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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
 - SBM (G) Phase-II will also be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ❖ NITI Aayog will organize North East Sustainable Development Goal Conclave 2020 in Assam.

NATIONAL

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission - 4th Anniversary

- ❖ The Fourth Anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was celebrated all over India on February 21, 2020.
- ❖ It was launched on February 21, 2016.
- ❖ The mission aims at stimulating local economic development and create well planned Rurban Regions.
- ❖ The mission aims to develop 300 Rurban clusters.
- ❖ The Niti Aayog has proposed that these clusters are to be extended to 1000 in 3 years.
- ❖ The mission aims to preserve the essence of rural community life.



Ask Disha chatbot

- ❖ Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has powered Ask Disha chatbot to converse with customers in Hindi language.
- ❖ IRCTC launched the Ask Disha (Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) chatbot in the year 2018.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.
- ❖ The chatbot is voice enabled and will support several other regional languages in the near future.

First Khelo India University Games - Bhubaneswar

- ❖ The first Khelo India University Games is to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The game is to be launched by PM Modi through video conferencing.
- ❖ More than 3400 athletes in 17 disciplines and from 159 Universities are to participate in the game.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind.
- ❖ The Sport event is organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ Khelo India School games were launched in 2018 and has been conducted annually in the month of January-February since then.





Revision of interest subvention - DIDF

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved its revision of interest subvention rates from 2% to 2.5% per annum.
- ❖ This is being done under Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF).
- ❖ Under the DIDF, GoI will now provide interest subvention up to 2.5% to NABARD till 2030.
- ❖ This shall enable NABARD in devising its own strategy of borrowing.
- ❖ In turn, it will be able to provide low cost of funds to milk unions.

DIDF scheme

- ❖ The DIDF Scheme was announced in Union Budget 2017-18 by the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF).
- ❖ Under the scheme DIDF considerable amount is contributed by NABARD to the
 - National Dairy Development Board and
 - National Cooperative Development Corporation.

ECONOMY

National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-24

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently unveiled a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-24.
- ❖ Vision of this initiative is 'A financially aware and empowered India'.
- ❖ It aims at providing formal and affordable financial services and to promote financial literacy among customers.
- ❖ RBI under the aegis of Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC) have released the strategy.
- ❖ Some of its recommendations include:
 - Setting up Financial service providers in 5 km range,
 - Public Credit Registry is fully operational by 2022, etc.

STATES

Maharashtra banned Thai Mangur fish breeding centers

- ❖ Maharashtra Government ordered to destroy the Thai Mangur fish breeding centres.
- ❖ This is mainly because the fish is cultivated in unhygienic condition.
- ❖ In Maharashtra, it is commonly called Thai Mangur or foreign Mangur or African Mangur.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal in 2000 banned the cultivation of the Thai Mangur.



Buddah Nullah – Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab government has approved ₹650 crores in the first phase for rejuvenation of the highly polluting Buddah Nullah stream.
- ❖ It is a seasonal water stream, which runs through the Malwa region of Punjab.
- ❖ It passes through Ludhiana district and drains into Sutlej River, a tributary of the Indus river.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Food Planet Prize

- ❖ Sweden has created two \$1 million prizes named “Food Planet Prize” for solutions to feed billions of people.
- ❖ The Prize will be presented annually by the Curt Bergfors Foundation in Sweden.
- ❖ Aim of this to recognize initiatives around the world that addresses the climate change threats towards food supply.
- ❖ The prize will be given for two categories namely the
 - a) existing scalable solution for sustainable foods and
 - b) innovative initiatives that could transform the global food sector.

Bharat-Bangla Tourism festival

- ❖ The first ever Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav-Tourism festival is being held in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ The festival is being organized by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Tripura.
- ❖ This festival is organized in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.
- ❖ The aim of the festival is to promote tourism in Tripura and attract neighbouring Bangladesh of the tourist destinations in Tripura.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Language Day – February 21

- ❖ International Mother Language Day is observed every year on 21st February since 2000.
- ❖ The main purpose of celebrating the day is to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- ❖ The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This year this day is celebrated under the theme: Languages without Borders.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages.
- ❖ Globally 40% of the population does not have access to an education in a language they speak or understand.

Matribhasha Diwas

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource and Development along with educational institutions and language institutions is celebrating the day as the Matribhasha Diwas in the country.
- ❖ Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated the programme under the theme - 'Celebrating our Multilingual Heritage'.
- ❖ It was reflecting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

MISCELLANEOUS

UN report on Sustainability & flourishing index 2020

- ❖ According to the report, "A future for the world's children?" commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal, India ranks
 - 77th in terms of Sustainability Index and
 - 131st in the Child Flourishing Index.
- ❖ Sustainability index is associated with per capita carbon emissions and ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives.



Rank	Sustainability index	Child Flourishing Index
1	Burundi	Norway
2	Chad	Republic of Korea
3	Somalia	Netherlands
178	Kuwait	Somalia
179	Trinidad and Tobago	Chad
180	Qatar	Central African Republic

Nature Ranking Index - 2020

- ❖ Nature Ranking Index 2020 has been released by the Nature Index.
- ❖ The rankings are based on the total research output which the institutions have carried out from December,2018 to November,2019.
- ❖ The research output means the total citations in numbers and sharing percentage per article.
- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has topped the index.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has been ranked second.
- ❖ The third place has been secured by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR-Mumbai).

