



Daily current affairs

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Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme

- Ethanol, an anhydrous ethyl alcohol having chemical formula of C_2H_5OH , can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
 - Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution.
 - Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel.
 - Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched in January, 2003. The programme sought to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements.
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Minimum Support Price

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
 - The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
 - MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.
 - The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
 - In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.
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ISRO Pad abort test

ISRO Pad Abort Test is an Indian Space Research Organisation planned pad abort test of its crew module as part of Indian human spaceflight programme. Indian Space Research Organisation is planning the test in March 2017.

A Pad Abort Test is a trial run for a spacecraft's launch abort system . This system is designed to quickly get the crew and spacecraft away from the rocket in the event of a potential failure. It is similar to an ejection seat for a fighter pilot, but instead of ejecting the pilot out of the spacecraft, the entire spacecraft is "ejected" away from the launch vehicle

Collective responsibility

Cabinet collective responsibility is a tradition in parliamentary governments in which the prime minister is responsible for appointing the cabinet ministers. The cabinet ministers are usually selected from the same political party as the prime minister to make collective decision-making for legislation faster and more effective. A parliamentary system's executive and legislative branches are intertwined. Because of the fusion of powers of the executive and legislative branches the prime minister relies on the cabinet to always support their policy decisions. Breach of cabinet collective responsibility, such as when a cabinet member publicly disagrees with an executive decision results in a resignation or termination from that cabinet position.

"one aspect of collective ministerial responsibility is that Ministers share responsibility for major government decisions, particularly those made by the cabinet and, even if they personally object to such decisions, Ministers must be prepared to accept and defend them or resign from the cabinet"

Advantages

- A parliamentary system that uses cabinet collective responsibility is more likely to avoid contradictions and disagreements between cabinet members of the executive branch. Cabinet ministers are likely to feel there is a practical and collective benefit from being part of a team.
- Cabinet collective responsibility to the people also benefits party and personal loyalty to the prime minister.
- Solidarity within the cabinet can strengthen the prime minister's party and accelerate policy decisions and interests of that party. Presidential democracies often lack the ability to pass legislation quickly in times of emergency or instances of national security.

Disadvantages

- Because cabinet collective responsibility forces the cabinet ministers to publicly agree with the prime minister's decisions, political debate and internal discourse is hindered.
- When disagreements occur within a cabinet dependent on collective responsibility, negotiating collective agreements can be difficult.
- Cabinet collective responsibility is therefore dependent on the mutual agreement and collective unity of the cabinet and its members

Lieutenant-governors

The governors and lieutenant-governors/administrators of the states and union territories of

India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level. Governors exist in the states while lieutenant-governors exist in union territories and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The governor acts as the nominal head whereas the real power lies with the Chief ministers of the states and his/her councils of ministers.

- In India, a lieutenant governor is in charge of a union territory.
- The rank is present only in the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi and Puducherry (the other territories have an administrator appointed, who is an IAS officer or retired judges of courts).
- The governor of Punjab acts as the administrator of Chandigarh.
- Although lieutenant-governors do not hold the same rank as a governor of a state in the list of precedence.

The governors and lieutenant-governors are appointed by the President for a term of five years.

