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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -   
 - Quiz IAS
 -   
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - HCS Quiz
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

- [Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
- [Syllabus Prelims Punjab PCS](#)
 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
 - E-Magazine
 - E-Magazine for HPAS
 - हिमाचल प्रदेश प्रश्न-उत्तर
 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
- About US
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MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

15th, Feburary, 2022

Topic: Tourism

Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims

What is the news?

- **Kasauli is the State's first clean street hub for tourism.**

Why important?

- Tourism sector Kasauli's market has been made the first clean street food hub. The first license was issued for any market in the state by the FSSAI.
- At the Kasauli heritage market, 25 grocery stores were selected for the campaign and audited.

How does this work?

- The license has been issued to Kasauli. Once licensed, food retailers will function according to the rules.
- Apart from this, the work from manufacturing to selling of food items will be done according to the instructions issued. Food vendors will benefit from the scheme, while people will get clean and healthy food items.

(Source: Amarujala)

Topic: Agriculture

Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims and Mains

What is the news?

- Bumper wheat crop prospects have brightened up in Himachal as the state received 57 per cent excess rain during the current winter session, while 93 per cent excess rain was recorded in January alone.

How has that helped?

- Rainfall in low-lying areas, particularly in rainy areas, was beneficial to wheat as it provided sufficient moisture during planting and crop maturation.
- Given that about 75 percent of cropland is rainy, periodic and excess rains are beneficial to crops. A bumper crop is expected this year," said Director, Agriculture, BR Takhi.

Challenges encountered last year:

- Because of the small amount of rain in December, we were concerned because there was no growth. However, the January rain increased the plant's size to one foot," said Gian Singh, a farmer from the village of Sujana on the outskirts of Shimla.

Important:

- Rain in low areas, especially rainy areas, has been beneficial to wheat as it has provided sufficient moisture during planting and maturing, he said.
- It helps control the spread of yellow rust and facilitates the application of urea.
- Another spell of rain during the milky stage in March would ensure that the production target of 672 thousand metric tonnes is surpassed.

Stats:

- The area under cultivation and production was 3.19 lakh hectares and 628 thousand metric tons in 2019-20, which slightly increased to 3.40 lakh hectares. A production target of 672 thousand metric tonnes with an average yield of 20 quintals per hectare has been set for 2021-22.
- Himachal received 212.6 mm of rain against normal rainfall of 135.7 mm, an excess of 57 per cent, from January 1 to February 14. Sirmaur received 329 per cent excess rain, followed by Solan (271 per cent), Una (253 per cent), Bilaspur (204 per cent), Hamirpur (124 per cent), Kangra (118 per cent), Mandi (104 per cent), Kullu (88 per cent), Shimla (62 per cent) and Chamba (52 per cent).

(Source: HP Tribune)

Topic: Excise Policy

Importance: Himachal HPAS Mains

What is the news?

- A meeting for the management of Excise Policy 2022-23 was organized by the State Taxes and Excise Department here today. Principal Secretary State Taxes and Excise Subhasish Panda presided over the meeting.

What's emphasized?

- Principal Secretary emphasized increasing the revenue collection of the state and operation of trade as per the policy of the department. He said that strict action would be taken against licensees involved in illegal activities.
- Excise licensees, representatives of various distilleries and bottling plants from various districts also gave their suggestion on the occasion. The suggestions would be presented to the government for further action.
- The licensees were also informed about the implementation of track and trace system for the operation of the liquor trade by the Department.

(Source: HP Government)

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- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा क्विज
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा एडिटोरियल
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा माइंडमैप
- उत्तर प्रदेश ए-मैगज़ीन
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा फ्री मॉक टेस्ट
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा प्रीलिम्स टेस्ट सीरीज

Punjab PCS

- Punjab Current Affairs
- PPSC Quiz
- Punjab Mindmaps
- Punjab Editorial
- Punjab E-Magazine
- PPSC Free Mock Test
- PPSC Prelims Test Series

Haryana HCS

- Haryana Current Affairs
- HCS Quiz
- HCS Editorials
- HCS Mindmaps
- HCS E-Magazine
- HCS Free Mock Test
- HCS Prelims Test Series

संबन्धित लेख

- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम

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- UPSC
- दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री का नाम
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