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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The three new Indian Council of Medical Research labs have been constructed in Mumbai, Noida and Kolkata.

NATIONAL

DP Singh Committee

- ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resources and Development has set a committee under the chairmanship of UGC Chairman D P Singh.
- ❖ The committee is to frame guidelines to ensure that more students stay in India and continue their higher studies.

INTERNATIONAL

COVID-19 Law Lab

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) along with other key bodies had launched COVID-19 Law Lab.
- ❖ It is a database of laws that countries had implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This is the 1st initiative to start studying governance response to a pandemic and to measure what works and what not.
- ❖ It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

ECONOMY

1st Global Fintech Fest

- ❖ The 1st edition of the world's largest Global Fintech Fest (GFF) was held virtually.
- ❖ It was organized by Payments Council of India (PCI) and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ It was under the theme "Fintech: With and Beyond COVID".

- ❖ The aim of the fest was to bring together the global FinTech and Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.



General Financial Rules 2017

- ❖ The Union Government amended the General Financial Rules 2017.
- ❖ It is to impose restrictions on public procurement from countries that share a land border with India on national security grounds.
- ❖ The order will apply to all forms of public procurement but not to procurement by the private sector.

Currency Swap Agreement

- ❖ RBI has recently agreed to a \$400 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka till November 2022.
- ❖ It was extended under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework.
- ❖ The current SAARC currency swap agreement was signed in December 2019.
- ❖ The agreement is to run till 2022.
- ❖ A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ASTHROS Mission

- ❖ NASA is to launch ASTHROS Mission from Antarctica in December 2023.
- ❖ The mission is to spend three weeks observing air currents above the continent.
- ❖ ASTHROS is Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observation as Sub millimetre wavelengths.
- ❖ It will send a football stadium sized balloons into the stratosphere.

- ❖ The balloon will observe wavelengths of invisible light from the earth.
- ❖ The Balloon is to be inflated with Helium.



ENVIRONMENT

Green Recovery

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) agreed to partner toward the “Green Recovery”.
- ❖ This is to help hands for the people who are facing the harsh economic impact due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The GCF is the world’s largest dedicated fund helping developing countries to reduce their greenhouse emission that affects the climatic change.



Oil Spill at Mediterranean Sea

- ❖ An orange brown chemical spread at marine life area in the French Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ The leak at the American-owned chemical company Kem-One spilled 200 gallons of iron chloride into the sea.



- ❖ The Sea is connected to Atlantic Ocean and is completely enclosed by land.
- ❖ The Suez Canal connects the red sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

