TNPSC BITS

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organising a fortnight of events named Shehri Samridhi Utsav all over the country with an aim to extend the outreach of DAY-NULM to the poorest of poor and the most vulnerable.
  - Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is to use a humanoid robot resembling a human for conducting experiments in space twice before actually sending humans by 2022.
  - It is not planning to use any animals to test systems for the Gaganyaan project.

- The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Lebanon's capital Beirut. The economic meeting is a prelude to the actual Arab League summit taking place in Tunisia in March.

- The world's oldest man, Masazo Nonaka of Japan, has died at the age of 113. Nonaka was officially recognized as the oldest male in the world by the Guinness World Records in April 2018.

- India's Ankita Raina defeated top seed Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands in the final and won 25,000 $ at the International Tennis Federation's Women's tournament in Singapore.

- The Union Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre announced that Nashik in Maharashtra will be the site of the country's second defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
  - This is in line with the Defence Ministry's target of making the country among the top 5 arms exporters by 2025.

- Ashok Chawla resigned as chairman of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) with immediate effect on 12 January 2019.

- Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh has won the under-8 category at the Kids' Golf World Championship organized by the US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the world title.

- Bengaluru Raptors won their first ever Premier Badminton League (PBL) title after they beat Mumbai Rockets in the final of the tournament at the Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru.

TAMIL NADU

Startup and Innovation policy of Tamil Nadu

❖ The government of Tamil Nadu has released Start up and Innovation policy 2018-2023.

❖ Its mission is to provide an enabling and innovative ecosystem for start-ups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a 'Global Innovation hub for start ups' by 2023.

❖ The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) will act as a nodal agency to promote and facilitate start-ups.

❖ Tamil Nadu Startup and InnovaTION Mission (TANSIM) headed by a full-time officer will advocate and oversee policies and programmes for promoting start-ups.

Creation of at least 5000 technology startups of which at least 10 global high growth startups in social impact sectors

Infrastructure support to strengthen existing mechanism in areas like the IoT, AI, Machine Learning (ML) and Software as a Service (SAAS)
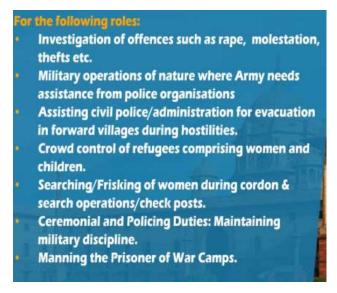
NATIONAL

Women to get 20% jobs in Military Police

❖ The Union Defence Minister has announced the decision to induct women in Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) role in Corps of Military Police.

❖ The women will be inducted in graded manner to eventually comprise 20% of total Corps of Military Police.

❖ Accordingly, the Army chalked out induction of approximately 800 women in military police with a yearly intake of 52 personnel per year.

❖ Military Police are the corps responsible for the enforcing discipline and the maintenance of law and order in the military environment and for military purposes.

For the following roles:
- Investigation of offences such as rape, molestation, thefts etc.
- Military operations of nature where Army needs assistance from police organisations
- Assisting civil police/administration for evacuation in forward villages during hostilities.
- Crowd control of refugees comprising women and children.
- Searching/Frisking of women during cordon & search operations/check posts.
- Ceremonial and Policing Duties: Maintaining military discipline.
- Manning the Prisoner of War Camps.

INTERNATIONAL

Outbreak Readiness and Business Impact – White Paper

❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released the report on 'The Outbreak Readiness and Business Impact'.

❖ The white paper on the report was released by the WEF in collaboration with the Harvard Global Health Institute.

❖ The white paper details why and how the business community should contribute more to manage the threat and impact of infectious disease on societies.

❖ The important findings of the white paper report are,

  o The number and kind of infectious disease outbreaks have increased significantly over the past 30 years.

  o The world has witnessed 200 epidemic events per year since 2011.

  o Pandemics will be the cause of average annual economic losses of 0.7% of global GDP i.e. $ 570 billion.

  o This is a threat similar in scale to that estimated for climate change in the coming decades.
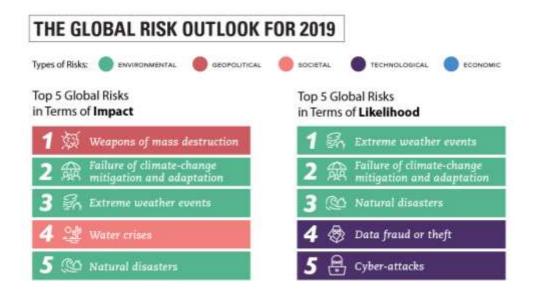
1st World Capital of Architecture for 2020

- ❖ The UNESCO has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.

- ❖ Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018.

- ❖ The city beat Paris and Melbourne to get the position.

- ❖ As the first World Capital of Architecture, Rio de Janeiro will hold a series of events under the theme "All the worlds. Just one world,".

- ❖ It will also promote the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's 11th Goal: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."

The Global Risks Report 2019

- ❖ The Global Risks Report 2019 has been recently released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

- ❖ The report describes changes occurring in the global risks landscape from year to year and identifies global catastrophic risks.

- ❖ The Top 5 risks by likelihood as per the latest report are,
    - o Extreme weather events.
    - o Failure of climate change mitigation and adaption.
    - o Major natural disasters.
    - o Massive incident of data fraud/theft.
    - o Large scale cyberattacks.

- ❖ The Environmental risks dominate the global risks landscape in terms of impact and likelihood for the third year in a row.

- ❖ The Global risks are intensifying, but our capacity to respond to them is declining.

- ❖ The Geopolitics and geo-economic factors, such as uncertainty and nationalism are fuelling risks.

- ❖ The Shorter-term fears are around geopolitical and cyber threats.

- ❖ There is a significant financing gap (US$18 trillion) in infrastructure capital.

THE GLOBAL RISK OUTLOOK FOR 2019

Types of Risks: ● ENVIRONMENTAL ● GEOPOLITICAL ● SOCIETAL ● TECHNOLOGICAL ● ECONOMIC

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Impact

1. Weapons of mass destruction
2. Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation
3. Extreme weather events
4. Water crises
5. Natural disasters

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Likelihood

1. Extreme weather events
2. Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation
3. Natural disasters
4. Data fraud or theft
5. Cyber-attacks

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Young Scientist Programme

❖ The ISRO has announced Young Scientist Programme to inculcate and nurture space research fervour in young minds.

❖ The modalities of the Young Scientist Programme are,

  o It would be a one-month programme.

  o Mostly 8th standard passed out students will be given lecturers and access to research laboratories.

  o 3 students from each of the 29 States and 7 Union Territories will be selected for the Young Scientist program.

  o The students will be exposed to the practical experience of building small satellites.

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