

DAILY PT POINTERS

28th December, 2023



The Hindu: GS3-Space (Page 12)

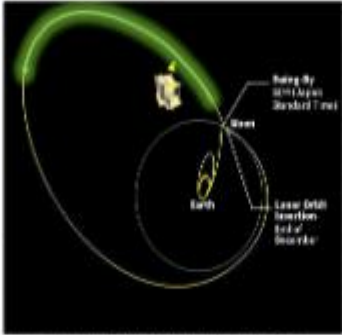
Will SLIM revolutionise lunar landings?

What does contribute to SLIM's significantly lower weight compared to other exploration missions, and how does this impact its mission objectives? How will SLIM affect what India and other space agencies plan for their own Lunar Polar Exploration missions?

EXPLAINER

Small-scale Moon lander

The story so far: SLIM (Small Lunar lander) is the first small-scale lunar lander mission. It is a joint project of ISRO and JAXA. The lander is designed to land on the Moon's surface and conduct scientific experiments. It is expected to be launched in 2024.



THE GIST

Japan's first lunar lander is set to be launched in 2024. It is a small-scale lander designed for pinpoint landings and investigation into the Moon's origins. It will also test technology fundamental to exploration in low-gravity environments.

What is SLIM? SLIM is a small-scale lunar lander built by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in partnership with ISRO. It is designed to land on the Moon's surface and conduct scientific experiments. It is expected to be launched in 2024.

Why is SLIM important? SLIM is important because it is the first small-scale lunar lander mission. It is a joint project of ISRO and JAXA. The lander is designed to land on the Moon's surface and conduct scientific experiments. It is expected to be launched in 2024.

How will SLIM affect India's lunar mission plans? SLIM is a small-scale lander designed for pinpoint landings and investigation into the Moon's origins. It will also test technology fundamental to exploration in low-gravity environments.

- SLIM is a spacecraft built and launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on September 7, 2023, from the Tanegashima spaceport.
- It weighed only 590 kg at launch, which is almost one-seventh of Chandrayaan-3, which weighed 3,900 kg at launch.
- SLIM is a small-scale exploration lander designed for pinpoint landings on the Moon's surface, reduction in the size and weight of equipment used in lunar landings, and investigation into the Moon's origins.
- It will also test technology fundamental to exploration in low-gravity environments, an important requirement for future scientific investigation of the solar system.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS 3-Economy (Page 14)

Centre hikes copra MSP by ₹250-300 hike per quintal for 2024 season

A higher MSP will not only ensure better remunerative returns to coconut growers but also incentivise farmers to expand copra production, government says

December 27, 2023 06:32 pm | Updated 09:08 pm IST - New Delhi

THE HINDU BUREAU

COMMENTS SHARE

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- Centre hikes copra MSP by ₹250-₹300 per quintal for 2024.
- Milling copra is used to extract oil, while ball/edible copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka.
- **Do you know ?**
 - The MSP, which is a part of the government's agricultural price policy, is the price at which the government offers to procure farmers' produce during the season.
 - The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the MSP at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The key considerations, while recommending the MSP for crops, are demand and supply, production cost, price trends in the domestic and international market and the likely implications of the price on consumers.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu GSIII-S&T (Page 22)

Scientists are using fruit flies to find clues to Huntington's disease

Understanding how Huntington's disease progresses at the molecular level is key, so it can eventually be treated. A paper published this month has taken an important step in this direction by studying a deceptively diminutive creature

D.P. Kohli

Every month, the medical journals club in the Indian Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, sees news of new people with Huntington's disease. The numbers might appear small, but in each case behind the individual lies a family distressed.

In time, Huntington's disease patients have mild symptoms - forgetfulness, loss of balance, and clumsiness in performing simple tasks. The symptoms begin between the ages of 30 and 50, by which the patient might also have had children. The condition progressively worsens. The patient suffers from memory, language, and reasoning, shows abnormal and uncontrollable jerky movements, and experiences difficulty in walking, swallowing, and talking.

The patient eventually dies, but not before raising the spectre that one or more of their children will suffer the same fate. There is no cure.

This is why understanding how Huntington's disease progresses at the molecular level is important, so that it can be treated eventually. The key is to understand how the disease progresses at the molecular level.

A paper published this month in *Scientific Reports*, by researchers from the University of Szeged, in Hungary, has taken an important step in this direction based on surprisingly - the



The researchers used fruit flies to study Huntington's disease. Credit: Shutterstock.com

- Huntington's disease (HD) is an inherited disorder that causes nerve cells (neurons) in parts of the brain to gradually break down and die.
- The disease attacks areas of the brain that help to control voluntary (intentional) movement, as well as other areas.
- People living with HD develop uncontrollable dance-like movements (chorea) and abnormal body postures, as well as problems with behavior, emotion, thinking, and personality.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

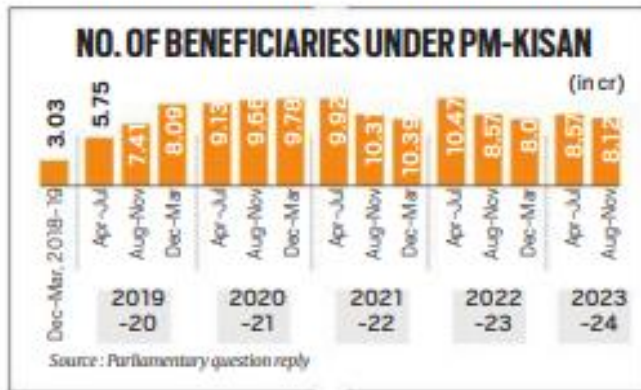
Indian Express: GS2-Welfare Schemes / Economy-GSIII

PM-Kisan beneficiaries dwindling, Govt adds 34 lakh in special drive

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

WITH THE NUMBER of PM-Kisan beneficiaries dropping by over 20 per cent to 8.12 crore now from a peak of 10.47 crore in April-July 2022, the government has added back 34 lakh farmers under the "saturation drive" since the launch of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on November 15.

The yatra, launched on November 15 — six months ahead of the elections to the Lok Sabha — will run till January 26, and is intended to ensure that all intended beneficiaries are covered under various flagship schemes of the government.



ered under various flagship schemes of the government. In the latest round of PM-

Kisan payments on November 15, as many as 8.12 crore farmers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), a Central Sector Scheme, aims at providing financial assistance to all cultivable landholding farmer families across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria.
- Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 6000/- is transferred annually in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- directly into the Aadhaar Seeded bank accounts of the farmers.

Indian Express: Welfare Schemes

Experts Explain: How the PM JANMAN scheme can help Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

Who are PVTGs? What challenges have govt schemes for their development faced so far? How does the PM JANMAN aim to be different? Two senior officials explain

- the **Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)**, aimed at providing PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Who are PVTGs?



In 1960-61, the Dhebar Commission identified disparities among Scheduled Tribes, leading to the creation of the “Primitive Tribal Groups” (PTG) category. In 2006, this category was renamed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Initially identifying 52 groups, the category was expanded to include 75 groups in 22,544 villages across 18 states and one Union Territory of India, totalling about 28 lakh individuals. These groups, living mainly in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, [Chhattisgarh](#), Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, are characterised by pre-agricultural lifestyles, low literacy, small or stagnant populations, and subsistence economies.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Art and Culture

Ministry of Home Affairs



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah releases a commemorative Postal Stamp, to mark 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's music festival – 'Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha', in New Delhi today

Pandit Jasraj ji has immortalised Indian classical, Pushtimargiya music and Bhakti Pad of Vaishnav tradition for over 8 decades for the music lovers of whole world

Pandit Jasraj took Indian classical music and Bhakti Pad to greater heights and that is why people across the globe love him so much

India can never forget his contribution to the strengthening of Indian Classical and Bhakti music

Today, the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has decided to take his legacy forward by releasing a postal stamp in his memory

- This music festival was started by Pandit Jasraj ji in 1972 to musically express love to the only memory he had of his Father, Sangeet Ratna Pandit Motiram ji, who passed away when Pt. Jasraj was only 4 years old and his elder brother and later his Guru, Sangeet Mahamopadhyay Pandit Maniram ji.
- Besides being one of the greatest all time Indian Classical Vocalist, Pandit Jasraj ji made an unprecedented contribution in the field of culture and music to India by carefully introducing young musicians to audiences of Hyderabad, who have now grown to become legends in their own right.
- It is the oldest festival of Hyderabad, and this legacy is carried forward by Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation. For this unique contribution he was called “Son of Hyderabad”.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Polity and Governance (GSII)



- Karmayogi Bharat, in association with NITI Aayog, has launched 6 SAMARTH Curated Training Programs on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform for State Government officials. The programs are- 1) SAMARTH Blocks, 2) SAMARTH Zila, 3) SAMARTH Rajya, 4) SAMARTH Rajya Sachiva, 5) SAMARTH Policy, and 6) SAMARTH Procurement.
- These programs aim to elevate the skills and competencies of government officials, ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of governance.
- **iGOT Karmayogi**
- is a comprehensive online learning platform to guide government officials in their capacity-building journey. More than 28 lakh learners from across the government spectrum are currently registered on this platform. The portal combines six functional hubs for online learning, competency management, career management, discussions, events, and networking.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

News on air: GSIII-Economy

Reversal of liquidity facilities under both SDF and MSF is available with effect from 30th December: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India today said that reversal of liquidity facilities under both Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) is available on an overnight basis on all days, including Sundays and holidays, with effect from December 30. However, it has been clarified that the reversal is permitted only on the next working day in Mumbai.

For deploying and using different tools for sucking out liquidity from the system, in case inflation shoots up or remains elevated, RBI Governor Shaktikant Das had announced the SDF and MSF reversal facility will remain open all days. This important announcement was made concerning banks and the liquidity situation.

The RBI said that the SDF/MSF bids triggered under the Automated Sweep-In and Sweep-Out (ASISO) facility will now reverse on the next calendar day. It added that in the case of a manual bid placed through the e-Kuber portal, the choice concerning tenor will be exercisable by the eligible entities at the time of placing of bid. It further said that access to SDF/MSF will continue to be available on all days, including Sundays and holidays.



Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: The rate at which the Reserve Bank accepts uncollateralised deposits, on an overnight basis, from all LAF participants. The SDF is also a financial stability tool in addition to its role in liquidity management. The SDF rate is placed at 25 basis points below the policy repo rate. With introduction of SDF in April 2022, the SDF rate replaced the fixed reverse repo rate as the floor of the LAF corridor.

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: The penal rate at which banks can borrow, on an overnight basis, from the Reserve Bank by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a predefined limit (2 per cent). This provides a safety valve against unanticipated liquidity shocks to the banking system. The MSF rate is placed at 25 basis points above the policy repo rate.