

India's record Foodgrain production as per Crop Production Estimates 2024–2025

Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the **final estimates** for crop production for the **2024-25 agricultural year**, revealing a series of record-breaking outputs.

Overview of the Estimates

- **Cereal grains:** Growth has been recorded in all the India's primary staple grains (Rice, Wheat, Maize and Millets).
- **Oilseeds:** Recorded an estimated increase of over 8% as compared to 2023-24.
 - ⊕ Key drivers of the increase include Soybean, Groundnut.

Government initiatives for enhanced production

- **MSP procurement assurance:** MSP procurement assurance for pulses, specifically covers tur, urad, chana, and moong, benefitted large numbers of farmers.
- **Self-reliance in Pulses mission (2025-26 to 2030-31):** Aims to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses by significantly enhancing domestic production, reducing import dependence, and sustainably improving farmers' incomes.
 - ⊕ Globally, India is the **largest producer, consumer, and importer** of pulses.
- **Irrigation development:** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), micro irrigation Fund, etc.
- **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture:** Include using alternative and organic fertilisers to enhance productivity and sustainability.

UNICEF releases The State of the World's Children (SoWC) 2025 report

"SoWC 2025: Ending Child Poverty – Our Shared Imperative" draws on data from over 130 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to assess the **breadth of multidimensional poverty** by measuring deprivations across six categories: Education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation, and water.

Key Findings of SoWC 2025

- **Monetary Poverty:** More than 19% of children globally live in extreme monetary poverty, surviving on less than US\$3 per day.
- **Deprivations:** More than 1 in 5 children in LMICs are severely **deprived in at least two vital areas** critical for their health, development, and wellbeing.
 - ⊕ About **206 million children in India experience at least one deprivation**, and about 62 million experience two or more.
 - ⊕ **Sanitation is the most widespread severe deprivation**, increasing children's exposure to diseases.
- **Geographical Concentration:** Highest rates of multidimensional poverty among children are concentrated in **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**.
- **Factors compounding poverty:** Conflict, climate and environmental crises, demographic shifts, mounting national debt, widening technological divides, and unprecedented cuts to Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- **Impact:** Poverty **undermines children's health, development, and learning** – leading to weaker job prospects, shorter lifespans, and increased rates of depression and anxiety.
 - ⊕ For societies, poverty undermines **future economic prosperity** and creates conditions for **violence and extremism** to thrive.

Five Policy Pillars for Ending Child Poverty

- Making **ending child poverty a national priority**, mobilizing resources and ensuring coordinated action across sectors.
- Integrating **children's needs into economic policies** and budgets with child-sensitive budgeting.
- Providing **social protection programmes**, including cash support to families.
 - ⊕ Targeted **cash transfer programmes** have proven effective in countries including Brazil, Mexico and South Africa.
- **Expanding access to essential public services**, such as education, healthcare, water, sanitation, nutrition, and housing.
- **Strengthening economic security of parents and caregivers** by promoting decent work, enforcing minimum wages, increasing formalization and extending social security.

Judiciary cannot impose timelines on President and Governors: Supreme Court

A 5-Judge bench of the Supreme Court in the 16th Presidential Reference (under Article 143) held that Court cannot impose any timelines for decisions of the President and the Governor on granting assent to Bills under Articles 200/201 of the Constitution.

Previously, in April 2025, the Supreme Court prescribed specific time-limits for the Governor and President to act on Bills under Article 200 and 201.

Article 143 allows the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on significant legal or factual questions.

Other Key Highlights of the Judgment

'Deemed Assent' is alien to the Constitution: Courts cannot assume that a Bill is approved merely because the court-ordered time has lapsed.

It would amount to **judicial usurpation of constitutional powers** of the President/Governor and violates **Separation of Powers and Constitutional scheme of federal governance**.

Governors/President Cannot Sit on Bills Indefinitely: As it violates federalism, legislature's will and constitutional morality.

Limited Judicial Review: Courts **can intervene** if the Governor/President acts with **malafide intent**.

Review limited to **process**, not **merits** of assent.

The President is not required to **seek advice of the Supreme Court** whenever a Governor reserves a Bill for her assent as the **subjective satisfaction of the President is sufficient**.

About Article 200 and 201

Article 200: When a Bill passed by State Legislature is presented, the Governor has four options:

Assent to the Bill.

Withhold assent, effectively rejecting the Bill.

Return the Bill for reconsideration by the State Legislature.

Reserve the Bill for the President's consideration.

Article 201: When a Bill is reserved by a Governor for the consideration of the President, the President shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent or return the Bill for the consideration of the Legislature.

No timeline is specified for the President to decide on reserved Bills.

India Justice Report highlights gaps in Juvenile Justice Law's functioning

Report titled '**Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with Law**' evaluates the functioning and capacity of the Indian juvenile justice system **ten years after the enactment of Juvenile Justice Act 2015**.

India Justice Report is a **biennial quantitative index** that uses government data to assess and rank the justice system capacity of all Indian states and UTs.

Key Highlights of the Report

Inconsistent Juvenile Justice Board (JJB): As of 2023-2024, there were 707 JJBs across 765 districts. Only **18 states and Jammu & Kashmir** had a JJB in every district.

Rising Case Backlogs in JJBs: Only **45% of cases were disposed** of during Nov 2022–Oct 2023.

High institutionalisation in Observation Homes: ~83% of total children in custodial facilities were in Observation Homes, reflecting **prolonged pendency of enquiries**.

Inadequate Infrastructure & Coverage: **14 states** lacked a **Place of Safety** for Children.

Nationally, there are **319 Observation Homes**, **41 Special Homes**, and **40 Places of Safety**.

Recommendations

Strengthen JJB Capacity: Ensure existing institutions can function with adequate personnel in key positions such as judges, superintendents, etc.

Leverage technology to enhance efficiency: By adopting **digital case management systems**, **centralising databases** across police, courts, child-care institutions etc.

Prioritize Training as force multiplier: Create structured, competency-based programmes that bring together police, JJBs, probation officers, lawyers, etc.

Conduct periodic independent evaluations: Ensure regular independent audits by academic and civil society bodies, under **Section 55 of the JJ Act** to improve performance.

About Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015

It consolidates and amends the law relating to **CCL and Child in need of Care and Protection (CCP)**.

CCL means a child below 18 years of age who is alleged/ found to have committed an offense.

Board: It mandates setting up **Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)** in every district to deal with cases of CCL.

Implementation monitoring: By **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** (national level) and **State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** (State level).

Preliminary Assessment: In case of heinous offences alleged to have been committed by a child above 16 years of age, JJB shall conduct a preliminary assessment to assess capacity of the child.

After preliminary assessment, the **Children's Court** may decide whether the child can be **tried as an adult**.

Supreme Court directed the Centre to prepare a 'Management Plan for Sustainable Mining' (MPSM) for Aravallis

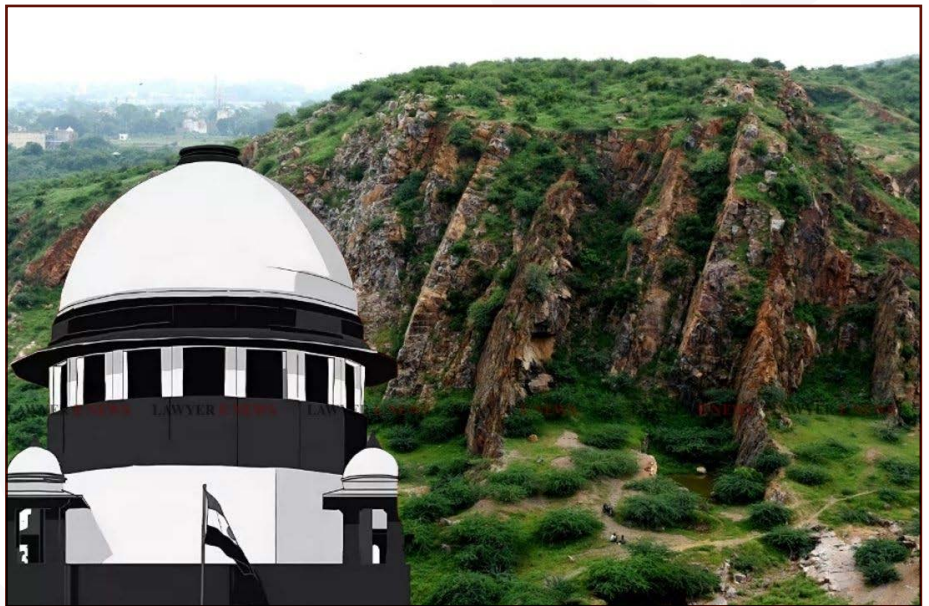
Supreme Court gave directions while hearing a plea for uniform definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Case (1995).

Key Highlights of the Judgement

- **Uniform Definition:** Accepted the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) criteria defining an 'Aravalli Hill' as any landform in designated districts with **100 meter elevation** and a 'Range' as hills within **500 meter proximity**.
- **MPSM:** The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** will prepare the plan through the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**.
 - ⊕ **MPSM will identify permissible areas for mining, ecologically sensitive, conservation-critical and restoration priority areas** where mining shall be strictly prohibited.
- **Moratorium:** Prohibited new mining leases or renewals across Aravalli range states until **MPSM is finalized**.

About Aravallis

- **Geography:** World's **oldest fold mountains** (Pre-Cambrian), spanning across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana.
 - ⊕ The highest peak is **Guru Shikhar** on Mount Abu.
- **Significance:** Acts as a **"Green Barrier"** checking the eastward spread of the Thar Desert towards the Indo-Gangetic plains and serves as a critical aquifer recharge zone.
 - ⊕ Acts as watershed between the Ganga and Indus Basin and is a catchment area for rivers like **Banas, Luni, and Sahibi**.
 - ⊕ **Great Green Wall of Aravalli**, a significant ecological corridor, serves as a vital **refuge for Indian leopards and jackals** within the region.
- **MoEF&CC launched Aravalli Green Wall Project** aimed at restoring degraded land, preventing desertification, enhancing green cover and improving ecological health of the Aravali landscape.



Also In News



Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed states and UTs to **remove** beverages and similar **products being marketed using the term ORS**.

About ORS

- **ORS term** is associated exclusively with WHO-recommended Oral Rehydration Salts, which are drug products.
- **Purpose:** It is a simple, **low-cost glucose electrolyte solution** used to **prevent and treat dehydration from acute diarrhoeal diseases** which is a **leading cause of child mortality** in developing countries.
- **WHO recommended ORS salts composition:** Sodium chloride, glucose (anhydrous), potassium chloride, and trisodium citrate (dihydrate).
- **Functions:** Glucose enhances **sodium and water absorption**, sodium and potassium **replace essential electrolyte losses**, and citrate helps **correct dehydration-related acidosis**.



Javelin and Excalibur

U.S. has approved the sale of Javelin anti-tank missile system, Excalibur guided artillery munitions, and related equipments, worth **\$93 million** to India.

About Javelin Missile System (FGM-148 Javelin)

- **Manufacturer:** Produced by a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.
- It is a **man-portable "fire-and-forget"** anti-tank guided missile.
- **Capability:** Defeats main-battle tanks and other armoured threats using **top-attack or direct modes**.
- It is a **medium-range, 'fire-and-forget' missile** for use against multiple targets including armoured vehicles, bunkers and caves.

About Excalibur Guided Artillery Munition

- **Manufacturer:** Developed by Raytheon Missiles & Defense (RTX) as a precision-guided **155 mm artillery round**.
- **Capability:** Provides **long-range precision strike**, minimising collateral damage and reducing logistical burden.



Indian Shipping Vessels

Centre abolishes Sign-On, Sign-Off & Shore Leave Passes (SLP) Rules for all Indian Vessels exclusively operating in Indian waters.

- **Under SLP**, seafarers had to **physically appear at immigration offices** for issuance of SLP and extensions every **10 days**, causing operational delays and disrupted crew duties on board.
- **Other Initiatives promoting development of Indian Shipping Vessels** include Right of First Refusal (ROFR), Subsidy support to Indian Shipping Companies, Ship Building Financial Assistance Policy etc.



Pharmacogenomics

Pharmacogenomics is revolutionizing precision medicine by using an individual's genetic profile to tailor drug prescriptions for maximum safety and efficacy.

About Pharmacogenomics

- It merges **pharmacology and genomics** to study how genes influence a person's response to drugs.
- **Purpose:** Helps predict which medications will be effective, which may not work, and which could cause adverse reactions.
- **Promise:** It supports **precision medicine** by guiding the "**right drug, right dose, right patient**" approach.
- **Safety:** Significantly **reduces adverse drug reactions** by identifying patients predisposed to toxicity or poor efficacy.
- **Challenges:** **Access, diverse population data, and integration** into clinical practice still limit wider adoption.



Global Mutirão

At **COP30** in Brazil, the "**Global Mutirão**" initiative calls for urgent, collective mobilization to enforce the **transition away from fossil fuels**.

About Global Mutirão

- **History:** Inspired by the **Brazilian and Indigenous tradition of mutirão**, it refers to community labour for shared goals, and adapted by COP30 Presidency as a global climate mobilisation tool.
- **Concept:** Presents climate action as a **cooperative, society-wide effort** aligned with the Paris **1.5°C** target.
- **Scope:** Seeks participation from governments, cities, private sector and civil society to accelerate implementation, finance, and technology deployment.
- **Platforms:** Uses tools such as the **Maloca digital hub** to broaden participation and link local action with global goals.



Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

India calls Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) a key tool for equitable, scalable global climate action at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

About JCM

- **History:** Initiated by Japan in **2013** to promote low-carbon technologies through bilateral crediting partnerships.
- **Aim:** Facilitate **diffusion of leading decarbonizing technologies and infrastructure**, etc., through investment by Japanese entities, thereby contributing to GHG emission reductions or removals and sustainable development in partner countries.
- **Partnership:** Now spans **31 partner countries with 280+ projects**, including **India-Japan collaboration**.
- **Framework:** Functions under **Paris Agreement Article 6**, enabling transparent credit sharing and finance mobilisation.
- **Focus Areas:** Renewable energy with storage, green hydrogen/ammonia, sustainable aviation fuel, biogas, and hard-to-abate sectors.



Dark Patterns

Recently, 26 E-Commerce platforms declared compliance to eliminate Dark Patterns.

- They voluntarily submitted self-declaration letters confirming compliance with the **Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023**.

About Dark Patterns

- **Definition:** These are **deceptive online design tactics** that mislead users into unintended actions, such as **false urgency or basket sneaking**.
- **Regulation:** It is identified and prohibited under the **Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023** issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs.



UNFCCC COP

Turkiye will host UNFCCC COP31 and Australia will hold its presidency.

About United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP)

- COP is the supreme decision-making body of **UNFCCC**.
- COPs are **annual conferences** where **UNFCCC member countries** assess progress, negotiate agreements, and refine commitments to address climate change.
- A key task for the COP is to **review the national communications and emission inventories** (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) submitted by Parties.
- **COP 1** : Held in Berlin, Germany (1995).

Place in News



Seychelles (Capital: Victoria)

Seychelles becomes the **6th member of the Colombo Security Conclave**.

Political Features

- It is an **archipelago consisting of 155 islands in the western Indian Ocean**, northeast of Madagascar.
- It is the **smallest African country** in terms of both area and population.

Geographical Features

- Islands sit atop the **submarine Mascarene Plateau**.
- **Terrain:** Mahe Group is volcanic with narrow coasts and hilly interior; others are relatively flat coral atolls, or elevated reefs.
- **Island Groups:** It consist of **two main Island groups Mahe groups** (mountainous islands) and **Outer Island** (flat coralline islands).
- **Climate:** Tropical Oceanic.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI