



19 March 2024

National and International News

Ethanol 100



Context:

- Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri unveiled **Ethanol 100 fuel, offering cleaner emissions and higher efficiency.**

Key points:

- **Cleaner and Greener Alternative:** Ethanol 100 offers a cleaner alternative to traditional gasoline, with lower emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants, contributing to combating climate change and improving air quality.
- **High-Octane Rating:** With a high-octane rating typically between 100-105, Ethanol 100 is suitable for high-performance engines, ensuring better efficiency and power output while minimizing environmental impact.
- **Versatility:** Ethanol 100 can be utilized in various vehicles, including flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline, ethanol, or any blend of the two, highlighting its versatility and potential to become a mainstream fuel option.
- **Increased Availability:** The launch of Ethanol 100 expands its availability to **183 retail petrol outlets across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu, with plans for further expansion.**
- **Towards Blending Targets:** This initiative aligns with the goal of achieving 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26, a target that has seen significant progress with the increased availability of ethanol blends like **E20 and now Ethanol 100.**

India's Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) Phase 1 Inauguration

Context:

- **Location:** Silkheda, Sehore district, 50 km northwest of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Funded by:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Purpose:** Study cloud processes during Indian monsoons in Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ).
- **Focus:** Understanding crucial cloud processes during monsoon season.

Need for ART-CI:

- Indian monsoon complexity impacts **agriculture**



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and economy.

- Lack of comprehensive cloud process data hinders predictions.
- ART-CI addresses need for specialized monsoon research infrastructure.

Madhya Pradesh's Strategic Importance:

- Silkheda strategically located along major rain-bearing synoptic systems' path.
- Clear environment with minimal pollutants ideal for meteorological research.
- Suitable for installing sensitive, high-end meteorological instruments.
- Geographical positioning and environmental quality give Silkheda a strategic advantage for meteorological research.

HbA1C test

Context:

- According to 2018 ICMR guidelines, individuals over 30 should be screened for diabetes due to India's significant diabetes burden.
- India has around 10.13 crore diabetic individuals and 13.6 crore pre-diabetics, accounting for 17% of global diabetes cases.
- Over 35% of Indians have hypertension, and nearly 40% have abdominal obesity, increasing diabetes risk.
- Prevention and early detection are crucial in managing this health issue.

HbA1C Test Functionality

- **Test Principle:** Measures the percentage of red blood cells coated with sugar (glycated hemoglobin) to diagnose and manage pre-diabetes and diabetes.
- **Test Accuracy and Approval:** Discovered in 1955, correlated with diabetes in 1968, approved by the ADA in 2009, and endorsed by WHO in 2011 with improved accuracy from 1993 to 2012.

World Monuments Fund 2025



Context:

- Conservationists propose Kazhuveli watershed, Tamil Nadu, for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025.
- The historic Eri network in the region, vital for agriculture, is in decline and requires urgent protection.

Significance:

- Nomination-based initiative linking local



heritage preservation with global awareness and action.

- Aims to preserve locations in need, addressing issues like cultural heritage and environmental sustainability.

About World Monuments Fund (WMF):

- A private, global non-profit organization dedicated to protecting historic architectural and cultural heritage sites worldwide.
- Founded in 1965, headquartered in New York City, WMF partners with local communities and governments to preserve significant sites through donations and matching funds.

EX TIGER TRIUMPH – 24



Context:

- In alignment with the established partnership between India and the US, a bilateral tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, Tiger Triumph24, is set to take place on the Eastern Seaboard from 18 to 31 March 2024.

The exercise will involve:

- Indian Navy Ships with integral helicopters and landing crafts embarked
- Indian Navy aircraft
- Indian Army personnel and vehicles
- Indian Air Force aircraft and helicopters
- Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT)
- The US will be represented by US Navy Ships with embarked troops of the US Marine Corps and US Army.
- The primary objectives of the exercise include developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between the forces of both countries.



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