

April - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries is held in Pune.
- ❖ The National Youth Conclave-2023 is organized by the National Institute of Urban Affairs in New Delhi.
- ❖ International Ayurvedic conclave on the theme 'Veterinary and Ayurveda', was held at Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University at Haridwar, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the WHO South-East Asia Regional office have organized a global conference on digital health in New Delhi.
 - Theme of the event is: 'Taking Universal Health Coverage to the last citizen'.


NATIONAL

Committee for Pension reforms

Old vs New

A look at the difference between the old and the new pension schemes

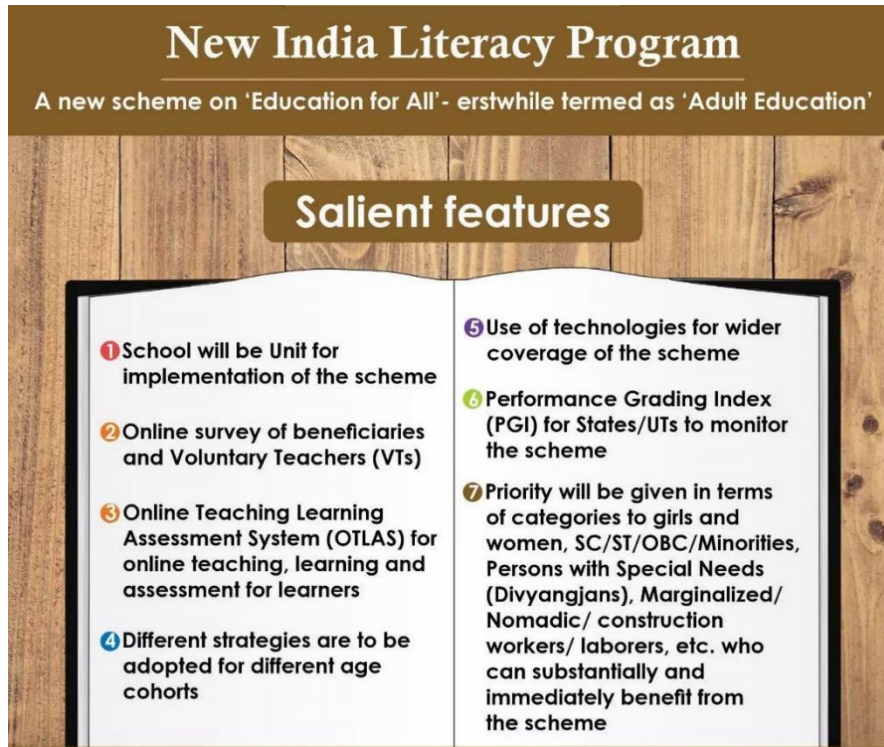
Old Pension Scheme	National Pension Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The scheme guarantees a life-long income, post-retirement ■ Government bears the expenditure incurred on the pension ■ Under the scheme, a monthly payment is assured, where the amount is equivalent to 50% of the last drawn salary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is a participatory scheme, where employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contribution from the government ■ The funds are invested in earmarked investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers ■ On retirement, 60% of the corpus, which is tax-free, is withdrawn while the remaining 40% is invested in annuities, which is taxed



- ❖ The Government of India announced the formation of a committee to look into improving the system of pension for government employees.
- ❖ The committee aims to find a middle ground between the fiscally imprudent old pension system and the reform-oriented National Pension System.

- ❖ This move comes against the backdrop of at least five Opposition-ruled states adopting the Old Pension Scheme.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by Finance Secretary T V Somanathan.

New India Literacy Program



- ❖ The Government of India has launched a “New India Literacy Programme” (NILP) for five years from the FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- ❖ The Scheme has five components:
 - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
 - Critical Life Skills,
 - Vocational Skills Development,
 - Basic Education and
 - Continuing Education.
- ❖ The scheme is based on technology and implemented predominantly through online mode.

- ❖ The teaching learning material and resources have been made available on DIKSHA platform of NCERT and can be accessed through the mobile-apps.

Mission Arikompan

- ❖ A wild elephant by the name of Arikompan has been causing chaos in the higher ranges of Idukki district, Kerala.
- ❖ Over the past few years, Arikompan has trampled at least 10 people to death and destroyed around 60 houses and shops.
- ❖ The forest department has initiated 'Mission Arikompan', an operation to capture the rogue tusker.



INTERNATIONAL

Egypt joins BRICS bank



- ❖ Egypt has joined as member in BRICS's New Development Bank (NDB).

- ❖ NDB is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries in 2014.
- ❖ It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies.
- ❖ Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay joined the NDB in September 2021.

Change of Indonesia capital

- ❖ Jakarta is congested, polluted, prone to earthquakes and rapidly sinking into the Java Sea.
- ❖ It has been described as the world's most rapidly sinking city.
- ❖ At the current rate, it is estimated that one-third of the city could be submerged by 2050.
- ❖ Now the government is in the process of leaving, moving Indonesia's capital to the island of Borneo.
- ❖ The city is expected to be inaugurated on Aug 17 next year to coincide with Indonesia's Independence Day.



ECONOMY

Corporate Debt Market Development Fund

- ❖ SEBI decided to set up a corporate debt market development fund in the form of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with an initial corpus of Rs 3,000 crore.

- ❖ It will act as a backstop facility for purchase of investment grade corporate debt securities during times of stress.
- ❖ The move is aimed at instilling confidence amongst the participants in the corporate bond market and to generally enhance secondary market liquidity.



Surge of Indian exports



- ❖ Indian goods and services exports have crossed the USD 750 bn-mark for the first time.

- ❖ In 2021-22, the country's goods and services exports touched an all-time high of USD 422 billion and USD 254 billion respectively.
- ❖ Exports were down by 8.8 per cent at USD 33.88 billion in February 2023 compared to USD 37.15 billion in the same month last year.
- ❖ Imports also declined for a third month on the trot in February at USD 51.31 billion, down by 8.21 per cent compared to USD 55.9 billion a year ago.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first cloned Gir female calf

- ❖ Under a project by National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal of Haryana to work on cloning of indigenous cow breeds such as Gir and Sahiwal.
- ❖ NDRI has produced the country's first cloned female calf of the desi breed Gir.
- ❖ This cloned Gir female calf was named as 'Ganga'.
- ❖ It can produce more than 15 litres of milk per day.



Device to detect milk adulteration

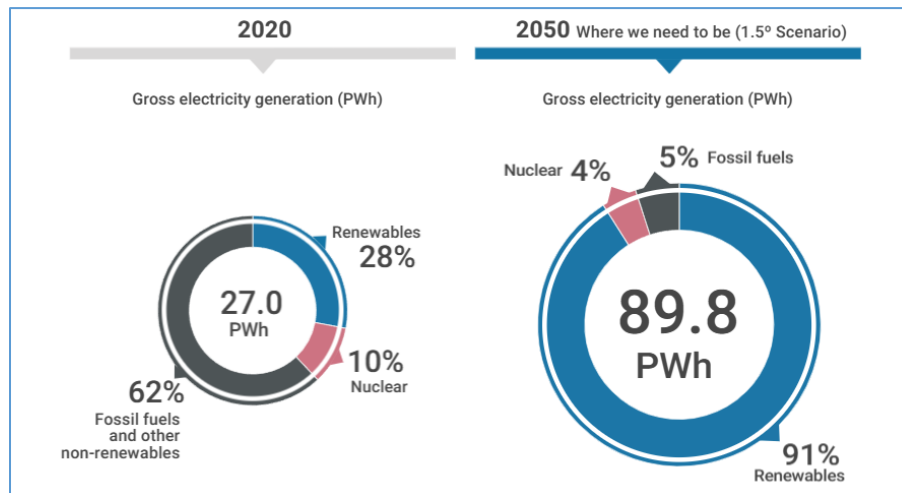
- ❖ IIT Madras Researchers developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- ❖ The test could be even performed at home.
- ❖ It can detect multiple substances commonly used as adulterating agents including Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate and salt.

- ❖ This new technology is affordable and could also be used to test other liquids such as water, fresh juices, and milkshakes for traces of adulteration.



ENVIRONMENT

World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023



- ❖ Global investment in energy transition technologies reached a new record of USD 1.3 trillion in 2022.
- ❖ It was released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- ❖ The Developing countries attracted only 15 percent of global Renewable Energy investments in 2022.

- ❖ The least developed countries attracted only 0.84 per cent of the total RE investments on average between 2013 and 2020.
- ❖ Brazil, Chile and India received the bulk of these investments.
- ❖ Investments declined from 27 per cent of the total investment in Renewable Energy in 2017 to 15 per cent in 2020.
- ❖ In South Asia, investments per capita fell 26 per cent between 2015 and 2021.
- ❖ As per the report, the world will require annual investments of \$5.7 trillion on average between 2021 and 2030.
- ❖ \$3.7 trillion required between 2031 and 2050 to meet the target.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Claude Lorius – a Pioneer in Climate Science

- ❖ Claude Lorius, a pioneering glaciologist, passed away recently.
- ❖ He was best known for his research into climate change.
- ❖ In 1956, he joined an expedition to Antarctica.
- ❖ His work in Antarctica helped to prove that humans were responsible for global warming.
- ❖ His research into air bubbles trapped in the ice was published in 1987.
- ❖ In 2002, he was awarded the CNRS gold medal along with his colleague Jean Jouzel.
- ❖ He was the first Frenchmen to receive the prestigious Blue Planet Prize.



Intel co-founder Gordon Moore

- ❖ Intel co-founder Gordon Moore passed away recently.



- ❖ In 1968, he and partner Robert Noyce (who passed away in 1990) co-founded Intel Corp.
- ❖ He proposed what came to be known as Moore's Law in 1965.
- ❖ He received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation in 1990.
- ❖ He won Othmer Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to progress in chemistry and science in 2001.
- ❖ In 2009, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

