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National Awards for Outstanding Services in the Field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse

The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind will present the "Fourth National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" to the institutions and individuals on the occasion of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking(IDDAIT).

About IDDAIT

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment celebrates 26th June every year as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The Government of India has instituted a Scheme of the National Awards for outstanding services in the field of prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drug) Abuse from the year 2013.

The Awards were earlier conferred annually till 2014. However, the Scheme of the Award has now been revised and the Awards are now conferred biennially.

The Scheme is applicable to Institutions and individuals working in the field of Prevention of Drug and Alcoholism Abuse.

Selection procedure:

A National Selection Committee under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment considered the shortlisted nominations by the Screening Committee and approved the names of the awardees.

Other Steps taken by Govt.:

About one lakh drug/alcohol addicts are benefitted every year under the Scheme.

A National Toll Free Helpline (1800-11-0031) has also been launched to assist the alcoholics and drug dependent persons, their family members and community.

Ratnagiri Refinery project in Maharashtra

Why in News?

Saudi Aramco and ADNOC signed an MoU today to jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra.

The project will be implemented by Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL).

Earlier, Saudi Aramco had joined the project by signing an MoU with the Indian consortium on 11th April 2018 on the sidelines of the 16 International Energy Forum Ministerial.

Saudi Aramco also sought to include another strategic partner to co-invest in the project as an overseas investor.

About the Project:

RRPCL which is promoted by a consortium of India PSUs consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL will now have Saudi Aramco & ADNOC as overseas strategic partners.

The project will be set up as a 50:50 joint partnership (50:50) between the consortium from India and Saudi Aramco and ADNOC.

This will be single largest overseas investment in the Indian refining sector.

The strategic partnership brings together crude supply, resources, technologies, experience and expertise of these multiple oil companies with an established commercial presence around the world.

The project cost is estimated at around Rs.3 lakh crore (USD 44 billion).

Significance of Refinery:

The mega refinery will be capable of processing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (60 million metric tonnes per annum).

It will produce a range of refined petroleum products, including petrol and diesel meeting BS-VI fuel efficiency norms.

The Refinery will also provide feedstock for the integrated petrochemicals complex, which will have the capacity of producing approx. 18 million tonnes per annum of petrochemical products.

RRPCL will rank among the world's largest refining & petrochemicals projects and will be designed to meet India's fast-growing fuels and petrochemicals demand.

It is expected that it will contribute to a GDP improvement of around 2% Nationally and about 12% to the state of Maharashtra.

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Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:

Why in News?

With the total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion, India has been the largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) lending since the time the Bank started its operations.

Unlike most other multilateral development banks set up by advanced economies, AIIB is the first major multilateral development bank where principal contributors are the borrowing members themselves.

While 75% of the capital is from Asia, several non-Asian regions like Europe, North America, some East African and Latin American countries have also joined the bank as members.

The third Annual Meeting of AIIB is being organized by Government of India, in collaboration with Government of Maharashtra at Mumbai during 25-26 June 2018.

About AIIB

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

Headquartered in Beijing, It commenced operations in January 2016 and have now grown to 86 approved members from around the world.

By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, It will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.

Significance of AIIB:

The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for “scaling up financing for sustainable development” for the concern of global economic governance.

The capital of the bank is \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.

CORPAT Exercise:

Why in News?

India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two navies.

The first edition will be inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit there from June 24 to 29.

The commencement of CORPAT is major step towards enhanced operational interaction between both navies.

Naval cooperation between India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span which includes operational interactions through port calls, passage exercises along with capacity building, capability enhancement and training initiatives..

Widening cooperation

Over the last few years, the Navy has expanded its assistance to countries in the region through “material support, training, EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance, provisioning of platforms, hydrographic assistance, joint exercises and offering slots in professional training courses.

The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand.

It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request.

First satellite to collect space junk deployed

The first-ever satellite to test possible solutions in cleaning up space junk has been deployed by the International Space Station (ISS) and would soon begin experiments in orbit.

The satellite mission, dubbed RemoveDEBRIS, is one of the world's first attempts to tackle the build-up of dangerous space debris orbiting the Earth

About the RemoveDebris mission:

- RemoveDebris is an EU (European Union) research project to develop and fly a low cost in-orbit demonstrator mission that aims to de-risk and verify technologies needed for future ADR (Active Debris Removal) missions.
- RemoveDebris is aimed at performing key ADR technology demonstrations (e.g., capture, deorbiting) representative of an operational scenario during a low-cost mission using novel key technologies for ADR. The project is based on and aimed at contributing to global/European ADR roadmaps.

How it works?

A microsatellite called here RemoveSAT, will release, capture and deorbit two space debris targets, called DebrisSats, in sequence using various rendezvous, capture and deorbiting technologies thus demonstrating in orbit, key ADR technologies for future missions in what promises to be the first ADR technology mission internationally.

Chilika Lake:

Why in News?

The Airports Authority of India has proposed to set up a water aerodrome in Chilika Lake for starting amphibious aircraft operations in Odisha.

About Chilika Lagoon:

- It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef in New Caledonia.

- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.
- It is one of the hotspot of biodiversity in the country, and some rare, vulnerable and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened Animals inhabit in the lagoon for atleast part of their life cycle.
- On account of its rich bio-diversity and ecological significance, Chilika was designated as the 1st "Ramsar Site" of India.
- The Nalaban Island within the lagoon is notified as a Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife (Protection) Act, the National Wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, have also identified the lagoon as a priority site for conservation and management.
- Chilika Lagoon lies in the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam of Odisha State along the eastern coast of India. It is well connected to the Chennai and Kolkata through National Highway No 5, and the Chennai Kolkata rail line passes along the western bank of the Lagoon Balugaon, with Balugaon, Chilika and Rambha being the main stations along the Western shoreline of the lagoon.