Herbicide Ban - Paraquat Dichloride

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Why in News?

Recently, the union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has accepted the recommendation to ban Paraquat Dichloride.

- **Paraquat dichloride** – A chemical herbicide used globally to control broadleaf weeds and grasses and as a harvest-aid desiccant to dry out crops like cotton before harvest.
- It destroys plant tissue on contact but leaves no residual chemical activity in the soil.

Key Highlights

- **Reason for Ban –**
  - Documented adverse health effects
  - Continued history of poisoning incidents
  - Reported high fatalities
  - The absence of a specific antidote
- The ban covers ***manufacture, import, transport, distribution, sale, and use***.
- **Recommended by –** The Registration Committee under the Insecticides Act, 1968
- **Global Context –** Already banned or strictly restricted in 70+ countries.

Reference

[The Hindu | Paraquat Dichloride]