong University.
- ❖ As Bangladesh struggled to stabilise its economy and tackle poverty in the post-independence years, Yunus came up with a unique idea: microcredit, or small loans without collateral to entrepreneurs who wouldn't normally qualify for bank loans, on terms that were suitable to them.
- ❖ The success of a local experiment convinced Yunus that the model could be scaled up — and in 1983, his flagship initiative, Grameen Bank, was launched. The bank is widely considered to be a great success — it has disbursed collateral-free loans adding up to more than \$34 billion

among close to 10 million people since its inception, with a recovery rate of more than 97%, the Bangladeshi newspaper Daily Sun reported last year.

- ❖ Banks based on Grameen Bank's microcredit model now operate in more than 100 countries around the

world. In 2006, Yunus and Grameen Bank were awarded the Peace Nobel "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below". Yunus came to be known as the "Banker to the Poor".



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>