

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 20-01-2025

### State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

#### Why in News?

Recently, the Union government has permitted the Kerala government to utilize Rs.120 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for rehabilitation measures at Wayanad.

- **SDRF** - It is the ***primary fund available with State Governments*** for responses to notified disasters.
- **Established in** - *2005*, under Section 48 (1) (a) of the *Disaster Management Act, 2005*.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Home Affairs.

<b>Disasters covered under SDRF</b>	Cyclone
	Drought
	Earthquake
	Fire
	Flood
	Tsunami
	Hailstorm
	Landslide
	Avalanche
	Cloudburst
	Pest Attack
	Frost
	Cold Waves

- **Immediate relief** - SDRF shall be *used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief* to the victims.
- **Funding** - It is based on the ***recommendations of the Financial Commissions.***
- **Contributions to the fund** - It is made by the *Central Government and State Governments* to all the states.
  - **For all states except North-Eastern and Himalayan States** - The contribution is made by the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of ***75:25***.
  - **For North-Eastern and Himalayan States** - The contribution is in the ratio ***90:10*** for union government and states.
  - The Himalayan states includes Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir.

- **2 equal installments** - The annual central contribution is released in 2 equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- **Local Disasters** - A State Government may use up to 10% of the funds available under the SDRF, which they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State.
- They are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs and should be a listed state specific natural disasters of a state.
- **State specific natural disasters** - The State Government has listed the State specific natural disasters and notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines for such disasters with the approval of the State Authority, i.e. the **State Executive Authority (SEC)**.

## References

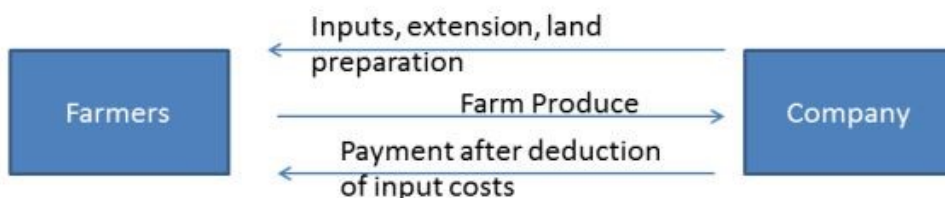
1. [The Hindu| Rehabilitation measures at Wayanad](#)
2. [Ndmindia| State Disaster Response Fund \(SDRF\)](#)

## Contract Farming (CF)

### Why in News?

Recently, India turned from an importer to an exporter of frozen French Fries through Contract Farming (CF).

- **Contract Farming (CF)** - It is an **agreement between farmers (producers) and buyers**, where both agree in advance on the terms and conditions for the production and marketing of farm products.



- **Conditions of CF** - It usually specify the following:
  - Price to be paid to the farmer.
  - Quantity and quality of the product demanded by the buyer.
  - Date for delivery to buyers.
- **Contract** - It includes more detailed information on how the production will be carried out or if inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and technical advice will be provided by the buyer.
- **Products best suited** - There is no restriction to the types of agriculture products, but certain products are more suited for contract farming practices than others.



Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Farmers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier access to inputs, services and credit.</li> <li>• Improved production and management skills.</li> <li>• Secure market or access new markets.</li> <li>• Reduction of price-related risks.</li> <li>• More stable income: better planning.</li> <li>• Introduction of new technologies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of flexibility to sell to alternative buyers when prices increase.</li> <li>• Possible delays in payments and late delivery of inputs.</li> <li>• Risk of indebtedness from loans provided by the buyer.</li> <li>• Environmental risks from growing only one type of crop.</li> <li>• Unequal bargaining power between farmers and buyers.</li> </ul>
<b>Buyers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent supply of raw materials.</li> <li>• Products conform to quality and safety standards.</li> <li>• Reduced input and labour costs when compared to integrated production on company-owned land.</li> <li>• Better chance to secure products of a consistent quality.</li> <li>• Can help to overcome land constraints.</li> <li>• Production more reliable than open-market purchase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High transaction costs from contracting with many small farmers.</li> <li>• Risks of side-selling if farmers decide to break the contract and sell to others.</li> <li>• Potential misuse of inputs if farmers use seeds and fertilizers provided.</li> <li>• By the company for another purpose.</li> <li>• Loss of flexibility to seek alternative supply.</li> <li>• Reputational risks if things go wrong.</li> </ul>

*India has emerged as a major exporter of French Fries (FF), which owes much to companies procuring potato directly from growers and deepening farmer engagement.*

### **India's French Fries (FF) Exports**

- **India's Potato production** - Around 60 million tonnes (mt) and is next only to China.
- **Varieties of potato for FF** - Santana, Innovator, Kennebec, Kufri Frysona and Kufri

FryoM.

- **Exports** - Are mostly to Southeast Asia (Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman) and even Japan and Taiwan.

*India exported 135,877 tons of French Fries (FF) valued at Rs 1,478.73 crore. During April-October 2024, exports were 106,506 tonnes and worth Rs 1,056.92 crore.*

## References

1. [The Indian Express| India as an Exporter in French Fries \(FF\)](#)
2. [FAO| Contract Farming](#)

## Kampala Declaration

### Why in News?

*The African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program recently concluded in Kampala, with adopting the transformative Kampala Declaration for Africa's agri-food systems.*

- **Kampala Declaration** - It solely *focusing on agricultural production to a broader "agri-food systems" approach.*
- This holistic view considers the entire food value chain, from production to consumption, encompassing factors like nutrition, sustainability, and resilience.
- **Adopted by** - African leaders at the Extraordinary African Union Summit on the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)* held in Kampala, Uganda, on January 11, 2025.
- **Key Features of the Kampala Declaration:**
- **Sustainable and Resilient Agri-food Systems** - The core objective is to create a food system that is not only productive but also environmentally sustainable and resilient to shocks.
- **Addressing Malnutrition** - The declaration emphasizes combating all forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition (stunting, wasting), micronutrient deficiencies, and even rising obesity rates.
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture** - Promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices is crucial. This includes adopting climate-smart technologies, improving water management, and enhancing soil health.
- **Intra-African Trade** - Boosting intra-African trade in agricultural products is seen as key to improving food security and economic growth.
- **Empowering Smallholder Farmers** - The declaration recognizes the critical role of smallholder farmers and aims to empower them through access to technology, markets, and finance.

**Malabo Declaration** is the previous framework for African agricultural development, fell short of its goals, particularly in eradicating hunger and

malnutrition.

- **Significance** - The strategy will also see *Africa reduce post-harvest loss by 50 %*, triple intra-African trade in agro-food products and inputs by 2035.
- It will also raise the share of locally processed food to 35% of agro-food GDP by 2035.
- The adoption of the strategy is seen as a pivotal moment that will lay the groundwork for agro-food systems across the continent, and enable countries to act.

## References

1. [Down to Earth| 10-year Strategy to Transform Agriculture](#)
2. [UNFCCC| Kampala Ministerial Declaration](#)

## Bharal

### Why in News?

*Recently, the researchers analyzed the population of 1,000 snow leopards due to large numbers of bharal in the Sanjiangyuan region of China.*

- **Bharal** - It is called as the ***Blue Sheep*** and native to the high Himalayas.
- **Taxonomy:**
  - **Scientific name** - Pseudois Nayaur.
  - **Genus** - Pseudois, where it is the only member.
- **Distribution** - Montane regions in the Himalayas and China (in Gansu, Ningxia, Sichuan, Tibet and Inner Mongolia).
  - *India*, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

*Bharal accounted over 80% of snow leopards food intake. Its density ranks among the world's highest in Sanjiangyuan area of China's Qinghai province, part of the Tibetan Plateau.*

- **Habitat** - Open grassy slopes in high mountains and near cliffs.
- **Morphology** - Short, dense coat is slate grey in colour and bluish sheen, underparts and backs of legs are white, chest and fronts of legs are black.
- Ears are small, nose is dark, horns are found in both sexes and are ridged on the upper surface.



- **Sexual dimorphism:**

- **Males** - Horns are grown upwards, turn sideways and curve backwards.
- **Females** - Horns are much shorter and straighter.

- **Behavior** - They are ***active throughout the day***, alternating between feeding and resting on the grassy mountain slopes.

- They adjust up to the precipitous cliffs, where they once again freeze, melting into the rock face.

- **Threats:**

- Poaching for meat.
- Competition with livestock.

- **Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Status** - Least Concern (LC).
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972** - Schedule 1.

## References

1. [Down to Earth| High numbers of snow leopards due to large numbers of Bharal](#)
2. [Ultimate Ungulate| Bharal](#)