

Achieving Self-Sufficiency in Pulses



For Prelims : Pulses , Minimum Support Price (MSP) , El Niño , Mission for Self-reliance in Pulses , Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme , Soil Health Cards , PM-AASHA Scheme , Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) , Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) , Intercropping , Zero-till Farming .

For Mains : Trends in India's pulses production and imports, Issues regarding India's pulses production and import, Measures needed to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses.

Source: IE

Why in News?

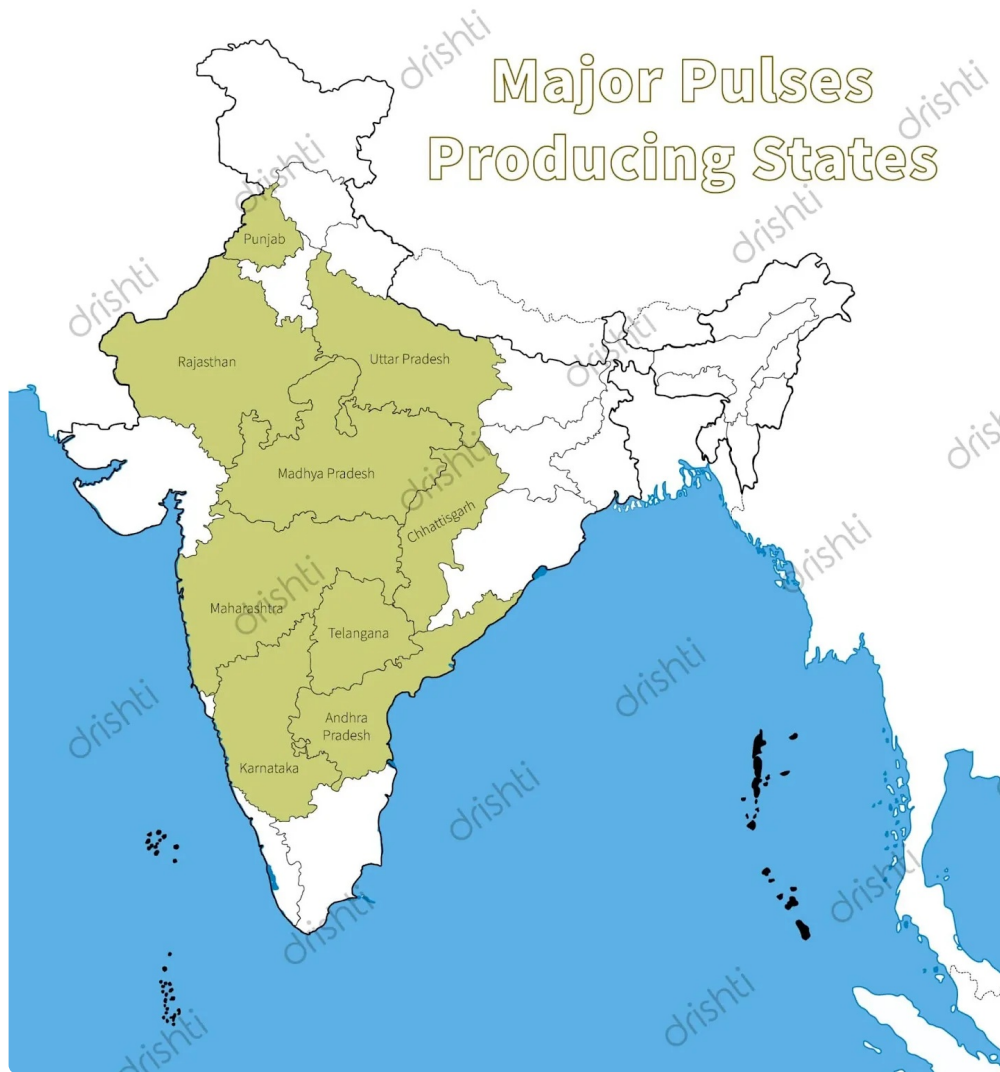
Farmers are **forced to sell pulses** in the **open market at low prices** despite the government's **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** , due to inadequate procurement.

- This reflects a deeper crisis — Indian pulses farmers **face neglect in MSP procurement** while **record imports flood the market**, further depressing domestic prices.

What are Key Facts About Pulses?

- **About:** Pulses are **edible seeds of leguminous plants** , harvested solely for their **dry grains** , and belong to the **Leguminosae (Fabaceae) family**.
 - Pulses are **high in protein, fiber, and nutrients** , **low in fat** , act as **nitrogen-fixing crops** that improve soil fertility, and have a **long shelf life when dried** .
- **Climatic Conditions:** Pulses require **20-27°C temperature** , **25-60 cm rainfall** , and **sandy-loamy soil** , and are cultivated year-round.
 - **Rabi Pulses (contribute over 60%)** : Gram (chickpea), Chana (Bengal gram), Masoor (lentil); they need **mild cold for sowing, cold for growth, and warm for harvest** .
 - **Kharif Pulses** : Moong (green gram), Urad (black gram), Arhar (pigeon pea); they need a **warm climate throughout their growth cycle**.
- **India's Production Status:** India is the **largest producer (25%)** , **consumer (27%)** , and **importer (14%)** of pulses globally. Top producing states are **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh** , and **Karnataka**.
 - Pulses cover **20% of food grain area** but contribute only **7-10% of total production** , with **gram**

(40%) as the dominant crop, followed by **Tur/Arhar (15-20%)** and **Urad/Black Matpe and Moong (8-10% each)** .



- **India's Pulses Import Status:** In 2024-25, pulses imports hit an **all-time high of 7.3 mt worth USD 5.5 billion in 2024-25** , surpassing the **2016-17 record of 6.6 mt and USD 4.2 billion**.
 - The major sources of pulses for India were **Canada, Russia, Australia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Myanmar, and the US**.
 - After 2017-18, imports had dipped to an average **2.6 mt (USD 1.7 billion)** , but **El Niño -induced drought in 2023-24** reversed self-sufficiency, with production falling to **24.2 mt** , and partly recovering to **25.2 mt in 2024-25**.

What are the Key Reasons Behind Low Pulses Production in India?

- **MSP & Policy Bias:** Government **MSP policies** favor **wheat and rice** , while **subsidies on water, electricity, and fertilizers** promote water-intensive crops like **paddy** , causing farmers to **shift away from pulses** .
 - Unlike rice and wheat, **pulses procurement is inconsistent** , further discouraging their cultivation.
- **Climatic Vulnerabilities:** Pulses are mostly grown in **rain-fed areas** , making them **highly dependent on monsoon rains** .
 - They are **less resilient to extreme weather** than wheat and rice, and suffer frequent damage from

droughts, unseasonal rains, and erratic monsoons.

- **Low Productivity & Stagnant Yields:** The **average yield of pulses in India is 660 kg/ha** , below the **world average of 909 kg/ha** , due to **poor seed quality** , **lack of HYVs** , and **limited adoption of improved techniques** .
 - Research and development in pulses has seen **slow growth compared to cereals like rice and wheat** .
- **Fragmented Farming:** Most pulse farmers are **small and marginal (owning <2 hectares)** , leading to **low economies of scale** and difficulty in investing in **better seeds, irrigation, and fertilizers**.
- **Soil & Pest Challenges:** Pulses, being **high in proteins, amino acids, and micronutrients** , are **more prone to pest infestations** and attract **more pests and diseases** than many other crops.
 - They also face challenges like **soil salinity** , **nutrient deficiencies** , and **limited use of crop protection technologies** due to cost constraint.

What are India's Initiatives to Boost Pulses Production?

- **National Mission on High Yielding Seeds**
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses**
- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme**
- **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**

What Measures are Needed to Achieve Self-Sufficiency in Pulses?

- **Increase Productivity:** Promote **high-yielding, climate and disease-resistant varieties** like **pigeon pea hybrids** and **biofortified pulses** (e.g., iron-rich lentils) for better yield and nutrition.
 - Expand **micro-irrigation (drip/sprinkler)** in key pulse states (MP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra) and utilize **rice fallow lands** for post-kharif pulses.
 - Encourage **precision farming** through **soil health cards** , **sensor-based irrigation** , and **AI-driven pest management** .
- **Policy & MSP Reforms:** Strengthen **MSP procurement** by ensuring **timely purchase of pulses** and expanding the **PM-AASHA scheme** to cover more farmers.
 - Rebalance **subsidies** by reducing support for **water-intensive crops** (rice, sugarcane) to promote pulses, and encourage **crop diversification** from paddy-wheat monoculture to **pulses and millets** through incentives.
- **Improve Storage:** Expand **modern warehousing, silos, and hermetic storage** to reduce post-harvest losses of pulses (currently 5-10%) and strengthen **processing infrastructure** with support for **mini dal mills, fortification, and packaging near farms** .
 - Promote **direct market linkages** by encouraging **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** to help farmers bypass middlemen.
- **Boost Research & Extension Services:** Increase **R&D funding** to develop **short-duration, high-yield varieties** like **early-maturing moong** for multiple cropping.
 - Expand **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** to train farmers in **intercropping** (e.g., **cotton and**

pulses) , **zero-till farming** , and **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**.

- **Buffer Stock Policy:** Maintain a **dynamic buffer stock of 2.5-3 million tonnes** to cushion price shocks, and **regulate imports** by imposing tariffs in surplus years while allowing imports during shortages.

Conclusion

India's pulses sector faces challenges of **low MSP procurement** , **climate vulnerability** , and **rising imports** , hurting farmers despite **record production** . To achieve **self-sufficiency** , **policy reforms** , **better procurement** , **R&D in high-yield varieties** , and **storage infrastructure** are crucial. **Balancing imports with domestic incentives** can stabilize **prices** , boost **farmer incomes** , and ensure **food security**.

Drishti Mains Question:

"Despite being the largest producer of pulses, India remains heavily import-dependent." Discuss the key challenges in India's pulses sector and suggest measures to achieve self-sufficiency.

[Watch Video on YouTube: [▶ https://www.youtube.com/embed/m94-24O2BOg](https://www.youtube.com/embed/m94-24O2BOg)]

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements: (2020)

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? (2017)

11th International Yoga Day 2025



Source: PIB

Why in News?

The **11 th International Yoga Day (IYD)** is celebrated worldwide on **21 st June** with the theme '**Yoga for One Earth, One Health**'.

What is International Yoga Day?

- **About: International Yoga Day** , celebrated to raise awareness about yoga's benefits for **health, well-being, and peace** .
 - Its objectives are to **promote physical, mental, and spiritual health** , **spread awareness of yoga as a gift of ancient Indian tradition** , and **encourage global harmony and peace** through its practice.
- **Origin & UN Declaration:** It was proposed by **India at the 69 th UN General Assembly (2014)** , leading to declaration of **21 st June as International Day of Yoga (IDY)** .
 - The first IDY was celebrated in **2015** with the theme "**Yoga for Harmony and Peace**" .
- **Significance of 21 st June: International Yoga Day** on **21st June** coincides with the **Summer Solstice** — the **longest day** in the **Northern Hemisphere** — when the sun's rays fall directly on the **Tropic of Cancer** , bringing **maximum daylight** and marking a transition to **spiritual awakening** in **yogic traditions** .
- **Global Recognition: UNESCO** inscribed **Yoga** as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in **2016** .
 - The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recognizes **Yoga** as a tool for **mental and physical well-being** , **combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** , and included it in its **Global Action Plan (2018-30)** .
 - In **2015** , **India's Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** classified **Yoga** as a '**Priority**' sports discipline.

What is Yoga?

- **About: Yoga** , derived from Sanskrit "**Yuj**" (to unite), symbolizes **mind-body harmony** .
 - It traces its roots to the **Indus Valley Civilization** through seals (**yogic posture on Pashupati**

seal) and fossils, is mentioned in the **Vedas** , and was systematically compiled in **Patanjali's Yogasutra (2 nd century BC)** .

- Yoga is one of the **six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy** (along with **Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Mimamsa, Vedanta**).
- **Modern Relevance:** Yoga promotes **holistic health** by enhancing **physical flexibility** , **mental clarity** , and **stress relief** ; it was used for **Covid-19 psycho-social rehabilitation** , and is **globally popular** in forms like **Hatha, Ashtanga** , and **Iyengar** .
- **India's Initiatives Related to Yoga:** **M-Yoga App** , Vocational Education Courses in Yoga, Part of **Fit India Movement**.

INDIAN SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY (ORTHODOX)

Indian Philosophy refers to traditions of philosophical thought, originated in the Indian subcontinent. It is divided into 2 schools of thought: Orthodox and Heterodox

Orthodox school believed that Vedas were the supreme revered scriptures that hold the secrets to salvation.

Samkhya School

- ④ Founded by Kapil Muni.
- ④ Oldest school of philosophy.
- ④ Postulates that reality stems from purusha (self, soul or mind) and prakriti (matter, creative agency, energy).
- ④ **It went through two phases of development:**
 - ④ Original Samkhya (Materialistic Philosophy)
 - ④ New Samkhya (Spiritual Philosophy)

Vaisheshika School

- ④ Founded by Kanada rishi.
- ④ Everything is created by fire, air, water, earth and ether (sky).
- ④ Developed atomic theory (all material objects are made of atoms).
- ④ **Reliance:**
 - ④ God is the guiding principle.
 - ④ Laws of Karma guide this universe.

Yoga School (Union of two major entities)

- ④ Founded by Patanjali.
- ④ Humans can achieve salvation by combining meditation and physical yogic techniques.

Means of Achieving Freedom	Ways of Achieving
Yama	Practicing self-control
Niyama	Observation of the rules governing one's life
Pratyahara	Choosing an object
Dharna	Fixing the mind (over the chosen object)
Dhyana	Concentrating on the (above-mentioned) chosen object
Samadhi	It is the merging of the mind and the object and that leads to the final dissolution of the self

Mimamsa School/ Purva Mimamsa


- ④ Founded by Kanada rishi.
- ④ Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge.
- ④ Religion means the fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.

Vedanta School (End of the Vedas/Upanishads)

- ④ Philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic/spiritual contemplations within Vedas).
- ④ **Sub-schools:**
 - ④ Advaita (Adi Shankara): Both the individual self (Atman) and Brahman are same.
 - ④ Visishtadvaita (Ramanuja): All diversity is subsumed to a unified whole.
 - ④ Dvaita (Madhvacharya): Brahman and Atman as 2 different entities.
 - ◆ Bhakti is route to salvation.
 - ④ Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka): Brahman is the highest reality.
 - ④ Shuddhadvaita (Vallabhacharya): God and the individual self are the same.
 - ④ Achintya Bheda Abheda (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu): Individual self (Jivatman) is both different and not different from Brahman.

Nyaya School

- ④ Founded by Gautama rishi.
- ④ Everything should be in accordance with reason and experience.
- ④ **Means of Attaining Knowledge:** perception, inference, comparison, and verbal testimony.



Drishiti IAS

[Watch Video on YouTube: [▶ https://www.youtube.com/embed/3FykXev1V1Q](https://www.youtube.com/embed/3FykXev1V1Q)]

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy? (2014)

- (a) Mimamsa and Vedanta
- (b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika
- (c) Lokayata and Kapalika
- (d) Sankhya and Yoga

Ans: (c)

Q. With reference to the history of philosophical thought in India, consider the following statements regarding Sankhya school: (2013)

1. Sankhya does not accept the theory of rebirth or transmigration of soul.
2. Sankhya holds that it is the self-knowledge that leads to liberation and not any exterior influence or agent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Nothopegia Fossil Leaves



Source: PIB

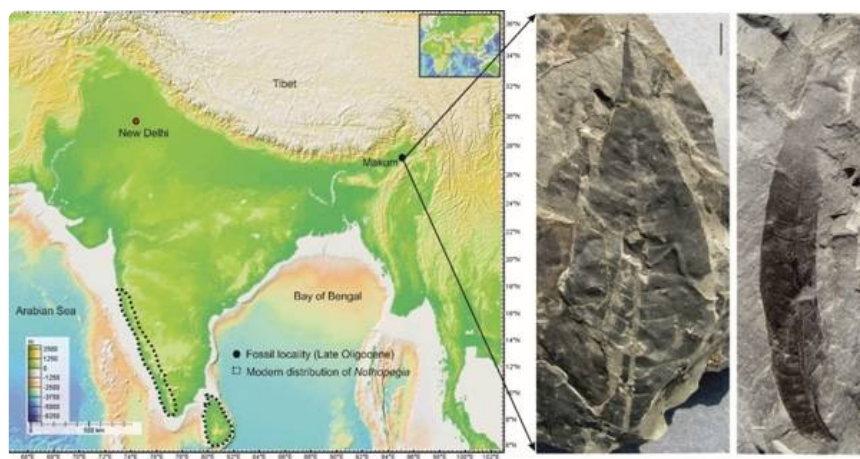
Fossilized leaves of *Nothopegia* , dated to **24-23 million years ago (late Oligocene epoch)**, were discovered in **Assam's Makum Coalfield**.

- Researchers used **morphological comparison with modern species, cluster analysis for identification**, and **CLAMP (Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Program)** to identify the fossils and reconstruct the ancient climate of the region.

Nothopegia

- **About: *Nothopegia*** is a genus of flowering plants belonging to the ***Anacardiaceae* family** , which also includes **mango** .

- It comprises several tropical tree species valued for their ecological and medicinal significance.
- **Present Distribution:** Currently, *Nothopegia* is found exclusively in the **Western Ghats** , a **UNESCO - recognized biodiversity hotspot** in peninsular India.
- **Botanical Features:** These leaves are **broad with reticulate venation** and are typically adapted to **warm, humid tropical climates** .
 - The fossils show a **strong resemblance to current *Nothopegia* species** in the Western Ghats.
- **Cause of Extinction in the Northeast:**
 - The **tectonic uplift of the Himalayas** led to major climatic shifts in the region.
 - Alterations in **temperature, rainfall, and wind patterns** made the Northeast unsuitable for tropical species like *Nothopegia* .
 - As a result, the genus became **extinct in the Northeast but survived in the climatically stable Western Ghats** , showcasing an example of **climate-driven species migration**.



Makum Coalfield

- Located in **Margherita, Tinsukia district of Assam**, it is the **only coal-producing region in Northeast India**.
- It is also a **significant paleobotanical site** , rich in **Tertiary-period fossil records**.

Read More: [World's Oldest Lifeforms](#)

51st G7 Summit



Source: HT

Why in News?

India's Prime Minister attended the **51 st G7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada** . Though India is **not a part** of the G7 grouping, it has been **invited** for the global summit each year for the **last six years** and twelve times in total as an **outreach country** .

- The **President of the European Commission** was invited to attend the G7 Summit for the **first time**.

What are the Key Outcomes of the G7 Summit?

- **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter:** It commits to addressing **wildfire threats** through **science-based** , **local actions** and **nature-based solutions** , aligning with the goal to **halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030** under the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration (2021)** .
- **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan:** It focuses on **diversifying critical mineral production** , boosting **investment and local value creation** , and **promoting innovation** , building on the **2023 Five-Point Plan for Critical Minerals Security** (also endorsed by **India**).
 - The G7 also committed to strengthening the **World Bank-led Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership**.
- **Condemned Transnational Repression (TNR):** The **G7 condemned Transnational Repression (TNR)** , which refers to **aggressive foreign interference** where states or their proxies seek to **intimidate, harass, harm, or coerce individuals or communities beyond their own borders**.
- **Prevent Migrant Smuggling:** G7 committed to **preventing migrant smuggling** through the **G7 Coalition to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants** and the **2024 G7 Action Plan** targeting this issue.

What is G7?

- **About:** The **G7 (Group of Seven)** is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies — **France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada** .
 - The **European Union (EU)** participates as a **non-enumerated member** , with leaders from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** , **World Bank** , and **United Nations (UN)** often invited to its meetings.
- **Origin & Evolution:** The **G7 was formed in 1975** as the **G6 (US, UK, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy)** in response to the **1973 oil crisis and financial turmoil** , with Canada joining in 1976 to make it G7. The year 2025 marked the **50 th anniversary of the G7**.
 - It became **G8 in 1997 with the inclusion of Russia** , but reverted to G7 in **2014 after Russia's expulsion** over the annexation of Crimea.



• Nature of G7:

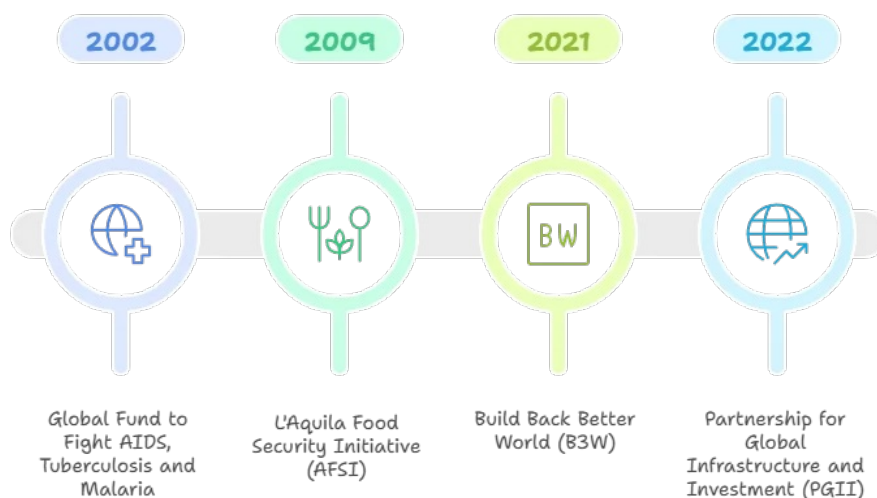
- **Informal grouping** : No formal treaty, **no permanent secretariat** or bureaucracy.
- **Rotating Presidency** : Each member hosts and leads discussions in turn.
- **Decisions by consensus** : **No binding laws** (no legislative authority), but significant global influence due to members' economic and political strength.

• Economic Significance:

- **40%** of the **global economy** and **10%** of the **world's population** live in G7 countries.
- **36%** of global **power generation capacity** .
- **30%** of global **energy demand** .
- **25%** of global energy-related **carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions** .

• Key Achievements:

Key Achievements of G7



Made with Napkin

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

Ans: (a)

Magna Carta: Blueprint for Democracy



Source: IE

The **Magna Carta (1215)** remains a **cornerstone of constitutional governance** even **810 years after its signing** , with its **rediscovery at Harvard University** sparking renewed discussions on its lasting impact on **human rights** and the **rule of law** across the world.

Magna Carta

- **About:** The **Magna Carta** (Latin: Great Charter), signed on **15 th June 1215** at **Runnymede Meadows** near **London** by **King John of England** , established the principle that the **king is not above the law** and **limited his arbitrary powers**.
- **Origin:** It was triggered when the barons rebelled against **King John's arbitrary rule** , demanding **formalized rights** in response to his **high taxes** and **military failures** (such as the **loss of Normandy, 1204** and the **Battle of Bouvines, 1214**).
 - Barons received **land grants** from kings in exchange for **loyalty** and providing **knights** during **wars**.
- **Supremacy of Law:** Despite its limitations (protecting primarily **elite men, not serfs or women**), Magna Carta introduced **the principle of rule of law — even the king was subject to the law**.
- **Provisions:** The document set out **63 clauses** , including:
 - **Clause 39:** Protection from **arbitrary arrest** , **imprisonment, and exile** , ensuring action only by **lawful judgment** of peers or the law of the land .
 - **Clause 40:** Assurance that **justice will not be sold, denied, or delayed**.
- **Legacy:** Inspired **habeas corpus** and safeguards against arbitrary detention.
 - Influenced the **US Constitution and Bill of Rights** during the **American Revolution** .
 - Continues to symbolise resistance to tyranny and the assertion of **individual rights under law**.

Read More: [Salient Features of Indian Constitution](#)

FRA Cells Setup to Facilitate Forest Right Act

For Prelims : Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 , Forest-Dwellers , Minor Forest Produce (MFP), Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 (FCA)

For Mains : Significance & Challenges Related to District-Level Forest Rights Act (FRA) Cells, Forest Rights Act, Challenges and Measures.

Source: TH

Why in News?

The **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs** , under the has sanctioned the setting up of 324 **district-level Forest Rights Act (FRA) cells** across 18 States/UTs to facilitate the implementation of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** under **Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA)**.

What are District-Level Forest Rights Act (FRA) Cells?

- **About: District-level FRA Cells** are **administrative support units** established under the **DAJGUA** scheme to facilitate the implementation of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** .
 - These cells are **centrally funded** via **Grants-in-aid** by the **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- **Objective:** To **assist tribal claimants and Gram Sabhas** in **preparing and submitting forest rights claims** , especially in tribal-dominated districts, aiming to **reduce delays and rejections** by improving documentation, field facilitation, and data management.
- **Legal Basis:** These cells **operate under DAJGUA guidelines** , not the FRA Act itself.
- **Key Functions:**
 - **Facilitate demarcation of vested forest land** and conversion of forest habitations and un-surveyed villages into revenue villages.
 - **Support digitisation and timely uploading of FRA records** to State and Central portals.
 - **Coordinate** with State Tribal Welfare Departments, local administration, and Gram Sabhas **to streamline FRA processes**.
- **Key Concerns Related to New FRA Cells:**
 - Creation of FRA Cells **might lead to the formation of a parallel system** outside the **Forest Rights Act's statutory framework** , resulting in **confusion regarding roles and responsibilities** .
 - There is a risk that **FRA Cells may overlap with existing statutory bodies** like **Gram Sabha Forest Rights Committees (FRCs), Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs), District Level Committees (DLCs)** and **State Monitoring Committees** in roles such as **claimant assistance, documentation, coordination, and record-keeping** leading to **confusion about responsibilities** and hinder smooth implementation.
 - **Structural issues** like **irregular meetings of SDLCs and DLCs** and **delays by Forest Departments in implementing approved claims** are **unlikely to be resolved by the new FRA Cells alone**.

What is the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006?

- **About:** The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** or **Forest Rights Act (FRA)** , seeks to correct historical injustices faced by **forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who **lacked legal ownership over forest land and resources**.
- **Objectives :** To **vest forest land rights in eligible forest-dwelling communities**, ensuring **livelihood security, community-based forest governance** , and **legal protection against evictions**.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Ownership Rights:** Grants ownership over **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** . Allows collection, use, and disposal of forest produce.
 - **MFP** refers to all non-timber forest products of plant origin, including bamboo, brushwood, stumps, and canes.
 - **Community Rights:** Includes traditional usage rights such as **Nistar (a type of Community Forest Resource)**.
 - **Habitat Rights :** Protects the **rights of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities** to their traditional habitats.
 - **Community Forest Resource (CFR):** Enables communities to **protect, regenerate, and sustainably manage forest resources** they have traditionally conserved.
 - The Act facilitates the **diversion of forest land for public welfare projects** managed by the government, **subject to Gram Sabha approval**.
- **Decentralised Framework:** FRA follows a **bottom-up governance model** , empowering the **Gram Sabha** to initiate and verify claims.
 - **Forest Rights Committees (FRCs)** are formed by the Gram Sabha to process claims at the village level.
 - These claims are reviewed by **Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs)** and approved by **District Level Committees (DLCs)** . **State Monitoring Committees** oversee overall implementation.

What is the Significance of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006?

- **Recognition of Historical Rights:** FRA, 2006 corrects **historical injustice** by legally recognizing the **individual rights** (up to 4 hectares for eligible STs and OTFDs) and **community rights** (grazing, fishing, minor forest produce, water bodies, etc.) of **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** over **forest land and resources** , overlooked under colonial and post-colonial forest laws.
 - It also recognizes **habitat rights** of **PVTGs** and **seasonal access** for nomadic groups.
- **Empowerment through Decentralized Governance:** The Act empowers the **Gram Sabha** to verify claims, manage **Community Forest Resources (CFRs)** , **conserve biodiversity** , and oversee **sustainable forest governance** , promoting **decentralized, participatory decision-making** .
- **Protection from Eviction and Right to Development:** Along with the **Land Acquisition Act, 2013** , it safeguards forest dwellers from **eviction without rehabilitation** , and permits **allocation of forest land** for essential **community infrastructure** like education, health, and housing.
- **Inclusive and Sustainable Conservation:** Assigns **responsibility** to rights holders and Gram Sabhas for **conservation of forests, wildlife, water sources, and ecological zones** , blending **traditional knowledge** with **sustainable use** , especially for **PVTGs** and **vulnerable forest communities** .

More on Forest Rights Act, 2006

What are the Key Challenges Related to Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

Click to Read: Key Challenges Related to Implementation of the FRA 2006

What Steps Should be Taken for Strengthening Forest Rights Act Implementation?

Click to Read: Steps for Strengthening Forest Rights Act Implementation

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the legal and administrative implications of creating FRA Cells under a Central scheme when the Forest Rights Act, 2006 mandates State-led implementation.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.
3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

