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Self-sufficient in di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)

Why in Newspapers?

In order to promote self-reliance in the fertilizer sector, the central government is providing recommendations and support to Indian fertilizer companies to strengthen their last mile supply chain as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Quick Issue?

- Agriculture and allied sector is the largest source of income in India, this sector contributes 19.9% to the country's GDP, in which 54.6% of the population is engaged in agricultural activities.

Historical Background?

- The agricultural sector largely depends on the fertilizer industry, which manufactures the most important raw materials needed for the production of crops.
- Apart from this, the Indian fertilizer industry plays an important role in the development of healthy crops as it produces phosphorous fertilizers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Monoammonium Phosphate (MAP), Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium (NPK) and Single Superphosphate (SSP).
- The fertilizer industry largely depends on common raw materials such as phosphate rock, which is mainly sourced from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. However, India imports 90% of its phosphate from other countries.
- The Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is a multi-state cooperative society headquartered in the country's capital, it is the largest fertilizer manufacturer and marketer.
- National Fertilizers Limited is a state owned corporation which is the largest producer of urea accounting for about 15% of the total urea production in the country.
- **Initiative :-**
 - Neem Coated Urea
 - New Urea Policy 2015
 - Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme
- DAP is the second most used fertilizer in India after Urea.
- Farmers usually use this fertilizer just before sowing or at the beginning of sowing, as it is high in phosphorus (P) which aids in root development.

Other Key Facts?

Domestic Exploration of Potential Potassium Ore Resources

- The Department of Mining and Geological Survey plans to expedite exploration of potential potash ore resources in Satpura, Bharusari and Lakhasar in Rajasthan, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka among other states.



- DAP contains 46% phosphorus, 18% nitrogen, which is the preferred source of phosphorus for farmers. It is similar to urea, his favourite nitrogenous fertilizer containing 46% nitrogen.
- **Promoting joint ventures abroad:**
 - In this direction, Coromandel International Limited, India's leading phosphatic fertilizer company, has formalized the acquisition of 45 percent equity share in Baobab Mining and Chemicals Corporation (BMCC), a Senegal-based rock phosphate mining company. In addition, mining will be done in Senegal and DAP will be produced in India.
- The Government of India is partnering with industry to enable such investments to achieve supply security targets to meet the country's fertilizer needs.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which of the following is not a nitrogenous fertilizer?

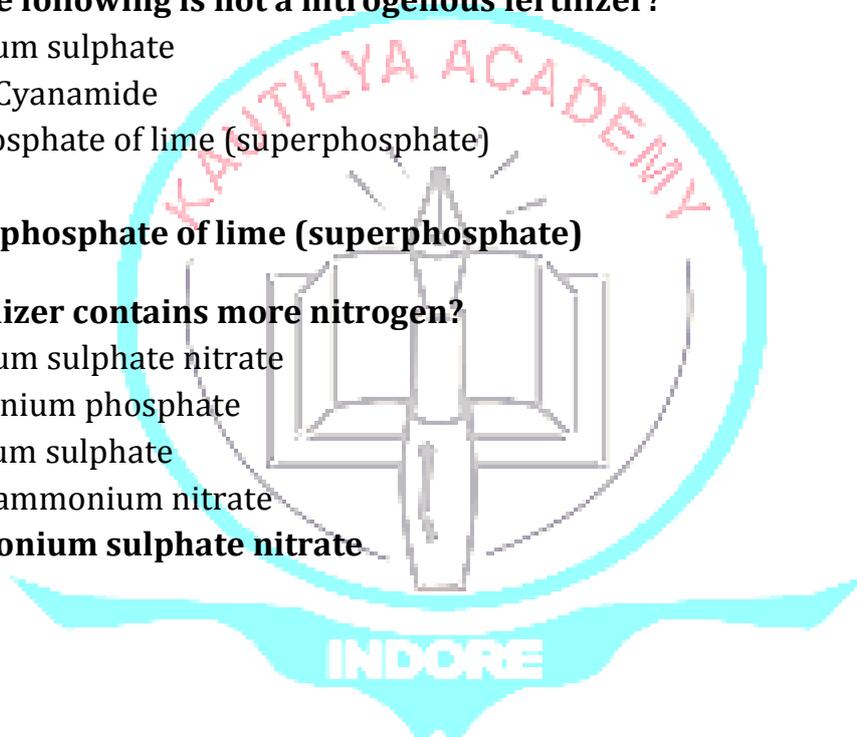
- (a) Ammonium sulphate
- (b) Calcium Cyanamide
- (c) Superphosphate of lime (superphosphate)
- (d) Urea

Answer: (c) superphosphate of lime (superphosphate)

Que. Which fertilizer contains more nitrogen?

- (a) Ammonium sulphate nitrate
- (b) Di ammonium phosphate
- (c) Ammonium sulphate
- (d) Calcium ammonium nitrate

Answer: (a) Ammonium sulphate nitrate



Electoral Bond

Why in Newspapers?

Recently State Bank of India (SBI) shared data reporting that the amount donated to political parties through Electoral Bonds (EB) has crossed Rs 10,000 crore mark.

Quick Issue?

- In the 21st sale of electoral bonds held in July 2022, the parties got Rs 5 crore from electoral bond purchases.
- The total amount collected by the parties since the launch of the electoral bond scheme in the year 2018 has gone up to Rs 10,246 crore.

Historical Background?

- State Bank of India is the authorized bank to issue and encash these bonds. Electoral bonds are bought secretly by donors and are valid for fifteen days from the date of issue.
- In the form of debt instruments, these can be bought from the bank by the donors and can be encashed by political parties. These can be encashed only by an eligible political party by depositing it in its bank account.
- Electoral Bonds are issued by SBI in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore without any upper limit.
- Bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India) for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October, as specified by the Central Government.
- Only political parties registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which have secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the previous general election to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds. Huh.
- The main criticism of the electoral bond scheme is that it does the exact opposite of its original idea of bringing transparency in electoral funding.
- For example, critics argue that the anonymity of electoral bonds is limited only to the public and opposition parties.

Other Key Facts?

- One-China Principle:
- The 'One-China Principle' means that the nations that want to have diplomatic relations with the 'People's Republic of China (PRC)', should refer to China as the 'Republic of China' (Instead of Republic of China (ROC), the 'People's Republic of China' (PRC) would have to be recognized, and they would have to sever ties with the ROC.
- The 'People's Republic of China' (PRC) is commonly known as 'China' and the 'Republic of China' (ROC) is commonly known as 'Taiwan'. These are separate states with a shared history; China claims sovereignty over Taiwan.
 - At the same time, China has developed into a 'multi-party democracy' along with improving its economic system.
 - Since then, the two countries have been economically embroiled and are in constant competition with each other.



- Since such bonds are sold through state-owned banks (SBI), many critics believe that the government can find out who is funding opposition parties through this.
- As a result, this process allows only the then government to extort money and thus provides undue advantage to the ruling party.
- Through an amendment in the Finance Act 2017, the central government has exempted political parties from disclosing the amount received through electoral bonds. This means voters will not be able to know which person, company or organization has funded which party and to what extent.
- However, in representative democracy, citizens cast their vote to those who will represent them in the Parliament.
- **Compromise with the 'right to know':-** The Supreme Court of India has recognized that the 'right to know' is an integral part of the right to freedom of expression (Article 19) under the Indian Constitution, especially in the context of elections.
- **Against free and fair elections:-** Electoral bonds do not give any details to the citizens in this regard. The said anonymity does not apply to the government at the time, which can access the details of the donor by seeking data from the State Bank of India (SBI). This means that the government in power can take advantage of this information and disrupt free and fair elections.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. By whom are political parties recognized in India?

- (a) Election Commission of India
- (b) Finance Commission
- (c) State Election Commission
- (d) None of these

Ans (a) Election Commission of India

INDORE