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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
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
  - HCS Quiz
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
  - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
  - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
  - Haryana Essay (Hindi/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 

- instagram 
- youtube 

MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

## *January 7, 2020*

### *Topic:- Environment*

#### **News:- Farm fires: State-level protest today**

Context:-Area farmers' protest under the banner of the BKU Ugrahan in front of the Bhawanigarh police station for cancellation of FIRs registered against farmers for stubble-burning continued for the fifth day today.

- The farmers announced to organise a state-level protest on Tuesday as they alleged that the authorities concerned were not serious to look into their demands.

#### ***Why did farm fires happen?***

- Farmers burn their fields to remove plants that are already growing and to help the plants that are about to

- come up. These burns are often called “prescribed burns” because they are used to improve the health of the field
- The short window between the harvesting of paddy and sowing of wheat along with the high cost of manual or mechanical management of straw forces farmers to set fire to their fields.

### ***Why protest?***

- Farmers do not want to burn stubble, but they don't have any alternative. But the Punjab Government is taking legal action without providing any alternative

### ***Alternative:-***

- The researchers collected data about farm practices, the costs involved and the yields of crops, from previous studies, field trials and surveys. They then calculated the net profit generated by burning and no-burning practices like baling, straw incorporation into the fields, and mulching, where the straw is spread on the field. Their analysis was based on the market prices, yields, labour and other costs incurred for land preparation and crop production.
- The researchers found that using the Happy Seeder led to a nearly 10-20% increase in farmer profits on average. Thus, farmers can, on average, reap a benefit of INR 11498 per hectare by switching from the most common burning practices to the use of a Happy Seeder for mulching. The machine can be mounted on a tractor, and it cuts and lifts rice straw, sows wheat into the bare soil, and deposits the straw over the planted area as mulch.
- The researchers also found that the use of Happy Seeder reduced agricultural greenhouse emissions per hectare by

78% or more relative to burn options. For each hectare, all the farming options considered that does not include burning showed a lower contribution to particulate air pollution. Such practices can reduce agriculture's contributions to India's greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to better health by reducing air pollution, say the researchers.

- However, not all farmers currently have access to equipment like Happy Seeder. "The Happy Seeder is not affordable for everyone, and there need to be more available options for renting these machines.

(Source:- The Tribune)

## ***Topic:- Environment***

### ***News:-Set up the dilution water tank, HC tells state***

Context:-Just about three months after the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the shutting down of all tanneries in Jalandhar's Leather Complex, a Division Bench today ordered the construction of reinforced cement concrete (RCC) dilution water tank. For the purpose, Punjab will provide Rs 1.53 crore within seven days.

### ***What is the dilution tank?***

- A dilution water tank is designed to collect waste that is discharged.

- Tannery: -A place where animal hides are tanned; the workshop of a tanner.

(Source:- The Tribune)

## ***Topic:- Important Personality***

News:-“Fondly remember my late father Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Ji on his birth anniversary today. Having served as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal), he played an important role in nation-building by getting the Princely States to accede to the Indian Union” CM

### ***About Yadavindra Singh Ji:-***

- Sir Yadavinder Singh About this sound pronunciation(7 January 1914 – 17 June 1974) was the 9th and last Maharaja of Patiala from 1938 to 1971. He was also an Indian cricketer who played in one Test in 1934
- He served in the Patiala State Police, became its Inspector General and served in Malaya, Italy and Burma during the Second World War.
- He agreed to the incorporation of the princely state into India on 5 May 1948. He was Rajpramukh of the new Indian state of Patiala and East Punjab States Union until it was merged with Punjab in 1956.

(Source:- Government Website)



## ***Important News:-***

**News:-** Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today unveiled amended people-friendly Punjab Municipal Building Bye-Laws, plugging the deficiencies in the earlier provisions and seeking to give a boost to the sluggish construction and infrastructure development activity in the state.

- Under the amended bylaws, parking norms have been relaxed and mixed land use has been allowed.
- Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra said the aim was to ensure hassle-free and seamless construction activity, whether of residential or commercial and industrial buildings, including hotels and mini plex cinemas.

***Please visit Regular Quiz Section for Current affairs questions.***

***Punjab PCS → See Last (Regular Quiz)***

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## UPSC

- National Current Affairs
- UPSC Quiz
- Editorials
- Mindmaps
- E-Magazine
- Free Mock Test
- Prelims Test Series

## संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ

- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ
- संघीय प्रतियोगिताएँ

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- HP Current Affairs
- HPAS Quiz
- HP Editorials

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- HPAS E Magazine
- HPAS Free Mock Test
- HPAS Prelims Test Series

## उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका

- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्रिका

## 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

## संयुक्त सूचना

- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना

## Useful Links

- UPSC
- संयुक्त सूचना
- Himachal HPAS
- संयुक्त सूचना संयुक्त सूचना
- Punjab PCS
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- CSAT
- संयुक्त सूचना

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