

Economy

1. MACS 1407

Why in News?

- Scientists from MACS- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) Pune in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed a variety of Soybean called MACS 1407.

About

- MACS 1407 is a **high-yielding** and **pest-resistant variety of soybean**.
- Cultivation → It is suitable for **rain-fed conditions** of **north- east India**.
- It is suitable for cultivation in the states of **Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh** and **North-Eastern states**.
- Key Features →
 - MACS 1407 requires an **average of 43 days for 50 % flowering**. Further, it **takes 104 days** to mature from the date of sowing.
 - It has **white coloured flowers, yellow seeds** and **black hilum** (a scar on a seed marking the point of attachment to its seed vessel). Its seeds have **19.81 % oil content, 41 % protein content** and **show good germinability** (the ability of a seed to germinate).

Advantages:

- High Yielding → It gives **39 quantal per hectare** making it a **high yielding variety**
- Pest Resistant → It is **resistant to major insect pests** like girdle beetle, leaf miner, leaf roller, stem fly, aphids, whitefly and defoliators.
- It has certain characters suitable for **mechanical harvesting**. Such as,
 - It has a thick stem that makes it **stronger to harvest** using machines.
 - This variety has **higher pod insertion** (7 cm) from the ground
 - It is **resistant** to **pod shattering**.

Significance:

- In **2019**, India produced around **90 million tons of soybean**, widely cultivated as oil seeds as well as a **cheap source of protein for animal feed** and **many packaged meals** and is striving to be among the world's major producers of soybean.
- High-yielding, disease resistant varieties of the legume** can help achieve this target.

2. Global Electric Vehicles Outlook 2021

Why in News?

- International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report titled "Global Electric Vehicle Outlook Report, 2021".

About

- What is it? → The Global EV Outlook (GEVO) is an **annual report published by IEA**.
- Purpose → The report looks at the **latest EV trends**. Apart from that, it also looks at the **drivers for road transport sector electrification** around the world.

📌 Key Findings related to India