

# PLUTUS IAS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. ( GST NO-09AAPCA1478E1ZH)

Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to

Priyagold Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket I, Noida,

Uttar Pradesh 201301, CONTACT NO- 8448440231

CONTENT BY -JITHIN LAL (GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY UPSC)

DEBARUN ROY ( ANALYTICS HEAD)

NEETU KUMARI (RESEARCH HEAD)

**CLICK ON -[PLUTUS IAS](#)**

## **1. IREDA and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy sign Memorandum of Understanding**

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set key targets for the year 2020-21.

### **Key Highlights**

According to the agreement, the Government of India has set a new revenue target of Rs 2,406 crore from the renewable energy industry. Till November 2, 2020, the IREDA has financed more than 2,700 renewable energy projects in India. The total loan disbursement to these projects were Rs 57,000 crores. By this, it has helped to add 17,259 MW of green power to the country.

### **IREDA**

It was set up in 1987 and is the leading financial institution dedicated to clean energy expansion in India. It is a non-banking financial institution.

### **Need of the moment**

India is one of the top three leading global renewable energy growth markets in the world. India needs Rs 21,45,000 cores, that is, 330 billion USD to accomplish its Paris Agreement targets. India has set a target of achieving 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

### **Current Scenario**

Currently, India has scaled up its non-fuel based power generation to 134 GW. This is about 35% of the total power generated in the country.

### **Green Window**

The programme of Green Window is being implemented by IREDA. It was launched in January 2020. Under the Green Window, green banks and other public entities will be set up. These entities will work to bring clean energy financing into the mainstream. This is to increase the finances being provided to the green energy companies. Also, these institutes will adopt innovative new tools that are already successful in countries such as Malaysia, UK, Japan, Australia and US.

The Green Window will help serve the unserved segments of renewable energy.

## **2. Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation**

The Chief Minister of Assam, Sabananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for vegetables Protected Cultivation in Khetri in the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.

### **Key Highlights**

The centre will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of the state. It will help them in maximising their production. The centre is to provide a major boost to agricultural and horticultural production in Assam. The aim is to double farmers' income in the region through infusion of technology in agribusiness, agriculture and food processing.

### **Background**

The region of Assam has recently undergone substantial improvement in road, air and river connectivity. It is also becoming a promising destination for trade, cultural exchange, travel, commerce and tourism. This in turn is setting the state as a gateway to ASEAN and SouthEast Asia under the Act East Policy.

### **Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence**

The Centres of Excellence under India-Israel cooperation is spread across Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

### **Indo-Israel Action Plan**

The India-Israel Action Plan was signed in 2006. There are three phases in the plan.

#### **Phase I**

The action plan of phase I was implemented between 2008 and 2010. During this phase, a number of technologies were transferred from Israel to India namely horticulture mechanization, orchard and canopy management, protected cultivation,

nursery management and micro irrigation. During this phase, India also imported planting machineries. The states of Haryana and Maharashtra were focused during this phase. Experts from Israel trained a number of officers in the states.

#### Phase II

A three-year Action Plan was framed for phase II between 2012 and 2015 under the Indo-Israel Action Plan. During this phase, the states such as Karnataka, Gujarat and Rajasthan were added to the existing states. During the second phase, the activities such as water use efficiency, post harvest management, waste water use, dairying were taken up for training and improvisation. The phase was later extended. During the extended phase, states such as Tamil Nadu and Punjab were included.

#### Phase III

This was implemented between 2015 and 2018. The same above activities were extended to other states such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand.

#### Three Year Work Programme

Currently India is implementing the Three-Year Work Programme 2018-20. It was under this programme that the Centre of Excellence is being constructed in Assam. This is also a part of the Indo-Israel Action Plan.

### 3.Ganga Utsav, 2020 begins

The Ganga Utsav was begun virtually. The festival is to continue till November 4, 2020. The Ganga Task Force as a part of celebration conducted afforestation drives with NCC cadets.

#### Key Highlights

The Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrating the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river. The event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

#### National River

The Ganges is the longest river of India. It flows over 2,510 km of valleys, mountains and plains. The Ganges originates in Gangotri Glacier as River Bhagirathi. Later it joins the Alaknanda at Devprayag and becomes the Ganges.

The major tributaries of Ganga river are Yamuna, Gandak, Ghagra, Kali, Son and RamGanga. The river drains in 11 states namely Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal.

The Ganges joins River Brahmaputra and flows into the Bay of Bengal as River Padma in Bangladesh.

### **Kumbh Mela**

The festival is celebrated once in 12 years and is associated with river Ganges. The festival is celebrated at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mystical Sarasvati. The Kumbh Mela was included in the list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO in 2017. In India, Kumbh Mela is celebrated on four sites. They are Haridwar, Ujjain, Prayagraj and Nashik. In Haridwar, it is celebrated on the banks of river Ganges, in Ujjain, it is celebrated on Shipra. In Nashik, the festival is celebrated in Godavari and at Prayagraj, the festival is celebrated at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Sarasvati.

### **What are National Identities?**

The National River, National Flag, National Flower (lotus), National bird (peacock), National Tree (Banyan), National Animal (Tiger), National Anthem, National Song (Vande Mataram), National Calendar (Gregorian Calendar) are the National Identities of India.

## **4. Govt releases first instalment of Rs 2,200 crores to 15 states to improve Air Quality measures**

The Government of India released Rs 2,200 crores to 15 states to improve Air Quality Measures. The air quality improvement measures are to be executed in more than million plus cities.

### **Highlights**

The amount was released based on the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. The fund will help states undertake air quality measures and capacity building in local bodies. The amount was released to states such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Rs 396.5 crores has been released to Maharashtra, Rs 357 crores to UP, Rs 202.5 crores to Gujarat and Rs 209.5 crores to West Bengal.

### **Finance Commission**

The Fifteenth Finance Commission is to submit its report for the fiscal years 2020-21 to 2025-26 on November 9, 2020 to President Ram Nath Kovind.

### **Background**

The Fifteenth Finance Commission in its report for the fiscal year 2020-21 recommended a grant of Rs 4,400 crores to improve the ambient air quality in 50 million plus cities.

### **Current Scenario**

There is a network of 984 Air Quality monitoring stations in the country. Of this 779 are manual stations and 205 are continuous monitoring states. They are spread across 500 cities. This infrastructure is very low and needs to be improved.

The Air Quality Monitoring Stations were set up under the National Air Pollution Control Programme. The Programme partnered with several think tanks in the country and also with premier educational institutions such as IITs, IIITs and NITs to meet its objectives.

### **Why the fund allocation?**

Air Pollution is not a localised phenomenon. So far, the National Air Pollution Control Programme was working on localised level working with local urban bodies. With the funds being allocated, this is to be expanded.

## **5.Mission Sagar-II: INS AIRAVAT enters Port Sudan**

The Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan as part of Mission Sagar Phase II. Under Mission Sagar, India is currently providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries to help them overcome COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities. INS Airavat was carrying a consignment of 100 tonnes of food aid.

### **Highlights**

In phase II of Mission Sagar, INS Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, Djibouti, South Sudan and Eritrea. This phase is being implemented in close coordination with the Ministries of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

Under the first phase of Mission Sagar, India reached out to countries such as Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives. During this phase, India provided free food aid and medicines. In Phase I of the mission, INS Kesari was deployed.

### **Mission SAGAR**

SAGAR is Security and Growth for All in the Region. It was launched in 2015 under strategic vision of Indian Ocean Region. Under SAGAR, India aims to strengthen its economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours. Also, India will safeguard national interests in the Indian Ocean Region. It will ensure Indian Ocean Region becomes collaborative, inclusive respecting international law.

When Mission SAGAR is seen in conjunction with India's other policies such as Project Sagarmala, Project Mausam, Act East Policy, focus on Blue Economy and India as a net security provider, the mission has huge impacts in the maritime domain.

### **Project Sagarmala**

Sagarmala aims to develop a string of ports around the coasts of India. The main objective of the initiative is to promote port led development in the 7,500 km long coastline of the country. The development is to be achieved through expansion of inland waterways, rail, road and coastal services. The Ministry of Shipping is the nodal agency implementing the scheme

A Sagarmala Development Company has been established to provide support to assist the projects.

## **6. Indian Coast Guard Ship C-452 to be commissioned in Indian Navy**

The ICGS C-452, designed and built by L&T is to be commissioned in the Indian Navy. The ship was indigenously built in India under the Make in India initiative.

### **Highlights**

Earlier, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh had commissioned the ICGS Sachet and two other interceptor boats namely C-451 and C-450 in Goa.

### **Indian Coast Guard**

It is an armed force and maritime law enforcement agency. It was established in 1978 under the Coast Guard Act, 1978. IT operates under the Ministry of Defence.

The ICG works in close operation with the State Police Forces, Department of Revenue, Department of Fisheries and Indian Navy.

The four main regional headquarters of Indian Coast Guard are located in Port Blair, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Gandhinagar.

### **Nagchaudhuri Committee**

In the 1960s the sea borne smuggling activities increased in India. The Nagchaudhuri Committee was set up to find a solution to the problem. In 1971, the committee recommended the creation of a patrolling service to safeguard India's vast Coast line.

### **Rustamji Committee**

It was set up in 1974. It was this committee that recommended to set up the Indian Coast Guard Service.

### **Aircrafts serving ICG**

Currently the aircrafts such as Dornier, HAL Dhruv and HAL Chetak are serving the Indian Coast Guard. Dornier was jointly developed by India and Germany. Dhruv was developed in India and HAL Chetak was jointly developed by India and France.

## **Vessels of ICG**

The vessels currently serving the Indian Coast Guard are Samudra Class, Samarth Class, Vikram Class, Vishwast Class, Sankalp class and Samar class

## **Fast Patrol Vessels**

The Fast Patrol Vessels of ICG Are Aadesh Class, Rajshree Class, Rani Abbaka class, Priyadarshini Class and Sarojini Naidu Class.

## **Patrol Boats**

The Patrol Boats operating in the Indian Coast Guard are Bharti Class, ABG Classes, L&T Class, AMP Class and Swallow Craft Class.

## **7. Duarte Pacheco elected as new President of Inter Parliamentary Union**

Duarte Pacheco was elected as the new President of Inter Parliamentary Union. He will serve as the president of the union between 2020 and 2023. India was represented by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at the session.

The previous president of the Inter Parliamentary Union was Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron.

## **Background**

On November 1, 2020, the 206<sup>th</sup> session of the Inter Parliamentary Union began. Officers from 144 parliaments attended the session. It was led by the Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

## **Pakistan**

Pakistan faced a major embarrassment at the Inter Parliament Union. This was because the Pakistani Senate Chairman Sanjirani lost badly to the Portuguese candidate. India opposed the candidature of Pakistan in the Union.

## **Inter Parliamentary Union**

It was established in 1889. The main purpose of the union is to promote democratic governance, cooperation and accountability. It has played a major role in establishing the United Nations, Permanent Court of Arbitration and League of Nations. The Slogan of IPU is "For Democracy, For Everyone"

Structure of IPU

It has a four fold structure namely Governing Council, Assembly, Executive Committee, IPU President, Secretariat.

## **World Wars**

**Between the two world wars, the IPU intensified its work in the field of peaceful settlement of international disputes. It also further codified colonial problems, social and humanitarian policies, economic questions and intellectual relations.**

### **Geo Political Groups of IPU**

**There are six Geo Political Groups of IPU. They are Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America, Arab Group and Twelve Plus. India belongs to the Asia Pacific.**

### **Standing Committees of the IPU**

**There are three standing committees of IPU. They are the first Standing Committee, Second Standing Committee and Third Standing Committee. The first standing Committee works on peace and international security. The second Standing Committee works on Sustainable Development and the third standing committee works on democracy and human rights.**

**8.**