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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts hosted a four day virtual fair for around 200 Indian Exporters.
 - It is the First virtual Trade Fair of India.
- ❖ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC has launched its flagship programme Turant Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai.
 - Under this, Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import.
- ❖ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide its training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Glass Room.
 - The new partnership between NSDC and TCS will help in strengthening NSDC's online aggregation platform eSkill India.
- ❖ Indian weightlifter K Sanjita Chanu has been cleared of doping charge by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
 - The IWF took the decision based on the recommendation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ❖ The Government of Bangladesh has launched an online network called Shohojodha.
 - It is to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered COVID-19 patients and those undergoing treatment for coronavirus in the country.
- ❖ The private sector will now be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other assets to improve their capacities in the sector.
- ❖ The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that the Phase-2 of the Saurashtra-Narmada Avatara Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana will be completed before August 15.
 - The scheme aims to meet the drinking water requirements of Saurashtra and Kutch regions with Narmada waters.

TAMIL NADU

NEET reservations

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Government appointed panel suggested that 10% subquota reservation to the Government school students in the mode of horizontal in the Medical College admissions through NEET exams.
- ❖ The panel was headed by retired Justice Kalaiyarasan.
- ❖ The Horizontal reservation is well within the vertical reservation available to SC/ST/OBC/General categories in Education.

INTERNATIONAL

China in deepest point of earth

- ❖ An Unmanned submersible of China dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench.
- ❖ It is located in the western Pacific Ocean east of the Mariana Islands.
- ❖ Challenger Deep is in the Mariana Trench, which is seven miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean.



Korean Dispute

- ❖ North Korea has cut off all inter-Korean communication lines with the South, including a hotline between the two nations' leaders.
- ❖ It is a country in East Asia constituting the northern part of the Korean Peninsula.

- ❖ The country is bordered to the north by China and by Russia along the Amnok and Tumen rivers, and to the south by South Korea, with the heavily fortified Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two.



QS World University rankings

- ❖ The 17th edition of the QS World University rankings has been released.
- ❖ It is an annual publication of University rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- ❖ Previously, it was called Times Higher Education – QS world University rankings.
- ❖ It is the only international ranking to have received the approval of International Ranking Expert Group (IREG).
- ❖ It rates the world's top 1000 universities.
- ❖ Top three from India featured in top 200 and their rankings: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay (172), followed closely by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (185), and IIT Delhi (193).
- ❖ In total, 21 Indian higher education institutions (24 in last year) have found their place in the list.



QS World University Rankings 2021: Global Top 20			
2021	2020		
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
2	2	Stanford University	USA
3	3	Harvard University	USA
4	5	California Institute of Technology	USA
5	4	University of Oxford	UK
6	6	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
7	7	University of Cambridge	UK
8	9	Imperial College London	UK
9	10	University of Chicago	USA
10	8	University College London	UK
11	11=	National University of Singapore	Singapore
12	13	Princeton University	USA
13	11=	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
14	18=	Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)	Switzerland
15	16	Tsinghua University	China (Mainland)
16	15	University of Pennsylvania	USA
17	17	Yale University	USA
18	14	Cornell University	USA
19	18=	Columbia University	USA
20	20	University of Edinburgh	UK
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ECONOMY

Saffron and Heeng Production

- ❖ The Institute of Himalyan Bio resource Technology has partnered with the Department of Agriculture; Himachal Pradesh will join hands to boost the production of Heeng and Saffron in India.
- ❖ Saffron and Heeng are the most precious and valuable spices in the world.
- ❖ A large amount of Saffron is being imported into India.
- ❖ Currently, Saffron cultivation is done only in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Now, Saffron cultivation is to be introduced in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as well.
- ❖ Similarly, there is no production of heeng in the country.
- ❖ Heeng is a perennial plant.
- ❖ It produces oleo-gum resin from its roots after 5 years of plantation.



Most expensive city in the World

- ❖ According to the Mercer's 2020 Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai is the 60th most expensive city in the world.
- ❖ Also, it is the 19th most expensive in Asia.
- ❖ Mumbai is the most expensive city in India.
- ❖ Amongst the other Indian cities, Mumbai was followed by New Delhi at 101st position and then by Chennai at 143rd position globally.
- ❖ The other least expensive cities include Bengaluru (171) and Kolkata at 185.
- ❖ The Survey measured its ranking including 209 cities.
- ❖ The global list created by the survey was topped by Hong Kong, followed by Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.
- ❖ The third position was retained by Tokyo of Japan and Zurich of Switzerland as that of the previous year.
- ❖ New York was at 6th position; Shanghai of China was at seventh.
- ❖ Bern and Geneva of Switzerland were at eighth and ninth positions respectively.
- ❖ Beijing was at tenth position.

ENVIRONMENT

Annual Report of Environment Ministry

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released the Annual Report 2019-20.
- ❖ The report says that around 11,467 hectares of forest lands have been diverted in 22 states in 2019.



- ❖ The diversion has been made under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- ❖ Of all the diversions made, one-third was for Odisha based projects.
- ❖ The maximum number of projects was in Haryana.

