



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 09-May-2018

General studies-2

NABH (NextGen Airports for BHarat) Nirman initiative.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Civil Aviation today said that the government is committed to the building of airport capacity as part of NABH (NextGen Airports for BHarat) Nirman initiative.

He said that the three key aspects of NABH Nirman are:

- (1) fair and equitable land acquisition,
- (2) long-term master plan for airport and regional development and (
- 3) balanced economics for all stakeholders.

He said that improving passenger amenities, promoting cargo handling facilities and early operationalisation of 56 new airports under UDAN scheme will be his focus areas while simultaneously working on improving regional connectivity and improving passenger services in a big way.

About NABH;

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- 3) balanced economics for all stakeholders.

Budget 2018-19 announced a new initiative NABH Nirman to expand airport capacity by more than five times to handle a billion trips in a year.

The expansion will be funded by leveraging the balance sheet of Airports Authority of India.

Domestic air passenger traffic has grown at 18% per annum and the regional connectivity Scheme UDAN, will connect 56 unserved airports and 31 unserved helipads across the country. Operations have already started at 16 airports.



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15th Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2018

The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2018 is being hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, jointly with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), from 10th -12th May, 2018 in New Delhi.

About AMS:

The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India is hosting the event for the first time.

The Summit, with the theme '**Telling Our Stories – Asia and More**', would be organized in two parts Pre-summit workshop (8th-9th) and Summit (10th-12th).

Participants would represent organizations like Ministries responsible for Information and Broadcasting in the Asian region, International Organizations UNESCO, FAO, UN; Regulators; Radio and Television broadcasting companies both national/ public and private broadcasters; Television channels and networks, Institutes/Academies of Communication, Media Research; Community Radio groups; Press and Media, and broadcast equipment manufacturers.

Outcome of Summit:

The Summit would encourage regional and bilateral dialogue and cooperation to respond to challenges to the broadcasting sector in the region.

It would provide a unique opportunity for broadcasters in the Asian region to share their thoughts on software and hardware aspects of Broadcasting.

There are also opportunities for networking, facilities for business to business meetings and prospective translation of these meetings into trade and economic relations after the summit.

In the concluding session, **World Television Awards 2018** would be presented by Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore The **Closing Ceremony** would witness the handing over of the baton for hosting the next AMS to Philippines.



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International relations:

US Pulls out of Iran Deal:

The United States has pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday, upending a key foreign policy achievement of his predecessor Barack Obama.

Under the 2015 deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), involving five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany, Iran had agreed to stop its nuclear programme in exchange of relief from economic sanctions.

Despite United States President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal itself won't be scrapped as long as [Iran](#) and the other signatories: the U.K., France, Russia, China, Germany and the European Union remain committed to it.

Even so, India could face the impact of the U.S. decision on the deal as well as instituting the "highest level of economic sanctions" in several ways:

1. Oil prices: The impact on world oil prices will be the immediately visible impact of the U.S. decision. Iran is presently India's third biggest supplier (after Iraq and Saudi Arabia), and any increase in prices will hit both inflation levels as well as the Indian rupee.

2. Chabahar: India's moves over the last few years to develop berths at the Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar was a key part of its plans to circumvent Pakistan's blocks on trade with Afghanistan, and the new U.S. sanctions could slow or even bring those plans to a halt depending on how strictly they are implemented.

3. INSTC: Beyond Chabahar, India has been a founder of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) since it was ratified in 2002. It starts from Iran and aims to cut right across Central Asia to Russia over a 7,200-km multi-mode network, cutting down transportation and time taken by trade by about 30%.

Plans for INSTC sped up after the JCPOA was signed in 2015 and sanctions on Iran were lifted. New U.S. sanctions will affect these plans immediately, especially if any of the countries along the route or banking and insurance companies dealing with the INSTC plan also decide to adhere to U.S. restrictions on trade with Iran.

4. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: India joined the SCO along with Pakistan last year, and both will be formally admitted in June 2018, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to the Chinese city of Qingdao for the SCO summit.



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This year, Chinese officials say they will consider inducting Iran into the 8-member Eurasian security organisation. If the proposal is accepted by the SCO, which is led by China and Russia, India will become a member of a bloc that will be seen as anti-American, and will run counter to some of the government's other initiatives, for eg. the Indo-Pacific quadrilateral with the U.S., Australia and Japan.

General Studies-3

Animal-free tests for drug manufacturers.

In a step that would spare animals from suffering due to drug experiments, the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers.

In the 2018 edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia, that provides guidelines on tests for drugs manufactured and marketed in India, the IPC has replaced the pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and the abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes.

The guidelines in the edition will come into effect from July 1.

The pyrogen test is carried out to check impurity or substance that can cause adverse side-effects. For the test, the drug is injected into a rabbit and the animal is closely observed for feverish symptoms.

The abnormal toxicity test is carried out to check potential hazardous biological contamination in vaccine formulations.

This batch test is done before the product is approved for marketing. In this, mice or guinea pigs are injected with the vaccine. The scientists observe if there is death of any animal.

New mandate

With the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission's new mandate, the pyrogen test will be replaced by a bacterial endotoxin test or a monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.

Vaccine manufacturers can apply for waiver for the abnormal toxicity test by getting a compliance certificate from the National Control Laboratory instead.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has been pushing for doing away with the cruel methods of testing on animals for the past several years.



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About IPC:

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is an Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

IPC is created to set standards of drugs in the country. It's basic function is to update regularly the standards of drugs commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.

It publishes official documents for improving Quality of Medicines by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**.

It further promotes rational use of generic medicines by publishing **National Formulary of India**.

IP prescribes standards for identity, purity and strength of drugs essentially required from health care perspective of human beings and animals.

IPC also provides IP Reference Substances (IPRS) which act as a finger print for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.

IP standards are authoritative in nature. They are enforced by the Regulatory authorities for quality control of medicines in India. During Quality Assurance and at the time of dispute in the court of law the IP standards are legally acceptable.