



February - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' has been authored by Bill Gates which will be published this year in May 2022.
 - His last book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need", was released in February 2021.
- ❖ Ministry of Railways has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at Kishanganj, Delhi.
 - The wrestling academy will be the biggest in India.
- ❖ Under the Saubhagya scheme, Rajasthan has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system.
 - In hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had nil beneficiaries under the initiative.
- ❖ Karnataka High Court struck down the provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, that had banned online games.
 - The division bench was headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Krishna S. Dixit.

NATIONAL

India's biggest bank fraud



- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked ABG Shipyard for an alleged Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud.
- ❖ ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group.



- ❖ It has cheated a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions of Rs. 22,842 crore.
- ❖ This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI.

Integration of Caste Census Databases



- ❖ The National Health Authority has started an exercise to integrate beneficiary databases under several schemes for upgrading its own database.
- ❖ This is in a bid to implement the scheme in a better manner.
- ❖ Aadhaar is a common identity across the majority of Government databases.
- ❖ It will enable the integration of caste census databases.
- ❖ Aadhaar also ensures certainty on the identification of beneficiaries through e-KYC.

Plea for including madrasas, Vedic schools under RTE

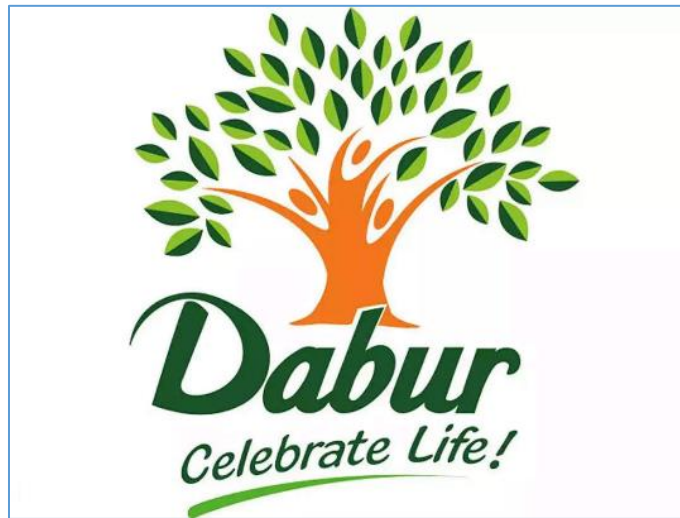
- ❖ The Supreme Court has refused to intervene in a petition challenging sections of the Right to Education Act of 2009 which exclude Vedic pathsalas, madrasas, and institutions imparting religious education from its ambit.
- ❖ The Court observed that the exclusion of these institutions was specifically inserted into the 2009 Act by an amendment of August 2012 and since then there has never been any controversy in the past decade.

Issue

- ❖ The petitioner said, Right of a child should not be restricted only to free education but must be extended to have equal quality education without discrimination on the ground of a child's social-economic, and cultural background.

Dabur India

- ❖ The Packaged goods company Dabur India Ltd., has become a plastic waste neutral company.
- ❖ It has achieved this feat after collecting, processing, and recycling around 27,000 metric tons of post-consumer plastic waste in the current financial year.



INTERNATIONAL

Drone flights - Israel

- ❖ Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace.
- ❖ The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems.
- ❖ The UAVs will be used for the benefit of agriculture, the environment, public welfare, economic activity, and they will be used against crime.

Emergencies Act - Canada

- ❖ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked rarely-used emergency powers.
- ❖ This is to support provinces in ending the blockades and public disorder by the protesters in the so-called "Freedom Convoy".

- ❖ The Freedom Convoy is a series of protests and blockades, ongoing in Canada.
- ❖ It was started by truckers against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and restrictions.



US Green Building Council ranking



- ❖ The US Green Building Council has released the 9th annual ranking of the top 10 countries outside of the United States for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021.
- ❖ According to this ranking, India ranked 3rd with 146 projects.

- ❖ The ranking has been topped by China.
- ❖ It is followed by Canada at 2nd position.

ECONOMY

Initial Public Offering – LIC



- ❖ The Government of India is planning to sell 5% of its share in LIC.
- ❖ With this, the government is trying to raise Rs 65,000 crores.
- ❖ 10% of the shares are being reserved for eligible policyholders.
- ❖ The plan is to sell 316.25 million shares.
- ❖ This is 5% of the total equity base.
- ❖ The total equity base of LIC is 6.32 billion shares.
- ❖ 35% of the shares are to be reserved for retail investors.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INSPIRESat-1

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a satellite called “INSPIRESat-1”.
- ❖ INSPIRESat-1 has jointly been developed by a team of international researchers including from universities of India, US, Taiwan, and Singapore.
- ❖ INSPIRESat-1 stands for International Research & Teaching Satellite Project satellite one.

- ❖ This satellite has been developed by the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST) in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
- ❖ It was launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52.



First images from James Webb Space Telescope



- ❖ NASA has unveiled the first images captured by the James Webb Space Telescope.

- ❖ This image mosaic was created by pointing the telescope at a bright, isolated star in the constellation Ursa Major known as HD 84406.

STATES

Chintamani Padya Natakam

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has banned a 100-year-old play named 'Chintamani Padya Natakam'.
- ❖ The play was written in 1920 by playwright Kallakuri Narayana Rao, who was also a social reformer.
- ❖ The play is about Chintamani, a courtesan and a devotee of Lord Krishna, who finds salvation by singing bhajans.
- ❖ The original play had a social message, but over the years, it has been modified purely for entertainment.
- ❖ The Arya Vysya community has been petitioning governments for several years to ban the play, saying it portrays them in a negative light.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Business Standard Banker

- ❖ Sandeep Bakhshi is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
- ❖ He is the managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.



- ❖ He was honored for turning around the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Childhood Cancer Day - February 15



- ❖ The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors, and their families.
- ❖ This annual event was created in 2002.
- ❖ It was created by Childhood Cancer International, childhood cancer survivor associations, childhood cancer support groups, and cancer societies.

