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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The AIIMS-Delhi has launched a first-of-its-kind clinical ecotoxicology facility in India. The centre will be used to investigate increasing cases of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air.
- ❖ The two day long 22nd National Conference on E-Governance has been conducted at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ Palaeontologists have found the ‘fossils’ of the largest parrot ever recorded in New Zealand. It is estimated to have weighed 7 kg.
 - The new species has been named “Heracles inexpectatus” to reflect its unusual size and strength and the unexpected nature of the discovery.
- ❖ The Karnataka IT department has launched a scheme called “E-Step” for students/start-ups/entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from ‘experienced trainers’.
- ❖ The third International Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure Conclave was held at new Delhi.
- ❖ Ravi Shastri has been reappointed head coach of the men's senior national team by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) for an extended two-year term that will conclude in November 2021.
- ❖ Thailand women's cricket team has created a world record by winning its 17th successive T20 international match. This is the highest number of consecutive wins by any team (both men and women) in T20 format.
- ❖ India's Varun Kapur has won bronze medal at the Bulgarian Junior International Badminton Championships 2019, which took place at Pazardzhik, Bulgaria.
- ❖ Aishwarya Pissay created history by becoming the first Indian to claim a World Title in motorsports. She lifted the FIM World Cup in the women's category in Hungary.
 - The event was conducted by International Motorcycling Federation, the governing body for motorcycle racing in the world.
- ❖ German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger has become the 1st woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races (4,000 km). The race was held between Bulgaria and France.



NATIONAL

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- ❖ In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff.
- ❖ It was described as a strategy to provide “effective leadership at the top level” to the three wings of the armed forces and to help improve coordination among them.
- ❖ CDS is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services.
- ❖ The role of the CDS becomes critical in times of conflict.
- ❖ CDS is expected to offer seamless tri-service views and single-point advice to the Executive (to the Prime Minister) on long-term defence planning and management.
- ❖ The first proposal for a CDS in India came from the 2000 Kargil Review Committee (KRC).

Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha

- ❖ A new initiative called Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha has been initiated by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the HRD Ministry.
- ❖ It aims to promote awareness about water conservation activities among school students in the country.

Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha drive: Target	
One Student- Save One Litre Water	One Day
One Student- Save 365 Litres Water	One Year
One Student - Save 3650 Litres Water	10 Years

UNSC Closed Consultation on Kashmir Issue

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council held a rare closed-door meeting to discuss the Union Government’s move to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The "closed consultations on the issue" was requested by Pakistan and backed China.
- ❖ The outcome of the UNSC meeting is not be a formal pronouncement as the consultations are informal in nature.
- ❖ Poland is the Security Council President for the month of August.
- ❖ Currently the 10 non-permanent members of UNSC are Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa.
- ❖ The last time there was a full Security Council meeting on Kashmir region was in 1965.



ECONOMY

India vs America: Solar Panel Case in WTO

- ❖ A ruling given by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement panel on renewable energy or the solar sector in favour of India has been challenged by the US.
- ❖ In June 2019, WTO panel ruled that subsidies given by America to its companies in the renewable energy sector are violative of global trade norms and against interests of India.
- ❖ Those relaxations were also found to be inconsistent with certain provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- ❖ GATT aims to promote trade by reducing or eliminating trade barriers such as customs duties.

- ❖ The US has challenged this ruling in the WTO's Appellate Body of WTO.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Pretomanid Tablets – Treating Drug Resistant TB

- ❖ The United States has approved the use of Pretomanid Tablets to treat an extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis.
- ❖ Pretomanid when used in combination with antibiotics bedaquiline and linezolid cured 89% of 107 patients with extensively drug-resistant TB after 6 months.
- ❖ The above three drugs together called BPaL regimen.
- ❖ Because of the new treatment, TB patients who were supposed to take 30 pills a day can now take only 5 pills a day.

ENVIRONMENT

Decline in Global Freshwater Animals

- ❖ International team of Scientists have now quantified the global decline of big freshwater animals.



- ❖ From 1970 to 2012, global populations of freshwater megafauna declined by 88 percent - twice the loss of vertebrate populations on land or in the ocean.
- ❖ Large fish species are particularly threatened. Ex: sturgeons, salmon, giant catfishes.
- ❖ The baiji, a Chinese river dolphin, is likely the first dolphin species driven to extinction by humans.

- ❖ The two main threats are:
 - Overexploitation
 - Loss of free-flowing rivers

STATES

Reservation in Chhattisgarh

- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced an increase in reservations for OBCs and Scheduled Castes in state government jobs and education.
- ❖ It will make Chhattisgarh to have a total of 72 % reservation (32 % for STs, 13 % for SCs and 27 % to OBCs).
- ❖ This makes it the highest reservation in the country and far above the 50 % cap on quotas mandated by the Supreme Court.

India's first underwater train – Kolkatta

- ❖ India's first underwater train project in Kolkata is almost complete.
- ❖ The rail route is under Hubli river.
- ❖ This 16-kilometer long Kolkata Metro project will connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan.



Small Savings Incentive Scheme – Odisha

- ❖ Odisha government has launched a novel Small Savings Incentive Scheme.
- ❖ People can deposit a minimum amount of Rs. 2,000/- in any post office or bank within Odisha.

- ❖ They will be issued a free web-based coupon from the office of the Collectors, Sub Collectors and BDOs.
- ❖ Lucky draw will be held and people will be given gifts so as to encourage small savings and protect people from loan sharks and money lenders.

Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana – Jharkhand

- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana in Jharkhand.
- ❖ It aims to benefit over 13.5 lakh farmers:
 - farmers holding land of an acre or less would be eligible for receiving Rs 5,000.
 - farmers with five acres of land would be eligible to receive Rs 25,000 in two fixed instalments.
- ❖ This is the first scheme initiated by the state in which 100 per cent settlement would be through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) medium.

