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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) opened a Quality Control Laboratory in Porbandar in Gujarat.
 - The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters.

NATIONAL

Atal Tunnel

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that “Atal Tunnel” will be inaugurated by the end of September 2020.
- ❖ The tunnel is being built under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway.
- ❖ It is located at 3,100 metres above the sea level.
- ❖ The length of the tunnel is 8.8 kilo metres.
- ❖ The route is important as it feeds military supplies to the military sub sector that are located in Siachen Glacier and Aksai Chin.
- ❖ The proposal of the tunnel dates back to 1860, proposed for the first time by the Moravian Mission.



Flood forecasting Initiative

- ❖ The Central Water Commission along with Google has launched flood forecasting initiative.



- ❖ Under the initiative, numerous alerts can be sent to the public regarding flood situation in the region.
- ❖ Google is offering colour-coded maps indicating flooded areas.
- ❖ Zooming the map will give better understanding about the current water level in these regions.
- ❖ In order to avail the initiative, the user has to search for “flooding” followed by the name of the affected region on Google maps.

ATL AI Step Up Module

- ❖ The NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of NASSCOM launched the “ATL AI Step Up Module” on the eve of independence-day.
- ❖ The module is to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools all over India.
- ❖ The AI step up module provides “Learn it yourself” modules for those who wish to expand their knowledge base after learning the basics of Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Also, there is no background is required to learn the module.

Organic Farming Rank

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in Organic Farming in the World.
- ❖ Also, India ranks ninth in terms of areas under Organic Farming.
- ❖ Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic.
- ❖ India has launched following two schemes to assist farmers in adopting organic farming.
 - Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the North East Region
 - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

INTERNATIONAL

World Solar Technology Summit

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance will hold World Solar Technology Summit for the first time on September 8, 2020.

- ❖ The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.
- ❖ The summit will showcase next generation solar technologies.

Israel-UAE Peace Pact

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to sign peace agreement with Israel.
- ❖ The Agreement is also called Abraham Accord.
- ❖ Israel is the third Arab country after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) to sign the peace agreement.
- ❖ The name Abraham has been provided to honour three major Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- ❖ The deal has stopped Israel annexation of West Bank.

West Bank issue

- ❖ The West Bank is sandwiched between Israel and Jordan.
- ❖ The West Bank was captured by Jordan at the end of Arab-Israeli war.
- ❖ During the 1967, Israel was defeated by the combined forces of Syria, Egypt and Jordan.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“SALIVA DIRECT” test to detect COVID-19

- ❖ The United States Food and Drugs Administration authorised the emergency use of saliva based diagnostic test for COVID-19.
- ❖ This provides the results rapidly.



- ❖ The testing method has been named “SALIVA DIRECT”.
- ❖ Saliva Direct testing method is simpler and is less expensive as compared to traditional method called the Nasopharyngeal swabbing.

STATES

Naga Independence Day

- ❖ On August 14, 2020, the 74th Naga Independence Day was celebrated in the states of Nagaland and Manipur.
- ❖ Nagaland became a state in 1963.
- ❖ However, a section of Naga leaders is continuing the movement claiming for sovereignty.
- ❖ Nagaland celebrates its Statehood Day on December 1.
- ❖ The state was carved out of Assam in 1963 as the 16th state of the country.

Panel for autonomous Region

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Government formed a committee to discuss possible solutions of the Patkai Autonomous Council and Mon autonomous Region.
- ❖ This is created under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.
- ❖ The regions under the Autonomous councils of Arunachal Pradesh are currently under the Fifth Schedule of Indian Constitution.
- ❖ This does not provide special rights for the indigenous communities as that of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The Sixth Schedule includes 10 autonomous district councils in 4 north eastern states.
- ❖ It seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population by forming Autonomous District Councils.

Powers of the Autonomous Councils

- ❖ These Autonomous Councils can make laws on land management, forest management, formation of village council, public health and sanitation, marriage, social customs, mining, money lending, inheritance of property, village and town level policing.



MISCELLANEOUS

Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- ❖ On August 16, 2020, India commemorated death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced, "The Gwalior-Chambal Expressway will be named Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progress way.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University is a state collegiate university in Lucknow, is expected to open in this year.

