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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), the marketers of the popular Amul brand of milk and dairy products, was awarded the 'Marketer of the Year' award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI)
- ❖ US President Donald Trump has nominated Aditya Bamzai, a prominent Indian-American law professor and legal expert to be a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of a six-year term expiring on January, 29, 2020.
 - It is an independent agency that protects privacy and civil liberties in the country.
- ❖ Start-up India launched Start-up Academia Alliance programme to fulfil Government's mission to promote spirit of entrepreneurship in the country. It is unique programme to foster mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.
- ❖ 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting was held at Singapore. It was Chaired by the Foreign Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong. Iran officially joined the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Shimla-based filmmaker Devkanya Lotheta's film "Behind the Bars" has won the first prize under the Short Film Award Scheme - 2018 of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

NATIONAL

MoU on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- ❖ The NITI Aayog and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and entered into 3-year partnership.
- ❖ The MoU was signed during Government and Business Partnership Conclave held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was jointly organised by NITI Aayog, CII and United Nations.
- ❖ On sidelines of this conclave, CII also launched report—Indian Solutions for the World to Achieve SDGs.



INTERNATIONAL

UN high commissioner for human rights

- ❖ UN (United Nations) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former two-time Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be new UN high commissioner for human rights.
- ❖ She would replace Jordanian diplomat Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein
- ❖ She was the first woman to be elected to Chile's highest office.
- ❖ After her first term, she served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women, the UN agency promoting gender equality worldwide.

Maitree 2018

- ❖ Joint military exercise Maitree 2018 between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army was conducted in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.
- ❖ It contributed immensely in developing mutual understanding and bonhomie between armies of both countries in order to counter terrorism.
- ❖ Maitree 2018 was platoon level exercise that comprises of infantry component.

Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18)

- ❖ The communication exercise "Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18)" under the Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) has started in Kathmandu, Nepal on August 6, 2018.
- ❖ The basic objective of 12-day exercise is to develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in the Asia Pacific region to collectively work in the wake of disaster.
- ❖ It is jointly organised by the Nepali Army and United States Pacific Command (USPC).
- ❖ The Pacific Endeavor began in 2005 and it focuses on establishing rapid and effective inter-operable communication systems to jointly act in disaster relief operations.
- ❖ The Pacific Endeavor began in 2005.



ECONOMY

National Payments Corporation of India Certification

- ❖ French company IDEMIA has become the 1st company to be given the certification to manufacture and personalise RuPay chip contact and contactless cards - on the qSPARC v2 platform.
- ❖ The certification is issued by the National Payments Corporation of India, after testing all payment scenarios.
- ❖ The qSPARC is a dual interface open loop payment specification, with the option of loading multiple payment applications – up to 20 payment applications – on a single card.

RBI transfers surplus dividend

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has transferred surplus (dividend) of Rs. 50,000 crores to Government for year ended in June 2018.
- ❖ It is over 63% more than Rs 30,659 crore which it transferred in 2017.
- ❖ RBI surplus forms sizeable chunk of revenue which government earns under head of 'non-tax', which is mainly dividends distributed by state owned firms.
- ❖ With this surplus, Centre's prospect of meeting fiscal deficit target (pegged at 3.3% of gross domestic product this financial year) has improved based on fiscal consolidation and budget assumptions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

China successfully tests first hypersonic aircraft

- ❖ China successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic "waverider" flight vehicle (aircraft) Xingkong-2 (Starry Sky-2).
- ❖ Waverider is flight vehicle that flies in atmosphere and uses shockwaves generated by its own hypersonic flight with air to glide at high speed.
- ❖ Currently, United States and Russia have been carrying out similar experiments.
- ❖ The hypersonic waverider flight vehicle was designed by
 - state-run China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA) in collaboration with China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.



- ❖ It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- ❖ It has capability to penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems due to its high speed and unpredictable trajectory.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

White House Correspondents Association

- ❖ Indian American Anita Kumar has become the first Indian-American to be elected to the board of The White House Correspondents Association”
- ❖ White House Correspondents Association ‘is a top union of journalists covering the presidential news.
- ❖ Kumar is covering the White House since 2012 and has been elected unopposed for the WCA Board.

SPORTS

Washington Open (tennis) 2018

- ❖ Washington Open (tennis) 2018 or Citi Open 2018 was held at Rock Creek Park Tennis Centre in Washington DC, United States from 28th July to 5th August 2018.
- ❖ Washington Open (tennis) is an annual hard-court tennis tournament. This is the 50th edition of the tournament.
- ❖ **Alexander Zverev (Germany)** won the Men’s Singles by beating Alex de Minaur (Australia).





- ❖ **Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)** won the Women's Singles by defeating Donna Vekić (Croatia).



- ❖ Men's Doubles - **Jamie Murray (UK), Bruno Soares (Brazil)** defeated Mike Bryan (United States), Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
- ❖ Women's Doubles - **Han Xinyun (China), Darija Jurak (Croatia)** defeated Alexa Guarachi (Chile), Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)
