

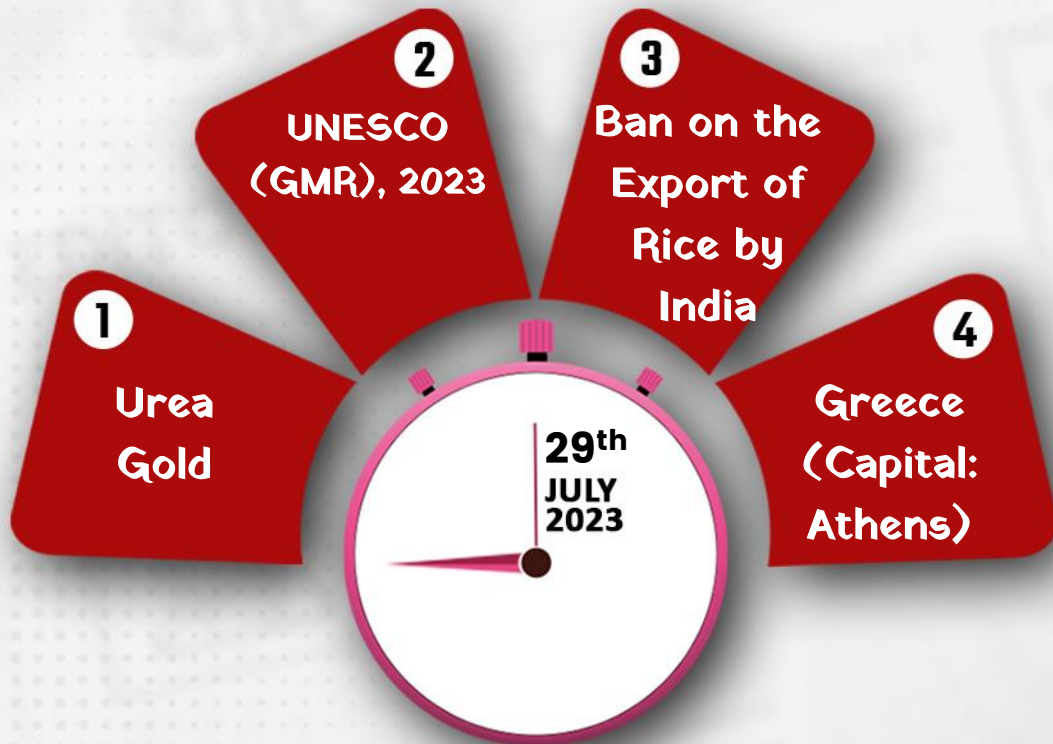


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CURRENT AFFAIRS

PRELIMS+MAINS QUICK REVISION



Urea Gold

→ Recently PM Modi launched **Urea Gold from Sikar, Rajasthan**. This is a new variety of urea. This reduces the consumption of fertilizers and also increases crop production.

→ **Urea Gold:-**

- It is a new variety of Sulfur Coated Urea.
- It is being introduced to address the sulfur deficiency in the soil and save input costs for the farmers.
- Urea Gold surpasses existing neem-coated ureas in terms of both economic viability and efficiency.

→ **Sulphur-coated urea** facilitates the gradual release of nitrogen, thereby increasing its availability and uptake by crops.

→ The addition of **humic acid to Urea Gold** further extends its shelf life as a fertilizer.

→ This product not only replaces conventional urea consumption but also reduces overall fertilizer usage.

- ➔ As per reports, **15 kg of Urea Gold provides benefits equivalent to 20 kg of conventional urea**, making it a more efficient and cost-effective option for farmers.
- ➔ Urea is a commonly used nitrogen-based fertilizer that provides plants with essential nutrients to promote healthy growth.
- ➔ **Neem Coated Urea is a special form of urea fertilizer** which has been coated with neem oil.



**पीएम मोदी ने लांच की नई खाद
सल्फर लेपित (यूरिया गोल्ड)**

UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (GMR), 2023

- The title of this report is- **'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms?'**
- The mandate of the **GMR** is to "act as a mechanism/instrument for monitoring and reporting on education in SDG 4 (Quality Education) and other SDGs.
- Technology in education has created opportunities for learners with disabilities and those living in difficult areas.



UNESCO



Global
Education
Monitoring
Report

- ➔ In India's National Open University, 45 per cent of students are from rural areas.
- ➔ Digital literacy and critical thinking are becoming increasingly important with the widespread adoption of generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- ➔ 54 per cent of countries have outlined the skills they want to develop for the future, but only 11 of the 51 governments surveyed have a curriculum for **AI**.
- ➔ **Concerns :**
 - Maintaining connectivity for education in poor countries would cost US\$1 billion per day.
 - Currently only 40 percent of primary schools around the world have internet access.
 - During the pandemic, half a billion students around the world were deprived of education only because of online tutoring.
 - Fewer than half of countries have teacher training programs covering cyber security.
- ➔ **Recommendations:**
 - The focus should be on learning outcomes rather than digital inputs.

- All countries should set standards for connecting schools to the Internet between now and 2030.
- The report supports banning smartphones in schools. This will improve academic performance

→ UNESCO:

- Paris was established in the year 1945
- Headquarters:- Paris
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Mission: Contributing to the establishment of peace and poverty alleviation, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue by promoting international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information.
- Membership 194 members (including India) and 12 associate members.

Ban on the Export of Rice by India

- India has banned the export of **non-basmati white rice**. India has taken this step to ensure adequate domestic availability of rice at reasonable prices.
- Banning rice exports is also expected to support India's ethanol blending programme. This will reduce the import of expensive crude oil.
- The move will also help the animal husbandry and poultry sector as the cost of animal feed will come down.



**भारतीय चावल के लिए तरस जाएगी दुनिया,
सरकार ने लिया यह फैसला**

- ➔ India has emerged as the largest exporter of rice in the world. India's share in the total global rice exports in the year 2022/2023 was **about 40 percent**.
- ➔ **Non-basmati white rice** accounts for about **25 percent** of the total rice exported from India.
- ➔ Possible effects of India banning rice exports According to the **IMF**, global grain prices could rise by 10–15 per cent this year.
- ➔ The global rice market, already facing a crisis, may go further into trouble. In fact, due to the strengthening of the El Nino effect, there is a possibility of a decrease in rice production in South and South-East Asian countries.
- ➔ India is a major supplier of rice to several important markets in **Asia and sub-Saharan Africa**. The population of these areas may face a food crisis due to an interruption in the supply of rice.
- ➔ Rice-exporting countries like Thailand, and Vietnam may also impose similar restrictions.
- ➔ **Rice cultivation:**
 - India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China.

- This is a **Kharif crop**.
- Rice cultivation requires high temperature (more than 25° C), > high humidity and high rainfall (more than 100 cm).

गैर बासमती चावल का निर्यात 115.44% बढ़ा

11,928
करोड़ रुपए

अप्रैल-जनवरी
2019-20

25,686
करोड़ रुपए

अप्रैल-जनवरी
2020-21

ये है कारण

कोरोना काल में अनाज की किल्लत के डर से पश्चिम एशिया व अफ्रीका के कुछ देशों ने चावल का भंडार बढ़ाना शुरू किया

Greece (Capital: Athens)

➔ Due to the **fierce fire in the forests of Greece**, public life has become disturbed. The fire has become so dangerous that all the residential areas have also come under the grip. Emergency has been implemented in **Greece and Rhode Island**.



- According to a Greek police officer, this is the biggest fire evacuation ever in Greece. 30,000 people at risk of forest fire have been evacuated to safer places.
- **It is the southernmost country of the Balkan Peninsula.**
- Major water bodies: It is bordered by the Aegean Sea in the east, the Mediterranean Sea in the south and the Ionian Sea in the west.
- **Land borders:** It shares land borders with Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey (East) and the Republic of Macedonia.
- **Maritime borders:** with Cyprus, Egypt, Italy and Libya.
- **Establishment of the capital of Greece;** – In the 13th century, Athens was captured by the Crusaders. It was conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1456, who held it until 1833, when it was declared the capital of independent Greece. Athens is Greece's major centre for trade and foreign trade. The city's ruins and several museums make it a major tourist destination.
- **Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic,** is a country in Southeast Europe, located at the southern tip of the Balkan Peninsula.

➔ The first modern Olympics were held in 1896 in Athens, Greece.

➔ **Geographical Features :**

- **Highest peak:** Mount Olympus.
- **Major rivers:** Haliacmon, Aliákmon etc.
- **Climate:** Mediterranean Climate.

