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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has recognised the Manda buffalo as the 19th unique breed of buffaloes found in India.
 - It is found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha.
- ❖ The Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.
 - The event was themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability".
- ❖ The 4th edition of AUSINDEX, a bilateral navy exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, has begun in Australia.

NATIONAL

Gambusia fish

- ❖ The Firozabad district administration in Uttar Pradesh has released Gambusia fish (mosquitofish) that eat dengue-breeding mosquito larvae in ponds.
- ❖ This Insectivorous fish is known to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- ❖ Gambusia eats about 100 larvae daily.
- ❖ Besides Gambusia, guppy fish is used to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.



Prophylactic Medicines

- ❖ The Ayush Ministry kickstarts campaign to distribute prophylactic medicines

- ❖ The kit of Ayurveda prophylactic medicines for Covid-19 contains Sanshamani Vati (also known as Guduchi or Giloy Ghan Vati) and Ashwagandha Ghan Vati.
- ❖ The kit and the guidelines have been prepared by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Medicines (CCRAS).
- ❖ Prophylactic means a preventive measure.

National Teachers' Award 2021

- ❖ National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded to 44 persons by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It is the second award in a row for an EMRS established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



INTERNATIONAL

Global Leader Approval Tracker Morning Consult

- ❖ According to this US-based consult, approval rating of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the highest among thirteen world leaders who were surveyed.
- ❖ He is ahead of President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President of USA Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australian Scott Morrison, Prime minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prime Minister of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro.



Panjshir Valley

Afghanistan: Panjshir, stronghold of Taliban resistance



- ❖ Panjshir Valley is located to the north of Kabul in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The valley is home for Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic Tajiks.
- ❖ Taliban claims to have captured the control of the Panjshir Valley.
- ❖ The fall of Panjshir marks the success of the Taliban and the Pakistan military, and is a setback for India.
- ❖ Iran became the first country to protest against the Taliban blockading the valley.

Rashid Rover

- ❖ 'Lake of Dreams,' also known as Lacus Somniorum, is the main site chosen by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Lunar Mission's team for the landing of the 'Rashid Rover' on the moon's surface.
- ❖ It will be launched between August and November 2022
- ❖ The UAE is the first in the Arab world and the fourth worldwide in lunar exploration.



UAE's Green Visa



- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has announced a new class of visas.
- ❖ Under the green visa, foreigners will be allowed to work in the UAE without being sponsored by an employer.
- ❖ The program will also allow the holder a grace period of up to three months to look for a new job if they lose their old one.

- ❖ It is intended to ease the restrictions faced by foreigners in pursuing employment opportunities in the country.
- ❖ In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year “golden visa”, aimed at welcoming rich residents and highly skilled workers into the country.
- ❖ Besides UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have recently opened up their countries to wealthy investors.

Inspiration4



- ❖ SpaceX is going to launch 'Inspiration4', the world's 1st all-civilian, non-governmental spaceflight soon.
- ❖ This mission will take 4 private citizens into space in the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which will be privately operated by SpaceX.
- ❖ This mission involves circling the Earth for 3 days at the height of 575km (low Earth orbit), and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ This will be the farthest distance travelled by a crewed mission since 2009, when astronauts went to repair the Hubble telescope (547km).
- ❖ The journey will present an opportunity for collecting many health data.

ENVIRONMENT

Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970-2019)

- ❖ It was released by the UN's world meteorological organization.

- ❖ The developed nations incurred the bulk of \$3.6 trillion in economic losses because of severe weather events in past five decades.
- ❖ The High death tolls in poorer countries have been partly reduced by better evacuation.
- ❖ Three out of 10 world's costliest disasters occurred in 2017 alone namely - hurricanes Harvey (\$96.9bn), Maria (\$69.4bn) and Irma (\$58.2bn).



Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific



- ❖ The findings were published in the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) report.
- ❖ APDIM is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).



- ❖ The report identified 'east and northeast Asia', 'south and southwest Asia', 'central Asia' and the 'Pacific' as the four main sand and dust storm corridors of Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ The region is the second-largest emitter of mineral dust.
- ❖ Sand and dust storms contribute significantly to poor air quality in Karachi, Lahore and Delhi in 'southwest Asia'.
- ❖ Sand and dust storms are a transboundary meteorological hazard.
- ❖ Much of this dust is characterized by high salt content, making it toxic for plants.
- ❖ It reduces yield, posing a significant threat to the production of irrigated cotton and other crops.
- ❖ More than 500 million people in India and more than 80 per cent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms.
- ❖ Very high dust deposition also occurs in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush Mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ This plateau is called 'third pole' that are the sources for fresh water for more than 1.3 billion people in Asia.

