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SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL



Recently, India and Brazil have decided to collaborate on production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF).

Sustainable Aviation Fuel is also known as **bio-jet fuel**.

- It is made from **renewable biomass and waste resources** have the potential to deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel.
- It is a **liquid fuel** currently used in commercial aviation which **reduces CO2 emissions** by up to 80%.
- **Production:** It can be **produced from a number of sources** (feedstock) including waste oil and fats, green and municipal waste and non-food crops.
- It can also be produced synthetically via a process that captures carbon directly from the air.
- **Significance:**
 - Its carbon footprint is significantly lower than aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
 - It is 'sustainable' because the raw feedstock does not compete with food crops or water supplies, or is responsible for forest degradation.
 - It remains the major mature and viable pathway to decarbonise the aviation sector. At the same time, SAF only accounts for 0.3% of the current fuel use for aviation.



QUAD GROUP

Prime Minister of India is participating in the fourth Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, Delaware in the United State of America (USA).

- It is a grouping of four democracies namely **India, Australia, US and Japan** and is known as the **quadrilateral security dialogue or quad**.

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- The aim of this grouping is to ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.

Objectives: The group's primary objectives include **maritime security**, addressing the risks of **climate change**, creating an **ecosystem for investment** in the region, and boosting technological innovation.

Brief History of Quad:

- Following the **Indian Ocean tsunami** of December **2004**, India, Japan, Australia, and the US created an informal alliance to collaborate on **disaster relief efforts**.
 - In 2007, then PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe, formalised the alliance, as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the Quad.
 - However, due to Chinese resistance and reluctance shown by India, it could not move ahead.
 - Later, during the **2017 ASEAN Summits**, all four former members re-joined negotiations to **revive the quadrilateral alliance**.
 - The Quad was **upgraded to the ministerial level** in September 2019.
 - In March 2021, the first-ever summit of QUAD leaders **took place virtually**.
 - It was participated by the PMs/Presidents of all the member countries. The summit was hosted by US.
 - Later, in September 2021, the first in-person meeting of Quad leaders was hosted by the US.
 - It is not structured like a typical multilateral organisation, and **lacks a secretariat** and any permanent decision-making body (like the EU or UN).
 - Instead, it has focused on expanding existing agreements between member countries and highlighting their shared values
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FOOD IMPORT REJECTION ALERT PORTAL



- It is an **online portal** for notification of **food import rejections** at Indian borders.

- It has been developed by the **Food Safety Standards**

Authority of India (FSSAI).

- It is designed to notify the **public and relevant food safety authorities** about food import rejections at Indian borders.
- **Features:**
 - It will facilitate rapid **exchange of information** among authorities worldwide on **food safety and health risks stemming** from rejected food.
 - It will also enable relevant food authorities to **take immediate action** for prevention and control of risks before it causes harm.
 - The new portal has an online **interactive interface** for rapid dissemination of information to ensure enhanced traceability and transparency.
 - It also serves as a valuable database for tracking rejected food products and for further **strengthening of the risk management system.**

What is FSSAI?

- It is an **autonomous body** established under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India. It has been established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- **Mission:** Set globally benchmarked standards for food, encourage and ensure that **food businesses adhere to these standards**, adopt good manufacturing and hygiene practices, and ultimately enable citizens to access safe and right food.
 - It is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

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INDIA - US BILATERAL TIES

Transformation in India-US Bilateral Relations:

- The US-India ties have **gone through years of ups and downs over the last 75 years.**
- **For example**, the US imposed sanctions on India after it conducted two nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998, and then the normalisation of relations, which culminated in the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008.
- **Transformation in relations:**
 - **The 1st transformation** was roughly between 2001 - when George W Bush came to power. In this phase, the **US has been accommodating** to India's key national interests while still **acknowledging unresolved concerns.**
 - **The 2nd transformation** was during the tenure of the 46th President of the US - Joe Biden.
- **The Modi-Biden era:**
 - This era emphasised upon mutual interests and strategic alignment, particularly in **response to China's growing influence.**
 - In 2023, National Security Advisors (NSA) on both sides inaugurated the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (**iCET**).
 - The establishment of the **Strategic Trade Dialogue** and ongoing **defence exercises** highlight their commitment to sustaining the relationship.
 - **Five 2+2 meetings** (with respective defence and foreign ministers) have taken place, and the supply of **C-130Js, C-17s, P8Is, Apaches, Chinooks, and MH60R helicopters** are changing capabilities for the Indian military.

The Agenda for the Indian PM's Recent Visit to the US:

- **Boosting bilateral ties:** The two leaders discussed ways to deepen cooperation across various sectors, highlighting that both nations now enjoy a “**comprehensive global strategic partnership.**”

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- **Expanding India's global role:** President Biden praised India's leadership on the world stage, highlighting India's role -
 - During the G20 presidency,
 - In strengthening the Quad,
 - Reinforcing the need for a “free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific,” etc.
 - **Space to semiconductors:**
 - Both Leaders committed to enhance regular engagements to improve the momentum of collaboration in fields such as **space, AI, quantum, biotechnology, etc.**
 - They hailed plans for a **semiconductor fabrication plant**, which will support national security and next-generation telecommunications.
 - **Impetus to defence ties:**
 - President Biden welcomed the progress in India's procurement of **31 General Atomics MQ-9B remotely piloted aircraft**, which will enhance India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.
 - Biden also highlighted India's decision to simplify its tax structure on **maintenance, repair, and overhaul services**, calling it a significant step for building a **robust aviation ecosystem**.
 - **Clean energy initiatives:** The White House announced that initial efforts aim to unlock \$1 billion of multilateral financing to support projects across the clean energy value chain.
 - **Promoting global health and development:**
 - The two leaders celebrated the new **US-India Drug Policy Framework**, designed to combat the illicit production and trafficking of synthetic drugs.
 - They also applauded the inaugural **U.S.-India Cancer Dialogue**, as tackling cancer requires collaboration and innovation.
 - **Both sides highlighted enhanced cooperation in agriculture**, committing to improve productivity and share best practices.
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WHAT IS EMU?



largest).

- It belongs to a group of **flightless running birds** known as **ratites**, the most primitive of the modern bird families.

- It is the **second-largest living bird** in the world (the ostrich is the largest).

Distribution:

- The Emu is **found only in Australia**.
- It lives throughout most of the continent, ranging from coastal regions to high in the Snowy Mountains.

Features:

- Emu is more than 1.5 metres (5 feet) tall and may weigh more than 45 kg (100 pounds).
- Adult **female emus are larger and heavier** than males.
- Both sexes are **brownish**, with a **dark gray head and neck**.
- Their **necks and legs are long**, but their **wings are tiny**, reduced to less than 8 inches (20 centimeters).
- Their feet have three toes and fewer bones and muscles than those of flying birds.
- Emus can **dash away at nearly 50 km (30 miles) per hour**; if cornered, they kick with their big three-toed feet.
- Their **strong legs** also allow the bird to jump 7 feet (2.1 meters) straight up.
- They are **omnivores**.
- **Lifespan: Five to ten years**

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List: Least Concern**



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TIRUPATI BALAJI TEMPLE



- The **Tirumala Venkateswara Temple**, also known as the Tirupati Balaji Temple, is a **hindu temple** situated in the hill town of Tirumala at Tirupati in Chittoor district of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The temple is situated at a height of 853 m above sea level and is positioned **on Venkata Hill**, which is **one of the saptagiri (seven hills) of Tirumala Hills**.
- It is dedicated to **Lord Sri Venkateswara**, an **incarnation of Vishnu**.
- It has been mentioned in holy scriptures such as the Garuda Purana, Brahma Purana and many others.
- **History:**
 - The temple's ancient roots can be **traced to the Pallava dynasty**, which had a strong influence on the region during the 9th century.
 - **Subsequently**, the **Chola dynasty** played a crucial role in **further developing and patronizing the temple**.
 - Later on, **during the reign of the Vijayanagara Empire**, the temple received **significant contributions** and endowments, solidifying its place in the religious landscape of South India.
 - One of the defining moments in the temple's history was when the **famous saint, Ramanuja**, played a **pivotal role in reviving the temple and its rituals in the 12th century**.
- It is **one of the richest temples** in the world in terms of donations received and wealth.
- A **popular practice** in the temple is **the donation of hair** and various riches in order to please the god.
- **Tirupati Laddu**: The renowned sweet, Tirupati Laddu, **given as a prasad** at the temple, has the **Geographical indication (GI) tag**.

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Architecture:

- The Temple is constructed in **Dravidian architecture** and is believed to be constructed over a period of time **starting from 300 AD**.
- Three entrances lead to the sanctum sanctorum - the first is called Mahadwaram.
- A **gopuram (gateway)**, measuring 50 ft, is placed **in front of the entrance**.
- There are two circumambulation (parikrama) paths.
- The **main shrine houses a gold-plated tower** that is called **Ananda Nilayam**, and a temple inside the tower houses the main deity.
- The temple's vast courtyards, pillars, and halls are adorned with exquisite sculptures and designs that capture the essence of Hindu spirituality.

WHAT ARE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNALS (DRTS)?



Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) are specialized **judicial bodies established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act)**.

- RTs play a crucial role in enforcing creditor rights and expediting debt recovery processes under Indian law.
- **Types of Cases Handled:**
 - Their primary mandate is to adjudicate and **resolve disputes concerning debt recovery from banks, financial institutions**, and other specified entities.
 - DRTs **can take cases from banks** for disputed loans **above Rs 20 Lakh**.
 - The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (**SARFAESI Act**) **provides access to banks** and financial institutions covered under the Act **for recovery of secured debts** from the borrowers **without the intervention of the Courts at the first stage**.
 - **Securitisation Appeals (SAs)** can be filed with the DRTs by those aggrieved against action taken by secured creditors under the SARFAESI Act.



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The DRT has the following structure:

- **President:** A judicial officer appointed by the central government who is qualified to be a District Judge.
 - **Members:** Administrative and technical members appointed by the central government
 - Under section 22(2) of the Recovery of Debts Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993, DRT has the following powers:
 - **summoning** and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
 - **requiring the discovery and production of documents;**
 - receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - **issuing commissions** for the examination of witnesses or documents;
 - **reviewing its decisions;**
 - dismissing an application for default or deciding it ex parte;
 - setting aside any order of dismissal of any application for default or any order passed by it ex parte;
 - any other matter which may be prescribed.
 - **Jurisdiction:** Each DRT is established for a specified territorial jurisdiction, and its jurisdiction extends to cases involving the recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions within that jurisdiction.
 - **Appeals and Enforcement:** Parties aggrieved by DRT orders have the right to appeal against the decision **before the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT).**
 - At present, 39 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning across the country. Each DRT and DRAT are headed by a Presiding Officer and a Chairperson, respectively.
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