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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tata Power announced the appointment of Praveer Sinha as the firm's chief executive officer and managing director with effect from May 1.

NATIONAL

National Year of Millets

- ❖ The Centre is promoting cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security.
- ❖ Millets, also called 'nutri cereals', are being procured at the support price and also being included under midday meal scheme and public distribution system (PDS).
- ❖ Millet cultivation has declined due to change in consumption pattern, dietary habits, unavailability of millets, low yield, less demand and conversion of irrigated area for growing rice and wheat.
- ❖ As a result of this, level of nutrients like protein, Vitamin-A, iron and iodine fell in women and children
- ❖ This has led to a special focus on millets, which are being promoted under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) following recommendations by a committee headed by NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand.

Millets – Geographic background

- ❖ Millets are tolerant to drought, are photo insensitive and resistant to climate change.
- ❖ Their cultivation requires less water in comparison to rice and wheat.
- ❖ They are cultivated on low-fertile land, mountainous, tribal and rain-fed areas in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement

- ❖ A two-day National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement was organized by Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs
- ❖ India is vulnerable to narcotic drug trafficking as it is located between two largest Opium producing regions of the world - Golden Crescent in the west and Golden Triangle in the east.
- ❖ The Conference working sessions focused on various topics such as 'Wider context of drug trafficking in India', 'Financial Investigations' and 'Foreign & Cyber Investigations'.

Steps taken by government

- ❖ The government has constituted Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in November, 2016 and revived the scheme of "Financial Assistance to States for Narcotics Control"
- ❖ The government has scheduled 7 new substances into the list of Narcotic drugs in the year 2017
- ❖ In last four years, India has signed 5 Bilateral Agreements/MoUs with Australia, Singapore, Mozambique, Thailand and Nepal in drug matters.
- ❖ Narcotics Control Bureau has been provided funds for developing a new software i.e. Seizure Information Management System (SIMS) which will create a complete online database of drug offences and offenders.
- ❖ Government has constituted a fund called "National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse" to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with combating illicit traffic in Narcotic Drug, Psychotropic Substances.

India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting

- ❖ The 7th India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting led by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The two sides reviewed progress in the areas of political, trade and investment, science and technology, cyber security, capacity building, security, space and culture.



INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan's First Female Senate Opposition Leader

- ❖ Pakistan's prominent lawmaker Sherry Rehman made history by becoming the first woman Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the upper house of parliament.



- ❖ Sherry belongs to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chaired by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.
- ❖ She has served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the US from 2011 to 2013 and was elected to the Senate in 2015.

Peru - New President

- ❖ Martin Vizcarra, who served as Peru's first vice president and ambassador to Canada, has been sworn in as the country's new president.



- ❖ His predecessor Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned amid corruption scandals.

ECONOMY

Yellow Army Savings Account

- ❖ Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a new 'Yellow Army Savings Account' to increase its customer base through its association with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), a franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL).



- ❖ The yellow army savings account will offer an interest rate of six per cent per annum for balance below Rs.10 lakh and 6.5 per cent per annum for balance above Rs.10 lakh.



Equitas

- ❖ Equitas Small Finance Bank is a small finance bank founded in 2007 by Equitas as a microfinance lender
- ❖ The headquarters is in Chennai, India.
- ❖ Equitas Small Finance Bank is the first private sector bank from Tamil Nadu post-independence.
- ❖ With effect from 4 February 2017, Equitas became a scheduled bank. Scheduled Banks in India refer to those banks which have been included in the Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award

- ❖ G.K. Reddy Memorial Award for excellence in journalism for the year 2016 was presented to eminent journalist and TV anchor Karan Thapar.
- ❖ GK Memorial has founded an award in the memory of distinguished and renowned journalist late Gunupati Keshava Reddy.

SPORTS

ISSF junior World Cup

- ❖ Manu Bhaker secured gold in individual 10m Air Pistol and then the team event at the ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) Junior World Cup in Sydney.
- ❖ The Indian trio of Manu, Devanshi and Mahima Turhi Agrawal won the team gold with a World junior record.



- ❖ Previously Manu had won the women's gold on World Cup debut in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- ❖ Gaurav Rana secured silver in individual 10m Air Pistol, while Anmol Jain grabbed the bronze.

ISSF junior World Cup - Bronze

- ❖ India's 16-year-old Vivan Kapoor won his first World cup medal in the ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) Junior Shooting World Cup.
- ❖ He won bronze medal in men's trap event.
- ❖ The 16-year-old shooter secured bronze with 30 hits out of 40.
- ❖ There was another bronze medal for the team as Vivaan, along with Lakshay and Ali Aman Elahi beat Italy by four points for the bronze.
