

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 30, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **President Ram Nath Kovind - gave assent to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, which was passed in the state assembly in February 2019**
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu becomes the first state in the country to have a dedicated law for contract farming
- ✓ The law covers 110 agricultural products such as cereals, pulses, vegetables and fruits besides animal husbandry products, drugs, narcotics, condiments and spices
- ✓ The bill facilitates improved production and marketing of agricultural products and livestock and its products through contract farming.

How it benefits farmers

- It ensures buyers to get assured supply at predetermined price

- All contracts will be registered

- Nature of ownership of farm lands will remain intact

- Contracts will cover only purchase of produce. It also allows inclusion of production

activities such as supply of material inputs

- Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority will be set up to ensure proper implementation

- Dispute Settlement Committees will be formed at the level of revenue sub-division. District Collectors and Authority will function as appellate and review authorities

- Rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits have been brought under law's ambit



- ✓ Contract farming is a preproduction agreement between farmers and purchasers
- ✓ It transfers the risk of post-harvest market unpredictability from the farmer to the purchaser

- ✓ Such agreements would have to be registered with designated officers from the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri-Business.
 - ✓ The farmer will get support from the purchaser for improving production and productivity by way of inputs, feed and fodder, technology and other services
 - ✓ The contract farming technique will safeguard the interests of farmers during bumper crop or when market prices fluctuate
 - ✓ The state will be setting up a 6-member body, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority for the purpose
 - ✓ The Authority would ensure proper implementation of the Act and make suggestions to the State government for promotion and better performance of contract farming.
 - ✓ The formulation of the Act is based on a model law prepared by the Central government
 - ✓ In its budget for 2018-19, the Tamil Nadu government announced that it would enact a law for contract farming
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has reconstituted the State board for wildlife for a tenure of two years**
 - ✓ It will have eminent conservationists, biologists and environmentalists, tribals and representatives from non-governmental organisations as its members.
 - ✓ The board will advise the government in selection and management of areas to be declared 'protected'
 - ✓ It will also formulate policies to protect and conserve wildlife and specified plants
 - ✓ The members will also analyse all types of infrastructure development projects planned near a wildlife sanctuary or any other forest areas for their viability
- **Boeing – begins modernising Air traffic management services at Chennai airport**
 - ✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Boeing to modernise its air traffic control, navigation and communication system early this year.
 - ✓ Chennai airport's Air traffic control (ATC) manages the air space of almost the entire southern peninsula of the country
 - ✓ Intercontinental air routes linking Australia and Europe via Southeast Asia and Middle East also pass through Chennai airspace

NATIONAL

- **India - released the list of 575 pilgrims who will go as part of the inaugural jatha to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor**
- ✓ Apart from former PM Manmohan Singh, the list includes names of Union ministers Hardeep Puri, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

- ✓ Both Puri and Badal had travelled to Kartarpur Sahib last year also to attend Pakistan PM Imran Khan's ground-breaking ceremony for the corridor.
- ✓ The corridor on the Pakistan side will be inaugurated by Pakistan PM, Imran Khan on November 9

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and Saudi Arabia – constitutes a bilateral high-level 'Strategic Partnership Council' to further strengthen the relations between both the countries**



- ✓ The council has been established to enable smooth coordination between the two nations on significant issues.
- ✓ It will be led by the leaders of both the countries, Prime Minister Modi and the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.
- ✓ The announcement of the Council was made in Saudi capital Riyadh where Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit during October 28-29
- ✓ Before Saudi Arabia, India only shares such high-level mechanism with Russia, Germany and Japan.
- ✓ During the visit, as many as 12 MoUs were signed between both the countries on issues such as preventing narcotics trafficking, renewable energy, training of diplomats, defence industry production, security collaboration, civil aviation, regulation of medical products, stocks, Petroleum reserves, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the use of RuPay cards in Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ India also signed an MoU that will help Haj pilgrims to travel comfortably in Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage seasons.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi paid an official state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
- ✓ The two leaders re-affirmed their commitment to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations, as envisaged in the 'Riyadh Declaration' signed in March 2010

- ✓ The Indian PM also expressed support to Saudi Arabia for its upcoming presidency of the G20 in 2020
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi - also met King Abdullah II of Jordan on the sidelines of a trade summit in the Kingdom and discussed bilateral issues**



- ✓ Earlier, the two leaders met last month on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York.
- ✓ Mr. Modi had met King Abdullah for the first time on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2015.
- ✓ This was followed by a visit by the then president Pranab Mukherjee to Jordan in October 2015.

COMMITTEES

- **The Union Government - has constituted a committee of secretaries to eliminate the financial burden for the telecom sector**
- ✓ The committee of secretaries will be headed by Cabinet secretary, Rajiv Gauba



- ✓ The committee will look into the aspect of reducing spectrum charges as well as ending the era of free mobile phone calls and dirt cheap data
- ✓ The panel will comprise secretaries to the ministries of finance, law, and telecom

- ✓ The committee will identify ways to reduce the impact of the ₹1.42 lakh crore that the telecom companies may need to pay the exchequer within the next three months following a recent Supreme Court order on October 24, 2019
- ✓ Bharti Airtel's liability stands at about ₹42,000 crore while Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio may have to shell out about ₹40,000 crore and ₹13 crore respectively

APPOINTMENTS

- **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde - was appointed India's next Chief Justice by President Ram Nath Kovind on October 29**



- ✓ The 63-year old Justice Bobde will take over as the 47th CJI from the incumbent CJI Ranjan Gogoi on November 18
- ✓ He will have a tenure of one year and five months till April 23, 2021
- ✓ Before taking over, Bobde will already be in judicial history as part of the bench of Gogoi and Justices D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer that will deliver the historic verdict in 70-year-old Ayodhya land dispute case
- ✓ Justice Bobde had also led the in-house committee which had enquired into the sexual harassment allegations against CJI Ranjan Gogoi by a former Supreme Court employee, the first in the history of the Supreme Court
- ✓ Justice Bobde was a member of the Bench which suspended the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region in 2016, to curb pollution

SPORTS

- **Bangladesh Test, T20 captain and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan - was handed a two-year suspension from all forms of cricket by the ICC for failing to report three corrupt approaches by a suspected Indian bookie**



- ✓ Out of two years, Shakib will receive a suspended one year ban, which will come into effect if he fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body.
 - ✓ Shakib was asked to provide information on team composition and strategy on three separate occasions by the concerned bookmaker
 - ✓ The approaches were made during the Bangladesh Premier League when Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamites in 2017, followed by the tri-series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in January 2018 and later on April 26, 2018 when his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad was to take on Kings XI Punjab
 - ✓ Shakib, who escaped the maximum punishment of five years for the offence, will not have the right to appeal as he accepted the ICC's investigation and charges.
 - ✓ Shakib Al Hasan has played for Bangladesh in over 300 international matches, including 56 Tests, 206 ODIs and 76 T20s
 - ✓ He was ranked at the top in the list of all-rounders in ODIs for almost 10 years.
 - ✓ In 2015, he had become the first and only cricketer in the history of the Cricket to be ranked at the top position by the ICC in all three formats of the game
 - ✓ During the 2019 ICC World Cup, Shakib had become the first-ever cricketer to score 600 runs and take 10 wickets in a single World Cup.
- **The Netherlands - became the third team to book a place at next year's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia**
- ✓ Earlier, Papua New Guinea and Ireland had secured place for the T20 World Cup to be held in October 2020
 - ✓ Netherlands defeated United Arab Emirates by eight wickets in Dubai International stadium to seal a spot in T20 World Cup
- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) - to felicitate India's legendary Olympians Abhinav Bindra, MC Mary Kom and PV Sindhu on November 22 at Eden Gardens**
- ✓ The stalwarts will be felicitated on the sidelines of India's second Test against Bangladesh, which will be a day-night affair
 - ✓ Bindra is India's only gold medallist at the Olympic Games

- ✓ Sindhu is India's first female Olympic silver medallist and first-ever Badminton World champion.
- ✓ Legendary Boxer Mary Kom became the first pugilist in the world, male or female, to win eight medals at the World Championships.
- **The iconic Eden Gardens - is set to enter in the history of Indian cricket by becoming the country's first venue to host a day-night Test match.**
- ✓ The second Test of Bangladesh's upcoming tour will be played under lights at Eden Gardens from November 22 to 26.
- ✓ The D/N match will be a new experience not only for the spectators but also for the India and Bangladesh cricketers, as neither team has featured in a D/N Test before
- ✓ The daily timings of play in the Eden Test will be from 2 pm to 9 pm with a 20-minute tea break after the first session and a 40-minute dinner break.
- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be attending the Test match in Eden Gardens
- ✓ Eden Gardens had earlier hosted several landmark matches, including the first-ever ICC World T20 final on Indian soil in 2016, first-ever ICC World cup final outside England in 1987 and South Africa's first match after readmission into international cricket in 1991
- ✓ The first-ever pink-ball match in India was a Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Super League final between Mohun Bagan and Bhowanipore that was played under lights in June, 2016.
- ✓ Current BCCI president, Saurav Ganguly headed the CAB at the time.
- ✓ The BCCI had introduced the pink ball in Duleep Trophy in the same year and continued it for three seasons before the Board discontinued it this year due to lack of broadcast coverage.

RANKINGS

- **Three Indian-origin CEOs, Shantanu Narayen, Ajay Banga and Satya Nadella - are among the world's top 10 best-performing chief executives**
- ✓ 'The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR) features 100 CEOs from across the globe
- ✓ The rankings has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.
- ✓ Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen is ranked sixth, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga is ranked seventh and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is ranked ninth in the list
- ✓ Piyush Gupta, another Indian-origin CEO, has been ranked 89 in the list.
- ✓ He is the CEO of DBS Bank

