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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organized a bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.
 - Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise.
- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the Corona Vaccine Biologicals E Ltd's Corbevax for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years.
 - Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being given to children aged 15 to 18 years from January 3.

NATIONAL

Cable-Stayed Rail Bridge



- ❖ The Indian Railways has shared new images of the country's first cable-stayed bridge on the Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.
- ❖ The under-construction Anji Khad bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- ❖ It will connect Katra and Reasi areas through rail links.
- ❖ The bridge will stand at a height of 331 meters above the river bed.

- ❖ The total length of the bridge is 473.25 meters.
- ❖ It is supported by 96 cables.

Eat Right Campus

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently certified four police stations of New Delhi district as 'Eat Right Campus'.
- ❖ Premises in Delhi are recognized as "Eat Right Campus" under the "Sehatmand Delhi Programme".
- ❖ Sejarmand Delhi Programme was launched as a part of "Eat Right India".
- ❖ Eat Right India initiative was launched with the aim of ensuring that the citizens in India get safe and nutritious food.



New COVID Vaccine



- ❖ The government of India will partner with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and pharma company Panacea Biotec, for developing a new Covid Vaccine.
- ❖ They will develop vaccine candidates to provide broad protection against SARS-COV-2 variants as well as other beta coronaviruses.

Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate programme

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate programme'.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Science and Technology has selected three institutions in Madhya Pradesh to organise this programme.
- ❖ It is a week-long, nationwide programme of competitions and lectures for school students and collegians.
- ❖ The Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate programme was launched with the aim of attracting students to scientific knowledge of articles of daily use.
- ❖ The programme also aims to propagate scientific theories.



National Digital University

- ❖ National Digital University is to be set up to solve India's seat scarcity problem in educational institutions.
- ❖ The digital university will provide access to high-quality higher education in several languages while also complying with the National Education Policy 2020.

- ❖ SWAYAM, ePG-Pathshala, SWAYAM-Prabha, National Digital Library, eGyan Kosh, and Virtual Labs are examples of the existing resources that can be integrated into the digital university.

Biosafety mobile laboratory

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar has inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This becomes India's first Biosafety Level-3 mobile laboratory.
- ❖ The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections.



Offshore wind projects



- ❖ Tata Power has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore the potential for joint development of offshore wind projects in India.

- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited and RWE.
- ❖ This is in line with the Government of India's announcement of achieving 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind installations by 2030.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan's New Cybercrime Law

- ❖ Pakistani authorities announced a new law that will help them in combating false news on social media.
- ❖ The law raised the maximum sentence for defamation of people or institutions from three to five years in prison and restricts suspected offenders' access to bail.
- ❖ Spreading false news will be classified as a nonbailable offense punishable by up to six months in prison.
- ❖ The Pakistan Human Rights Commission (HRCP) has described the new law to be undemocratic.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Undersea cable consortium



- ❖ Telecom operator, Bharti Airtel Ltd has announced that it has joined South East Asia–Middle East–Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE-6) undersea cable consortium.
- ❖ This is in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity and serve India's fast-growing digital economy.
- ❖ It shall be anchoring 20 percent of the overall investment in the cable system.

- ❖ Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will be able to add 100 TBps capacity to its global network.
- ❖ The telco will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

Alcyoneus Galaxy



- ❖ This galaxy was discovered using the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) telescope and the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) network.
- ❖ It is the largest discovered galaxy in the universe.
- ❖ It is located around 3 billion light-years away in the Lynx constellation.

STATES

Manipur Flag-hoisting Tradition

- ❖ With elections in Manipur being scheduled from 27th February to 3rd March, the candidates are holding a unique flag hoisting ceremony.

- ❖ They hoist the flag in their constituencies before embarking on campaigning to the people of the state.
- ❖ This ritual is unique to Manipur.
- ❖ It is practiced by people of all races, political parties, religions, and communities.

Lavender Cultivation – Ramban



- ❖ The central government was planning to start the 'Purple Revolution' in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The purple revolution will be planned by encouraging lavender cultivation under CSIR-IIIM's Aroma Mission through the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Himachal Pradesh - first biodiversity park

- ❖ This is to make its contribution towards the conservation of the endangered Himalayan herbs.
- ❖ This park is set to come up at Mandi's Bhulah valley.
- ❖ The biodiversity park is set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP's forest department.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Shakuntala Choudhary

- ❖ Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, Shakuntala Choudhary has passed away.
- ❖ She was 102-year-old.
- ❖ She was popularly known as 'Shakuntala Baideo'.
- ❖ She was felicitated with the Padma Shri award in 2022 by the Government of India.

- ❖ She hailed from Kamrup in Assam.
- ❖ She was known for her commitment and devotion to the popularization of the Gandhian way of life.
- ❖ She worked for the well-being of villagers, especially women and children.



SPORTS

IOC Athletes' Commission

- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission re-elected ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland as its Chair.
- ❖ She will be the head of the Commission until the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- ❖ It has elected table tennis player Seung Min Ryu of the Republic of Korea as its First Vice-Chair.
- ❖ The commission also elected cyclist Sarah Walker of New Zealand as the second VC of the Commission.

