



**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019**  
**GS-2**

**E Courts Services through Common Service Centres**

**Context:**

Court case information such as judicial proceedings/decisions, case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country will now be available across all Common Service Centers in the country.

**About e-Courts Project:**

- The Government of India had initiated second phase of the eCourts project as one of the National e-Governance projects, in August, 2015 with an outlay of Rs.1670 crores. As on date, 16845 district and subordinate courts has been IT enabled.
- The eCourts project has made significant progress under the guidance of e-Committee of Supreme Court of India in computerizing district and subordinate courts of the country through installation of case information software, hardware and local area network in courts.
- They are also being connected on Wide Area Network through a dedicated network offering bandwidth upto 100 Mbps.
- eCourts services have now been successfully rolled out through SMS, email, web, mobile app etc. benefiting millions of litigants and advocates.

**Advantage of using CSC's:**

- In order to provide efficient and time-bound access to the Courts services to litigant public, who are on the other side of the digital divide and don't have access to internet, the Department of Justice has decided to deliver eCourts services to them through around 2 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- The rural reach of the CSC's is extensive, envisaging a minimum of one CSC in each Gram Panchayat, thus enabling eCourts services to reach all corners of the country.



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019

- The collaboration between Department of Justice and Common Service Centers would thus mean that litigants can access easily, and readily case status information available on eCourts database from any CSC.
- The eCourts database contains case information in respect of over 10 crore cases and more than 7 crore orders / judgments.
- To ensure affordability, Department of Justice has decided not to charge any fee from the customers for eCourts related services delivered through CSC's.
- However towards cost of service, CSC's has been authorized to charge Rs.5/- for any of the 23 services available on Courts portal. Printing charges will be Rs.5/- per page, if it is more than one page.

### **9<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day**

#### **Context:**

The country will celebrate the 9<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at more than six lakh locations covering around ten lakh Polling Stations across the country.

New Voters shall be felicitated and handed over their EPIC (Elector Photo Identity Card) in the NVD function.

#### **Salient Features:**

- *My Vote Matters*, a Quarterly Magazine will be launched on the occasion and the first copy shall be presented by the Commission to the Hon'ble President.
- The National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices shall be conferred on Officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections.
- In addition, awards will also be given to Civil Society Organisations and Media Houses who have made outstanding contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach.
- Chief Election Commissioners and senior officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Russia and Sri Lanka shall grace the occasion.

#### **About NVD:**

- The National Voters' Day (NVD) is celebrated all over the country on January 25 every year since 2011 to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.



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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019

- The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters.
- Dedicated to the voters of the country, the Day is utilized to spread awareness among voters for promoting informed participation in the electoral process.

### GS- 3

#### **Technology Mission Centre on Solar Energy & Water Treatment**

##### **Why in News?**

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be launching three important centres set up by Department of Science and Technology (DST), nucleated at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at IIT Madras in Chennai.

##### **About DST –IITM Solar Energy Harnessing Centre:**

- The Centre will focus on a wide range of research and technology development activities such as silicon solar cells that promise high efficiency and are suited for Indian conditions.
- The objective is to create a platform that can be extended readily to strengthen the knowledge eco-system
- The centre is likely to be true change agent in the energy landscape of India.
- The consortium will be duly poised to address the sustainability requirements in the spirit of 'Make in India'.

##### **About DST-IITM Water –IC for SUTRAM of EASY WATER (DST- IITM Water Innovation Centre for Sustainable Treatment, Reuse and Management for Efficient, Affordable and Synergistic Solutions)**

- It has been established with an aim to undertake synchronized research and training programs on various issues related to wastewater



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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019

management, water treatment, sensor development, storm water management and distribution and collection systems.

- This multi institutional Virtual Centre will be looking into a sustainable approach for water resources protection and augmentation through wastewater treatment and reuse and storm water management.
- The Centre will provide a unique opportunity for the various groups in different premier organizations working in the area of wastewater management, water treatment, sensor development and storm water management

### **About Test bed on Solar thermal desalination solutions**

- **These** are being established by IIT Madras and Empereal KGDS as solution providers in Naripaaiyur, Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu with the aim to deliver customized technological solutions to address prevalent water challenges in the arid coastal village located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal.
- The development would provide customized technological water solution to provide potable water to coastal areas using solar energy.

### **INS Kohassa – a New Bird’s Nest in the Andamans**

Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur was commissioned as INS Kohassa by Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff today, on 24 Jan 19.

### **About INS Kohassa:**

- INS Kohassa has been named after a White-Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey, endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- NAS Shibpur was established in 2001 as a Forward Operating Air Base (FOAB) for enhanced surveillance in North Andaman.



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019

### **Significance:**

- The close proximity of Coco Islands (Myanmar) and wide expanse of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) makes the base a very vital asset.
- The airfield provides sustained detached operations of Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard aircraft.
- The Air Station presently operates Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft and helicopters.
- These aircraft undertake EEZ Surveillance, Anti-Poaching Missions, Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions within the ANC Area of Responsibility.
- As a point of interest, during the search operations of the Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, Dornier DO 228s of the Navy and Coast Guard operated from this very base.
- NAS Shibpur was identified by NITI Aayog as one of the 'Early Bird' project as part of holistic island development.

### **Biojet fuel for Aircraft**

#### **Why in News?**

On January 22, 2019, after months of exhaustive ground and flight trials, the indigenous produced bio-fuel has been finally cleared for use by the premier airworthiness certification agency of the country.

#### **Details:**

- Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) deliberated in detail the results of various checks and tests conducted on bio-jet fuel as per procedure recommended by top national and international certification agencies.
- On being completely satisfied with the performance parameters, the agency has formally granted its approval for use of this fuel, produced from non-conventional source i.e. non-edible vegetable/ tree borne oil to be used on military aircraft.



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 25 JAN 2019

### **About the Fuel:**

- The bio-jet fuel has been produced from seeds of Jatropha plant sourced from Chhattisgarh and processed at CSIR-IIP's lab at Dehradun.
- This approval enables the IAF to fulfil its commitment to fly the maiden IAF An-32 aircraft on January 26, 2019, with a blend of bio-jet fuel.
- Increased demand of bio-jet fuel would give impetus to increase in collection of tree-borne non-edible oil seeds, which, in turn, will help generate ancillary income, increase remuneration for tribal and marginal farmers, and enthruse cultivation/ collection of oilseeds

### **About CEMILAC:**

- Any hardware or software which is to be used on Indian military aircraft, including those operated by Indian Navy or Army has to be cleared for use by CEMILAC before being inducted for regular use.
- This clearance is a major step for continued testing and eventual full certification of the bio-jet fuel for use on a commercial scale by civil aircraft as well.

### **New Standard for Bio-Jet Fuel**

#### **Why in News?**

To use bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft, BIS has in collaboration with IAF, research organisations and the industry brought out a new standard for Aviation Turbine Fuels.

These specifications will align Indian standards with current international standards.

#### **Significance:**

- This standard would enable the oil companies to manufacture bio-jet fuel for the Indian aviation industry.
- Given the advent of Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) by 2027, this is a significant development which could reduce the carbon emissions and help India become a green fuel production hub.



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