



1. Direct-seeded rice (DSR)

Topic: Agriculture



In News: Labour shortages and rains getting delayed are pushing farmers in several leading rice-growing states to adopt DSR method.

More on the Topic

- DSR, also called the 'broadcasting seed technique', is a water-saving method of sowing paddy.
- **Seeds are directly drilled into the fields in this method.**
- This saves groundwater, as opposed to the traditional water-intensive method, under which rice seedlings are transplanted from a nursery to waterlogged fields.
- In DSR, water is replaced by real chemical herbicides, and in traditional transplanting, standing water acts as herbicide and prevents growth of weeds by denying them oxygen in submerged stage.

Advantages of direct seeding:

- No significant reduction of yield under optimal conditions
- **Savings on irrigation water** by 12-35% under efficient water management practices
- Reduces labor and drudgery by eliminating seedling uprooting and transplanting
- Reduces cultivation time, energy, and cost
- No plant stress from transplanting
- Faster maturation of crops
- Lower GHG emissions
- Mechanized DSR provides employment opportunities for youth through service provision business model
- Increases total income by reducing cost of cultivation

Current Constraints:

- Higher seed rates
- Seeds exposed to birds and pests



- Weed management
- Higher risk of lodging
- Risk of poor or non-uniform crop establishments

About Rice Cultivation Statistics of India:

- It is **India's largest agricultural crop** (accounting for over 40% of the total foodgrain output)
- India is the **world's biggest exporter** (around 40% of the world's export)
- **India is 2nd largest** rice producer in the world after China.

Ideal Climatic Condition for Rice Cultivation:

- Hot and humid climate;
- Best suited to regions which have high
- humidity, prolonged sunshine and an assured supply of water;
- Average temperature required throughout the life period ranges from 21 to 37o C.

Source: Indian Express

2. ISTS charges Waiver on offshore wind, hydrogen, ammonia projects

Topic: Economy





In News: The government has announced a complete waiver of the inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charges on offshore wind, green hydrogen and ammonia projects for 25 years.

More on the Topic:

- The waiver is **applicable to projects commissioned till December 31, 2032.**
- This decision has been taken **to facilitate wider execution of offshore wind energy initiatives, to promote the expansion of green hydrogen/green ammonia projects and to encourage the offtake of renewable energy** from energy storage system projects.

About ISTS:

- Any system for the conveyance of electricity by means of a main transmission line from the territory of one State to another State is called ISTS.

India Renewable Energy Statistics (According to finding of Parliamentary Panel):

- A RE capacity of **90 GW** (69% of the overall target) **has been installed** in the country as of December 31, 2022.
- This is a commendable achievement, as the RE installed capacity has **increased by more than 236% since 2014.**
- Whatever shortfall has occurred in achieving the target is because of **the low installation of solar roof-tops and wind energy projects.**
- Against 40 GW, **only 7.40 GW** of rooftop solar projects could be installed in the country.
- Against 60 GW, the cumulative installed capacity of wind power is 41.93 GW.

Source: DTE

3. Insurgency in Manipur

Topic: Internal Security



In News: Amid fresh violence in Manipur, Chief Minister told the media that 40 insurgents had been killed by security forces.

More on the Topic:

History of conflict in Manipur:

- Manipur has been in the cross-currents of India’s oldest insurgent movements. The Naga national movement in the 1950s and the fight for an independent Nagalim touched parts of Manipur. **The NSCN-IM entered a ceasefire agreement with the Indian government only in 1997.**
- In 1964, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) was formed, demanding secession from India. Subsequently, numerous Meitei insurgent groups, or Valley Insurgent Groups, came into being, which received arms and training from China.
- These valley groups operated with a **dual purpose – independence from India, and warding off Naga insurgent groups.**
- In 1993, a massacre of Kukis by the NSCN-IM left thousands of Kukis homeless. The Kuki-Zomi tribes organised various armed groups after this.



- The insurgent groups are most visible today in the political life of the state. Candidates, cutting across party lines, stand for elections with insurgent backing, and the groups dictate to the voters who should win.

Government Response:

- **The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958** was enacted and extended to the entire state.
- In the 1980s, Manipur was declared a disturbed area.
- **A tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement** between the Centre, the state and the Kuki-Zomi groups was signed in 2008.
- As the law-and-order situation gradually improved, AFSPA has been repealed in several areas.
- However, the Valley insurgent groups (like the UNLF, which is considered the mother of all Meitei insurgent groups) have never entered an agreement with the Centre.

Ethnic Composition of Manipur:

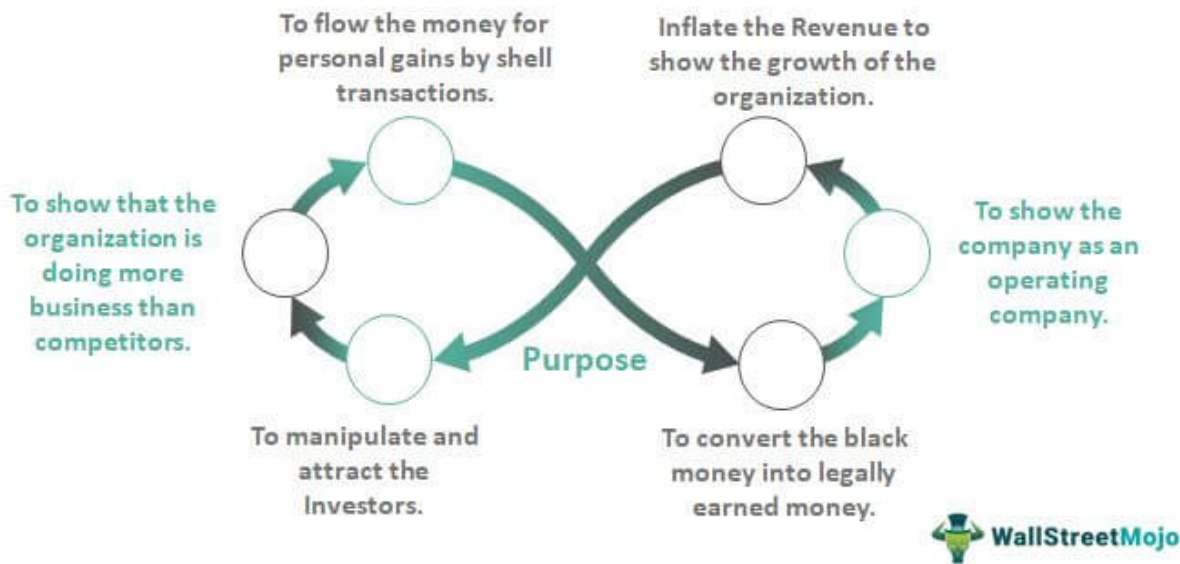
- Meiteis are the largest community in Manipur and there are **34 recognised tribes broadly classified as 'Any Kuki Tribes' and 'Any Naga Tribes'**.
- **The Imphal valley** in the state, at the centre of Manipur, **accounts for about 10% of its landmass and is home primarily to the Meitei and Meitei Pangals who constitute roughly 64.6% of the state's population.**
- The remaining **90% of the state's geographical area comprises hills surrounding the valley, which are home to the recognised tribes, making up about 35.4% of the state's population.**
- While a **majority of the Meiteis are Hindus followed by Muslims (8%), the 33 recognised tribes, broadly classified into 'Any Naga tribes' and 'Any Kuki tribes' are largely Christians.**
- Manipur, along with Dimapur district of Nagaland, was brought under the purview of the **ILP System** in December 2019.
- **ILP is a special permit obligatorily required by "outsiders" from other regions of the country to enter the notified states.**

Source: IE

4. Round Tripping

Topic: Economy

Round Tripping



In News: Several start-ups, including prominent unicorns, have received tax notices on some supposedly unexplained investments in the back drop of increasing round tripping.

More on the Topic:

- Money that leaves the country through various means and then returns, frequently as foreign investment, is referred to as “round-tripping.”
- Round tripping is an illegitimate way to boost earnings, by trading shell transactions or assets.
- In India this is mainly done to avoid **paying taxes and escaping other legal essentialities.**
- P-notes are one of the instruments which assists in round tripping.
- This can be explained as: An Indian sending unaccounted money to tax havens through hawala transaction and the hawala operator in the tax haven investing that money into the P notes issued by an FPI registered with SEBI.
- In this way, unaccounted money can be converted into legitimate source of income.

About P Notes:

- P-notes are the **offshore derivative instruments which are issued against the Indian securities by the foreign portfolio investors registered with SEBI.**



- Thus, it is an easier way of investing in **the securities of other countries without any registration with the regulator of that country.**

Source: FE

5. Great Himalayan National Park

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: An Interpretation Centre has been developed in the Sainj valley of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) at Sainj Ropa.

More on the Topic:

- It gives information about the flora and fauna found in the GHNP.
- It will focus on orchids and medicinal plants, along with birds and beautiful locations.
- All four state symbols — the state bird, Western tragopan; state animal, snow leopard; state flower, pink rhododendron; and state tree, deodar — have been showcased with their descriptions.
- The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) is a national park in India, **located in Kullu region in the state of Himachal Pradesh.**
- **It is UNESCO world Heritage site.**
- The GHNP is at the junction of world's two major biogeographic realms: **the Indomalayan realm to the south and the Palearctic realm to the north.**

Source: PIB

6. European Unions Code on Online Disinformation

Topic: Science and Technology

How to spot when news is fake

8. JOIN THE MYTH-BUSTERS⁽²⁾

Keep on top of the latest tricks and narratives used by those spreading disinformation.
Report fake stories.
Tell your friends.

7. QUESTION YOUR OWN BIASES

Sometimes a story is just too good or entertaining to be true.
Take a deep breath, compare with reliable sources and keep a cool head.

6. THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

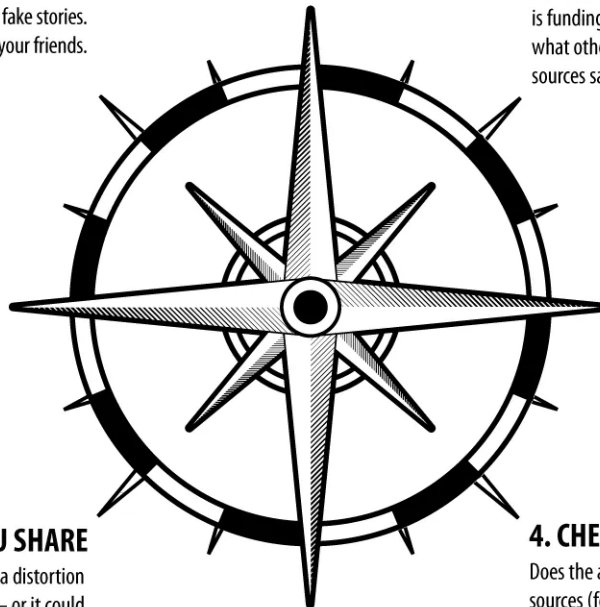
The story could be a distortion of real or old events – or it could be satire. The headline could be designed to spark strong emotions. If an event is real, reliable media will cover it.

1. CHECK THE CONTENT

Are the facts and figures accurate? Is the article biased? A credible media outlet keeps one-sided opinions where they belong – in op-eds, not in news articles.

2. CHECK THE OUTLET

Do you know it? Does the URL look strange? Check the 'about' section. Who is behind it? Who is funding it? Double-check what other (trustworthy) sources say.



3. CHECK THE AUTHOR

Does this person even exist? A well-respected journalist always has a track record. If the author has made up his or her name (or does not mention it), the rest is also likely to be fake.

5. CHECK THE PICTURES

Images are powerful, and it is easy to manipulate them. An image search can show if it has been used before in a different context. The InVID plugin⁽¹⁾ can help you detect manipulation of videos or pictures.

4. CHECK THE SOURCES

Does the author use reliable sources (for example, well-established and respected media outlets)? Are the quoted experts real specialists? If the story uses anonymous (or no) sources, it could be fake.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

In News: Twitter has withdrawn from the European Union's Code of Practice on online disinformation.

More on the Topic:

- Twitter will be legally required to fight disinformation in the EU from 25 August, as a very large online platform (VLOP) under the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA).
- The DSA is "a set of common rules on intermediaries' obligations and accountability across the single market", and ensures higher protection to all EU users, irrespective of their country.
- The DSA will tightly regulate the way intermediaries, especially large platforms such as Google, Facebook, and YouTube, function when it comes to moderating user content.

Source: Hindu

7. Evergreening of Loans

Topic: Economy

CALLS OUT EVERGREENING OF LOANS



“ Certain instances of using innovative ways to conceal the real status of stressed loans have also come to our notice... It is the board's responsibility to ensure that policies are in place to identify potential conflicts of interest and deal with them... It is necessary that 'independent' directors are truly independent

—Shaktikanta Das | RBI GOVERNOR

<p>➤ A method used to hide defaults is to bring two lenders together to evergreen each other's loans by sale & buyback of loans or debt instruments</p>	<p>➤ Das called upon boards to hold senior mgmt accountable for implementing decisions and ensuring risk levels remain within approved limits</p>
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In News: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das cautions against evergreening of loans.

More on the Topic:

- Evergreening of loans is a practice where banks revive a loan by a borrower who is on the verge of default by granting more loans to the same borrower. In other words, evergreening refers to giving a fresh loan to a borrower to pay up an old loan.
- It is a practice that is done to save the previous loan from defaulting, so that it does not appear as a non-performing asset (NPA) on a bank's books.



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Source: Hindu

No 18, B.B.M.P Building
Kanakapura road ,
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904 | rvta@rvei.edu.in

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