

## **UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 30-07-2020**

### **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards [CA|TS]**

- CA|TS is a conservation tool developed in 2013, in collaboration with field managers, tiger experts and government agencies engaged in tiger conservation.
- It sets best practice and standards to manage target species, and encourages assessments to benchmark progress.
- Tigers are the first species selected for the initiative.
- CA|TS is being adopted for use beyond tigers, including potentially jaguars, lions and freshwater dolphins.
- CA|TS is a partnership of tiger range governments, inter-governmental agencies, institutions, NGOs and conservation organizations.
- WWF is helping tiger range countries to implement CA|TS.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) announced the adoption of the across all of the country's 50 Tiger Reserves.
- These 50 Tiger Reserves are spread across 18 states containing over 70% of the world's tiger population.
- By this India becomes first among the 13 tiger range countries to nationally adopt CA|TS.
- This brings India's total number of registered sites to 94 (which includes sites outside the Tiger Reserves).
- This announcement further strengthens India's contribution to the global goal set in 2010 to double the number tigers in the wild, known as TX2

### **ITER**

- International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is world's largest experimental fusion facility in France.
- It is most complex science project in human history, started in 2010.
- It will use hydrogen fusion, controlled by superconducting magnets, to produce massive heat energy.
- The magnetic fusion device has been designed to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy based on the same principle that powers our Sun and stars.

- This nuclear fusion facility is an international cooperation among the European Union, Russia, the US, Japan, China, India and South Korea.
- It is the first industrial-scale fusion reactor and it will illuminate the way to produce clean, cheap, and abundant energy for millions of years.
- It will start generating a molten mass of electrically-charged gas “plasma” inside a core by 2025.

### **India’s Wind Power Project**

- Sembcorp Energy India Limited (SEIL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries.
- Recently, it announced the completion of the latest 800MW wind power projects, bringing India its renewable energy capacity to 1730 MW.
- Power from these projects to light up more than 600,000 homes and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 2 million tonnes/annum
- Sembcorp becomes the first independent power producer to fully commission its projects awarded in the first three wind auctions held by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- This capacity is also the largest operational wind capacity with any developer to-date from SECI auction.

### **Solar Energy Corporation of India**

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- It is established to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM).
- It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to the solar energy sector.
- The company's mandate has been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain and the company will be renamed to Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).

### **New FDI Policy on Aviation**

- Ministry of Finance has allowed Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to have 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Air India.
- For the same, necessary amendments have been made in the Foreign Exchange Management Rules (Non-debt Instruments), 2019.

### **The new FDI policy allows the following**

1. Removes the exception which permitted Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)

100% FDI in air transport, but not Air India.

2. This category of citizens has been replaced with NRIs, now allowed to commit 100% FDI in air transport, including Air India, through automatic route.
  3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been vested with the sole power to issue/interpret the rules regarding 100% FDI of NRIs.
  4. Previously, it was required to do so in consultation with the Central Government.
- In March 2020, Union cabinet approved a policy to permit foreign investment up to 100% by those NRIs who are Indian Nationals in Air India through the automatic route.
  - Earlier Foreign investments in Air India Limited, including that of foreign airlines shall not exceed 49% either directly or indirectly except in case of those NRIs, who are Indian nationals.

## **Routes of FDI**

- FDI is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.
1. **Automatic Route** - In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.
  2. **Government route** - In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government.
- Method of clearance - Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) facilitates the single window clearance of applications which are through approval route.
  - This portal is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

## **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar**

- It is an annual award instituted in 2018 by Union government to recognize the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in the country in the field of disaster management.
  - These awards are announced on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 23rd January every year.
  - Three eligible institutions and individuals will be given the award every year with cash rewards
1. If the awardee is an institution, it will be given a certificate and a cash

prize of Rs 51 lakh and the prize money will be utilised for disaster management-related activities only.

2. If the awardee is an individual, the person shall receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- An application by an institution does not debar any individual from that institution to apply for the award in his individual capacity.
  - Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award.
  - For institutional awards, voluntary organizations, corporate entities, academic, research institutions, response, uniformed forces or any other institution may apply for the award.
  - The applicant must have worked in the area of disaster management like prevention, mitigation, preparedness, rescue, response, relief, rehabilitation, research, innovation or early warning related work in India.

**Source:** PIB, Times of India, the Hindu

