

September – 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years to prevent the commercial packaging and selling of plants.
- ❖ IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has constituted a committee, with its Chief General Manager Randip Singh Jagpal as the chairperson, to identify key regulatory issues and gaps regarding Fin-tech (Financial Technology) in insurance.

TAMIL NADU

New Corporation to support water project funding

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government is going to constitute a new 'Water Resources Conservation and River Restoration Corporation' to help implement water schemes.
- ❖ The new department will help out Public Works department to draft innovative projects and schemes to improve water sources.

National Sport Awards 2018 - Winners from Tamil Nadu

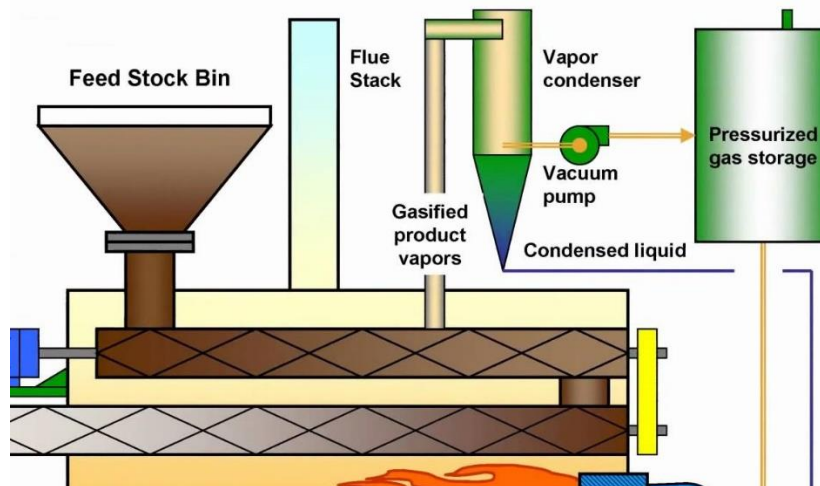
- ❖ Table Tennis star G Sathiyam has been conferred with Arjuna Award in the National Sports Awards 2018.
- ❖ Table Tennis coach A Srinivas Rao has been conferred with Dronacharya Award.
- ❖ Arjuna Awards are given to recognize outstanding achievement in National sports and the Dronacharya Award honours the sports coaches of India.



NATIONAL

India's first Coal-gasification fertilizer plant

- ❖ Prime Minister launched the commencement of work for India's first Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending will come up in Talcher, Odisha (September 22).
- ❖ The coal gasification-based fertilizer plant is being developed by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL).



- ❖ On completion, this plant will have a capacity of producing 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Neem coated prilled urea.

- ❖ Neem coated urea reduces leaching of nitrogen into soil and checks diversion of urea from agriculture uses.
- ❖ Pollutants like Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) produced by this plant will be recycled for the production of Urea and other by-products.

Boundary survey work

- ❖ 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) was held in Kathmandu.
- ❖ In the meeting both the countries have agreed to explore the possibility of using high-resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.



- ❖ They also agreed to continue mapping of no man's land encroachment and cross-border occupation.
- ❖ BWG is joint body constituted by India and Nepal in 2014 to conduct works in fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars.
- ❖ The 4th BWG meet was held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand (India).

PM inaugurates Jharsuguda airport

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated new airport in Jharsuguda, also known as the powerhouse of Odisha (September 22).
- ❖ It is the first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN Scheme.

- ❖ Other than Jharsuguda, three more airports are being developed in Odisha namely,
 - Jeypore (Koraput District),
 - Rourkela (Sundargarh District) and
 - Utkela (Kalahandi District)
- to provide connectivity to remote and far-flung areas of the coastal state under RCS.
- ❖ Jharsuguda is the 2nd airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational.

ECONOMY

Dual listing of masala bonds

- ❖ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and London Stock Exchange (LSE) have signed MoU to collaborate on creating a dual listing route for masala bonds and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.



LONDON CALLING

What are masala bonds?

- Rupee-denominated bonds issued in offshore capital markets

Key advantage

- Foreign exchange risk to be borne by investor

Showing the way

- HDFC is first Indian entity to list masala bonds on LSE; raised Rs 3,000cr

In pipeline

- NHAI, IRFC, PFC & REC

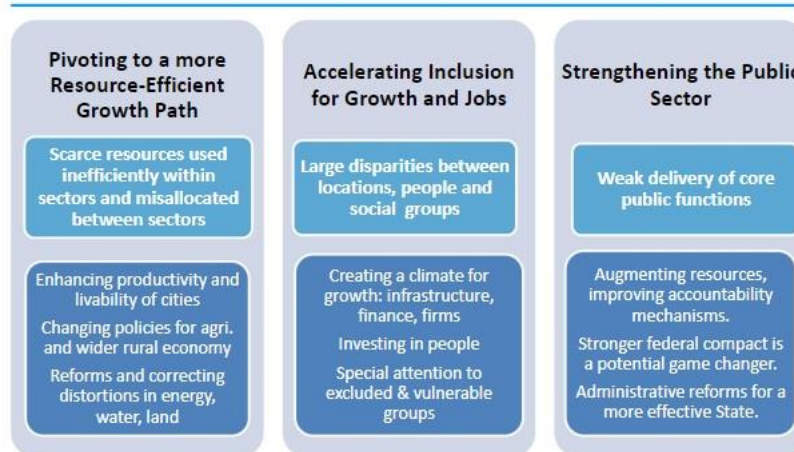
- ❖ It will serve as a potential precursor of further joint listings in future that could see foreign currency bonds in India also being able to list in London.
- ❖ The partnership would also explore the launch of "ELITE", LSEG's (London Stock Exchange Group) business support and capital raising programme for private high-growth companies, in India in 2019.

- ❖ It will extend access to the wider base of global investors as well as domestic and regional investors.

Country Partnership Framework

- ❖ World Bank board has approved ambitious 5-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India that is in line with India's objectives of high, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- ❖ The framework recognizes that India has gone from low-middle income to high-middle income (country).
- ❖ CPF is a central tool of management and board for reviewing and guiding WBG's country programs and gauging their effectiveness.
- ❖ It identifies key objectives and development results through which WBG intends to support member country in its efforts to end extreme poverty.

The SCD identifies three priorities to act upon today
for ensuring a prosperous tomorrow



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3rd launch pad - Gaganyaan mission

- ❖ ISRO is setting up third launch pad at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh to undertake Gaganyaan manned space flight programme.



- ❖ It will be India's first manned space mission. Under this mission, the crew of three astronauts will conduct experiments on microgravity in space.
- ❖ Under it, India is planning to send three humans (Gaganyatris) into space i.e. in low earth orbit (LEO) by 2022 i.e. by 75th Independence Day.
- ❖ The crew will be selected jointly by Indian Air Force (IAF) and ISRO.

India's first indigenously developed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor

- ❖ India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (MW) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019.
- ❖ Criticality is the event of a nuclear reactor reaching self-sustained chain reaction. i.e., no external source of neutrons is required to sustain fission in the reactor core.
- ❖ PFBR has been designed indigenously by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).
- ❖ It generates power by burning mixed uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, a mixture of PuO₂ and UO₂.
- ❖ It is a pool-type reactor with 1,750 tonnes of sodium as coolant.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Sign Languages - 23 September

- ❖ International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year along with International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ This year it was the first International Day of Sign Languages. Its theme was "With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!".
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.
- ❖ International Day of Sign Languages was proposed by World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- ❖ UN General Assembly instituted this day in December 2017 and the choice of 23 September commemorates the date of establishment of WFD in 1951.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha centenary celebrations

- ❖ The President of India has inaugurated centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS) in New Delhi.
 - ❖ DBHPS is an autonomous body functioning under the grant from the Union Government.
 - ❖ DBHPS, headquartered at Chennai, aims to improve Hindi literacy among non-Hindi speaking people of South India.
 - ❖ DBHPS was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi in 1918.
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