

February - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Recently, Pakistan received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its Basmati rice under its Geographical Indications Act 2020.
 - Pakistan is fighting a case in the European Union (EU) against India's move to get Basmati Rice as its product.
- ❖ Mount Merapi, the most active volcano of Indonesia has once again erupted recently.
 - The last major volcanic eruption of Mount Merapi occurred in the year 2010.
- ❖ Facebook Inc. has appointed Henry Moniz as its first-ever Chief Compliance Officer.

TAMIL NADU

Smart and next gen bikes

- ❖ Smart bikes and next generation bikes were launched by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami at the Marina beach.
- ❖ It is the part of a Greater Chennai Corporation initiative.
- ❖ The battery-powered bikes can run for 45km once fully charged.
- ❖ It can also be pedalled.

POWERING NEW INTEREST		Pic: B A Raju	
Number of vehicles available 1,000	HOW TO USE > Download Smart Bike app > Register using personal details > Pay through the app		SMART BIKE FEATURES > Smart bikes are battery-operated > Can reach 25km/hr speed, run for 45km with full charge > Aimed at aiding last-mile connectivity, long-distance travel
Locations 100		GEARED UP: People ride smart bikes at Marina on Thursday	
TYPES OF RIDES > Smart bikes > Next generation e-bikes			
CHARGES Smart bike ₹1 /minute Next gen bike ₹5.50 for 30 minute & ₹9.90 for every extra hour			



NATIONAL

New minor forest produces under MSP

- ❖ The government has decided to include 14 new minor forest produce items under the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- ❖ The items included in the scheme are Tasar Cocoon, bamboo shoot, elephant apple dry, wild dry mushroom and malkangani seed.

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal government's hydropower project

- ❖ Nepal has granted the contract for the construction of the lower Arun Hydro Project to Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam - SJVN of India.
- ❖ This contract given under the BOOT model - Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer.
- ❖ This Project has a projected capacity of 679 MW of electricity.
- ❖ It will be situated in the Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts of Province 1.

Oxford Hindi word of 2020

- ❖ 'Aatmanirbharta' has been named as the Hindi word of the year 2020 by Oxford Languages.
- ❖ It is implying the meaning of self-reliance.
- ❖ Previous Hindi words of the year are Aadhaar (2017), Nari Shakti (2018) and Samvidhaan (2019).
- ❖ The Oxford Hindi word of the year is chosen to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Stardust 1.0 Rocket

- ❖ Stardust 1.0 was launched from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, United States
- ❖ It became the first-ever commercial space launch powered entirely by Biofuel.
- ❖ It is also the first-ever commercial launch for the US State Maine.



- ❖ The rocket is manufactured by Maine-based aerospace company bluShift.
- ❖ These rockets will help to launch small satellites called CubeSats into space in a way cheaper.
- ❖ Biofuel is non-toxic to the environment as compared to traditionally used rocket fuels.

First all civilian mission to space

- ❖ SpaceX has announced the launch of its first all civilian mission to space.
- ❖ It is planning Falcon 9's launch of Inspiration4 mission.
- ❖ It is the world's first all-commercial astronaut mission to orbit.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Climate Litigation Report 2021

- ❖ UNEP has released its "Global Climate Litigation Report 2021".
- ❖ The report was published by the UNEP in cooperation with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University.
- ❖ The report highlights that the Climate litigation cases have increased in recent years.

Key Findings

- ❖ The climate cases have nearly doubled over the last three years.
- ❖ As per the data provided by the report, 884 cases were brought in 24 countries in 2017.
- ❖ As of 2020, cases have increased to 1,550 filed in 38 countries and the European Union courts.

SPORTS

Ranji Trophy cricket

- ❖ First time in 87 years, Ranji Trophy gets cancelled.
- ❖ It is the Indian domestic first-class cricket.
- ❖ It was started in 1892.
- ❖ It was cancelled in 1930-31 to 1931-34 (due to Civil Disobedience).
- ❖ India is the only country to host first-class cricket during the World Wars.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wetlands Day - February 02

- ❖ It is celebrated to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.
- ❖ This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971.
- ❖ In the year 2021, the day marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- ❖ The theme for World Wetlands Day this year is 'Wetlands and Water'.



International Day of Human Fraternity - February 04

- ❖ It aims to underline the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance.
- ❖ UN General Assembly on 21 December 2020 adopted a resolution to observe this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'A Pathway to the Future'.

MISCELLANEOUS

Corruption perception index (CPI)

- ❖ It is released by Transparency International.
- ❖ India's rank has slipped six places to 86th among 180 countries in 2020.
- ❖ India was ranked at 80th position out of 180 countries in 2019.

- ❖ China ranks 78th and Pakistan ranked 124th on this list.
- ❖ New Zealand and Denmark rank at the first position.
- ❖ Somalia and South Sudan rank the lowest.



Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index

- ❖ It was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ The index measures the readiness in adopting the personalised healthcare of 11 health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ The health systems that were evaluated includes India, China, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and New Zealand.
- ❖ Singapore was the best performer in this list.
- ❖ Taiwan bagged the second position.
- ❖ While Japan, and Australia stands at the third and the fourth position of the index respectively.
- ❖ India was ranked at 10th position.
- ❖ Indonesia was ranked last at 11th Rank.

