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TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal for **enabling easy, efficient and transparent booking** of Common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under **GAIL's pipelines**.
 - The online portal is available at: www.gailonline.com. It is the first of its kind portal in the natural gas sector of India.
- **SpiceJet** would fly India's first biofuel-powered flight from **Dehradun to Delhi** on its **Bombardier Q400 turboprop** aircraft from Dehradun's Jolly Grant airport.
 - It has used a blend of the aviation turbine fuel and biofuel to power the flight. It would encourage sustainable and alternative fuels for the transportation & aviation sector under **National Biofuels Policy**.
- **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** opened its **first** regional centre in **Chilika**. The regional branch was inaugurated in the premises of the **Wetland Research and Training Centre (WRTC)** of the **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)** at Chandrapur in Chilika.
- **Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari** signed an MoU with six states for the construction of the **Lakhwar multi-purpose project in the upper Yamuna basin** to deal with water crisis.
 - Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh (Yogi Adityanath), Rajasthan (Vasundhara Raje Scindia), Uttarakhand (Trivendra Singh Rawat), Himachal Pradesh (Jai Ram Thakur), Haryana (Manohar Lal Khattar) and Delhi (Arvind Kejriwal) signed the MoU.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the **second phase of the FAME India scheme** offering incentives for mass adoption of electric vehicles with an outlay of **Rs 5,500 crore** on September 7.
- The prime minister would unveil the scheme at the inaugural session of the **'MOVE' — a global mobility summit**.
 - With an aim to promote eco friendly vehicles, the government had launched the FAME India scheme in 2015.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **8th** meeting of **India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee** was held in **Nairobi, Kenya**. The meeting was co-chaired by :
Indian side: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Mr. Suresh Prabhu** and, Kenya's Side: Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of Kenya **Mr. Peter Munya**.
- The **G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting** was held at **Salta's Fine Arts Museum, and Salta Convention Centre** in **Salta, Argentina**. It was chaired by

Andrés Ibarra, Argentine Minister of Modernization, and **Lino Barañao**, Argentine Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production.

- Sweden has released a handbook of its “**feminist foreign policy**” for rights groups and foreign governments. It showcases lessons from the Scandinavian nation’s flagship approach to promoting women’s rights globally. It has been led by **Sweden’s Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom**.

ECONOMY

- According to a report of **Department of Financial Services, Punjab National Bank** has been rated as **number one** state-owned bank in terms of **digital transactions**. The bank is rated as ‘**Good**’ by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.
- According to a report named **Ecowrap** published by **SBI**, the current account deficit of the country will rise to **2.8%** of the GDP in the current financial year.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Prashant Agrawal** was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Namibia**.
- **Sandeep Kumar** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Ireland**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- NASA’s **OSIRIS-Rex (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer)**, an asteroid sampling spacecraft, caught its first image of asteroid Benu, last week after a 2-year journey.
 - OSIRIS-REx is the **first mission of NASA to visit a near-Earth asteroid**. It will survey the surface, collect a sample and deliver it to Earth.

SPORTS

- **Neeraj Chopra** became the **first-ever Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal** at the Asian Games. The 20-year-old junior world record holder hurled the javelin to a distance of 88.06m to bag the Asiad gold.
 - Notably, Neeraj had also become the first Indian to bag gold in javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year.
- **The U-20 Japan Women's National Team** won against the U-20 Spain Women's National Team at the final of the **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018**, taking down the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title for the first time in Japanese football history.

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