



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

General Studies-2

Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018'

"Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018" is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment here during 9-11 November, 2018.

About the Event:

- This year, India is hosting the event in collaboration with Government of Korea and Rehabilitation International (RI).
- The Global IT Challenge for disability is a capacity building project that helps youth with disabilities to overcome their limitations and challenges for a better future through access to ICT.
- The Global IT Challenge was initially designed to enhance the information utilisation skill of youths with disabilities (in the category of visual disability, hearing disability, locomotor disability and developmental disorder) and to encourage their social participation.
- The event started in the year 1992 in Korea.
- Subsequently it expanded to the neighbouring countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region and since 2011 it has become a global event.

Benefits of the Event:

- It will alleviate the digital divide and expand participation of youth with disabilities in the society.
- It propagates implementation of United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) - Article 21 relates to access to information.
- Participation of high Government functionaries at the event will showcase the commitment of Government of India at the political and administrative level towards creating an environment inclusive of persons with disabilities through application of ICT and also to fulfil our international obligations enshrined under UNCRPD and SDGs.

Facts About Disability:



इशोइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

- There are about 1 billion i.e. about 15% of the world population persons with disabilities.
- Majority of this population live in developing countries with low ICT development indexes.
- Because of this information divide, persons with disabilities are being excluded from society suffering inequality and poverty.

General Studies-3

Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Padur, Karnataka by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs).

About Padur SPR

- The SPR facility at Padur is an underground rock cavern with a total capacity of 2.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) having four compartments of 0.625 MMT each.
- The filling of the SPR under PPP model is being undertaken to reduce budgetary support of Government of India.

Where are Other SPRs?

- The **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve** (ISPR) is an emergency fuel store of total 5.33 MMT (million metric tons) or 36.92 [MMbbl](#) of strategic [crude oil](#) enough to provide 10 days of consumption which are maintained by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited.
- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL) has constructed and commissioned underground rock caverns for storage of total 5.33 MMT of



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

crude oil at three locations namely Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT).

- The total 5.33 MMT capacity under Phase-I of the SPR programme is currently estimated to supply approximately 9.5 days of India's crude requirement according to the consumption data for FY 2017-18.
- Government has given 'in principle' approval in June 2018 for establishing additional 6.5 MMT SPR facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka, which is expected to augment India's energy security by 11.5 days according the consumption data for FY 2017-18.

Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) under International Energy Agency (IEA) on 9th May, 2018.

AMF TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.

Benefits Expected:

- The primary goal of joining AMF TCP by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) is to facilitate the market introduction of Advanced motor fuels/ Alternate fuels with an aim to bring down emissions and achieve higher fuel efficiency in transport sector.
- AMF TCP also provides an opportunity for fuel analysis, identifying new/ alternate fuels for deployment in transport sector and allied R&D activities for reduction in emissions in fuel intensive sectors.
- The benefits of participation in AMF TCP are shared costs and pooled technical resources.
- The duplication of efforts is avoided and national Research and Development capabilities are strengthened.



इशोरइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

- There is an information exchange about best practices, network of researchers and linking research with practical implementation.
- After becoming member, India will initiate R&D in other areas of its interest in advanced biofuels and other motor fuels in view of their crucial role in substituting fossil fuel imports.

Background:

- Prime Minister at UrjaSangam, 2015 had directed to reduce the import in energy sector by at least 10% by 2022.
- Subsequently, MoP&NG has come up with a detailed action plan wherein Biofuels, Advanced/ alternate fuels and fuel efficiency play a major role.
- Association with AMF TCP will help MoP&NG in furthering its efforts in identification & deployment of suitable fuels for transport sector in respect of higher efficiency and lesser emissions.

Other Measures in this regard:

- Government of India has recently notified National Policy on Biofuels-2018 which focusses on giving impetus to R&D in field of advanced biofuels such as 2G Ethanol, Bio-CNG, biomethanol, Drop-in fuels, DME etc.
- These advanced fuels can be produced from various kind of wastes such as crop residues, Municipal solid waste, Industrial waste, waste gases, Food waste, plastic etc.
- Though some of these advanced biofuels have successfully been deployed in few countries, India is still awaiting its deployment in transport sector.
- These advanced fuels are presently in their early stages of development in our Country and necessitate extensive R&D for making these fuels a viable option for meeting our energy needs.
- Association with AMF will help MoP&NG in identifying advanced biofuels suitable for deployment in transport sector in near future.
- In such cases, experience of member countries in deploying advanced biofuels will be an additional benefit for MoP&NG.

About AMF-TCP:



इशोइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

- AMF TCP is an international platform for co-operation among countries to promote cleaner and more energy efficient fuels & vehicle technologies.
- The activities of AMF TCP relate to R&D, deployment and dissemination of Advanced Motor Fuels and looks upon the transport fuel issues in a systemic way taking into account the production, distribution and end use related aspects.
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India has joined AMF TCP as its 16th member on 9th May, 2018.
- The other member Countries of AMF TCP are USA, China, Japan, Canada, Chile, Israel, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Thailand.

Strategic disinvestment

Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given 'in principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 100% Government of India's shares in DCIL to consortium of four ports namely, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Paradeep Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust.

What is Strategic Sale?

Strategic sale of a PSU is different from the ordinary disinvestment. This is because in the case of strategic sale, the control and a significant proportion of a PSU's share goes to a private sector strategic partner.

According to the Department of Disinvestment, in the strategic sale of a company, the transaction has two elements:

1. Transfer of a block of shares to a Strategic Partner and
2. Transfer of management control to the Strategic Partner



इशोरइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

What is the amount of shares to be transferred to the strategic partner?

- Understandably strategic sale aptly takes place when more than 51% of shares go to the private sector strategic partner.
- At the same time, it is not necessary that more than 51% of the total equity goes to the Strategic Partner for the transfer of management to take place.
- Or in other words strategic sale can take place even if the private sector partner gets less than 51% shares.
- According to the strategic sale guidelines in India, the Strategic Partner, after the transaction, may hold less percentage of shares than the Government but the control of management would be with him.
- For example, in a PSU, where the government holding 51%, and out of this, sale of 25% to the strategic partner while the government holding 26% share also is a case of strategic sale.
- Here, the remaining shares (49%) will be dispersed among the public.
- But the necessary condition is that the control of the firms should be with the strategic partner.

Ralph Space Mission:

Why in News?

NASA's Ralph – a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto – is set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which are remnants from the early days of the solar system.

About the Ralph:

- Ralph was first launched aboard the New Horizons spacecraft in 2006m and obtained stunning flyby images of Jupiter and its moons.



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 09-NOV-2018

- This was followed by a visit to Pluto where Ralph took the first high-definition pictures of the iconic minor planet.
- In 2021, Ralph is set to journey with the Lucy mission to Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.
- The instrument will fly by another Kuiper Belt object called 2014 MU69 – nicknamed Ultima Thule – in January 2019.
- Ralph's observations of 2014 MU69 will provide unique insights into this small, icy world.
- The Lucy spacecraft carries a near-twin of Ralph, called L'Ralph, which will investigate Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.
- The L'Ralph instrument suite will study this diverse group of bodies; Lucy will fly by six Trojans and one Main Belt asteroid – more than any other previous asteroid mission. L'Ralph will detect the Trojan asteroids' chemical fingerprints.

Uses of Observation:

- L'Ralph allows scientists to interpret data provided by the Sun's reflected light that are the fingerprints of different elements and compounds.
- These data could provide clues about how organic molecules form in primitive bodies, a process that might also have led to the emergence of life on Earth.