Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) framework of India

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Why in News?

India is moving forward with a comprehensive Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) framework, highlighted by a proposed three-pillar national policy and the operational readiness of the country's first commercial-scale SAF plant at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Panipat refinery.

Three-Pillar Policy Framework

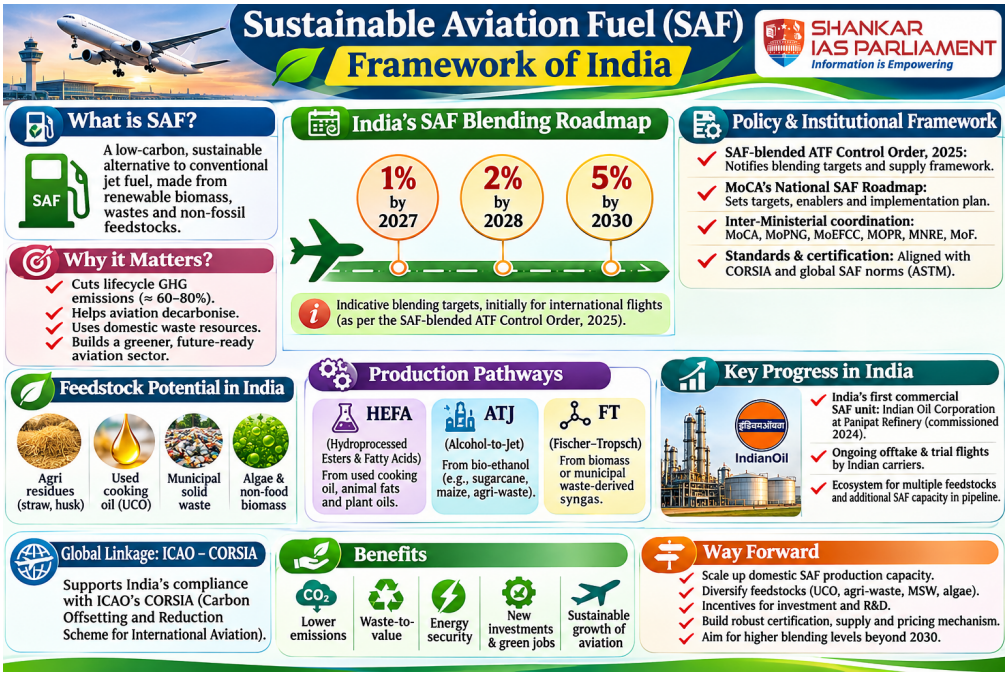
- Announced by Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, the draft framework relies on three main pillars–
- **Coordination–** A National Council to oversee inter-ministerial implementation.
- **Domestic Production–** Boosting local output and feedstock access (such as used cooking oil and agro-residues) via public-private partnerships.
- **National Registry–** A DGCA-managed registry to log transactions and verify carbon reductions.

Blending Mandates & Timeline

- **International Targets–** India aims for indicative SAF blending levels of **1% in 2027**, **2% in 2028**, and **5% by 2030** for international flights, mirroring ICAO's CORSIA schedule.
- **Regulatory Compliance–** Blended fuels are governed by the Aviation Turbine Fuel Order, adhering to BIS and ICAO standards.

Commercial Readiness and Supply

- **Panipat Plant–** Located at IOC's Haryana refinery, the facility is ready for commercial supply, certified to handle feedstocks like used cooking oil, and scaled to meet the initial 2027 blending target.
- **Industry Partnerships–** IOC has established supply arrangements with Air India, alongside exploration MoUs involving HPCL, Akasa Air, and Airbus.



Reference

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