

8 March, 2024

Area and Production of Horticultural Crops

Context: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released the Final Estimates of 2022-23 and First Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of various Horticultural Crops

➤ Overview:

- Horticulture area increased steadily from 28.04 million hectares in 2021-22 to 28.44 million hectares in 2022-23 (Final Estimates), and further to 28.77 million hectares in 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates).
- Production witnessed a rise from 347.18 million tonnes in 2021-22 to 355.48 million tonnes in 2022-23 (Final Estimates), maintaining stability at 355.25 million tonnes in 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates).

➤ Highlights of 2022-23 (Final Estimates):

- The overall horticulture production increased by 2.39% over 2021-22, amounting to 355.48 million tonnes.
- Fruit production notably reached 110.21 million tonnes, with significant increases observed in apple, banana, grapes, mango, and watermelon production.
- Vegetable production rose from 209.14 million tonnes in 2021-22 to 212.55 million tonnes in 2022-23, reflecting positive growth in most vegetables.
- Onion production slightly decreased from 316.87 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 to 302.08 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 (Final Estimates).
- Potato production witnessed a notable increase, reaching around 601.42 lakh tonnes compared to 561.76 lakh tonnes in the previous year.
- Tomato production showed a slight decline, estimated at around 204.25 lakh tonnes compared to 206.94 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.

➤ Highlights of 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates):

- Expected horticulture production for 2023-24 stands at 355.25 million tonnes.
- Fruit production is estimated to reach 112.08 million tonnes, primarily driven by increases in banana, mandarin, and mango production.
- Vegetable production is envisaged to be around 209.39 million tonnes, with expected increases in cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, tapioca, tomato, and other vegetables.
- Tomato production is expected to increase to around 208.19 lakh tonnes compared to around 204.25 lakh tonnes in the previous year.
- Onion production is anticipated to decrease to around 254.73 lakh tonnes due to declines in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- Potato production is expected to decrease slightly to around 589.94 lakh tonnes, attributed to decreases in West Bengal production.

➤ Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

- MIDH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at the holistic growth of the horticulture sector, covering a wide range of crops including fruits, vegetables, root

& tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa, and bamboo.

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare oversees the implementation of MIDH, which began in 2014-15 under the Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana.
- The funding pattern involves the Government of India contributing 60% of the total outlay for developmental programs in all states, except those in the North East and Himalayan regions, where the contribution is 90%.



• MIDH Sub-Schemes:

- National Horticulture Mission (NHM):** NHM is executed by State Horticulture Missions (SHM) in selected districts across 18 states and 6 union territories.
- Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH):** HMNEH focuses on the overall development of horticulture in the North East and Himalayan states.
- National Horticulture Board (NHB):** NHB implements various schemes under MIDH across all states and union territories.
- Coconut Development Board (CDB):** CDB is responsible for implementing MIDH schemes in all coconut-growing states.
- Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH):** CIH, established in Medini Zilla Hima, Nagaland, in 2006-07, provides technical support through capacity building and training of farmers and field functionaries in the North Eastern Region.

Article 371

Context: During a meeting with delegates from Ladakh, a region currently experiencing unrest, Union Home Minister Amit Shah proposed the extension of Article 371-like safeguards to the area.

➤ Article 371 and its Special Provisions:

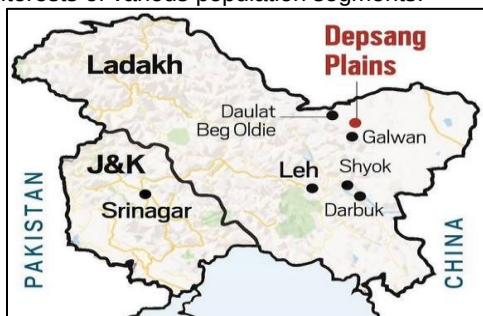
- Article 371 and its subsequent sections provide special provisions for specific states, aimed at granting representation to particular religious and social groups while allowing them autonomy over their affairs.
- These provisions prevent interference from state and central governments in the internal affairs of these states.

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- For example, Article 371-A pertains to Nagaland, preventing Parliament from enacting laws affecting Naga customs, land ownership, and social practices without the state Assembly's concurrence.
- Similar protections are extended to Mizos in Mizoram under Article 371-G.
- Articles 371-B and 371-C enable the establishment of special committees in the Legislative Assemblies of Assam and Manipur, respectively, comprising MLAs elected from tribal and hill areas.
- Article 371-F provides reservations in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly to safeguard the rights and interests of various population segments.



➤ Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and its Significance:

- The Sixth Schedule contains provisions for the administration of tribal areas in states like Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- It allows the creation of Autonomous District and Regional Councils (ADCs and ARCs) in these areas, empowering them to make laws on various subjects such as forest management, agriculture, and social customs.
- ADCs and ARCs can establish village councils or courts to resolve disputes among Scheduled Tribes, collect land revenue, impose taxes, regulate trade, and develop public facilities like schools and roads.
- Inclusion under the Sixth Schedule would grant Ladakh the authority to administer tribal areas and enact laws tailored to local needs.

➤ Offered Protections under Article 371 to Ladakh:

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah proposed extending Article 371-like protections to Ladakh during discussions with representatives.
- While the government assured addressing concerns related to jobs, land, and culture, it ruled out Ladakh's inclusion under the Sixth Schedule.
- Article 371-like safeguards would provide protections to Ladakh's local population without granting the extensive autonomy enjoyed by areas under the Sixth Schedule.
- These protections aim to ensure representation and participation of locals through hill councils and offer up to 80% reservation in public employment.

Anthropocene

Context: 18 scientists voted against declaring the beginning of the Anthropocene, or the "Human Epoch," in geological time.

➤ Geological Time Scale (GTS):

- Geoscientists use the GTS to measure Earth's history, which spans approximately 4.54 billion years.
- The GTS categorizes time into aeons, eras, periods, epochs, and ages based on chronostratigraphic classification.
- Each interval in Earth's history is marked by significant events that shape the planet and its living conditions.

➤ The Proposed 'Human Epoch':

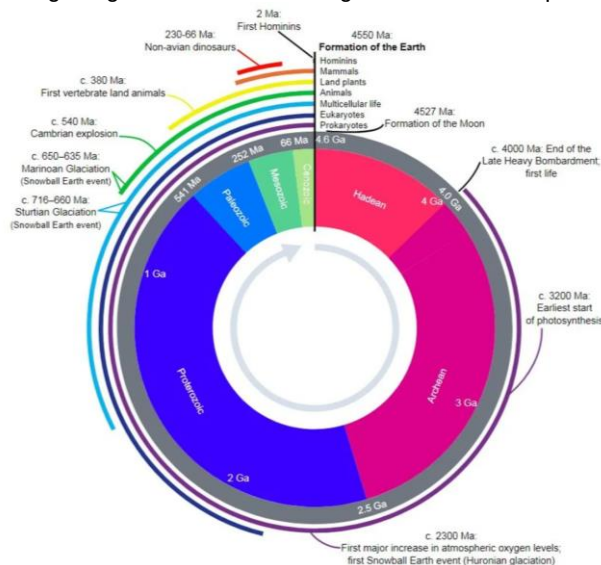
- The Holocene epoch began about 11,700 years ago, marking the end of the Last Glacial Period.
- This epoch saw a significant warming of the Earth and the rise of human civilization, encompassing all recorded human history.
- The term "Anthropocene" was coined in 2000, suggesting a new geological epoch defined by significant human impact on the Earth's systems.

➤ Rejection of the Proposal:

- The Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) proposed 1952 as the start of the Anthropocene epoch, citing significant human activities after World War II.
- The proposal was voted down by the Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy (SQS) due to insufficient evidence and criteria for defining a new epoch.
- Critics argue that the proposal risked oversimplifying the complex history of human impact on the Earth and lacked consensus among geoscientists.

➤ Continued Relevance:

- While the SQS vote rejected the proposal for a defined Anthropocene epoch, the concept of significant human impact on the planet remains relevant.
- Some scientists suggest viewing the Anthropocene as an "event" rather than a distinct epoch, acknowledging the transformative nature of human activity on Earth.
- Regardless of formal classification, evidence of human impact on the planet will endure in the geological record for future generations to interpret.



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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

International Women's Day



The President of India extended warm greetings to all women across the nation and beyond on the occasion of International Women's Day.

About International Women's Day:

- The International Women's Day is observed every year on **March 8**, to celebrate the **social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women**.
- This day serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about gender equality issues and **advocates for progress** towards a more equitable world.
- The United Nations has designated **this year's theme as 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' with a focus on addressing economic disempowerment**, while the campaign theme for this year is **'Inspire Inclusion'**.
- The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on **February 28, 1909**, which was organised by the Socialist Party of America to commemorate the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.
- Later in 1910, **Clara Zetkin proposed International Women's Day** at the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen.

National Creators Award



Today, the Prime Minister of India will present the first-ever National Creators Award at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

About the National Creator Award:

- The National Creators Award is an **initiative by the Government of India** to recognize the contributions of **digital creators and influencers**.
- The award aims to recognize excellence and impact across various domains, such as **storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education and gaming**.
- The National Creators Award serves as a platform to celebrate creativity and its potential to drive positive change.
- A total of **23 winners**, including three international creators, were selected across twenty categories.
- The award will be provided across twenty categories including the Best Storyteller Award, the Disruptor of the Year, Celebrity Creator of the Year, Green Champion Award, and Best Creator for Social Change.

Sahityotsav

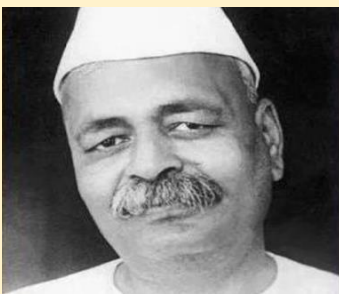


World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' by Sahitya Akademi will be held from the 11th to 16th of March.

About Sahityotsav:

- Sahityotsav, the **Festival of Letters** of Sahitya Akademi is India's most inclusive literature festival.
- It commemorates the **70th anniversary of Sahitya Akademi**, showcasing its contribution to Indian literature and culture.
- The festival will feature the presentation ceremony of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 on **March 12th at New Delhi's Kamani Auditorium**, recognizing outstanding literary works across different Indian languages.
- Pratibha Rai**, a distinguished Odia writer, will be the Chief Guest of the Awards Presentation Ceremony.
- Renowned Urdu writer and lyricist **Gulzar will deliver the Samvatsar lecture** on March 13th at the Meghdoot open theatre, offering insights into literary and cultural themes.

Personality in News Govind Ballabh Pant



Govind Ballabh Pant (10 September 1887- 7 March 1961)

- Govind Ballabh Pant, an Indian freedom fighter and the first chief minister of Uttar Pradesh was born at Khoont village near Almora in Uttarakhand.

Contributions:

- Govind Ballabh Pant served as the **Chief Minister of the United Provinces** (now Uttar Pradesh) from 1937 to 1939 and later from 1946 to 1954.
- Pant was appointed as the **Union Home Minister** from 1955 to 1961, Pant played a crucial role in the re-organisation of states along linguistic lines.
- He **advocated for the establishment of Hindi** as an official language.
- He **promoted cottage industries** and **protested the coolie-beggar law**, which exploited porters to carry heavy luggage without any payment.
- He actively **participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement** and was imprisoned in **1930 for organizing a Salt March**.

Award:

- Pant was awarded the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honor) in **1957**.

Ethical Values: Integrity, Compassion, Leadership, etc.

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Place in News

Angola

Recently, the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) analysis revealed that green harvests in Angola are projected to be slightly below average, posing challenges in combating acute food insecurity.

Angola (Capital: Luanda)

Location: Angola is a country on the west-central coast of Southern Africa.

Boundaries: Angola shares its border with **Zambia** (East), **the Atlantic Ocean** (West), **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (North) and **Namibia** (South).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Angola is **Mount Moco**.
- Some major rivers in Angola include **the Cuanza** (longest river), **Zambezi**, **Kwango**, **Cuando** and **Cunene** Rivers.
- Angola is rich in natural resources, including **oil**, **diamonds**, iron ore, phosphates, copper, feldspar, **gold**, bauxite and uranium.

GHI Report: With a score of **25.9** in the **2023 Global Hunger Index**, Angola has a level of hunger that is **serious**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- What recent discovery challenges a fundamental principle known as Fourier's Law, which describes how heat spreads through solid materials? – **Ohm's Law**
- Which cultural artifacts from Assam were recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag? – **Majuli masks and Majuli manuscript painting**
- What technique did the research team from the UK use to estimate the age of the star dune of Lala Lallia in Morocco? – **Luminescence dating**
- Which Latin maxim is often cited to justify the admissibility of dying declarations as evidence? – **Nemo Mariturus Presumuntur Menti**
- Which island in the Lakshadweep archipelago is home to the recently commissioned INS Jatayu, serving as India's second naval base in the region? – **Minicoy**

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