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News: Spices Board of India

- The Spices Board of India has taken up the issue of setting limits for using Ethylene Oxide (ETO) in spices with CODEX, the international food standards body.
- Ethylene Oxide (ETO) is a chemical used as a sterilizing agent in spices, but it is considered carcinogenic when used beyond certain limits.

National Spices Board

- Spices Board was constituted on 26th February 1987 under Spices Board Act 1986 with the responsibility of production/development of cardamom and export promotion of 52 spices shown in the schedule of the Act. It has been constituted by merging the erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council.
- It is under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Spices board is one among the five statutory commodity Boards under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Tobacco Board being the other four.
- Spices Board is the flagship organisation for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.

- The Board is an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad.
- The board has a state-of-the-art testing laboratory at its headquarters in Kochi. There are also regional laboratories at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Tuticorin, Kandla and Guntur. Through the laboratories, the Spices Board makes mandatory quality checks for spices exported from India.
- The Spices Board has an outlet next to its headquarters in Kochi. Spices are sold under the brand 'Flavourit'.
- The Spices Board of India has started an online campaign, called the Spice Train, to educate Indians about the country's rich spice heritage.
- Spices Board provides information on several spices grown and exported from India. The Spice Park of Spices Board India for cardamom and pepper is situated at Puttady.