

Daily Pre PARE

(Current Affairs Summary for Prelims Exam)

Nutrient Based Subsidy

❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers** for Kharif Season - 2022 (from 01.04.2022 to 30.09.2022).

Key Highlights

- The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K fertilizers will be **Rs 60,939 crore**, as against Rs 57,150 crore for the whole of last year.
- The increase in subsidy is meant to **insulate farmers from the increased prices of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and other non-urea nutrients** in the global markets.
- The subsidy on DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) has been **increased to Rs 2,501 per bag** and the **farmers will continue to get the DAP at Rs 1,350 per bag**.
- These soil nutrients are largely imported.
- In case of **urea, the Center fixes MRP** and reimburses the difference between the MRP and production cost in the form of a subsidy.
- The MRP of Urea is fixed but the subsidy can vary while **MRP of DAP is decontrolled (i.e subsidy is fixed but the MRP can vary)**.

DAP

- Diammonium phosphate (DAP) is the **world's most widely used** phosphorus fertilizer.
- It's highly **soluble** and thus **dissolves quickly in soil** to release plant-available phosphate and ammonium.
- **DAP (46% P, 18% Nitrogen)** is the preferred source of Phosphorus for farmers.
- This is **similar to urea**, which is their preferred nitrogenous fertilizer containing 46% N.

About The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime

- The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme has been **implemented since April 2010**.
- **Implemented by-** The Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- A fixed rate of subsidy (in Rs per Kg basis) is announced on **nutrients namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K), and Sulfur (S)** by the government on an **annual basis**.
- The per Kg subsidy rates on the nutrients N, P, K, and S are converted into per tonne subsidies on the various P&K fertilizers covered under the NBS Policy.
- The subsidies on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) are determined taking into account the **international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, exchange rate, inventory level in the country etc.**
- NBS policy intends to increase the **consumption of P&K fertilizers** so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved.

PM SVANidhi

❖ Context

- Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved **extension of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** beyond March 2022 **till December 2024**.
- This has been done keeping in mind the impact of the pandemic-related stress on small businesses.

About PM SVANidhi

- **Launched By**
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Implementing Agency**
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- **Objective**
 - To **provide affordable Working Capital loans** to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely **affected due to Covid-19 lockdown**.
 - It has been extended till december 2024 with

focus on **enhanced collateral free affordable loan** corpus, increased **adoption of digital transactions** and **holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families**.

- **Target Beneficiaries**
 - Over 50 lakh people, including vendors, **hawkers, thelewalas etc. who supply vegetables, ready-to-eat foods, fruits etc.**
 - It also includes service providers like **barber shops, cobblers, pan shops, laundry**.

services etc.

- Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.**

- **Scheme Benefits**

- Vendors can avail a **working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is **repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.**
- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts** of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis.
- There will be **no penalty on early repayment of loan.**

- The scheme **promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives** up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
- The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.

PM SVANidhi Portal

- **Developed by SIDBI**

- **Objective**

- To administer the scheme with an end-to-end solution.
- Portal/ mobile app will integrate UdyamiMitra portal of SIDBI for credit management and PAISA portal of MoHUA to administer interest subsidy automatically.

News at a Glance

Kwar Hydropower Project



❖ **Context**

- Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), approved an investment of Rs.4526.12 crore for setting up the **Kwar hydropower project in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.**

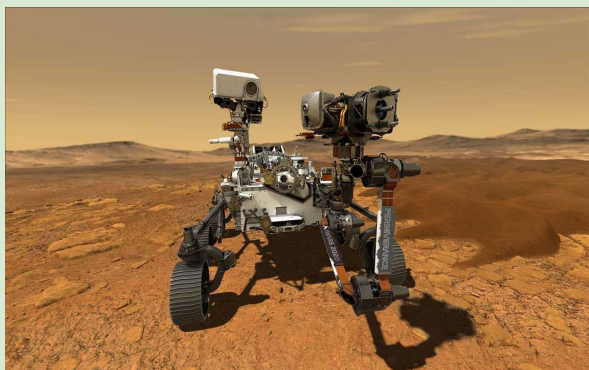
❖ **Key Highlights**

- The **540-mw Kwar hydropower project is located on river Chenab in Kishtwar district.**
- It will be set up by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Ltd (CVPPPL)**
- The project with **four units of 135-mw each**, to be commissioned within a span of 54 months, shall generate 1,975.54 million units in a 90 per cent dependable year.

❖ **CVPPPL**

- Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Ltd, **incorporated in June 2011.**
- **Established as a 51:49 joint venture** between NHPC and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).
- It is entrusted with the development of various hydropower schemes in the UT of J&K, including Kwar (540 mw), Kiru (624 mw) and Dulhasti (540 mw)—all located in the Chenab valley.

Perseverance Rover



❖ **Context**

- Recently, NASA's Perseverance Rover **Captures Martian Solar Eclipse.**
- It captured spectacular **footage of Phobos**, Mars' largest moon, crossing the face of the sun.

❖ **About Perseverance Rover:**

- Perseverance is a **car-sized Mars rover** designed to explore the crater Jezero on Mars as part of NASA's Mars 2020 mission.
- The rover was **launched in July 2020.**
- It landed at the Jezero Crater of Mars in February 2021.
- Perseverance has a **similar design to its predecessor rover, Curiosity**, from which it was moderately upgraded.
- It carries seven primary payload instruments, nineteen cameras, and two microphones.
- The rover also **carried the mini-helicopter Ingenuity to Mars**, an experimental aircraft and technology testbed that made the **first powered flight on another planet on 19 April 2021.**

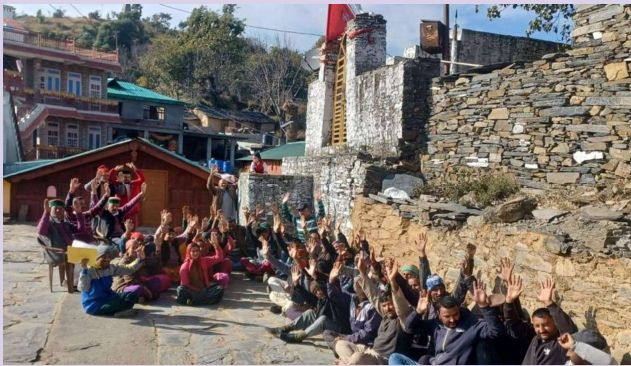
➤ **Objective**

- **Looking for habitability:** Identify past environments that were capable of supporting microbial life.
- **Seeking biosignatures:** Seek signs of possible past microbial life in those habitable environments, particularly in specific rock types known to preserve signs over time.
- **Caching samples:** Collect core rock and regolith ("soil") samples and store them on the Martian surface.
- **Preparing for humans:** Test oxygen production from the Martian atmosphere.
- The rover is **designed to better understand the geology of Mars and seek signs of ancient life.**

➤ **Power Source**

- A **Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG)** which converts heat from the natural radioactive decay of plutonium (Plutonium Dioxide) into electricity.

Hatti Community



❖ **Context**

- Recently, **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister said that the Center would consider the state government's request for **inclusion of the Hatti community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the state.**
- For the past 55 years, the hatti community has been demanding for inclusion in the ST list.

❖ **About Hatti Community**

- The Hatti community is **largely concentrated in the Trans-Giri area of the Sirmaur district.**
- Members of the community have **settled in and around Shimla as well as the Solan district over time.**
- The community, which has over **three lakh people**, is named after their age-old **professional practice of selling their home grown crops** at small markets called 'Haat' in nearby cities.
- Till date, the **members of this community haven't been mainstreamed** and most are dependent on animal rearing and agriculture.
- **They even still follow the Khumbli — the traditional council** despite the establishment of the panchayat system.
- It is reported that the Hatti community of the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh share **social as well as cultural similarities with the Jaunsar community** of the Jaunsar-Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
- This is because the Trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar area, were part of the erstwhile Sirmaur princely state.
 - Incidentally, those who crossed over to the Jaunsar Bawar area, which is now in Uttarakhand, enjoy tribal status since 1967.

Daily Current Affairs

New Urban Agenda

❖ Context

- The United Nations General Assembly convened a high level meeting on the New Urban Agenda. An MLA from Delhi will be among those addressing the meeting, along with mayors of Bogota and Barcelona on 'Best Practices of Leading Locally'.

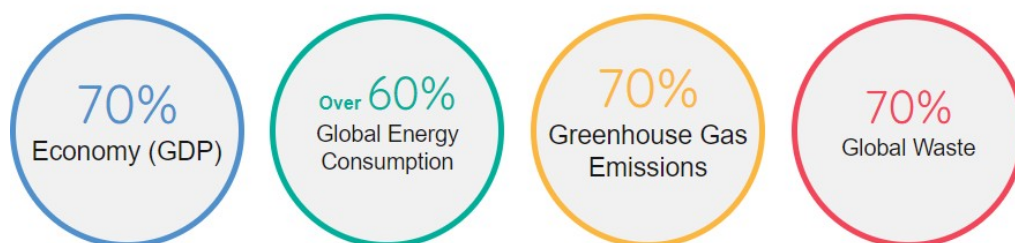
❖ Key Highlights

- The objectives of the meeting are
 - To **assess the progress in the implementation** of the New Urban Agenda.
 - **Facilitate an ongoing exchange of experiences** among Member States, Local and Regional Governments, and other constituencies of the New Urban Agenda such as professional associations, grassroots organisations, and business leaders.

- The **New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook** prepared for all urban stakeholders globally is intended as a resource for different actors in multiple levels of government and for civil society organisations, the private sector and all who reside in urban spaces of the world.
- It works as an accelerator of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11.**

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Cities today occupy approximately **only 2%** of the total land, however:



About the Agenda

- The New Urban Agenda, **adopted at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October 2016.**
- It presents a **paradigm shift based on the science of cities** and lays out standards and principles for the planning, construction, development, management and improvement of urban areas.

News in Between the Lines

GAGAN based LPV approach



❖ Context



- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** successfully conducted at Kishangarh Airport, Rajasthan light trial using **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) based LPV Approach Procedures.**

❖ About Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV)

- LPV is a **satellite based procedure** that will make it possible to land **aircrafts at airports not equipped** with expensive Instrument Landing Systems or **ground-based navigational infrastructure**, including many small regional and local airports.
- The service relies on the availability of **GPS and GAGAN Geostationary Satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15)**, launched by ISRO.

❖ About GAGAN

- GAGAN is an **Indian Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS)** jointly developed by **AAI and ISRO.**
- It is the **first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries** in the equatorial region.
- GAGAN System was certified by DGCA in 2015 for Approach with Vertical Guidance (APV 1) and en-route (RNP 0.1) operations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely India (GAGAN), US(WAAS) Europe (EGNOS) and Japan (MSAS). ➤ AAI in coordination with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has implemented GAGAN Message Service (GMS) through which alert messages to fishermen, farmers, and disaster affected people will be sent on the occurrence of natural disasters, calamities, such as flood, earthquake etc.
<p style="text-align: center;">ADIGRAMS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context ➤ Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised 2 days' workshop in Jharkhand on ADIGRAMS. ❖ Key highlights ➤ ADIVASI GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ADIGRAM) is a unique portal which monitors physical and financial progress of the grants given by the Ministry to States and can track the actual utilisation of funds. ➤ The details of beneficiaries are also uploaded on the portal and the infrastructure projects are geotagged. ➤ The portal will also completely digitise the process of proposal submission and approval under various schemes of MoTA. ➤ Once the data from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is uploaded, the information will be placed in public domain which will bring transparency and accountability.
<p style="text-align: center;">ZED certification scheme</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context ➤ Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises launched the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme. ❖ Key Highlights ➤ This Scheme is an extensive drive to enable and facilitate MSMEs adopt Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) practices and motivate and incentivize them for ZED Certification while also encouraging them to become MSME Champions. ➤ MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc. ➤ Under the Scheme, MSMEs will get subsidy as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Micro Enterprises: 80% ■ Small Enterprises: 60% ■ Medium Enterprises: 50% ➤ There will be an additional subsidy of 10% for the MSMEs owned by Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs OR MSMEs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts. ➤ In addition to above, there will be an additional subsidy of 5% for MSMEs which are also a part of the SFURTI OR Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry. ➤ Further, a limited purpose joining reward of Rs. 10,000/- will be offered to each MSME once they take the ZED Pledge. ➤ A provision of up to Rs. 5 lakh(per MSME) will be made available for handholding and consultancy support for MSMEs under ZED Certification for assisting them to move towards Zero Defect Zero Effect solutions.
<p style="text-align: center;">Excise duty and VAT on fuel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context ➤ Various states are reluctant to reduce excise duty and VAT on fuel amid rising price rises. ❖ Key reasons ➤ Excise duty on fuel makes up 18.4% of Centre's gross tax revenue. ➤ Petroleum and alcohol, on average, account for 25-35% of the own tax



revenue of states.

- Of the total revenue receipts of the states, Central tax transfers comprise 25-29% while own tax revenue have a share of 45-50%.
- **Petroleum taxes with states are shared only out of basic excise duty.** Of the total central excise duty collected by Centre from petrol and diesel, Rs. 3.72 lakh crores in 2020-21, the total amount devolved was Rs. 19,972 crores.
- The Centre also **levies additional excise duty and cesses on petroleum products which are not shared with states.**