NATIONAL

Deal inked for biofuel research

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has signed a three-year, Rs. 11 crore deal with The Energy and Research Institute to set up a centre to produce "advanced biofuels and bio-commodities."

This is the fifth such dedicated centre for bioenergy-research and development set up by the Department.

The others are located at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati; Transtech Green Power Limited, Jaipur; and the Oil and Natural Gas Energy Centre in the National Capital Region.

There about a 100 scientists in the country, tasked with research projects to achieve the goals spelt out in the biofuel policy, which envisages high-quality algal biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, bio butanol and bio hydrogen.Other than fuel, by-products envisaged at the TERI-DBT Centre include food, feed, nutrition supplements, bio-plastics and novelty speciality chemicals.

What is biofuel?

Biofuel, any fuel that is derived from biomass—that is, plant or algae material or animal waste. Since such feedstock material can be replenished readily, biofuel is considered to be a source of renewable energy, unlike fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas. Examples of biofuels include ethanol (often made from corn in the United States and sugarcane in Brazil), biodiesel (vegetable oils and liquid animal fats), green diesel (derived from algae and other plant sources) and biogas (methane derived from animal manure and other digested organic material).

National Policy on Biofuels – 2018

The Government has unveiled a new National Biofuel Policy (2018) that incentivises biofuel generation through multiple measures. Major steps include encouragement of biofuel generation from excess crop production and setting apart Rs 5000 crores viability gap funding to establish second generation ethanol refineries. For providing specific fiscal incentives, the policy categorises biofuels into several groups:1G (First Generation), 2G, 3G, and bio-CNG.

Salient features of Policy

The policy categorises of biofuels to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category Classification of Biofuels:

- 1st generation biofuels are also called conventional biofuels. They are made from things like sugar, starch, or vegetable oil. Note that these are all food products. Any biofuel made from a feedstock that can also be consumed as a human food is considered a first generation biofuel.
- 2nd generation biofuels are produced from sustainable feedstock. The sustainability of a feedstock is defined by its availability, its impact on greenhouse gas emissions, its impact on land use, and by its potential to threaten the food supply. No second generation biofuel is also a food crop, though certain food products can become second generation fuels when they are no longer useful for consumption. Second generation biofuels are often called "advanced biofuels."
- 3rd generation biofuels are biofuel derived from algae. These biofuels are given their own separate class because of their unique production mechanism and their potential to mitigate most of the drawbacks of 1st and 2nd generation biofuels.
- Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production: It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
- Use of surplus food grains: The policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee. This will ensure farmers get appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase.
- Incentives to advanced biofuel: Viability gap funding scheme indicated for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years for giving special emphasis to advanced biofuels. It also proposes additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.
- Supply chain mechanisms: The policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.
- Synergising efforts: It predefines roles and responsibilities of all the concerned Ministries and Government Departments with respect to biofuels to synergise efforts.

Expected Benefits of biofuel policy

- Reduce Import Dependency: The ethanol supply will help to reduce import dependency on crude oil which will in turn result in savings of forex.
- Cleaner Environment: The use of ethanol will reduce CO_2 emissions. It will also reduce Green House Gas emissions by reducing crop burning and conversion of agricultural residues and wastes into biofuels.
- Health benefits: Prolonged reuse of cooking oil for preparing food, particularly in deep-frying causes health hazard and can lead to many diseases. By using cooking oil as a potential feedstock for biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management: Using advance technologies waste and plastic in MSW can be converted in use fuels. One ton of such waste has potential to provide around 20% of drop in fuels.
- Infrastructural Investment in Rural Areas: Addition of 2G bio refineries across country will spur infrastructural investment in the rural areas.
- Employment Generation: Setting up one 100klpd 2G bio refinery contributes to 1200 jobs in plant operations, village level entrepreneurs and supply chain management.
- Additional Income to Farmers: By adopting 2G technologies for producing biofuels, agricultural residues and waste which otherwise are burnt by farmers can be converted to ethanol. Through this process farmers can fetch price for these waste. Moreover, conversion of surplus grains and agricultural biomass can also help in price stabilization for farmers.

Limitations of Biofuel

Individuals concerned about energy security and carbon dioxide emissions see biofuels as a viable alternative to fossil fuels. However, biofuels also have shortcomings. For example, it takes more ethanol than gasoline to produce the

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same amount of energy, and critics contend that ethanol use is extremely wasteful because the production of ethanol actually creates a net energy loss while also increasing food prices. Biofuels have also become a point of contention for conservation groups that argue bio-crops would go to better use as a source of food rather than fuel. Specific concerns center around the use of large amounts of arable land that are required to produce bio-crops, leading to problems such as soil erosion, deforestation, fertilizer run-off and salinity.

Union Cabinet approves opening up of International Solar Alliance membership to all UN countries

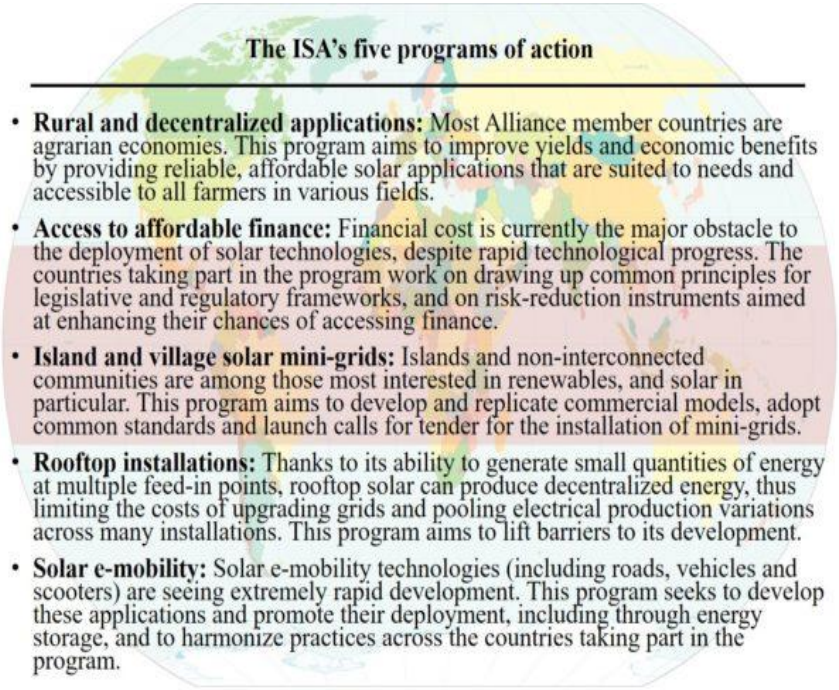
The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval for moving a resolution in the first assembly of the ISA for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations

Significance

It will put solar energy in global agenda with universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy. It will make ISA inclusive, whereby all member countries of UN could become member. Thus, expanding membership will lead to ISA initiative benefitting the world at large.

The Journey of the ISA

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to address their special energy needs and to provide a platform for collaboration to address the identified gaps through a common and agreed approach. The ISA was launched at 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC CoP21) on 30 November 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, HE Narendra Modi and then-French President, HE Francois Hollande. HE Ban Ki Moon, then-Secretary General of the United Nations, also graced the occasion. The Paris Declaration establishing the ISA states that the countries share the collective ambition to undertake innovative and concerted efforts for reducing the cost of finance and cost of technology for immediate deployment of solar generation assets. This will help pave the way for future solar generation, storage and good technologies for each prospective member countries' individual needs by mobilising over USD1000 billion in solar investments by 2030. Achieving these objectives of the ISA will also help countries achieve climate targets inscribed in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



- International Solar Alliance: Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana. Founded: Paris, France.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA), an alliance of 121 solar resource rich countries that was jointly launched by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, and the then President of France, Mr. François Hollande.
- Till date, out of 121 prospective member countries, 70 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA. 44 of these countries have ratified the ISA treaty.
- Paris Agreement:Target of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and striving for 1.5 degrees.
- Recently, Japan became the 71st ISA member.

Urban Cafe: River for Habitat

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN Habitat to organize a policy dialogue- 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' in New Delhi on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018.
- Experts in the sector got together to discuss the deep association that rivers have with various aspects of human civilization – our cities, our economy and various facets of ourdaily lives, the challenges to maintaining healthy river ecosystems and ways to deal with the same.
- They emphasized on the intrinsic relationship between river and economy which has to be a win-win situation for both. River and river basins should be seen as 'national capital or asset'.
- They also stressed on developing an Urban River Plan from where the river enters the city and where it exits.
- Emphasizing the importance of ghats, the experts further noted that not only do ghats connect river to the people but also promote safety of the river and people.
- The experts further stressed upon advocacy and resolve combined with public participation as vital elements for restoring our river ecosystems.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development. It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya. It is mandated by the

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United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

World Habitat Day

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. This is an occasion to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of human habitat.

World Cities Day: October 31: The global observation of 2018 World Cities Day was celebrated in Liverpool, United Kingdom. 2018 Sub-theme: 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'.

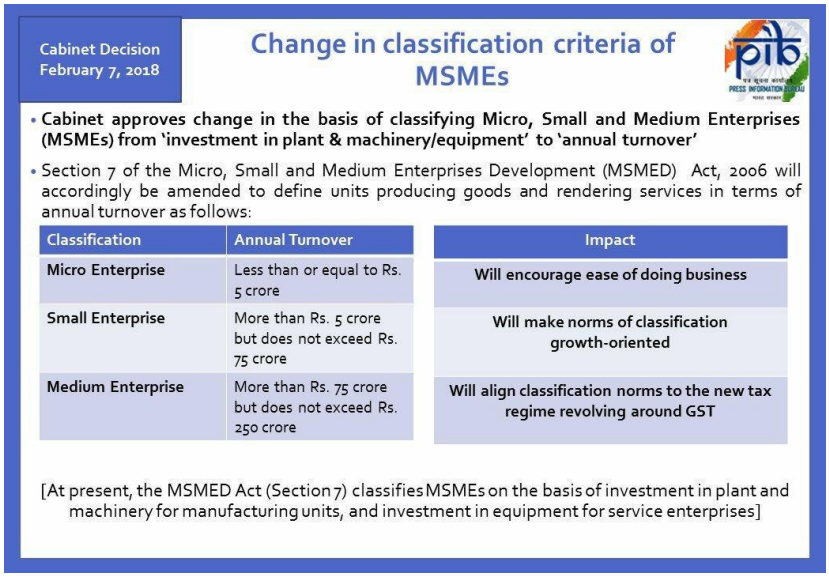
PM launches Support and Outreach Programme for MSME Sector

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Support and Outreach Programme. As part of this programme, PM unveiled 12 key initiatives which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country. There are five key aspects for facilitating the MSME sector. These include access to credit, access to market, technology upgradation, ease of doing business, and sense of security for employees.

MSME Outreach Programme

The 12 initiatives are as follows:

- Launch of the 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs and grant of loans upto Rs. 1 crore through this portal,
- 2 percent interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans. This would include increase in interest rebate from 3 percent to 5 percent for exporters,
- Companies with a turnover more than Rs. 500 crore, to be brought on the Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS).
- Public sector companies to compulsorily procure 25 percent, instead of 20 percent of their total purchases, from MSMEs,
- 25 percent procurement mandated from MSMEs, 3 percent must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs,



- All public sector undertakings of the Union Government must now compulsorily be a part of Government E-marketplace (GeM),
- 20 technology hubs will be formed across the country, and 100 spokes in the form of tool rooms will be established.
- 70 percent cost of establishing pharma company clusters will be borne by the Union Government,
- Return under 8 labour laws and 10 Union regulations must now be filed only once a year,
- Establishments to be visited by an Inspector will be decided through a computerised random allotment.
- Under air pollution and water pollution laws, an entrepreneur would now receive a merged environmental clearance and consent. Hewill himself review the work of MSMEs in 100 districts.
- For minor violations under the Companies Act, the entrepreneur will no longer have to approach the Courts, but can correct them through simple procedures.
- The implementation of this outreach programme will be intensively monitored over the next 100 days.
- He also proposed a social security for the MSME sector employees to ensure that they have Jan Dhan Accounts, provident fund and insurance.

Various initiatives in support of the MSME sector:

1. Public Procurement Policy 2012: Each Ministry/PSU shall set an annual goal and procure minimum 20% from MSME within 3 years.In many FDI proposals such as FDI in Retail, there is clause that 20-30% inputs shall be procured only from MSME.
2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: It enables a small borrower to borrow from all Public Sector Banks such as PSU Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) for loans upto Rs 10 lakhs for non-farm income generating activities.
   Under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, MUDRA has already created the following products / schemes.
   Shishu : covering loans upto 50,000/-
   Kishor : covering loans above 50,000/- and upto 5 lakh
   Tarun : covering loans above 5 lakh and upto 10 lakh
3. Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM): This is a path breaking step to promote ease-of-doing-business for MSMEs in India as the UAM replaces the filing of manual Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (EM part-I & II) with online facility of filing EM and each MSME to instantly get a unique Udyog Aadhaar Number (UAN). The information sought is on self-certification basis and no supporting documents are required at the time of online filing of UAM.
4. Corpus of Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro, and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) augmented:
   Corpus of the Trust augmented from Rs. 2,500 crore to Rs. 7,500 crore and will be fully funded by the Government of India.
   Coverage of the loans covered under the Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore increased.

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Coverage of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans being extended to Micro and Small Enterprises by NBFCs increased

5. MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan http://samadhaan.msme.gov.in launched:This Portal will empower Micro and Small entrepreneurs across the country to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments. The Portal will give information about the pending payment of MSEs with individual CPSEs / Central Ministries, State Governments, etc.
6. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme: it has been implemented by the government for up-gradation of technology. Under this 15% (subject to maximum of Rs.15.00 lakhs) upfront subsidy on capital investment for technology upgradation is provided to micro and small enterprises for modernization of their production equipment(plant and machinery).
7. Stand Up India: Recently government approved "Stand-Up India Scheme" to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch, on an average one for each category of entrepreneur. It is expected to benefit at least 2.5 Lakh borrowers in time limit of 36 months from the launch of the Scheme.

OMCs and CSC SPV signed MOU for collaboration in LPG Services

Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL & BPCL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MOU for collaboration in LPG services. This will be done under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY).

The MOU consists of the following:

- Booking new LPG connection (Ujjwala & General category)
- Booking of LPG refills (14.2 Kg cylinders)
- Supply & distribution of LPG cylinders (storage up to 100 Kgs,) through CSCs.

Common Services Centre will help the beneficiaries in the following ways: To provide the beneficiaries the above OMCs service near to their home, accessing through Digital Seva Portal. It will help beneficiary to a new gas connection request, refilling request and delivery of Gas Cylinder and scan/upload her KYC documents for verification of his/her identity for new booking connection.

Other Announcements:

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas announced appointment of 1 Ujjawala Didi for every 5 villages whose prime responsibility is to support and give service to Ujjawala Beneficiaries.
- CSCs will conduct session in 100 LPG Panchayats where one hour training and demo will be given to Ujjawala beneficiaries on safety mode of using gas cylinders and on Refill option.
- Village Level Entrepreneurs will be given incentives for delivery of services.
- CSCs will work at the grass root level and provide Ujjawala connections and this is expected to rise to involve over 1 lakh CSCs in upcoming 2-3 months.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY):

- Launched: May 1st, 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG, so that they don't have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens or wander in unsafe areas collecting firewood.
- Under this scheme, 5 Cr LPG connections will be provided to BPL families with a support of Rs.1600 per connection in 3 years.
- The connections will be issued in the name of women of the households to empower women.
- Rs. 8000 Cr. has been allocated towards the implementation of the scheme.
- Identification of the BPL families will be done through Socio Economic Caste Census Data.
- Achievement: Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY), release of 5.75 Crore Ujjawala connections has been successful in just two and half years, so it has been inhanced to cover 8cr. beneficiary.

INTERNATIONAL

NASA retires Kepler space telescope

NASA has retired Kepler space telescope after it ran out of fuel needed for further science operations. This brings end of nine-and-a-half year mission of Kepler space telescope in which it had discovered over 2,600 intriguing exoplanets from outside our solar system some of which may harbour life.

The unmanned space telescope was launched in 2009 on 3.5-year mission (from 2009 until November 2012), but operated for 9 years. It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission. It was named after German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler. During its over nine years life, Kepler had observed 530,506 stars and detected 2,662 planets.

2 Big NASA Space Missions Ended This Week!!!

NASA announced the end of two long-running missions: the exoplanet-hunting Kepler space telescope and the Dawn mission that visited the asteroid belt.

Both the Kepler telescope, which identified more than 2,600 alien planets, and the Dawn spacecraft, which visited the asteroid Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres, ended because they no longer had enough gas in the tank. Engineers on both missions knew their ends were looming, since they could calculate remaining fuel estimates.

Both spacecraft used chemical fuel to twist themselves back toward Earth and beam their findings home; without that fuel there was no way to learn from our distant emissaries. Sure, each mission could theoretically have been stocked with more fuel, but not without fattening their price tags. And both missions lasted far longer than they were initially designed to endure, overcoming serious mechanical problems along the way.

When the Kepler mission began in April 2009, it was originally designed to last three years — instead, it lasted until 2013, when two broken reaction wheels forced its original mission to end. The telescope's engineers still didn't abandon it; instead, they reprogrammed it, so that rather than look for exoplanets in one particular patch of the sky, it hopped from region to region. Reincarnated, the telescope completed another four years of observations.

Dawn also survived reaction-wheel failures that threatened to sideline the spacecraft at the end of its stay at the asteroid Vesta. In Dawn's case, engineers rescued it by using fuel to make small adjustments to its position. This

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spacecraft also blew past its original timeline, spending 14 months at Vesta instead of the scheduled seven and more than three years at the dwarf planet Ceres instead of the scheduled five months.
Although the fate of the Opportunity rover remains unknown as NASA continues to try to revive it through January, the rover has outpaced its goals just as dramatically as its spacefaring cohorts. Its mission was originally scheduled to last just 90 Martian days, each about 40 minutes longer than a terrestrial one. Instead, the rover has puttered the Red Planet for more than 14 years.
NASA also has some beginnings worth remembering. Its Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, picked up where Kepler left off, beginning observations in late July, and has already identified multiple possible planets. The Parker Solar Probe mission to "touch the sun" launched in August and is making its first close approach to our star this week.
NASA's new Mars lander, called InSight, will touch down just after Thanksgiving, ready to study the Red Planet's interior, and the New Horizons spacecraft will ring in the new year by swinging past a distant Kuiper Belt object.
What is the habitable zone?
If a planet is too close to the star it orbits, any water on the surface quickly boils off, forming a steam atmosphere. If the planet is too far from the star, any water on the surface freezes.
The habitable zone (or "Goldilocks zone") is the range of orbital distances from a star at which liquid water can exist on the surface of a planet.
This range of distances changes depending on the size and temperature of the star.
Earth is in the habitable zone of the sun – one of the reasons our planet has liquid water like oceans and lakes.

First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health held in WHO Headquarters in Geneva

On November 1, 2018, the 3-day long 1st Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health concluded at the World Health Organisation's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
Theme of the conference was: "Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change-Saving Lives".
Objective:
To combat one of the world's most significant causes of premature death: Air Pollution.
Key Points:
It was held in collaboration with:

- The UN Environment,
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
- The Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

- Additional funding is provided by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), the UN Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.
- Air pollution exceeding recommended WHO Air Quality levels causing 7 million deaths annually.
- According to WHO, household air pollution is a leading killer in poor rural and urban homes.
- Up to one-third of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are due to air pollution.
- Affordable strategies to reduce this include reducing key pollution emissions from the transport, energy, agriculture, waste and housing sectors.
- Also, Health-conscious strategies can reduce climate change and support Sustainable Development Goals for health, energy and cities.

"Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue -2019" held in New Delhi

2-Days long preparatory meeting of the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue- 2019" concluded in New Delhi.

- It was the first phase of the main exercise scheduled for 21-24 February, 2019 in Delhi which will be organized by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on behalf of Government of India.
- The key note address was delivered by Shri R. K. Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The meeting focused on chalking out the plan, discuss requirements, details and modalities of main exercise, which is scheduled for February, 2019.
- It also highlighted on sensitization about the dimensions of disaster and responsibility of SCO.
- Furthermore, India has also hosted the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx), Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Corporation (BIMSTEC).

Why the need?
Interdependency: The increasing trends of disasters especially hydro-metrological disasters in the region. As all the countries are interconnected with each other, hence action in one part of world affects the other part. the challenges in disaster management are common in the world. If it becomes possible to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters, it will be a huge global benefit.
India has always been at the forefront of the Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR) efforts by hosting the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx), Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Corporation (BIMSTEC).
Background:
The preparatory meeting was organized to conduct the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue- 2019 for the region, which was proposed by India during the 9th meeting of the Heads of Departments of disaster prevention of SCO countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, led by Union Home Minister, Shri. Rajnath Singh, held at Kyrgyzstan in August, 2017.
About SCO:
♦ Full Form: Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
♦ India and Pakistan has joined the organization as full time members from 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

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♦ Number of Member Countries are: 8 (present), 4 (Observer states).
♦ Headquarters: Beijing, China
♦ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India, which has had an observer status for the past 10 years, was accepted along with Pakistan as full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2017.
♦ Secretary General: Rashid Alimov.
Relationship with UN:The SCO has established relations with the United Nations, where it is an observer in the General Assembly, the European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

IORA member states establish 'Be the Legacy' internship programme to honour Nelson Mandela

- On 2nd November 2018, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) 'Be the Legacy' internship programme was announced at the end of the 18th IORA meeting in Durban, South Africa.
- The internship programme will be launched on July 18, 2019, the 101st birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
- The programme has been established by IORA members, including India, to honour former South African president Nelson Mandela.
- The programme aims to empower people under the age of 30 from IORA member states with work experience in their interested fields of study.
- IORA was established in March 1997 through the vision of Nelson Mandela.

ODISHA

Odisha Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing Policy rolled out by the state government

Odisha Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing Policy, 2018 was approved by the state cabinet and rolled out by Odisha government. This was done ahead of the second edition of 'Make In Odisha Conclave' to be held here from November 11 to November 15.
Under this:

- The process of industrialisation will be accelerated through promotion of aerospace and defence manufacturing,
- Generation of employment opportunities and promotion of value addition will be achieved.
- Capital grants of 50 per cent of the infrastructure cost limited to Rs 10 crore for subsequent aerospace and defence parks.
- For establishing manufacturing facilities in the state, extension of capital subsidy of Rs 100 crore for the first three OEMs (original equipment manufacturer) will be provided with investment of at least Rs 1000 crore and generating 1000 domiciled employment.
- Establishment will be with private participation of the centres, the ceiling will be:
  - Rs 50 crore for common facility centre,
  - Rs 30 crore for technology innovation centre and
  - Rs 25 crore for testing centre.
- In addition, for the first three OEMs the interest subsidy will be allowed, based on investment in plant and machinery, up to a limit of:
  - Rs 10 crore per annum for an amount of more than Rs 500 crore and
  - Rs 5 crore per annum for an amount between Rs 100 crore to Rs 500 crore.
- Other units, will be entitled to 10 per cent capital subsidy upto Rs 50 crore, as per the policy.
- Additionally, interest subsidy for timely payment at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on term loan of 5 years subject to a total limit of: Rs 10 lakh for micro enterprises, Rs 20 lakh for small enterprises, Rs 40 lakh for medium enterprises and Rs 1 crore for non MSME units.
- These steps will help in setting up first state-of-the-art Aerospace and Defence Park in the state.
- The enterprises will come up in the industrially backward districts of Kandhamal, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj along with the KBK (Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput) districts will be extended additional incentives.

Cabinet approves renaming of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda

The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda" after Veer Surendra Sai who is well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
The airport has been developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with Odisha government at estimated cost of Rs 210 crore, with Rs 75 crore contribution from the state. It is spread across over 1,027.5 acres of land and has 2,390-metre long runway. The area of its terminal building is 4,000 square metres.

Surendra Sai

- He was freedom fighter and tribal leader, born in 1809 in small town Khinda in Sambalpur (now in Odisha). He was direct descendant from Madhukar Sai and was legally entitled to be crowned as king of Sambalpur after demise of king Maharaja Sai in 1827. But he was not acceptable to British power and ignored his claim for succession.
- He revolted against British raj for throne after it allow widow of Madhukar Sai Rani Mohan Kumari to succeed him and then followed by succession of Narayan Singh, a descendant of royal family but born of low caste as king of Sambalpur. The aim of Surendra Sai's revolt was to drive the British out of Sambalpur.
- His revolution against the British commenced from 1827 when he was only 18 years of age and continued till 1862 when he surrendered and even after that, until he was finally arrested in 1864 – a total period of 37 years. He had suffered imprisonment in Hazaribagh Jail for 17 years in course of his revolutionary career and after his final arrest for another term of 20 years including his detention of 19 years in remote Asirgarh hill fort till he breathed his last there.
- He was not only great revolutionary throughout his life but also inspiring leader of the people. He had espoused cause of the down trodden tribal people who were being exploitated by higher castes people and who became tools in hands of the British for establishment of their political power in Sambalpur. He died in Asirgarh Jail on 23 May 1884.

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