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TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** has been invited by the United Nations (UN) to deliver a keynote address at an event, titled ‘**Financing Sustainable Agriculture: Global Challenges and Opportunities**’ – to be organised on the sideline of the annual UN General Assembly in **New York on September 24**.
 - “**UN Environment is privileged to support your ambitious efforts to scale-out zero chemical farming to 6 million farmers across the state by 2024,**” he said.
- The **Central government and the World Bank** have signed **300 million** dollar loan agreements for **India Energy Efficiency Scale up Programme**. They signed **220 million dollar Loan Agreement** and an **80 million** Guarantee Agreement for the **Efficiency Scale-Up Program**.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency (NHA), to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.
- In order to meet the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for a rapidly growing population and to motivate and attract **youth in agriculture**, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), inaugurated a two-day conference at **NASC, New Delhi** on **Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA)**.
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, and the International Energy Agency (IEA) signed an MoU on **Enhancing Innovation for Clean Energy Transition**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will outsource the production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private industries. The **Indian Space agency Chairman K Sivan** informed that private industries will play a major role in capacity building.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu**, is leading the Indian delegation for the **6th RCEP Trade Ministers’ Meeting** which begins in **Singapore**.
 - The Minister will participate in the meeting consisting of **10 ASEAN** countries and **six ASEAN FTA** partners namely, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and **New Zealand**. The meeting is being held on **30th-31st August 2018**.
- After having been deployed to the **South China Sea and Pacific Ocean** for over four months, which included representing Indian Navy in multinational exercises **MALABAR 18** at Guam and **RIMPAC 18** at **Hawaii**, **INS Sahyadri** entered the Port of Darwin, Australia on **29 Aug 18** to participate in Exercise **KAKADU 2018**.

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ECONOMY

- The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4% in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon.
 - RBI releasing its annual report in Mumbai said due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4 per cent from 6.7 percent in the previous year.

SPORTS

- India won gold in the women's 4×400 metre event. The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Koroath registered a time of 3 minutes and 28.72 seconds to finish at the top of the podium. India clinched the silver medal in the men's 4×400 metre event.
- India's Jinson Johnson claimed the gold medal in the men's 1500m event in the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Manjit Singh, 800m champion, however, finished fourth.

AWARDS

- Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. has become the first Indian poet invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. in 'The Poet and the Poem' series conducted by poet Grace Cavalieri.
 - He is the author of a memoir and seven collections of poems including The Seduction of Delhi (2014), The Eight-eyed Lord of Kathmandu (2017) and The Prophecy of Brasilia (2018). He received the SAARC Literary Award in 2013.