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1. India exports first consignment of vegetable based meat products to US (Sept. 24, 2022)

India has exported the first consignment of plant-based meat products from Nadiad in Kheda district of Gujarat to California.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The first shipments exported to the US from Nadiad include vegetarian food products like **momos, mini samosas, patties, nuggets, spring rolls, burgers.**
- Due to the rich fiber and low cholesterol content, vegan food products are becoming alternative food products around the world.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Authority (APEDA) said that they are working towards promoting plant-based meat products without interfering in the traditional animal-based meat export market.
- APEDA plans to promote a variety of vegetarian food products, including pancakes, snacks and cheese, to **Australia, Israel, New Zealand** and other countries in the coming months.

About "APEDA" :

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985.
- This authority functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Headquarters- **New Delhi**
- Chairman- **Dr. M. Angamuthu**

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3. President Draupadi Murmu confers NSS Awards 2020-21 at Rashtrapati Bhawan (Sept. 24, 2022)

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2020-21 on September 24 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- A total of **forty-two Awards** were given. Two Universities, ten NSS Units, their Programme Officers, and 30 NSS Volunteers received the awards.
- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nishith Pramanik and Youth Affairs Secretary Sanjay Kumar were present on the occasion.

About National Service Scheme (NSS) Award :

- The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, awards the National Service Scheme every year.
- These Awards were instituted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in **1993-94** on the occasion of the **Silver Jubilee Year of National Service Scheme.**
- The awards are given to recognize and reward the outstanding contribution for voluntary community service made by Universities and Colleges, 2 Councils, Senior Secondary, NSS Units and Program Officers and NSS Volunteers for promotion of NSS in the country.

About National Service Scheme (NSS) :

- It is a Centrally Sector Scheme that was launched in **1969**.
- Its primary objective is to develop the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.
- The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The motto of NSS is **“NOT ME, BUT YOU ‘0909090909 0909 09090909 0909’**.

4. NIA nationwide raid on Popular Front of India was code named “Operation Octopus” (Sept. 24, 2022)

The nationwide crackdown on the premises of the Popular Front of India (PFI) carried out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate on 22 September was code named ‘Operation Octopus’ by NIA.

The raid in 11 states led to the arrest of more than 100 PFI members and leaders across the country.

The NIA has claimed that the accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit violent and terrorist acts with the objective of promoting enmity between different groups on the basis of religion.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Popular front of India :

- It was formed in 2006. It describes itself “as a non-governmental social organisation whose stated objective is to work for the poor and disadvantaged people in the country and to oppose oppression and exploitation”.
- At present, the PFI, which has a strong presence in Kerala and Karnataka, is active in more than 20 Indian states.
- The Government of India accuses the group of being an Islamic radical group which is engaged in terror activities.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) :

- It was set up by the government of India in 2009 under the National Investigation Agency Act 2008. It was set up after the terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26 November 2008.
- It is the premier counter - terrorist agency in India.
- It comes under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- The NIA has powers to take **suo moto** cognisance of terror activities in any part of India and register a case, to enter any state without permission from the state government, and to investigate and arrest people.
- Director General: **Dinkar Gupta**

The first Director General of NIA was Radha Vinod Raju

5. Booker Prize winner British author Hilary Mantel dies at 70 (Sept. 24, 2022)

Hilary Mantel, the first woman to be awarded the Booker Prize twice and author of the popular novel 'Wolf Hall', died in London on September 22, 2022, at the age of 70.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Mantel was awarded the **Booker Prize in 2009** for the first novel in the Thomas Cromwell series, **Wolf Hall**, and in **2012** for the novel **Bring Up the Bodies**.
- The third novel of the series '**The Mirror and the Light**' was published in the year 2020 which was well received by the readers and was listed for the Booker Prize, 2020 for a long time.
- The Wolf Hall has sold over five million copies worldwide and has been translated into more than 40 languages.
- Its TV adaptation became a hit West End show and won a **Golden Globe**.
- She was born on July 6, 1952 in **Glossop, Derbyshire, England**.
- She graduated in law from the University of Sheffield.
- In 1973, she married Gerald McEwen, a geologist.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About International Booker Prize :

- The International Booker Prize is awarded annually to a translation of a novel published in the UK or Ireland.
- The Booker Prize was established in 1969 by the Booker McConnell Company of England.
- Under this, the amount of 50 thousand pounds i.e. 44 lakh rupees received is divided between the translator and the writer.
- French novelist David Diop was awarded the 'International Booker Prize 2021'.
- In May 2022 renowned Indian author **Geetanjali Shree** was awarded the International Booker Prize for her novel '**Tomb of Sand**'.

6. Coal India Ltd to ink MoU with Three PSUs for Coal to Chemical Products (Sept. 24, 2022)

Coal India Limited (CIL) will sign MoU with three major public sector undertakings - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation

Limited (IOCL) and GAIL (India) on 27 September for setting up four Surface Coal Gasification (SCG) projects.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- These public sector undertakings will join hands to set up coal-to-chemical projects through the **Surface Coal Gasification (SCG) route**.
- Through the SCG route, coal is converted into syngas which can then be processed for downstream production of value-added chemicals. They are produced through imported natural gas or crude oil currently.
- The envisaged end products are **di-methyl ether, synthetic natural gas and ammonium nitrate**.
- The proposed projects will reduce foreign exchange expenditure and create more than **23,000 direct and indirect employment** opportunities.
- A target of achieving **100 million tonnes** of coal gasification by **2030** has been set by the Ministry of Coal.

What is Syngas ?

- It is an abbreviation for synthesis gas, which is a mixture of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen.
- This is produced by gasification of a carbon containing fuel to a gaseous product that has some heating value.

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8. 20th Meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO Member States takes place in Kazakhstan (Sept. 24, 2022)

The 20th Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on September 23.

The next (21st) meeting of the Prosecutor Generals of the SCO member states will be held in **China in 2023.**

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- From India's side, learned Solicitor General of India **Tushar Mehta** and Additional Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs **Dr. Anju Rathi Rana** participated in the meeting.
- Mehta highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of India to address international economic offences at the international level by ratification of two United Nations Conventions.
- These two UN Conventions are - **the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)** and its three protocols and the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).**
- He said, in order to curb the threat of international economic crimes at the national level, India has implemented a number of legislative measures to prevent, detect and punish money laundering by special legislation.
- **A Protocol** incorporating the deliberations of the 20th meeting of the Prosecutor General of the SCO Member States was signed and adopted by the SCO Member States.

Salient features of the Protocol :

- Strengthening cooperation in relation to recovery of proceeds made through money laundering.

- Cooperation on issues relating to dealing with economic offences such as money laundering, search, confiscation and recovery of proceeds of crime from the States.
- Using the forums of bilateral and multilateral gatherings to discuss ways to strengthen the system to deal with economic offences.
- Continuing to exchange information on domestic laws governing the recovery of proceeds of each seizure and offence.
- To develop cooperation between the General Offices of Prosecutors of the SCO Member States in the field of advanced training of prosecutors.
- To conduct and participate in bilateral and multilateral programs to combat economic crimes.

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10. First India-Australia-Indonesia foreign minister's trilateral meeting held in New York (Sept. 23, 2022)

External Affairs Minister [S.Jaishanker](#) held the first trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of India, Indonesia and Australia in New York on 23 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- In a tweet the minister said that he discussed the maritime issue, blue water economy with the Indonesian foreign minister **Retno Marsudi** and the Australian foreign minister **Penny Wong** and emphasized the centrality of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific region.
- World leaders are in New York to participate in the High Level Week at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).