

September-19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's Ministry of Skill Development and Germany's Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) have signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on skill development, which will provide dual vocational education and training to Indian youth.
- ❖ India and Malta signed three Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.

TAMIL NADU

'TN-SMART' app

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) is going to launch an app called 'TN-SMART' for real-time risk assessment.
- ❖ It is a web application to collate data related to disaster management and provide flood alerts in specific areas.
- ❖ 'TN-SMART' stands for Tamil Nadu - System for Multi-hazard potential impact Assessment and Emergency Response Tracking.

1st technology-aided livestock census – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is going to conduct the 20th livestock census, which is the 1st technology-aided livestock census.
- ❖ The census will be done with the help of a tablet, clicking photographs of livestock on various localities.
- ❖ The livestock Census will be undertaken once in five years and this is the first time the census would be undertaken for a three-month period (usually 1 month).
- ❖ The census has been delayed for the first time since 2002. It couldn't be undertaken as per schedule in 2017 because of the Centre's Digital India initiative.

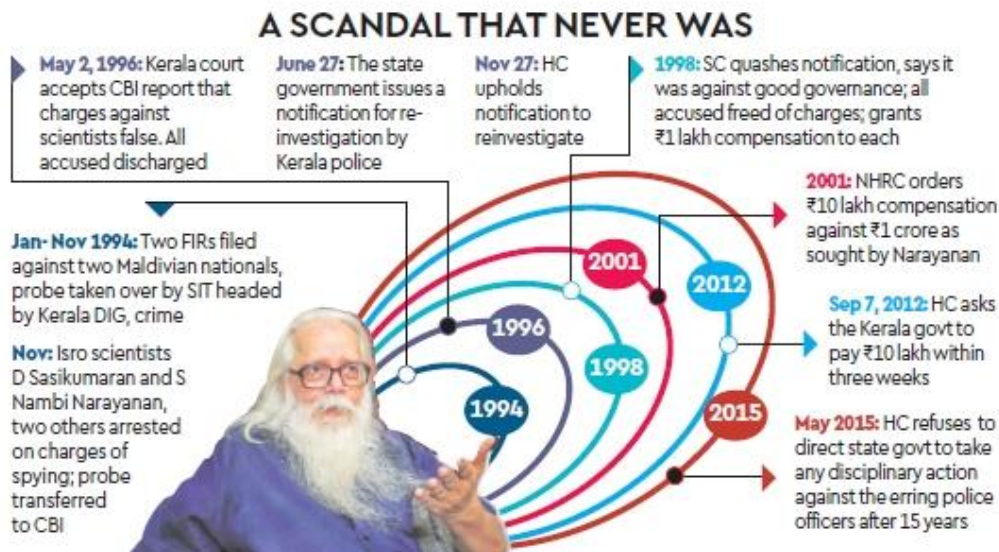
NATIONAL

Government and FAO - agriculture project

- ❖ Union government (Agriculture and Environment ministries) along with UN body Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched agriculture project.
- ❖ It will be implemented in five states viz. Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It seeks to bring transformative change in farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.
- ❖ The project is being funded with US \$33.5 million grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF).

D.K.Jain committee – ISRO Spy Case

- ❖ Former **ISRO scientist S Nambi Narayanan** was awarded compensation of Rs 50 lakh by the Supreme Court 24 years after he was arrested by Kerala police on an espionage charge.



- ❖ The apex court also constituted a committee headed by retired SC judge D K Jain to inquire into the role of Kerala police officials in the arrest of Narayanan.
- ❖ The committee would have an officer each nominated by the Central and the Kerala governments.

- ❖ He was arrested on the charges of passing on documents and drawings of ISRO relating to Viking/Vikas engine technology, cryogenic engine technology and PSLV flight data/drawings to Pakistan.

Clear policy on shifting cultivation

- ❖ NITI Aayog, in its recent report, has recommended that Ministry of Agriculture to take up mission on shifting cultivation to ensure inter-ministerial convergence between different ministries.
- ❖ The report was titled “Mission on Shifting Cultivation: Towards a Transformational Approach”.

INTERNATIONAL

India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project

- ❖ Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh PM jointly launched the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project through video conferencing.
- ❖ The 130-kilometre pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This will be the first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Parbatipur depot from Numaligarh of Assam in India.

Grant of Access to key ports

- ❖ Bangladesh’s Cabinet has approved draft agreement allowing India to use its Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to and from its North-Eastern states.
- ❖ Only Bangladeshi vehicles will be used for transportation of goods within its territory.
- ❖ Indian goods can be transported through four entry points viz.
 - Akhaura (Bangladesh) and Agartala (India’s Tripura),
 - Tamabil (Sylhet, Bangladesh) and Dauki (Meghalaya),
 - Sheola (Sylhet) and Sutarkandi (Assam),
 - Bibir Bazar (Cumilla, Bangladesh) and Srimantapur (Tripura).

- ❖ Under it, India will have to follow General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and Bangladeshi regulations.
- ❖ The agreement will be effective for five years, but it can be extended for another five years automatically.

7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism

- ❖ 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea from 16 to 19 September, 2018.
- ❖ The theme of the summit was ‘A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism’.
- ❖ The summit was co-organized by
 - World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and
 - Seoul Metropolitan Government andsupported by Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of South Korea, Korea Tourism Organization and Seoul Tourism Organization.
- ❖ UNWTO is United Nations agency headquartered located in Madrid, Spain. responsible for promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

e-Sahaj portal

- ❖ Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched e-Sahaj portal to facilitate individuals and private companies in seeking security clearance for setting up businesses in certain sensitive sectors.
- ❖ MHA is nodal authority for granting security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before licence, permit, permission, contract etc is issued.
- ❖ The online portal will make security clearance process standardised, faster, transparent and easy to monitor.

World's first hydrogen-powered train

- ❖ Germany has rolled out world's first hydrogen-powered passenger train. These locomotives named iLint trains emit zero emissions, making them eco-friendly.

- ❖ This train technology offers greener and quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines.
- ❖ These hydrogen trains are manufactured by French TGV-maker Alstom.
- ❖ Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity by combining hydrogen with oxygen.

ENVIRONMENT

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), on the eve of World Ozone Day, has released draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP).
- ❖ It makes India first country in world to develop such document. The draft was prepared by Ozone Cell of MoEFCC.
- ❖ It aims to provide sustainable cooling while keeping in mind the need to protect the ozone layer from substances that can deplete it.

STATES

New Cyber University

- ❖ Maharashtra Government is setting up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats.
- ❖ The Cyber University will provide for and prepare internet professionals on lines of Microsoft Certified Professional Program.
- ❖ It will conduct courses in data analytics, cloud computing, blockchain, AI, cyber forensics and cyber investigations.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tenzing Norgay Award

- ❖ All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award.



- **INSV Tarini crew bestowed with Tenzing Norgay Award:**
- **The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.**
- **The women Navy officers had spent as many as 194 days at sea as part of a mission under the Navika Sagar Parikrama project that began in September last year.**

- ❖ The crew has been awarded for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for eight long months.
- ❖ The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- ❖ The crew was also bestowed with NavSena Medal on the occasion of 72nd Independence Day.
