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INS Tabar

Prelims: Current events of national importance and international importance

Why in News?

INS Tabar takes part in a rescue mission as it responds to a distress call from Pulau-flagged MT Yi Cheng 6, in the Gulf of Oman, which caught a fire in the engine room and total power failure onboard.

- INS Tabar is a ***Talwar-class frigate*** of the Indian Navy, designated as F44.
- It was ***built in Russia*** and commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2004.
- It is the ***1st naval vessel*** to take deterrent action ***against piracy***.
- It is a stealth frigate equipped with advanced weapons and sensors for anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.
- INS Tabar is part of the *Indian Navy's Western Fleet* and is based in Mumbai.
- **Capabilities -** Equipped with advanced weapons, sensors, and electronic warfare suites for various warfare operations.
- It also has aviation assets like helicopters and advanced firefighting and damage control systems.
- **Notable Activities**
  - INS Tabar has been involved in counter-piracy operations,
  - Participated in exercises with other navies, and
  - Represented the Indian Navy at international events like the Russian Navy Day celebrations.
- **Recent Activities -** In July 2024, INS Tabar visited Hamburg, Germany, and conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the German Navy.

Reference

The Hindu | INS Tabar

SDG–National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025

***Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance*

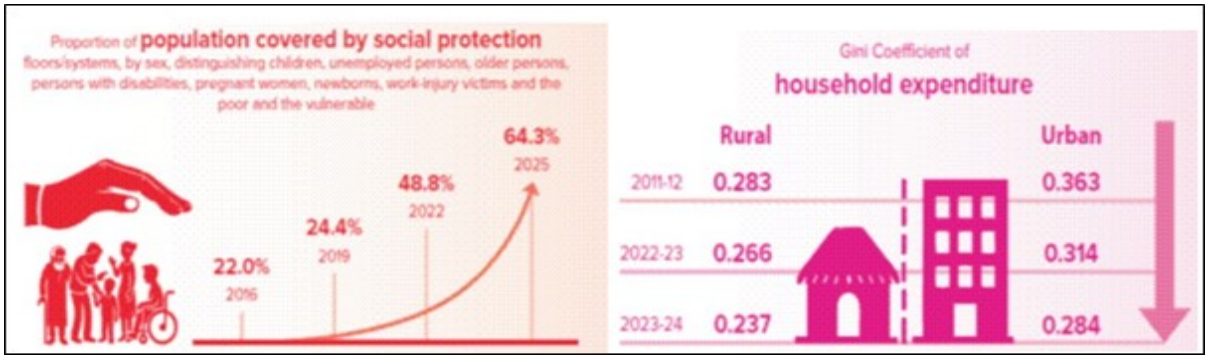
Why in News?

Recently, on the occasion of 19th Statistics Day (29th June), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released various publications on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Released by** – Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Objectives** - To *present the time series data on the SDG national indicators,* which will be instrumental in monitoring the national-level progress of the 17 SDGs.
- **4 mains sections**
  - Overview summary & Executive summary
  - Data Snapshots
  - Metadata
  - Data Tables
- **Expansion in social security coverage** – The population covered by social protection systems/floors has increased to *64.3% in 2025.*
- **Improved agricultural productivity & income per worker** – The Gross Value Added in agriculture per worker (in Rs.) has increased from 61,247 in 2015-16 to 94,110 in 2024-25.
- **Universal safe water access in rural India** – Percentage of population using an improved drinking water source in rural areas has increased to *99.62% in 2024-25*.
- **Cleaner and sustainable energy generation** – The renewable energy share in the total installed electricity generation has increased to 22.13% in 2024-25.
- **Waste management infrastructure** – Number of *waste recycling plant installed have increased* to 3036 in 2024- 25.
- **Growth in entrepreneurship** – The number of start-ups recognised under start-up India have increased to 34,293 in 2024.
- **Reduced income inequality** – The *Gini coefficient of household expenditure has decreased* in rural areas and in urban areas.

*The **Gini index, or Gini coefficient**, measures income inequality in nations by determining how income is distributed across their populations.*

- **Low-carbon economy** – The reduction in emissions intensity of GDP in 2020 over 2005 level is 36%.
- **Rise in digital connectivity** – The total number of internet subscriptions (in millions) has increased to 954.40 in 2024.
- **Rise in the country's forest areas** – The forest cover a percentage of total geographical area has increased from 21.34% in 2015 to *21.76% in 2023*.



Reference

PIB| SDG National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2025

National Sample Survey (NSS)

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance*

Why in News?

Recently, 19th Statistics day was celebrated to commemorate 132nd Birth Anniversary of Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis with the theme '75 Years of National Sample Survey'.

> ***National Statistics Day*** *is celebrated on June 29th every year in India.*

- **Established in** – 1950, by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- It was inspired by the vision of P.C. Mahalanobis
- **Objectives –** To provide reliable, timely, and comparable socio-economic statistics through sample surveys.
- **4 divisions**
  - Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD)

    - Field Operations Division (FOD)
    - Data Processing Division (DPD)
    - Survey Coordination Division (SCD)
- **Headed by** – A Director General, who is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis.
- **Data collection –** They are collected through ***nation-wide household surveys*** on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), etc.
- It also collects *data on rural and urban prices*.
- **Significance** – It plays a significant role in the *improvement of crop statistics* through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies.
- It also maintains a frame of urban area units for use in sample surveys in urban areas.

Recent launches of NSS
• **e-Sankhyiki Portal** – It was launched on National Statistics Day 2024. • It is designed to create a comprehensive system for managing and sharing data, facilitating the easy dissemination of official statistics across the country. • **GoIStat mobile App** – It was launched to enhance the ease of access of official statistical data. • It represents NSO's vision of creating an inclusive data ecosystem where every stakeholder can seamlessly access official data.

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (1893-1972)

- **Contribution** – He played a key role in establishing the
    - National Sample Survey
    - Central Statistical Organization
- These institutions continue to shape India's statistical landscape.
- His influence on India's Planning Commission, particularly the *2nd Five-Year Plan (1956-1961),* was significant.
- He served as the *chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Sampling* from 1947 to 1951.
- **Recognition** - He was known as the "*Father of Statistics*" *in India*.

Reference

PIB| 75 Years of National Sample Survey

Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)

Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance

Why in news?

Recently 36 workers were killed at the factory in the explosion of the Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC) drying unit at Sigachi Industries, Hyderabad.

- **Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)** – It is a chemically inert, derived from purified and partially depolymerized cellulose, commonly sourced from wood pulp or cotton linters.

  Chemically inert means that a substance has very low reactivity and does not readily form chemical bonds with other substances.

- The human body does not absorb it and so the skin shows no reaction.
- **Unique property –** Its ability to form strong compacts and facilitate drug release, make it an essential component in various drug products.

Key Applications

- **Pharmaceuticals** – It is widely used as a binder, filler, Disintegrant and texturiser.
- **Binder** – It helps in forming cohesive mass of powder during tablet manufacturing, holding the drug and other excipients together.
- **Disintegrant –** It aids in the breakdown of tablets in the body, allowing for faster drug release.
- It also helps to maintain drug weight
- **Filler** – It provides bulk to the tablet, especially when the drug dose is low, and ensures active ingredients function effectively.
- **Food industry** – It is used as an anti-caking agent and fat substitute.
- It also adds texture to processed foods.
- **Cosmetics** – It is used in creams, powders, and makeup for consistency and texture.
- **Safety concerns in manufacturing –** Though MCC is safe for consumers, its manufacturing involves hazardous processes.
- It requires strict safety protocols, trained personnel, and equipment maintenance.
- **Concerns** – Global scrutiny expected on manufacturing standards and adherence to safety norms.

- India’s pharma industry is a major foreign exchange earner.
- **Recommended safety practices –** HAZOP (Hazard and Operability Study) must be conducted by qualified experts.
- Continuous monitoring of plant data for abnormalities.
- Operators must be trained and maintain high safety awareness.
- Strict adherence to global safety standards to avoid future tragedies.

Reference

The Hindu | Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)

Report on Agriculture Output (2023-24)

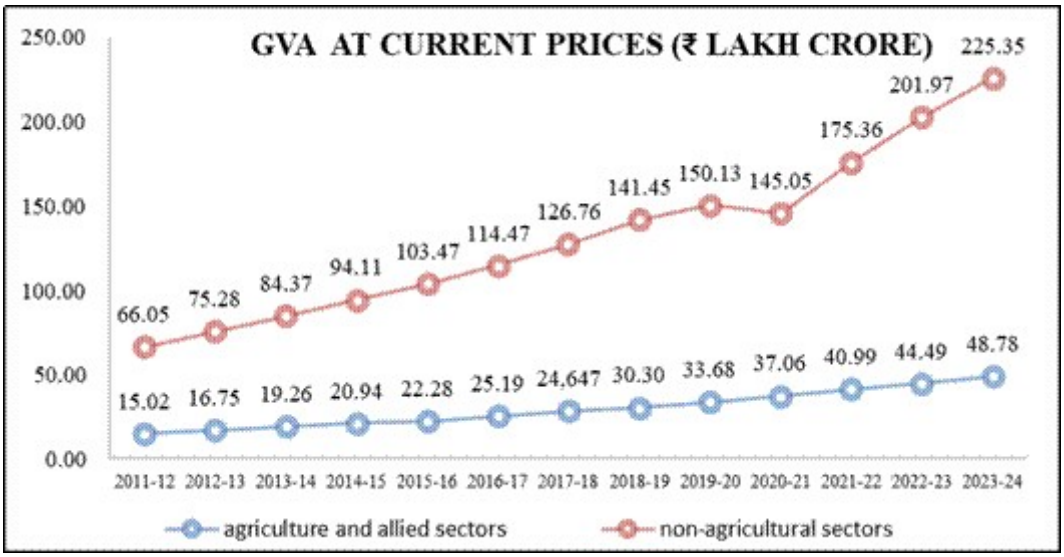
Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Agriculture*

Why in news?

Recently National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the annual publication of “Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24).

Major Trends in Fruits and Vegetables

- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** – GVA of agriculture and allied sectors at current prices registered a growth of about 225%, increasing from Rs 1,502 thousand crore in 2011-12 to Rs 4,878 thousand crore in 2023-24.



- **Gross Value of Output (GVO) –** GVO from the agriculture and allied sector at constant prices has shown steady growth of approximately

54.6%.

Gross Value of Output (GVO) represents the total value of production of goods in agriculture and allied sectors, before deducting the cost of inputs.

- **Crop sector** – It remains the largest contributor to total GVO (at constant prices) of agriculture and allied sectors with share of 54.1% in 2023-24.
- Cereals and fruits & vegetables together accounted for 52.5% of total crop GVO in 2023-24.
- Five States namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana and Haryana contributed nearly 53% of GVO (at constant prices) of cereals in 2023-24.
- Among the cereals, only paddy and wheat constitute approximately 85% of GVO (at constant prices) of all cereals in 2023-24.

Crop/Item	Increase in GVO (2011-12 to 2023-24)	Latest GVO (Rs Crore)
Strawberry	40 times (constant prices) / 80 times (nominal)	Rs 103.27 crore
Parmal (Parwal)	17 times	Rs 789 crore
Pumpkin	10 times	Rs 2,449 crore
Pomegranate	Over 4 times	Rs 9,231 crore
Mushroom	3.5 times	Rs 1,704 crore
Dry Ginger	285% increase	Rs 11,004 crore

- Other Notable Fruits,
  - **Watermelon -** 119%
  - **Cherry -** 99%
  - **Banana & Mosambi -** 88% each
  - **Muskmelon -** 87%
- **Rising share of animal products –** The share of meat in agriculture GVO rose from 5% (2011-12) to 7.5% (2023-24) (constant prices).
- **Decline in traditional staples –** The share of cereals in agriculture GVO

fell from 17.6% to 14.5% over the same period.
- It reflects a structural shift away from staple crops toward high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, spices, and animal products.

Changing food consumption patterns

- **Rural** – The share of fresh fruits in Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) rose from 2.25% to 2.66%.
- About 63.8% of rural households consumed fresh fruits in 2011-12; rose to 90.3% by 2022-23.
- Sharp fall in share of cereals in MPCE from **10.69% to 4.97%.**
- **Urban** – The share of fresh fruits in MPCE slightly declined from 2.64% to 2.61%.
- Sharp fall in share of cereals in MPCE from **6.61% to 3.74%.**
- **Structural shifts** – The report indicates a nutritional shift and growing emphasis on high-value crops likely due to,
- Technological advancements in agriculture.
- Evolving consumer preferences toward fruits, vegetables, meat, and spices.
- Rising incomes, especially among rural households.

Reference

1. The Indian Express| Agriculture Output Report
2. PIB| Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture