

NEWS TODAY

MOST FARMERS SELLING IN LOCAL MARKETS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROCURE THE LEAST: NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY (NSS)

- Recently, the 77th round of the NSS titled 'Land and livestock holdings of households and situation assessment of agricultural households' was released.

Key findings

- **Local market is preferred for selling:** Farmers sold 55-93% of their produce in local markets. In APMC markets, it ranged from 3-22%; while government procurement accounted for 2-14%.
- **Share of crops sold to APMC markets and government agencies:** Paddy, wheat and sugarcane had the highest share.
- **Satisfaction among farmers with return from their produce:** Majority of farmers are 'satisfied'.
 - But for pulses satisfactory level is lower in comparison to other crops due to lower market price, delayed payments etc.

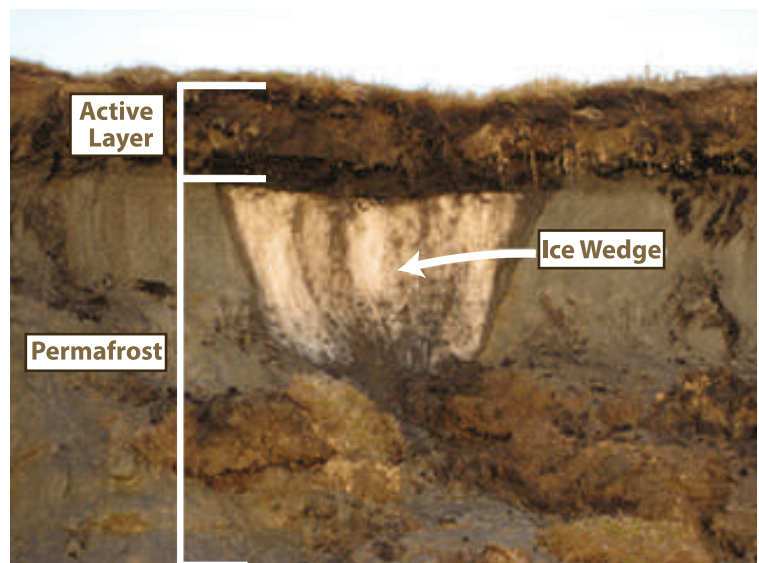


Recent Steps taken to link the farmers with the markets

- **The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020**, allows farmers to sell outside of their designated districts APMC, thereby advancing their interaction with the market directly.
- **The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020**, focuses on creating avenues for farmers to engage in contract farming through verbal or written contracts.
- **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** under 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA).

CAN THAWING PERMAFROST CAUSE ANOTHER PANDEMIC?

- Permafrost is defined as **ground** (soil, rock and any included ice or organic material) **that remains at or below zero degree Celsius for at least two consecutive years.**
- The latest IPCC report has warned that increasing global warming will result in reductions in Arctic permafrost and the thawing of the ground is expected to **release greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide.**
 - It is believed that some bacteria and viruses can lie dormant for thousands of years in permafrost.
 - Defreezing of permafrost may release these microbes into the environment **which may have potential to cause new diseases.**
- Other impacts of permafrost thawing**
 - **A reduction in bearing capacity** (the ability of frozen ground to carry structural loads) of the **structural foundations in the Arctic.**
 - Water released may cause **soil collapse and increase transport of solutes**, including organic matter, nutrients and pollution, which may be carried long distances by river or sea water.



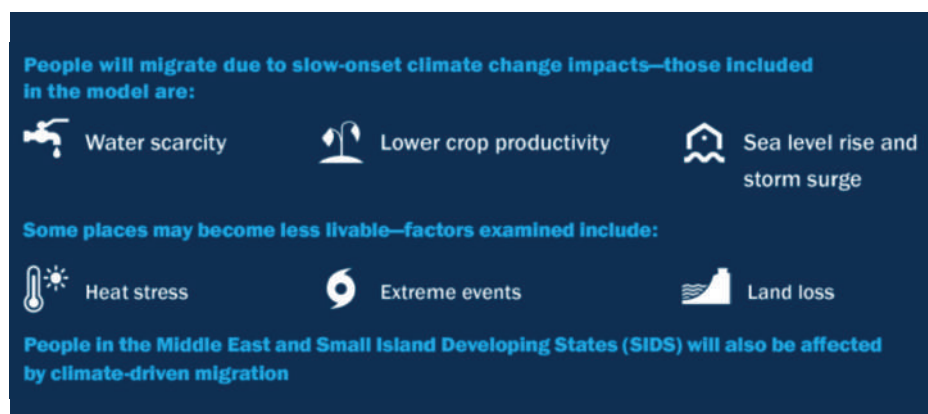
- Permafrost is spread across an area of over 23 million square kilometers, **covering about 15% of the land area of the globe.**
 - In the Northern Hemisphere, **24% of the ice-free land area, is more or less influenced by permafrost.** Most of this area is found in **Siberia, Canada, Alaska and Greenland.**

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) ANNOUNCED OPENING OF THE THIRD COHORT UNDER REGULATORY SANDBOX (RS)

- RS refers to **live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment** for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
 - RS allows market participants to **collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial innovations**, while carefully monitoring and containing their risks.
 - Theme for the **Third Cohort will be MSME Lending**.
- RBI had invited applications for the **First Cohort with theme of 'Retail Payments' in 2019** and for the **Second Cohort with theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in 2020**.
 - Objective of the RS is **to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers**.
- **Benefits of RS**
 - **Fosters 'learning by doing' on all sides** including regulators, financial service providers, Innovators and FinTech companies and customers.
 - **Allows testing of product's viability** without the need for a larger and more expensive roll-out.
 - FinTechs provide solutions that **can further financial inclusion** in a significant way.
 - **Better outcomes for consumers** through an increased range of products and services, reduced costs and improved access to financial services.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAN FORCE 216 MILLION PEOPLE TO MIGRATE WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES BY 2050

- Recently, the **World Bank's updated Groundswell report** was released.
- **Key findings**
 - **Climate change is a powerful driver of internal migration** because of its impacts on people's livelihoods and loss of liveability in highly exposed locations.
 - **Hotspots of internal climate migration can emerge as early as 2030** and continue to spread and intensify by 2050.
 - Hotspots of such migration would intensify in **rural, urban and coastal systems**.
 - **Sub-Saharan Africa will have the largest number of internal climate refugees** by 2050.
 - **Immediate and concerted action** to reduce global emissions and support green, inclusive and resilient development **could reduce the scale of climate migration by as much as 80%**.
- **Recommendations**
 - **Cut global greenhouse gases** to reduce the climate pressure that drives climate migration.
 - **Integrate climate migration** into far sighted green, resilient and inclusive development planning.
 - **Plan for each phase of migration**-before, during and after-to ensure positive adaptation and development outcomes.
 - **Invest in understanding the drivers of climate migration** through evidence-based research, models & consultations, to inform policy response.



ASSAM DIRECTS FOREIGNERS' TRIBUNALS (FTS) TO NOT PASS 'CONSEQUENTIAL ORDERS' ON DETENTION, DEPORTATION





- As per the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, **FTs (quasi-judicial bodies) were constituted to give an "opinion"** on whether a person is a foreigner or not, in accordance with the Foreigners Act (FA), 1946.
 - **However, FT members were passing consequential orders/directions** (deletion of names from voter list, arrest, detention and deportation of the declared foreigners), while giving opinion.
 - **About FTs**
 - **FTs get two kinds of cases:** Those against whom a "reference" has been made by border police, and those whose names in the electoral rolls have a D (Doubtful) against them.
 - FT is headed by a member who **can be a retired judicial officer, bureaucrat or lawyer with minimum seven years of legal practice**.
 - In 2019, Ministry of Home Affairs amended Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 **empowering district magistrates in all States & UTs to set up tribunals** to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- **FTs were first setup in 1964 and are unique to Assam.** In rest of the country, a foreigner apprehended by police for staying illegally is prosecuted in a local court and later deported/put in detention centres.







GOVERNMENT CURBS FUNDING FOR 10 CLIMATE CHANGE, CHILD LABOUR NGOS

- Order has been issued by **Reserve Bank of India**, restricting flow of finance to ten American, Australian and European NGOs by placing them under **"Prior Reference Category" (PRC list) using the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010**.
 - Placing under PRC means that **all foreign funds coming to these recipient NGOs will require prior clearance of Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - Move was taken by government **in light of many environmental NGOs portraying a wrong image of the government and hampering development work in India**.
 - For E.g. Advocacy against coal and intensifying pressure on India to raise Nationally Determined Contributions.
- In India, **MHA monitors foreign funds donated to NGOs and organisations through FCRA**.
 - FCRA **ensures that such donations do not adversely affect the internal security of the country**.
 - FCRA was amended in 2020** making it more stringent with provisions like
 - Prohibition of transfer of funds** from one NGO to another.
 - Decrease of administrative expenses** through foreign funds from 50% to 20%.
 - Making Aadhaar mandatory** (OCI card and passport for foreigners) for registration.
 - Giving the government **powers to stop utilisation of foreign funds through a summary enquiry**.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>India and USA launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAFMD is one of the two main tracks (other track is strategic clean energy partnership) of the US-India Agenda 2030 partnership that was announced in April 2021. CAFMD will have three pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate action pillar to look at ways to reduce emissions in the next decade. Pillar for setting out a roadmap to achieve 450GW renewable energy (RE) in transportation, buildings and industry. Finance Pillar to collaborate on attracting finance to deploy 450 GW of RE and demonstrate at scale clean energy technologies.
 <p>REX MK II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an unmanned land platform (developed by Israel Aerospace Industries), intended to keep troops out of harms way in complex circumstances. REX MK II can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. It supports combat forces in gathering intelligence, providing logistical support, carrying injured soldiers, and helps execute remote attacks.
 <p>NCLT cannot allow changes to successful resolution plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Supreme Court (SC) held that Committee of Creditors approved resolution plan submitted to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cannot be modified or withdrawn as it would create another tier of negotiations. SC also ruled that Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process carried out under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) must be completed within 330 days as laid down by IBC.
 <p>Development Finance Institution (DFI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Minister highlighted that DFI, announced in budget will be operational soon. About DFI - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be created under The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) Act, 2021. Objective of DFI is to facilitate flow of long-term funds for Infrastructure projects. Earlier India had set up extremely successful DFIs such as Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) in 1948, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in 1964. Progressive decline of DFIs started from mid 1990s—post the liberalisation era.

 <p>NBFCs among others allowed to apply for Aadhaar e-KYC licence: RBI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, entities other than banking companies may, by notification of the central government (after consulting with the UIDAI and the appropriate regulator), be permitted to authenticate client's Aadhaar number using e-KYC facility provided by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). ➤ Accordingly, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), payment system providers desirous of obtaining Aadhaar Authentication License - KYC User Agency (KUA) License or sub-KUA License (to perform authentication through a KUA), issued by the UIDAI, may submit their application.
 <p>Coal Project enhances Green Cover under Mission Mode</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New projects of Coal India Ltd. (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal are not only reclaiming land to its original shape but also enhancing Green cover. ➤ Emphasis is to have simultaneous back filling of land after opencast Coal Mining operation and dense plantation thereon. ➤ This has helped in lowering down the effect of pollution substantially & has also helped in increasing Carbon offset. The Opencast Coal Project in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh is forging ahead in it.
 <p>FASTag-based parking services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched for the first time by Paytm at Delhi Metro parking to eliminate the need for stopping to pay cash at counter. About Fastag - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mandatory (from December 1, 2017) stickers for vehicles to enable seamless digital movement across toll plazas (national and state). ➤ Uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is valid for five years. ➤ Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.
 <p>HINDI DIWAS 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed every year on September 14 with the goal preserving and maintaining the language. Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of India on September 14, 1949. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 343 of Constitution states that official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. ➤ Article 351 provides for spread of Hindi language to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India. However, Hindi is not considered as a classical language in India.



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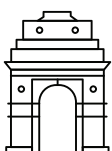
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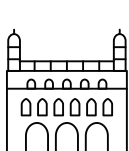
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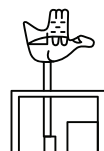
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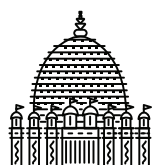
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CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI