

NEWS TODAY

GOVERNMENT FRAMING GUIDELINES FOR CHANGES IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT POLICY (PPP)

- It is reported that the Centre is working on **comprehensive guidelines to reform public procurement** to **avoid** problems such as **time and cost overruns, compromise with quality and irregularities**.
- Public procurement refers to the process by which **governments and state-owned enterprises purchase goods and services from the private sector**.
- Need for changing PPP**
 - The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) analysis found instances of **mis-tendering, cartelization, collusive bidding, bureaucratic hassles, dominance** by firms through predatory pricing, etc.
 - Prevention of mismanagement is needed as share of **public procurement is estimated to be at anything between 20 to 30% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- Measures taken by government towards Public procurement**
 - Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** is a one stop portal to **facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services**, enhance **transparency, efficiency and speed** in public procurement.
 - Relaxed Norms of Public Procurement for Start-ups** with an objective to provide an equal platform to Start-ups across sectors vis-à-vis experienced entrepreneurs in public procurement.
 - Centre issued Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017** to promote manufacturing and production of goods, services and works in India.



GOVERNMENT EXTENDS FREE IMPORT POLICY WINDOW FOR PULSES TILL DECEMBER 31

- Earlier, the **import policy for free imports was to expire on October 31** with arrivals allowed till November 30.
- Significance of the move**
 - To prevent **shortage in domestic production due to disruption in monsoon** (between June and July) compounded by excessive rainfall.
 - To **give importers ample time to procure and ship pulses to India** as due to non-availability of containers and **high traffic** on ports were causing delay in shipments of imported pulses.
- About Pulses**
 - Pulses are the edible seeds** of plants in the legume family.
 - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognizes 11 types of pulses: dry beans, dry peas, chickpeas etc.
 - India is the **largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%) of global import in the world**.
- Challenges in pulse production**
 - Around 84% area under pulses is rain-fed.**
 - High yield gap** (yield Achieved in Experimental Lab Conditions to the actual Farmer's field in India).
 - Non-availability of location specific/recommended HYVs** quality certified seeds.
 - High vulnerability to **biotic and abiotic stresses**.
 - Inadequate **Post-Harvest infrastructure**.

Steps taken to improve pulse production

- Integrated Schemes of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize or ISOPOM:** To strengthen the market invention and effective pricing policies.
- National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses:** A Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Price Support Scheme (PSS) for MSP for pulses, oilseeds and copra** under the umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).

THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MWCD) TO BRING RULES TO EASE INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION

- The **Adoption Amendment Regulations 2021**, vetted by the Law Ministry, **will ensure that the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)**, which regulates adoptions under the Juvenile Justice Act, **speedily grants No-objection certificate (NOC)** to prospective parents who opt for inter-country adoption under the HAMA.
 - At present, there are **two routes for inter country adoption in India** – one through **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** which CARA regulates and other under the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA)**.
 - So far, for adoptions through CARA, parents can **receive NOC for getting passports for their children** to travel overseas. But, in case of adoptions under HAMA, **parents were forced to move court to obtain NOC as there was no other mechanism**.
- Last month, the MWCD **waived the two-year mandatory period** that an adoptive family would have to stay in the country for constant monitoring by CARA and other authorities.
 - In such cases, the **Indian missions will monitor the progress and security of the adopted child**, instead of CARA and other authorities.
- **Significance:** To facilitate ease in carrying out adoptions, while at the same time ensure prevention of abuse or child trafficking.

- **CARA** is a statutory body **under MoWCD** and acts as **nodal body for adoption of Indian children both in-country and inter-country adoptions**.
- **HAMA**, established in 1956 covers Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains.

A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR OPPORTUNITY: REPURPOSING AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT TO TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEM

- **Report has been published by the** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the eve of Food Systems Summit (FSS).

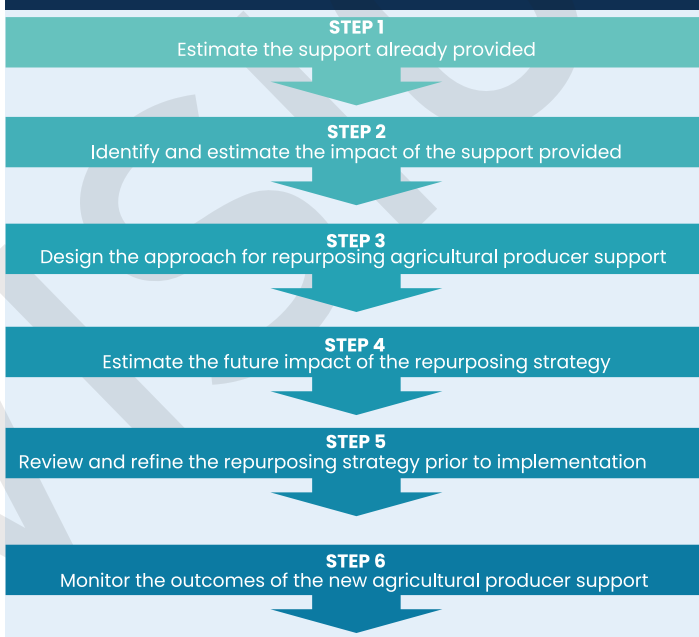
- The UN FSS will take place during the UN General Assembly in New York on September 23.

- It will seek to set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Key highlights of the Report

- **Price incentives and fiscal subsidies** are forms of support that may have **significant negative implications on food systems**.
- **Emission-intensive and unhealthy commodities like sugar, beef, milk and rice receive more support** than healthier and more nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables.
- **Distorting support measures** are still prevalent in **high and middle-income countries**.
- Support to **farmers in low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa is negligible** due to lack of financial resources.
- The **farming sector in India has been largely penalised** over the last 20 years, due to the strong focus of Indian agricultural policy **on protecting consumers by ensuring affordable food prices**.

Six steps for repurposing and reforming agricultural producer support



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SIGNS 5 MOUS WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES FOR TAKING FORWARD DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

- MoUs were signed for pilot projects with CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML).

- Based on these pilot projects farmers will be able to take **informed decisions on what crop to grow, what variety of seed to use and what best practises to adopt to maximise the yield**.

- The agriculture **supply chain players can plan their procurement and logistics on precise and timely information**.

- Ministry is also **creating a federated Farmers Database under AgriStack and building different Services around this Database** so as to build Digital Ecosystems of Agriculture.




- Under this unified database for all farmers the **information of all benefits and supports of various schemes of Central & State Government can be kept** and this can be the source for accessing information for providing benefits to farmers in the future.

- Government's schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), PM-KISAN and Soil Health Card will be integrated through a common database** along with land record details over a period of time.

- So far, the database is ready with details of around 5.5 crore farmers.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Cluster Development Fund (CDF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) handed over Rs 350 crore commitment letter to Assam government under CDF. • Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has adopted Cluster Development Programme (CDP) for enhancing the productivity, competitiveness and capacity building of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It set up common facility centres for testing, training centre, complementing production processes, etc. ➤ Promotes green & sustainable manufacturing technology for the clusters. ➤ Create/upgrade infrastructural facilities in new/existing Industrial Clusters of MSEs.
 <p>SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages And Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development has inaugurated national meet on SVAMITVA Scheme: A Stepping-Stone Towards Upliftment of Rural Economy. • It is Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched by Indian Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day. • It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Helps in settlement of disputes at village level. • The demarcation would be done using Drone Surveying technology.
 <p>Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has issued Master Directions on Prepaid Payment Instruments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No entity can set up and operate payment systems for PPIs without prior approval or authorisation of the RBI. ➤ Classify PPIs in two categories – small PPIs and full KYC PPIs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They were earlier classified as closed systems, semi-closed systems and open system PPIs. • RBI under Payment and Settlement Act, 2005 defines PPIs as instruments of payment that facilitate buying of goods and services, including the transfer of funds, financial service and remittances, against the value stored within or on the instrument.
 <p>Richest 10% in India own over 50% of assets: NSS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the 'All India Debt & Investment Survey, 2019', conducted by the National Sample Survey, the richest 10% of Indians own over half of the country's physical and financial assets while the bottom 50% own less than 10%. • Within rural areas, where close to two-thirds of India lives, the skew was the highest in Delhi (top 10% owning 80.8% of assets and the bottom 50% just 2.1%) followed by Punjab (richest 10% own over 65% of assets and the bottom 50% just over 5%).
 <p>First Nasal Vaccine gets nod for Phase 2 trial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasal Vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech and supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nasal vaccine doses are given via the nose, rather than oral or through muscles. It helps to deliver the medication directly into the respiratory pathway. • The R&D for the vaccine is being supported under Mission COVID Suraksha which was launched under third stimulus package, Atmanirbhar 3.0 for consolidating available resources towards accelerated vaccine development.
 <p>Demand to reclassify 'Toxic 3 Os' used in sunscreen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US activists, politicians have submitted a Citizen Petition to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reclassify Toxic 3 Os (oxybenzone, octinoxate and octocrylene). • They urged that these chemicals be shifted to "Not Generally Recognized as Safe & Effective" (GRASE Category II). • These 'Toxic 3 Os' are active ingredients present in more than two-thirds of all sunscreens. • They pose a threat to public health, marine life and coral reefs.

 <p>Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by Atal Innovation Mission(AIM),NITI Aayog in collaboration with Dassault Systemes Foundation, the third in the series. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was conceptualized and rolled out in France in 2017. • About SEP 3.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Targets Young Innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), to push school students to become future innovators and entrepreneurs. ➤ Theme of this year is 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'
 <p>Fit India Quiz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced free registration for 2 lakh school students nominated by 1 lakh schools for Fit India Quiz. • Fit India Quiz, the first-ever nationwide quiz on sports and fitness for school children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched as part of Fit India Movement envisioned by Indian Prime Minister which has played a significant role in creating large scale awareness about the importance of leading a fit life. ➤ Open for students from all age groups. ➤ Have representations from every State/UT and will be a mix of online and broadcast rounds.
 <p>Project Udaan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIT-Bombay launches 'Project Udaan', which enables translation from English to Hindi and all Indian languages of textbooks and learning materials in engineering and all main streams of higher learning. • It aims to break the language barrier that many students face when they join institutes of higher education. The project is a donation based project.



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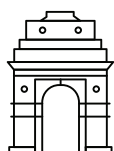
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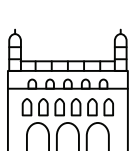
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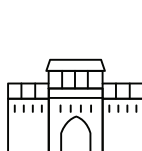
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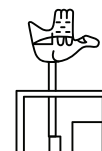
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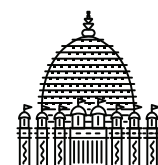
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