

August - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National legislature of China formally endorsed the three-child policy.
 - Third child policy is a major policy shift which is aimed at preventing a steep decline in birth rates in China.
- ❖ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the country's first smog tower at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place.
 - The smog tower will clean 1,000 cubic metres of air every second and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.

TAMIL NADU

President of the Science, Music, and Drama Council

- ❖ Actor and former MLA Vagai Chandrasekhar has been appointed as the new chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council.
- ❖ It has been said that Chandrasekara has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council to implement the objectives of the Union Government's organization named Sangeetha Nataka Academy at state level, to preserve and develop the Tamil arts, to benefit the artists through the projects of the Government of Tamil Nadu and to implement various art works and projects.
- ❖ He is the recipient of the Kalaimamani Award in 1991 and the National Award for Best Actor in 2003.



NATIONAL

Ubharte Sitaare Fund

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to launch an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund'.
- ❖ It will be launched for export-oriented firms and startups.
- ❖ Ubharte Sitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI
- ❖ It will be launched in Lucknow.
- ❖ The finance minister will also launch India Exim Bank's study on 'Exports from Uttar Pradesh: Trends, Opportunities and Policy Perspective'.
- ❖ Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) will identify Indian companies that have the capability to be future champions in domestic arena while meeting the global demands.
- ❖ This fund is a mix of structured support, debt and technical assistance to the Indian companies.

Advanced chaff technology



- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an advanced chaff technology.
- ❖ The objective is to safeguard the Indian Air Force Fighter Jets from enemy missiles.
- ❖ Chaff is an electronic counter-measure technology which is used by militaries across the world.

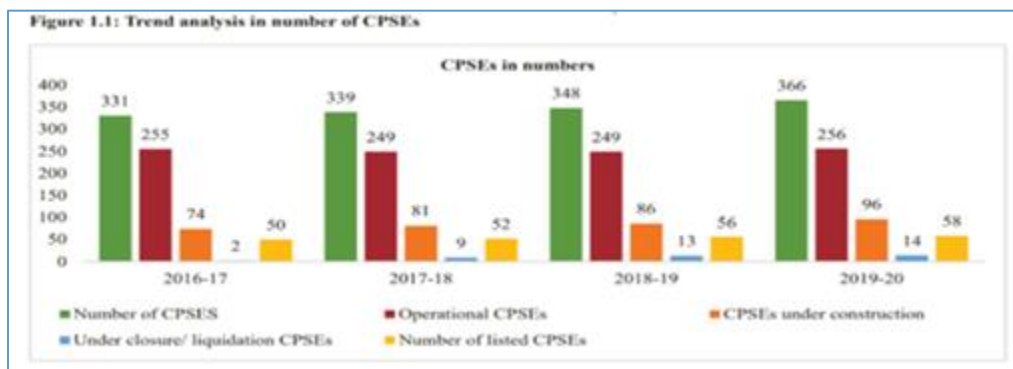
- ❖ It is used to protect high-value targets like fighter jets or naval ships from radars as well as radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missiles.

Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

- ❖ The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, once a year brings out the Survey on the performance of various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- ❖ The 60th Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20 was released Recently.
- ❖ The number of CPSEs falling within the scope of this year's PE Survey as on March 31, 2020 is 366.
- ❖ Out of this, 256 are operating CPSEs, 96 CPSEs are under Construction, and the rest are under closure/liquidation.

Note

- ❖ CPSEs are classified into 3 categories namely Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.
- ❖ Presently, there are 10 Maharatna, 14 Navratna and 74 Miniratna CPSEs.



India could get first woman CJI

- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana has recommended nine names, including three women judges for appointment as judges in the top court.
- ❖ The three women judges recommended by the SC Collegium are Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC, Justice Hima Kohli of Telangana HC, and Justice Bela M Trivedi of Gujarat HC.
- ❖ Of the three women judges, Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC could become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 2027 if SC Collegium's recommendations of names are considered by the Union Government.

First EV-friendly highway in India

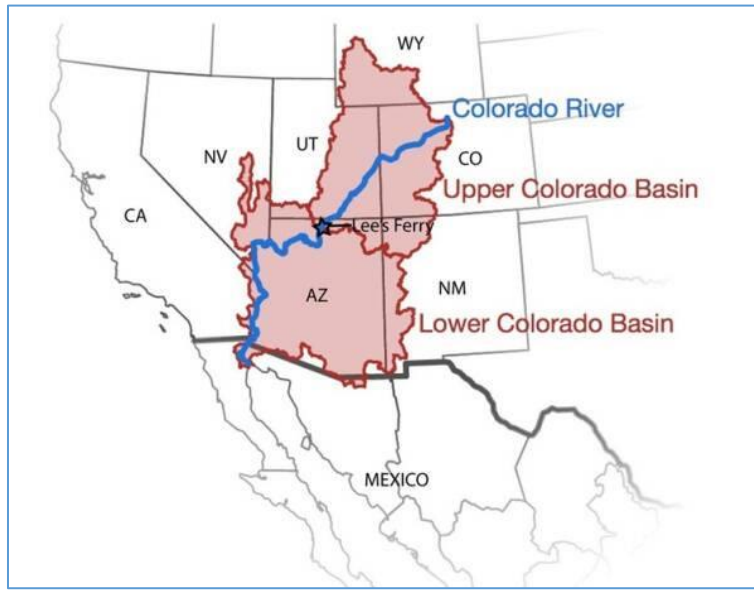


- ❖ With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country.
- ❖ The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- ❖ It was setup under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

INTERNATIONAL

Colorado River basin - water shortage

- ❖ For the first time the federal government in the US declared a water shortage for the Colorado River basin due to a historic drought.
- ❖ Since the year 2000, this Colorado River Basin has been experiencing a prolonged drought.
- ❖ This persistent drought has led to lowering down of the water levels in the basin's reservoirs to meet the demand over the years.
- ❖ Lake Mead and Lake Powell are the two reservoirs at the centre of this water shortage.
- ❖ The Colorado river flows from the Rocky Mountains into southwestern US and into Mexico.
- ❖ The river is fed by snow melt from the Rocky and Wasatch mountains.



Changes in Afghanistan

- ❖ Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, has been declared the new President of Afghanistan.
- ❖ The country's name has been changed to the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan".
- ❖ The white flag with Shahadah on it has been re-introduced.



ECONOMY

Radhakishan Damani in Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ❖ Billionaire promoter of the DMart chain of supermarkets, Radhakishan Damani has made it to the top 100 of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ The Index ranks the world's top billionaires based on net worth.
- ❖ Damani ranks 98th on the list.

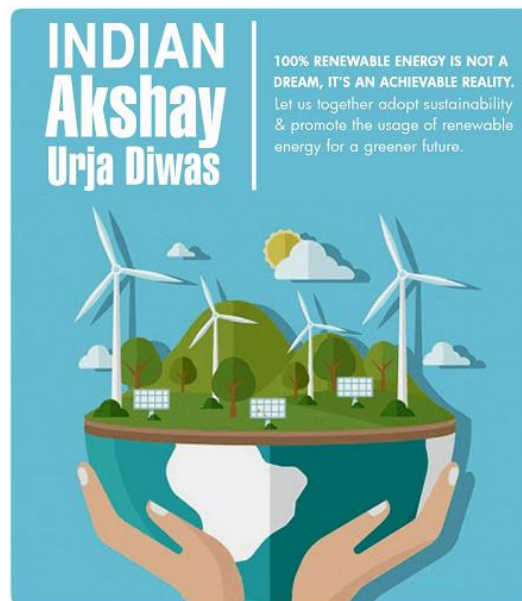
ICICI, StanChart and HSBC enter 'swaption' deals

- ❖ ICICI Bank cut India's first set of 'swaption' deals with HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank.
- ❖ It leads to a new era of risk management in the country's interest-rate derivatives market that needs to introduce world-class solutions to draw more overseas funds into local debt assets.
- ❖ The 'swaption' interest-rate derivative product should help both local borrowers and investors to rein in funding costs in a rising rate scenario and retain investment returns in a falling rate scenario.
- ❖ In June, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for 'swaption' deals.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Akshay Urja Diwas - August 20

- ❖ Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is observed every year to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- ❖ The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004.
- ❖ This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.



World Mosquito Day - August 20

- ❖ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- ❖ It is observed to highlight the efforts of healthcare officials, NGOs, and others in fighting diseases caused by malaria.
- ❖ The theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is “Reaching the zero-malaria target”.
- ❖ The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- ❖ In 1902, Ross won Nobel Prize for Medicine becoming the first British person to receive the award.

Sadbhavana Diwas - August 20



- ❖ Every year India observes this day to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ This year we celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.
- ❖ Late Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.

