



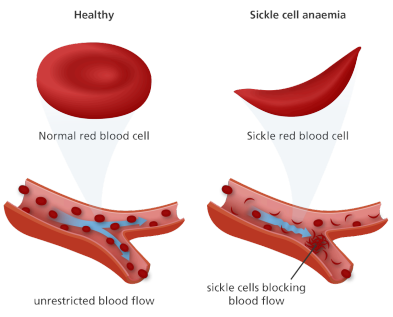
20 June 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Minimum support price (MSP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>government has increased the minimum support price (MSP)</b> for paddy by 5.35%, setting it at ₹2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season, effective from June 19.</li> </ul> <p><b>About MSP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSP is a form of <b>market intervention by the government to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.</b></li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To provide a <b>guaranteed price and assured market to the farmers, protecting them from the fluctuations in the market prices.</b></li> <li><b>Fixation Authority:</b> The MSP is <b>announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).</b></li> <li><b>Coverage:</b> MSP is announced for <b>23 crops</b>, including <b>cereals</b> (paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi), <b>pulses</b> (gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad, lentil), <b>oilseeds</b> (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), <b>commercial crops</b> (cotton, sugarcane, copra), and <b>others</b> (jute, tobacco).</li> <li><b>Criteria for Determination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of production</li> <li>Changes in input prices</li> <li>Market price trends</li> <li>Demand and supply</li> <li>Inter-crop price parity</li> <li>Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors</li> <li>A minimum of 50% margin over the cost of production</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Implementation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MSP is implemented through <b>procurement agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies.</b></li> <li>They buy crops from farmers at the MSP, ensuring they get the announced support price.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To <b>stabilize farmer's income.</b></li> <li>To incentivize the farmers to adopt new technologies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>and modern agricultural practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure <b>food security</b> by stabilizing supply.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sickle cell disease (SCD)</b></p>  <p>The diagram illustrates the difference between a normal red blood cell and a sickle cell. A normal red blood cell is round and allows for unrestricted blood flow through a vessel. A sickle cell is crescent-shaped and causes sickle cells to block blood flow, leading to restricted circulation.</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is progressing towards <b>developing a gene therapy for sickle cell disease</b>, a prevalent genetic blood disorder among Scheduled Tribes.</li> <li>Director of AIIMS, mentioned that researchers are using the <b>CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing tool to develop this therapy.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Sickle cell disease:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a <b>group of inherited red blood cell disorders</b> characterized by <b>abnormal hemoglobin</b>, known as <b>hemoglobin S</b>, which <b>distorts red blood cells into a sickle or crescent shape.</b></li> <li><b>Types:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most common type is <b>sickle cell anemia (HbSS).</b></li> <li>Other types include <b>hemoglobin SC disease (HbSC), hemoglobin Sβ0 thalassemia, and hemoglobin Sβ+ thalassemia.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Symptoms:</b> Symptoms of SCD include anemia, episodes of pain (crises), swelling in the hands and feet, frequent infections, delayed growth, and vision problems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ramesh Karthik Naik</b>, a 26-year-old writer from the tribal <b>thanda Nizamabad district</b>, was <b>awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for Telugu</b> for his <b>short story collection "Dhavlo" (Song of Lament, 2021).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12 March <b>1954.</b></li> <li><b>Awarding Body:</b> Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To <b>recognize and promote outstanding literary works</b> by young Indian writers.</li> <li><b>Eligibility:</b> Writers aged <b>35 or below</b> as of January 1, 2024, writing in any of the <b>24 recognized Indian languages.</b></li> <li><b>Categories:</b> Fiction, poetry, drama, criticism, travelogue, autobiography, biography, and literary translation.</li> <li><b>Prize:</b> Cash award of ₹50,000, an engraved copper plaque, and a citation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister of India recently <b>awarded certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs)</b> as <b>'Krishi Sakhis'</b> under the <b>Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP).</b></li> </ul>



About KSCP:

- **Objective:** Transform rural India through the empowerment of rural women as **Krishi Sakhi**.
- **Training and Certification:** Krishi Sakhis are trained and certified as **Para-extension Workers**.
- **Alignment:** Certification course **aligns with the objectives of the 'Lakhpati Didi' Program**.
- **Training Areas:**
  - **Agro-Ecological Practices:** Training from land preparation to harvest.
  - **Farmer Field Schools:** Organizing practical learning sessions for farmers.
  - **Seed Banks:** Establishment and management of seed banks.
  - **Soil Health and Conservation:** Techniques for maintaining soil health and moisture.
  - **Integrated Farming Systems:** Combining various farming practices for sustainability.
  - **Livestock Management:** Basic management practices for livestock.
  - **Bio Inputs:** Preparation, use, and establishment of bio-input shops.
  - **Communication Skills:** Essential skills for effective communication with farmers.

Nalanda University



Why in the news?

- The Prime Minister of India will **inaugurate the new Nalanda University campus near Rajgir's ancient university ruins**.

About Nalanda University:

- **Historical Significance:**
  - Nalanda University was an **ancient center of higher learning in Bihar, India**.
  - It was established in the **5th century AD** during the **Gupta Dynasty**.
- **Ancient Glory:**
  - It was **one of the first residential universities in the world**, hosting over 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers.
  - The **university attracted scholars** from various regions, including **Tibet, China, Korea, and Central Asia**.
- **Destruction and Decline:**
  - Nalanda University was **destroyed in the 12th century by Bakhtiyar Khilji**.
  - The destruction marked the end of a great era of knowledge and learning.
- **Revival Efforts:**
  - The Government of India initiated **efforts to revive Nalanda University** in the early 21st century.



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- The modern Nalanda University was **re-established in 2010 by an Act of the Indian Parliament.**
- **Current Status:**
  - The new campus is located in **Rajgir**, near the ancient site.
  - It is an **international university** with a focus on post-graduate and doctoral studies.

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