

Carpe Diem

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HOW TO DROUGHT-PROOF A VILLAGE IN 10 YEARS |

Examples show that drought-proofing is possible even in the most water-scarce areas. Here is a four-stage formula



0-2 YEARS

FOCUS: Revive traditional water structures and invest in water

Potential: Every village on an average has access to 340 ha land that can capture 3.75 billion litres of rainwater, enough for drinking, domestic and basic irrigation needs

Opportunity: MGNREGA has created on an average 21 water harvesting structures in each village; nearly half million planned for this year

Impacts: In two years, enough water will be captured, stored and recharged to ensure water availability and to fight erratic monsoon



3-5 YEARS

FOCUS: Handhold agricultural revival post water availability

Potential: Each MGNREGA structure can irrigate one hectare of land, ensuring second crops for small and marginal farmers

Opportunity: MGNREGA allows agricultural activities in private lands of certain groups; government's new seed distribution and crop insurance will give farmers confidence

Impacts: With the right crop mix, a farmer can more than double the income within three years. Agriculture is not dependent on monsoon performance



6-8 YEARS

FOCUS: Revive livestock and fisheries

Potential: Can introduce livestock rearing; one can earn ₹85/day from a productive cow, almost four times the rural poverty line

Opportunity: Demand for non-vegetarian food and dairy products is phenomenal; studies show a herd of 10 goats fetch double the amount a farmer in Rajasthan earns from agriculture

Impacts: Supplementary sources of income cushion people from severe economic consequences of drought



9-10 YEARS

FOCUS: Horticulture and tree plantation

Potential: This is when farmers can plunge into cash-farming; horticulture is now driving the agricultural economy and is more remunerative than food grains

Opportunity: Government has its focus on horticulture; a national mission supports farmers

Impacts: Insured against monsoon and surplus money to invest. Examples here became drought-proof from the eighth year onwards

Editorials from- The Hindu, The Indian Express, Live Mint

The Hindu-

➤ **Big data, big dangers**

India needs to negotiate the world of big data technology with adequate safeguards.

Indian Express-

➤ **The seeds of discontent**

India faces not just a farmers' crisis, but a serious meltdown of farming families.

Indian Express

➤ **More than a residual problem**

Economics is still loaded in favour of farmers burning crop residue. Subsidising farmers to use better technologies may be a solution.

Live mint-

➤ **Solutions beyond farm loan waivers**

Farm loan waivers might help the government quell the farmers protests, but they are unlikely to change much on the ground in the long run.



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National

- The Hindu-
Put off GST rollout to Sept. 1, Aviation Ministry tells FinMin
Says effecting a change in airlines' global ticketing systems will require more time.
- Live mint0
Union Cabinet approves bill to deal with bankruptcy at banks, insurance firms
Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017, aims to set up a Resolution Corporation that will protect stability and resilience of India's financial sector.
- The Hindu-
Now, subsidy for weavers' education in open schools
Textiles Ministry to reimburse 75% of the tuition fees.
- Indian Express-
Politics of language: As old as the hills, now new trigger for statehood stir
Gorkha Janmukti Morcha general secretary Roshan Giri says the movement has gone beyond the Bengali language issue now.

ECONOMY

- The Hindu-
Engineering exports to Doha hit by Qatar crisis
'Indian business and trade have a big stake in West Asia'.
- Indian Express-
NPA Struggle: RBI puts Central Bank of India under corrective action plan
4th bank after IDBI Bank, UCO Bank & Dena Bank to be put under RBI's PCA
- The Hindu-
India aims to lift 'doing business' ranking
Nation was ranked 130 out of 190 countries last year in the World Bank's report.
- Indian Express-
Short-term farm loans: Cabinet extends interest subsidy
The Cabinet also decided to provide farmers loans for post-harvest storage of their produce at a subsidised interest rate of 7 per cent for six months.

Science and Technology; Environment

- The Hindu-
India's space business is ready for lift-off
Leaps in technology, the demands of a new global space race, and a rapid increase in Isro's satellite launch capabilities are opening up the skies.

PIB

- **States shortlisted by NITI for transformative change in Health and Education under SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital).**

RAJYA SABHA TV- LOK SABHA TV

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- **The Big Picture: Institutes of National Excellence: Do they need autonomy?**



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All India Radio

- **Spotlight: Centre's approval of Interest subsidy on farm loans**



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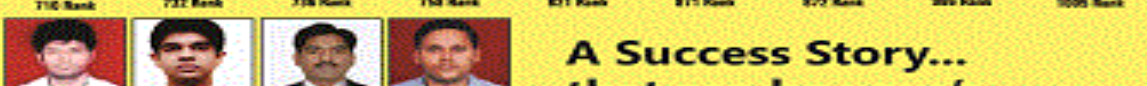
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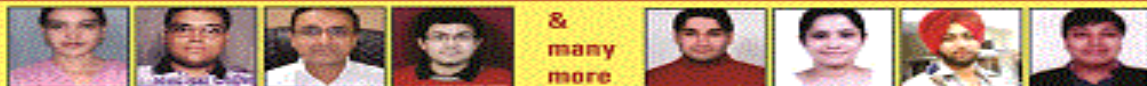
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