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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 (English/Eng)
- Answer Writing (English /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (English/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
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
  - HCS Quiz
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
  - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
  - Answer Writing (English /Eng)
  - Haryana Essay (English/Eng)
  - HR Government Schemes
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
  - 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 का हिंदी-हिंदी
    - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
  - National Exams
  - Himachal Pradesh Exams
  - Punjab Exams
  - Test Series Planner
- About US
- Sign Up
- Login
- facebook 

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▪ youtube 

MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

## *April 9th, 2020*

### *Topic:- Farmers Challenges in Lockdown*

#### *What is the news?*

- ***As harvesting nears, farmers lose sleep over defunct equipment.***
- Ahead of the harvesting season, farmers are a worried lot.

#### ***Reason:-***

- They cannot get their farm equipment and machinery repaired owing to the lockdown. Most of the repair shops are shut due to the curfew. Besides, no new implements

and machinery can be bought.

### ***Government support:-***

- All arrangements concerning the harvesting and procurement had been made, farmers are perturbed as to how they could start operations if their combine harvesters and tractors are not in working condition.
- Even as administration has issued curfew passes to owners of combine harvesters and other farm machinery, it would be of no use in case repair shops are not allowed to open.
- While some farmers are managing things by getting repair work done secretly, others are left no option but to delay the harvesting.

### ***Farmers views:-***

- Even if you manage to get convince mechanics to repair the farm machinery, they cite unavailability of spare parts. Besides, nakas by villagers to seal their areas have further aggravated our problems.

### ***Exemption order:-***

- Nakodar: Keeping in view the upcoming harvesting season, the Union Home Ministry has exempted agricultural machinery shops and repair shops from the lockdown and curfew. Punjab Additional Chief Secretary (Home), in an official communication to all administrative secretaries and Deputy Commissioners, said consolidated guidelines of home affairs had been reviewed by the Union

Government and it had exempted certain areas from lockdown restrictions.

(Source:- The Tribune)

## ***Topic:- Agriculture Challenges***

### ***What is the news?***

- ***No govt support, mustard growers struggle to get MSP.***

### ***Context:-***

- Mustard growers of Fazilka district are facing financial losses as the government has not been procuring their produce at the minimum support price (MSP) announced by the Centre due to the alleged lack of coordination between the state and Union Government

### ***Challenges:-***

- The farmers are compelled to sell their produce for less than Rs 1,000 per quintal to private traders.





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- HP Editorials
- HP Mindmaps
- HPAS E Magazine
- HPAS Free Mock Test
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## उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक सेवा

- 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 लिंक्स

- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
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- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट

## Useful Links

- UPSC
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
- Himachal HPAS
- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट
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- About us
- Privacy Policy
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- दिल्ली सरकार का नया बजट

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