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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Education Department has launched a pilot scheme that focuses on offering online resources called “Matific” App to enhance the mathematical learning of students studying in elementary schools.
 - Matific provides students with engaging problem-solving tasks that will contribute to the holistic development of their mathematical learning.
- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) has launched “Leather Mission” on 2019 World Indigenous Peoples' Day (August 9). It will distribute leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- ❖ Chandrima Shaha is set to be the 1st woman president of the Indian National Science Academy. Her tenure will begin from January 2020.
 - She was formerly the Director of the National Institute of Immunology, Delhi.
- ❖ India’s first ‘health credit card’ has been launched by private sector bank RBL and digital healthcare platform Practo. It can be used for like online consultations with doctors and a free health check-up.
- ❖ Indian Badminton star Sourabh Verma clinched the Men’s Singles title in the Hyderabad Open. He beat Singapore’s Loh Kean Yew in the final clash.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia defeated Iran’s Peiman Bibyani in the 65kg category and won his fourth Gold medal of the season at the Grand Prix Wrestling tournament held at Tbilisi, Georgia.

NATIONAL

Child Care Leave – Male Military Personnel

- ❖ The Defence minister has approved extension of benefits of Child Care Leave (CCL) to single male Service Personnel as well as certain relaxations of CCL provisions in case of women officers of defence forces.
- ❖ Currently Child Care Leave (CCL) is granted only to women officers in defence forces.
- ❖ CCL can be availed in respect of a child with 40% disability and could be availed without any restriction of age limit of child.

66th National Film Awards

- ❖ The 66th National Film Awards (NFA) for 2018 have been announced by Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), a body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ❖ The selections of awards are made by a jury consisting of eminent filmmakers and film personalities, which is appointed by the DFF.
- ❖ The 2019 winners are
 - Best Feature Film Award: Gujarati film Hellaro.
 - Best Film on Social Issues: Hindi movie Padman.
 - Best Director Award: Aditya Dhar for Uri: The Surgical Strike.
 - Best Actor Award: Jointly awarded to Ayushman Khurana and Vicky Kaushal for their performances in Andhadhun and Uri: The Surgical Strike respectively.
 - Best Actress award: Keerthy Suresh for her performance in Telugu movie Mahanati.
 - Best Film on Environment Conservation/ Preservation: Marathi movie Paani.
 - Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration: Kannada film Ondalla Eradalla.
 - Most Film Friendly State: Uttarakhand.





INTERNATIONAL

Kajin Sara Lake

- ❖ Kajin Sara lake, a newly-discovered lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake.
- ❖ It is located at Singarkharka, Manang district of Nepal.
- ❖ Currently Tilicho Lake holds the title of the world's highest lake. It is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal.
- ❖ The 1.5 km long and 600 metres wide Kajin Sara Lake is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, which is yet to be officially verified.

Reusable Launch Vehicles

- ❖ Chinese start-up Link Space completed its third test of a reusable rocket RLV-T5.
- ❖ The cost of access to space is the major deterrent in space exploration and space utilisation.
- ❖ A reusable launch vehicle is the unanimous solution to achieve low cost, reliable and on-demand space access.
- ❖ Other private companies involved in similar technology – America's SpaceX, Chinese Firm iSpace.
- ❖ ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstration Program (RLV-TD) is also working on a similar technology.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Biofuel from Used Cooking Oil

- ❖ On the occasion of the World Biofuel Day (August 10), Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry has released the Expression for Interest (EOI) by National Oil Marketing Companies (IOC, HPCL and BPCL) for procurement of Biodiesel made from Used Cooking Oil (UCO).



- ❖ A sticker on RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) and a mobile app to facilitate the collection of UCOs was also launched.
- ❖ The scheme is being launched in 100 cities across the country.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) has recently instructed the food business operators using more than 50 litres oil a day to stop reusing the oil more than three times.

Iron Ion Batteries – IIT M

- ❖ IIT-Madras researchers have for the first time fabricated a rechargeable iron ion (Fe^{2+} ions) battery using mild steel as the anode.
- ❖ The iron ion battery is cost-effective and the amount of energy that can be stored in the battery is also high.
- ❖ To produce more electric vehicles, cheaper lithium ion batteries need to be produced.
- ❖ But there are no lithium reserves in India and there is global shortage of lithium reserves.
- ❖ Therefore, Iron which has favourable physio-chemical properties like lithium can be used for mass production of rechargeable batteries.



ENVIRONMENT

Irrigation and Changing Rainfall Patterns

- ❖ For the first time, researchers from IIT- Bombay have found that even a change in irrigation policy has
 - potential to shift monsoon rainfall to North Western India.
 - intensify extreme rainfall in Central India.

How it works?

- ❖ During the month of September, agriculture lands are 'highly irrigated' and the crops are matured.
- ❖ As a result, there is maximum evapotranspiration taking place, leading to highest contribution of moisture from the land to the atmosphere.
- ❖ As a result of increased moisture, rainfall pattern and intensity has increased.
- ❖ This study was based on land-surface model specifically taking into account Indian irrigation and agriculture system.
- ❖ The study did not cover southern India.

STATES

Tripura – National Liberation Front of Twipra

- ❖ A peace agreement was signed between Government of India, State government of Tripura and Tripura's banned insurgency group National Liberation Front of Twipra (NLFT-SD) led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma.



- ❖ As per the agreement NLFT-SD has agreed to abjure path of violence and join mainstream.
- ❖ NLFT has been banned under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) since 1997.
- ❖ The surrendered cadres will be given surrender benefits as per 'Scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of Militants in the North-East, 2018' of Ministry of Home Affairs.

SPORTS

BCCI – National Anti-Doping Agency

- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- ❖ Till now, Sweden-based International Dope Testing Management (IDTM) was collecting cricketers' samples on behalf of BCCI and submitting them to the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
- ❖ NADA will now collect samples of all cricketers during domestic tournaments, bilateral series, IPL Tournament.

About

- ❖ NADA was established in 2005 as registered society under Societies Registration Act of 1890 with a mandate for 'dope free' sports in India.
- ❖ It is responsible for promoting, monitoring and coordinating doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.

MISCELLANEOUS

LAFAs competition

- ❖ K Mahaswetha, of Angeripalayam, Tiruppur has won the best child actress award for her role in a Malayalam short film 'Aaroduparuyum' (To whom should I tell?) at the Los Angeles Film Awards (LAFAs).
 - LAFAs is a monthly film and screenplay competition for filmmakers worldwide.

