DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

DAILY prePARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

26 November 2024

ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024

Context: The ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 was inaugurated on November 25, 2024, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This marks the first time in the 130-year history of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) that India is hosting the event, emphasizing India's growing leadership in the global cooperative sector.

- The conference's theme, "Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All", highlights the importance of inclusive economic growth, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Objectives of the Conference:

- **Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Development:** The conference focuses on cooperatives' role in promoting inclusive growth, empowering marginalized communities, and contributing to sustainable development.
- **Explore Innovative Strategies for Cooperative Growth:** It serves as a platform to discuss technology, governance, and financial sustainability to strengthen cooperatives and address challenges like climate change and economic inequality.
- **Launch the UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025:** The conference marks the beginning of the UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025, raising awareness about cooperatives' impact on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in financial inclusion, food security, education, and environmental sustainability.

About the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA):

- Founded in 1895, the ICA is one of the oldest and most influential NGOs globally, representing over 1 billion cooperative members in 105 countries. The ICA advocates for the role of cooperatives in advancing social and economic development, especially for marginalized communities.
- It hosts regional and global summits to foster collaboration, exchange of knowledge, and promote inclusive prosperity.

Key Government Initiatives:

The Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), established on July 6, 2021, has launched various initiatives to modernize cooperatives and ensure inclusive development, especially in rural areas. Key initiatives include:

- **Model Bye-Laws for PACS:** New Model Bye-Laws enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to undertake 25+ activities, improving governance and inclusivity, adopted by 32 States/UTs.
- **Computerization of PACS:** A ₹2,516 Crore project aims to computerize 63,000 PACS, linking them with NABARD, with 62,318 PACS already computerized across 28 States/UTs.
- **New PACS/Dairy/Fishery Cooperatives:** Over 9,000 new PACS are being established in underserved Panchayats, supported by various federations.
- **Decentralized Grain Storage Plan:** A plan to create warehouses and agri-infrastructure at the PACS level aims to reduce food grain waste and transportation costs, with 2,000 PACS identified for the pilot project.
- **PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs):** An MoU with MeitY and NABARD enables 30,647 PACS to provide 300+ e-services to rural citizens.
- **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** 1,100 FPOs will be formed by PACS to improve market linkages for farmers.
- **Retail Petrol/Diesel Outlets:** 240 PACS have applied for retail petrol/diesel outlets, with 39 selected.
- **Micro-ATMs and RuPay Kisan Credit Cards:** 1,723 Micro-ATMs and 1,23,685 RuPay KCCs have been distributed, providing rural citizens with financial services.

Conclusion:

The ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 underscores India's role in leading the cooperative movement globally. With key government initiatives and the launch of the

UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025, India aims to enhance the role of cooperatives in promoting inclusive growth and contributing to global sustainable development.

India's Seafood and Wine Industry

Context: The 2nd Indian Seafood and Wine Tasting Event was hosted by the Indian Embassy in Brussels recently, in collaboration with APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) and MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority).

- With over 120 distinguished guests, including business leaders, trade bodies, and diplomats, the event showcased India's premium seafood and growing wine industry, aiming to enhance trade relations between India and Europe.

Key Objectives of the Event

- **Promoting Indian Seafood:** The event focused on highlighting India's high-quality seafood products, aiming to raise awareness among European buyers about the country's seafood offerings.
- **Expanding Export Opportunities:** By connecting Indian seafood exporters with European importers, the event sought to expand export opportunities for India's seafood industry in the European market.
- **Enhancing Business Ties:** The event aimed to strengthen business relations between India and Europe, fostering a collaborative environment for increased trade and commerce.

India's Seafood and Wine Industry

- **Seafood Industry**
  - » India is the third-largest fish and aquaculture producer globally, contributing 7.96% of world fish production and employing over 28 million people. The country boasts abundant marine and inland resources, including its 8,118 km coastline and 2 million sq. km EEZ, which provide a strong foundation for the fisheries sector.
  - » In 2023-2024, India's seafood exports reached $7.3 billion in value and 17.81 lakh metric tonnes in volume. India is now the EU's second-largest supplier of shrimp and a key player in squid imports.
  - » The fisheries sector remains crucial to India's economy, with states like Andhra Pradesh producing 5.1 million MT of marine products in 2022-23.

Wine Industry

- India's wine industry is one of the fastest-growing alcobev sectors, valued at ₹1,400 crore ($175 million) and expected to grow at a 20% CAGR, reaching ₹3,500 crore ($440 million) by 2028. Although India accounts for less than 0.1% of global wine exports, the share is expected to grow as premium Indian wines gain recognition.
- Maharashtra leads in wine production, contributing 85-90% of the country's wine output, followed by Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and others.

About APEDA and MPEDA

- **APEDA:** Established in 1986, APEDA focuses on promoting the export of agricultural and processed food products, improving competitiveness, and ensuring quality standards.
- **MPEDA:** Founded in 1972, MPEDA plays a pivotal role in enhancing India's marine product exports, particularly seafood and fish, through quality control, infrastructure development, and research.

Conclusion:

The 2nd Indian Seafood and Wine Tasting Event in Brussels highlighted India's growing influence in the seafood and wine industries. By connecting Indian exporters with European buyers, the event created valuable opportunities to expand trade. With continued support from APEDA and MPEDA, India is well-positioned to enhance its exports and strengthen business ties with Europe, fostering long-term growth in both sectors.

A Global Plastic Treaty

Context: Over 170 countries will soon gather in Busan, Republic of Korea, for the fifth and final round of negotiations to create a legally binding global treaty on plastic pollution, particularly in marine environments.

- This treaty, mandated by the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in 2022, aims to establish a framework addressing plastic pollution throughout its life cycle, from production to disposal, with the goal of finalizing

it by the end of 2024.

The Need for a Global Plastic Treaty:

- **Rising Plastic Production:** Plastic's versatility has made it indispensable, leading to a dramatic increase in production. From 234 million tonnes (mt) in 2000, global plastic production reached 460 mt by 2019 and is projected to hit 700 mt by 2040. Asia is the largest producer, followed by North America (19%) and Europe (15%).
- This surge in production has contributed to a growing environmental crisis. Plastic takes 20 to 500 years to decompose, with less than 10% recycled. Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated, with projections indicating a 62% increase by 2050.

Environmental and Health Impact:

- Plastic waste leaks into the environment, breaking down into microplastics and nanoplastics, which threaten marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Chemicals in plastic are linked to health problems like cancer, diabetes, reproductive disorders, and neurodevelopmental impairments.
- Plastic production also contributes significantly to climate change. In 2020, it accounted for 3.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with 90% from production and 10% from waste management. If current trends persist, emissions could rise by 20% by 2050.
- India alone contributes 20% of global plastic pollution, generating 9.3 million tonnes annually, more than other major polluting countries like Nigeria, Indonesia, and China.

The Scope of the Treaty

- **Bans on Specific Plastics and Additives:** Bans may be imposed on certain products and chemicals.
- **Recycling and Recycled Content Targets:** Legally binding targets for recycling and incorporating recycled materials into consumer goods.
- **Just Transition for Workers:** Ensuring support for workers and communities whose livelihoods are tied to plastic production.

Challenges in Negotiations

- **Production Caps:** Countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia, and India oppose restrictions on plastic production, advocating for waste management solutions instead.
- **Ambitious Reduction Targets:** Rwanda, Peru, and the EU propose a 40% reduction in plastic waste by 2040.
- **Finance:** A key issue is securing funding for plastic waste management, with calls for better alignment of public and private investments.

India's Position in the Negotiations:

- **Opposition to Production Caps:** India rejects production limits, citing the UNEA's mandate.
- **Support for Financial and Technical Assistance:** India seeks inclusion of financial support and technology transfer to improve waste management.
- **Regulation of Harmful Chemicals:** India insists that regulation of chemicals should be based on scientific studies and handled domestically.
- **Pragmatic Approach to Plastic Phase-Out:** India calls for a flexible, context-specific approach to phasing out certain plastic products.

DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

DAILY prePARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

26 November 2024

Power Packed News

Government Launches National Campaign "Ab Koi Bahana Nahi" to Eradicate Gender-Based Violence

- The Government of India launched the national campaign "Ab Koi Bahana Nahi" on November 25, 2024, in New Delhi, marking a significant step towards eradicating gender-based violence. The initiative aims to mobilize the general public, government bodies, and key stakeholders to take concrete actions to address this pressing issue.

- Jointly led by the Ministries of Rural Development and Women and Child Development, with support from UN Women, the campaign emphasizes collective accountability in preventing gender-based violence. A film highlighting the campaign's objectives was also unveiled, urging individuals and institutions to commit to this cause.
- The campaign coincides with the Nayi Chetna 3.0 initiative, ensuring a wider reach and dissemination of its message. The integrated efforts aim to foster awareness and drive action at both grassroots and institutional levels.
- The launch date aligns with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, observed globally on November 25. This synchronicity underscores the universal importance of addressing gender-based violence and promoting equality and safety for all.

Abdoulaye Maiga Appointed Prime Minister of Mali

Mali's ruling junta recently appointed Abdoulaye Maiga as the new Prime Minister, replacing Choguel Maiga, who was dismissed after publicly criticizing the administration. The decision reflects growing tensions and divisions within the political landscape of Mali.

About Mali:

- Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, known for its vast deserts and rich historical significance. It is bordered by Algeria to the north, Niger to the east, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast to the south, Guinea to the southwest, Senegal and Mauritania to the west.
- The country's geography is dominated by the Sahara Desert in the north and the Sahel, a semi-arid region, stretching through the central part of the country.
- The Niger River, one of the longest rivers in Africa, flows through the southwestern part of the country, providing vital water resources.

UN Sustainable Tourism Declaration

- Over 50 governments have signed the UN Sustainable Tourism Declaration to promote climate-friendly tourism globally.

- The tourism industry contributes about 3% of global GDP and is responsible for 8.8% of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The declaration is accompanied by initiatives like a framework from the World Sustainable Hospitality Alliance for the hotel industry.
- Countries that signed the declaration have pledged to consider the impact of tourism when drafting climate action plans, including Nationally Determined Contributions.

- Tourism plays a significant role in hard currency revenues, especially in emerging countries.
- The data from this agreement will help the tourism industry and travelers understand their environmental impact.

Transaction Limit for UPI 123Pay Increased from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 by RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000. UPI 123Pay allows digital payments on feature phones without requiring internet connectivity.
- The update is effective immediately, with full compliance required by January 1, 2025.
- The transaction limit increase aims to improve access to digital payments in underprivileged areas.
- UPI 123Pay offers offline payment options like Interactive Voice Response (IVR), missed calls, OEM apps, and voice technology in areas with unreliable internet.
- The change will help farmers, small traders, and microenterprises make larger digital transactions, reducing dependence on cash.