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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese PM Lotay Tshering jointly launched RuPay card Phase II that will allow Bhutan citizens to access RuPay network in India.
 - The phase I was launched in August 2019.
- ❖ Mumbai becomes the 1st Indian city with designated infrastructure for women in its urban plan.

NATIONAL

Handling of vaccine in India

- ❖ The CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla announced that the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be available by April 2021 for general public.
- ❖ And by 2024, every Indian would get vaccinated against the novel Coronavirus.
- ❖ Initially, the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine would be made available around February 2021 for vulnerable & elderly people and healthcare workers.
- ❖ Two Indian airports - Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and GMR Hyderabad airport's cargo are set to play a pivotal role in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the country.
- ❖ The GMR Hyderabad airport's cargo boasts of India's first Pharma Zone with GDP-certified temperature-controlled facility for handling temperature-sensitive cargo.
- ❖ The SpiceJet airlines are also reportedly fully prepared to handle the COVID-19 vaccine.

Progress towards regional measles elimination – 2000 to 2019

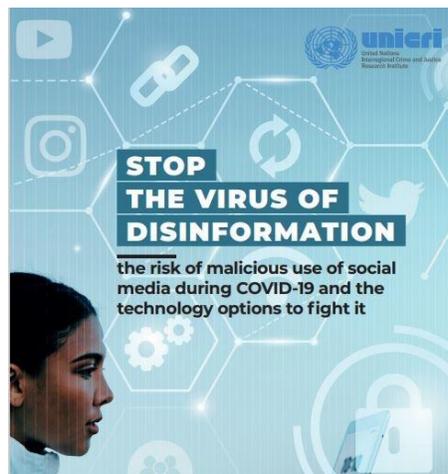
- ❖ It is a report released by the World Health Organisation and the US's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- ❖ According to the report, among WHO regions, Africa followed by Europe had the highest numbers of cases and deaths.
- ❖ Uganda records 100% increase in measles deaths.
- ❖ India among 6 countries with highest tally of infants who didn't get measles vaccine.

- ❖ India is accounting for nearly half of the world's total along with the remaining five countries.
- ❖ The other countries are Nigeria, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, and Philippines.

INTERNATIONAL

UNICRI report

- ❖ The report is titled "Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 pandemic".
- ❖ It was released by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).
- ❖ It said that criminals and violent extremists are exploiting the pandemic to build their support networks, undermine trust in government and even weaponize the virus.
- ❖ The Groups associated with al-Qaeda and ISIS is exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to spread conspiracy theories.
- ❖ For example, ISIL and Al-Qaeda claimed that the virus is God's wrath upon the West.



Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020

- ❖ It is a report released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



- ❖ The report said that India has been making significant progress in responding to the demands of today's cities
- ❖ It cites the role played by 'BHUVAN'.
- ❖ BHUVAN is the national geo-portal developed and hosted by ISRO.
- ❖ ISRO customised the Geo-portal and developed 'Bhuvan - COVID-19' at a national level to track the pandemic and update the public on the current situation.

Rohingya crisis

- ❖ The United Nations has adopted a resolution tabled by the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and the European Union (EU) that calls for urgent resolution of the Rohingya crisis.
- ❖ The resolution calls for specific action on the part of Myanmar to address the root cause of the Rohingya crisis including granting them citizenship rights and ensuring safe and sustainable return to their homes.
- ❖ The resolution further expressed appreciation for the Bangladesh government for its humanitarian act of sheltering the displaced Rohingyas.

IPU external auditor

- ❖ Comptroller & Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva for three years.
- ❖ He will take charge of this position from Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland.
- ❖ The IPU is a global inter-parliamentary institution established by France and UK in 1889.

ECONOMY

Project Kirana

- ❖ Mastercard and United States Agency for International Development launched "Project Kirana".
- ❖ The project will work to increase revenue, digital payments and expand financial inclusion for the women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It is a two-year programme to be rolled out in selected cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh.



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the most populous states of India.
- ❖ Also, the state has the largest number of MSME in India.
- ❖ USAID is United States Agency for International Development.
- ❖ It is an independent agency that is responsible to administer foreign aid and development assistance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Women's Entrepreneurship Day – November 19

- ❖ It aims to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2013.
- ❖ Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WEDO)/#ChooseWOMEN was founded in 2013 as a non-governmental, non-racial, non-gender, and non-political volunteer non-profit organization.
- ❖ It was founded and implemented by the recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor award - Wendy Diamond.

World Fisheries day - November 21

- ❖ It helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain.
- ❖ For the first time in India, the Department of Fisheries operating under the Ministry of Fisheries is celebrating World Fisheries Day.
- ❖ India is the second-largest producer and 4th largest exporter of fish in the world.
- ❖ The fisheries and aquaculture production contribute around 1% to India's GDP and over 5% to the agricultural GDP.
- ❖ The Government of India had launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Rs 20,050 crores.
- ❖ The programme aims to achieve 22 million tonnes of fish production by 2024-25.

