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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A high-level ministerial panel of Goods and Services Tax council recommended e-way bill for intra state movement of gold.
 - It will help track movement of gold under tax evasion and smuggling.
- ❖ The State Governments and the 272 District Collectors launched a seven-month-long anti-drugs campaign namely “Nasha Mukta Bharat” or “Drug-Free India” by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The union minister inaugurated a building of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- ❖ The government of UK launched a £3 million “Innovation Challenge Fund 2020” in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
- ❖ The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau formed a 5-member panel headed Captain S S Chahar to investigate the circumstances of the Air India Express Dubai-Calicut flight IX 1344 Crash at the Kozhikode airport.
- ❖ Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has authored a new book titled, “Full Spectrum: India’s Wars, 1972-2020”.
 - It is the next to his 1st book, ‘India’s Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971’.

NATIONAL

“SRIJAN” online portal

- ❖ Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh launched “SRIJAN”, an online portal to promote indigenization of Defence production.
- ❖ The portal is to display those items that are currently being imported by Indian Defence Industry.
- ❖ The Defence Public Sector Units and the Ordnance Factory Board shall display items that are being imported on the portal.

National Public Procurement Conclave

- ❖ Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal virtually inaugurated the 4th edition of ‘National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) 2020: Digital Exhibitions and Conferences’.



- ❖ Theme of the edition is “Technology enabled Govt Procurement - Towards efficiency, transparency, and Inclusiveness”.
- ❖ It is organized by Government e Marketplace (GeM), in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) through CII Hives Digital Platform.

New French Course

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has launched a new French Course at beginner level for the staff and officials.
- ❖ The course is being launched as it is essential to acquire knowledge of French language in the interconnected world.
- ❖ The initiative is to be implemented by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy (PRIDE).
- ❖ PRIDE was set up in 1976 to provide training to parliamentary staff, parliamentarians and others in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions.

Oracle Cloud engaged in Aspirational Districts

- ❖ NITI Aayog announced that it has selected Oracle Corporation to modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts under its Aspirational Districts Programme.
- ❖ The selected 112 districts constitute 28% of Indian population.
- ❖ The Oracle Corporation will provide new cloud solution and will aid the District Magistrates to transform the lives of the citizens in these Aspirational districts and also to improve their overall performance.
- ❖ The Aspirational Districts Programme is implemented by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The main objective of the programme is to monitor real time progress of aspirational districts. It is based on 49 indicators from 5 thematic areas.

PM's 74th Independence Day Speech

- ❖ On August 15, 2020, PM announced new projects during the 74th Independence Day from Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was his 7th consecutive Independence Day speech and focused on the themes of “Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)”, “Vocal for local” and “Make in India to Make for World”.



Announcements

- ❖ The launch of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) under which every Indian will get a health ID that will store the individual's medical records.
- ❖ Optical fibre link connecting Lakshadweep and mainland India.
- ❖ On the lines of "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant", he announced the "Project Dolphin".
- ❖ Centre has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age for marriage for women.
- ❖ The Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region.

ENVIRONMENT

Corals and Indian Monsoon

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has recently stated that the Corals in the North Indian Ocean have vital answers about the onset and withdrawal of Indian Monsoons.
- ❖ The study states that the bands growing on the coral surface is capable of revealing about paleoclimatic conditions, ambient water temperature, rainfall and other aspects in the past.
- ❖ This is similar to that of the tree rings used to determine the information about the past climate.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Elephants. Not Commodities" Report

- ❖ The International Animal Welfare Organization, World Animal Protection on the event of World Elephant Day (August 12) released the report named, "Elephants. Not Commodities".
- ❖ According to the report, India is home to second-highest number of elephants used in tourism in Asia.
- ❖ The organization works to end animal cruelty in the world.
- ❖ The headquarters of the organization is located in London.

5 Commemorative Postage Stamps

- ❖ India Post has issued 5 Commemorative Postage Stamps namely: -

- Historic City of Ahmedabad- Sarkhej Roza,
 - Churches and Convents of Goa- Church of Bom Jesus,
 - Group of Monuments at Pattadakal- Karnataka,
 - Khajuraho Group of Monuments Javeri Temple - Madhya Pradesh and
 - Qutub Minar its Monuments, Delhi.
- ❖ It also issued 1 miniature sheet consisting of all the above stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India-III.
- ❖ The Sarkhej Roza, is obtained the tag of India's 1st UNESCO World Heritage Metropolis in July 2017.

