Bharat-VISTAAR

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies and Interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare launched Bharat-VISTAAR, announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.

- **Bharat-VISTAAR –** A ***24×7 AI-powered, multilingual advisory platform for farmers.***
- It is a digital agriculture tool and a core component of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector.
- **VISTAAR –** Stands for Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- **Objective –** To deliver integrated information on weather, market prices, pests, soil, and crop management.
- To disseminate government scheme details, eligibility, and benefits in one platform.
- To enhance farmer decision-making and reduce dependence on multiple sources and intermediaries.
- **Key features – Access –** ***Available through text-based chatbot and voice-based AI assistant.***
    - **Talking AI Assistant –** Named Bharati.
    - **Helpline Number –** Farmers can access the service by dialling 155261.
- **Agricultural Advisory Services –** Provides crop and livestock advice, pest and disease alerts, weather forecasts, and market price information.
- **Scheme Integration & Farmer Services –** *Information on at least 10 major central government schemes*, including eligibility, benefit tracking, and grievance redressal. The Schemes include,
    - PM-KISAN.
    - PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
    - Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme.
    - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.
    - Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation.
    - Per Drop More Crop (Micro-Irrigation).
    - PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
    - PM Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (Price Support Scheme).
    - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
    - Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme.

- **Language Coverage – *Phase-1 launched in Hindi and English, with planned expansion to regional languages.***
- **Digital Public Infrastructure –** Integrates systems like AgriStack, ICAR agricultural packages, India Meteorological Department (IMD), AgMarkNet, and National Pest Surveillance System.
- **National Digital Backbone –** Integrates Central and State systems while preserving state autonomy.
- **National AI Ecosystem Integration –** Leverages India AI Mission and BHASHINI.
- **Significance –** Acts as a *single digital gateway for farmers, reducing dependence on multiple portals and intermediaries.*
- Enables personalised advisory and supports evidence-based agricultural decision-making.

References

1. IE | Bharat-VISTAAR
2. PIB | Bharat-VISTAAR

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