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Dialy News Pedia*India's first biofuel powered flight undertakes maiden voyage.*

(GS- Prelims and Mains 3- Renewable energy.)

Biofuel technology developed indigenously by CSIR.

A historic flight powered by indigenously produced aviation biofuel based on patented technology of CSIR-IIP Dehradun was flagged off today from Dehradun airport

**The Spicejet flight, featuring a latest generation Q400 aircraft.**

*Recent News:* Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister, S&T and Vice President, CSIR on the occasion said that **it is a historic day and the biofuel technology is going to be a game changer as the Biojet fuel is greenhouse gas neutral, carbon neutral, reduces air pollution and to cap it ,it would bring down import bill on crude oil.**“Commercialization of biofuel promises large-scale employment avenues both in formal and informal sector

The genesis of this development goes back several years to an Indo-Canadian consortium project from 2010 to 2013 involving CSIR-IIP, Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, IIT Kanpur and IISc Bangalore, in which research was directed towards the production of Bio-aviation fuel by CSIR-IIP from jatropha oil and its evaluation under various conditions, culminating in a detailed engine test by Pratt and Whitney in Canada that showed fitness for purpose.

*G20 Digital Economy Ministerial meeting*

(GS -Prelims and Mains 2, 3 – International Relations, Economy)



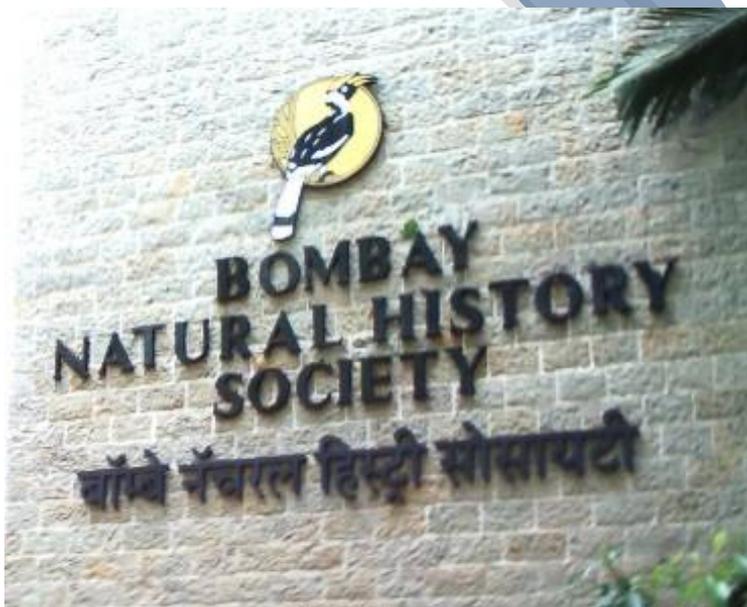
**The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting** was held in Salta, Argentina. It took place as part of **Sherpa Track for 2018 G20 Leaders' Summit**, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018. The theme of the meeting was '**Building consensus for fair and sustainable development**'.

Its three key issues for the agenda were *future of work, infrastructure for development, and sustainable food future*. It concluded with the adaptation of declaration that reflects G20's commitment towards promoting policies and actions that catalyse digital transformations.

The meeting was attended by 33 heads of delegation- ministers, senior officials and representatives from invited countries and international organizations like EU, UNCTAD, ITU etc.

### *Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and avifauna observatory*

(GS -Prelims and Mains 3 - Environment)



The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**, one of India's premier avian research institutes, **will start operating its regional center on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake.**

**Chilika Lake**, which hosts nearly one million birds with 97 species being **intercontinental migratory in nature during the winter season.** The avifauna observatory will be inaugurated by BNHS director Deepak Apte.

The centre will carry out research on avian disease by collecting samples and monitor the **Nalabana Bird Sanctuary,**

## *Nauradehi sanctuary*

(GS -Prelims and Mains 3 - Environment)

**The Madhya Pradesh** forest department has written to **the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary.**

The country's last spotted feline died in Chhattisgarh in 1947. *Later, the cheetah — which is the fastest land animal — was declared extinct in India in 1952.*

**IUCN status** – In the 2015 update of the IUCN Red List, the Asiatic cheetah is considered **regionally extinct** in Iraq, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

The Asiatic cheetah has been listed as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List since 1996.

## *Indian Ocean Conference.*

(GS -Prelims and Mains 2, 3 – International Relations, Economy, Environment)

**Indian Ocean Conference 2017 (IOC 2017), being organized by India Foundation with its partners in Colombo on 31<sup>st</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. theme of the conference is peace, progress and prosperity, about IOC**

The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest body of water, covering about one fifth of the world's total ocean area. The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) cuts across a vast span of territory that directly affects both the global economy and some 32 nations in the region. The countries in the IOR are for the most part developing and middle income countries, with varying levels of development, stability and security.

Countries in the IOR to eradicate poverty. **Peace** remains a vital condition for **Progress and Economic Development**, which in turn can lead to **Prosperity** for all in the region. It will see participation from around 35 countries and have speakers from 25 countries. The conference will be held in Temple Trees, the official residence of the Lankan prime minister.

This will be second IOC conference. **The first was held in Singapore last year in partnership with think tanks from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh,** Indian Ocean Conference to be held from August 31 in which Sri Lankan prime minister and president are among key speakers. *Foundation, a Delhi-based think tank, will host the IOC 2017 in collaboration with RSIS, Singapore, and NIFS, Colombo—both research and study centers.*

## EDITORIAL

### To Read

*India bans 18 pesticides, has many more to go ....*



Around three years after the [Anupam Verma Committee](#) submitted its recommendations, [the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has finally issued the Pesticides \(Prohibition\) Order, 2018, banning 18 pesticides](#). Of these 18, 12 pesticides have been banned from immediate effect (from August 9, 2018) and ban on another six will be implemented from December 31, 2020. The ban applies to registration, import, manufacture, formulation, transport, sale and use of all these pesticides.

The use of toxic pesticides in India has lately been in news in connection with death of farmers and [agriculture workers Yavatmal region of Maharashtra](#). The [Centre for Science and Environment \(CSE\), a non-profit based in New Delhi](#), has been campaigning for stricter regulation of pesticides and ban on the [most toxic pesticides classified as 'Class I' \(based on acute toxicity of the active ingredient\)](#) by the World Health Organisation. This order bans seven of the 18 Class I pesticides allowed in India, many of which are heavily used. However, there is scope for improvement, the list leaves out two heavily used Class I pesticides: Monocrotophos and Carbofuran.

"Though delayed, this move by the government will address part of the problem. At least some of the heavily used class 1 pesticides would not be allowed after the next couple of years. The government should also consider similar action on other class 1 pesticides, some of which are heavily used," says Amit Khurana, programme director, food safety and toxins, CSE.

**Monocrotophos is one of the pesticides connected with the death of farmers in Maharashtra in 2017.** The situation is grave since 5,000-7,000 people die every year of poisoning due to accidental intake of pesticides in India and Class I pesticides form about one-third of the pesticides consumed in India. **As per the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, jointly released by FAO and WHO,** "pesticides whose handling and application require the use of personal protective equipment that is uncomfortable, expensive or not readily available should be avoided, especially in the case of small-scale users and farm workers in hot climates". It is impossible to ensure use of personal protective equipment by small-scale farmers and farm workers in India. On this basis itself, Class I pesticides should have been banned in India long ago.

**A public interest litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court by Kavitha Kuruganti,** national convenor, Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture, seeking review of 104 pesticides permitted in India but banned or severely restricted in other countries. "The Anupam Verma Committee reviewed 66 pesticides and recommended ban of 18 of them and **its successive committee headed by Dr JS Sandhu** had the task to review a ban on these 18. Our case pertains to 104 toxic pesticides allowed in India but banned or restricted elsewhere in the world, however, in March 2018, the court ordered us to make our representation to the Sandhu committee which had to be limited to these 18 pesticides only. This ban falls very short of our prayer in the Supreme Court and we hope that the SC looks into the larger matter of 86 more pesticides, serious regulatory lacunae that exist in India and the need to promote non chemical farming," says Kuruganti.

## PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. Choose the correct statement regarding The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina recently.
  - a. The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and equitable development'.
  - b. India is member of above meeting.
  - c. Both a and b.
  - d. Only b.
2. The first Indian Ocean conference held at
  - a. Maldives.
  - b. Singapore.
  - c. India.
  - d. Sri Lanka.
3. Consider wrong statement related to Nalbana Bird Sanctuary.
  - a. It is core area of Ramsar designated wetlands of Chilika lake,
  - b. It was declared a bird sanctuary under the wildlife protection Act in 1972.
  - c. Large flocks of greater flamingos from Iran and Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, feed in the shallow waters of the lake.
  - d. None of the above.
4. Which of the following statements below are not true about Internet of Birds.
  - a. It was developed by IT consultancy firm Accenture and the Bombay Natural History society.
  - b. It uses the Artificial Intelligence technology.
  - c. Both
  - d. None.
5. Choose the wrong statements related to Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary.
  - a. It is about 90 km from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
  - b. It sits astride two major river basins of India, namely Narmada, flowing east and Ganges flowing west.
  - c. The forest is spread over the southern area of the vindhya range of hills.
  - d. Indian wolf is the keystone species of this sanctuary.

## MAINS ANSWER WRITING

Q: How organic farming will benefit the farmers in the context of recent pesticides ban, Explain?