

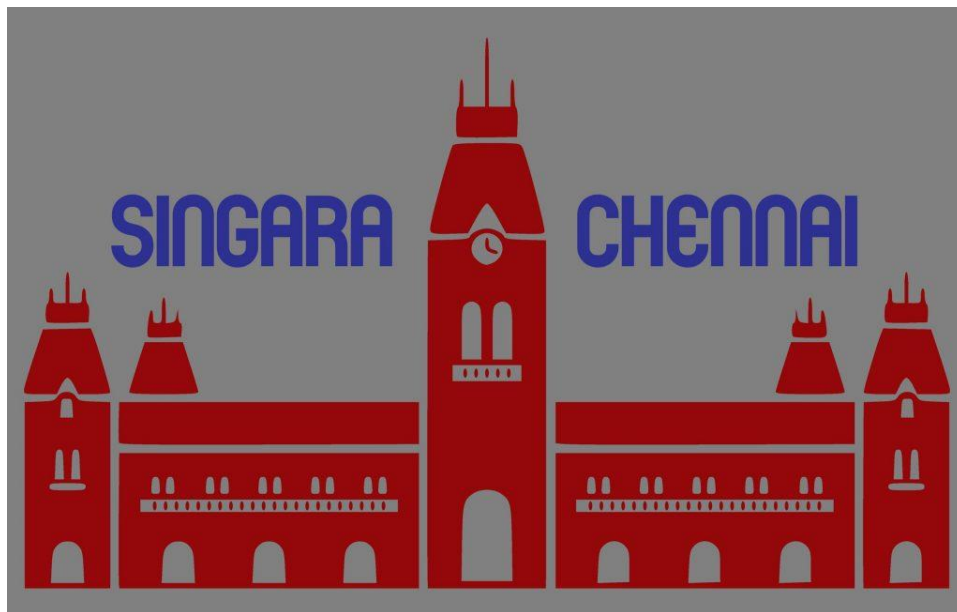
August - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh became the second state in India to implement NEP-2020 following Karnataka.

## TAMIL NADU

### Singara Chennai 2.0



- ❖ Tamilnadu CM revives the ‘Singara Chennai’ project.
- ❖ After the DMK won in the 1996 Local Body elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the ‘Singara Chennai’ umbrella.
- ❖ The 2.0 edition also aims to continue with clean and green, but the focus is also to take advantage of the city’s coastline, culture and lifestyle.
- ❖ The project plans include a Chennai that’s free from posters and litter.
- ❖ It also includes water tap and sewerage connection to every household and access to ‘quality toilets’.
- ❖ Cultural events such as ‘Chennai Day’ and ‘Chennai Sangamam’ will also be promoted.

## NATIONAL

### The Malabar Exercise

- ❖ Navies of the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad (India, the United States, Japan, and Australia) are participating in the 25th edition of the Malabar Exercise.
- ❖ This began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the U.S. in 1992.
- ❖ It was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.



### Naval exercise - India and Philippines

- ❖ India and the Philippines conducted a naval exercise in the South China Sea recently.
- ❖ Indian Navy had deployed its guided missile destroyer INS Ranvijay and guided missile corvette INS Kora.
- ❖ The Philippine Navy has deployed its frigate BRP Antonio Luna, in the exercise.

#### Note

- ❖ The South China Sea region has been witnessing growing Chinese military expansionism.

### Hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory

- ❖ Ohmium launches India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory
- ❖ US-based Ohmium International has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- ❖ The factory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers.
- ❖ The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen.
- ❖ It uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources against blue hydrogen that is made from fossil sources.

### **Greater Male Connectivity Project**

- ❖ Maldives government has officially signed an agreement with Mumbai-based company ACONS, for the construction of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- ❖ This infrastructure project is the largest-ever by India in the Maldives.
- ❖ It involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
- ❖ This project was funded by India in a grant of \$100 million, with a line of credit of \$400 million.
- ❖ The Line of Credit is not a grant but a ‘soft loan’ provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.



### **WEP Nxt**

- ❖ NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco has launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled “WEP Nxt”.

- ❖ This is to foster women entrepreneurship in India.
- ❖ WEP was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017.
- ❖ WEP is a unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.
- ❖ WEP Nxt Platform is the next phase of this WEP.



## **EASE 4.0**



- ❖ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22.
- ❖ It is a simplified, tech-enabled and collaborative banking.
- ❖ The major theme for EASE 4.0 is "Technology-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking."

- ❖ EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE).

### **NERDSD Goal Index Report & Dashboard**

- ❖ The first edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development (NERDSD) Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 was launched recently.
- ❖ This will be first of its kind region-wide district SDG index in India.
- ❖ This index has been prepared by collaborative efforts of NITI Aayog and DoNER Ministry.
- ❖ It will measure the performance of the districts across eight States.
- ❖ East Sikkim District has topped in terms of meeting the sustainable development goals in this Index
- ❖ Nagaland's Kiphire district has featured at the bottom of this index.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

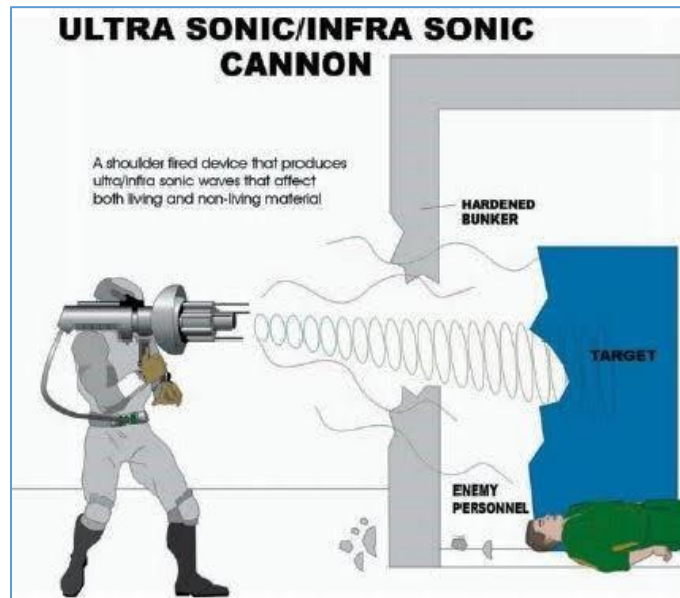


### **Ananda mobile app**

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a mobile app called “Ananda mobile app” for its agents and intermediaries in order to onboard the prospective customers.
- ❖ ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application.
- ❖ ANANDA is the paperless solution for new business processes.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Havana Syndrome



- ❖ Recently the mystery illness which is referred to as Havana Syndrome was found in Hanoi in Vietnam.
- ❖ Havana Syndrome was first reported in US diplomats who were stationed in Cuba in 2016.
- ❖ The US diplomats and other employees who stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations.
- ❖ Recently a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found “directed” microwave radiation to be its “plausible” cause.

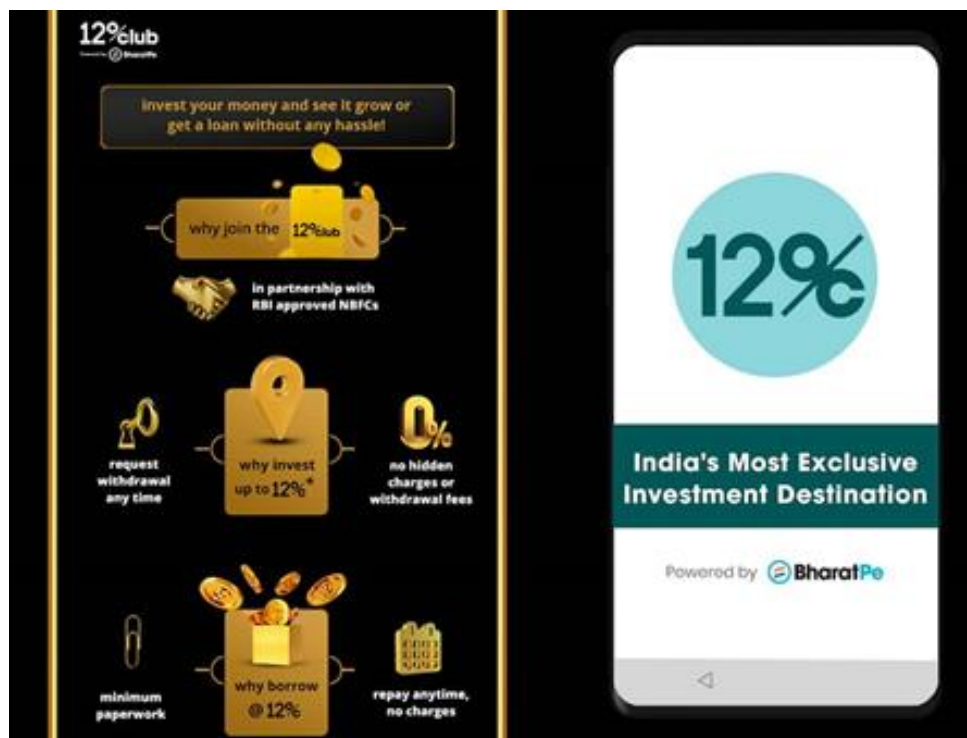
### World's tallest observation wheel



- ❖ The world's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ The observation wheel called as 'Ain Dubai', is 250 m (820 ft) in height, located at Bluewaters Island.
- ❖ The record-breaking wheel is taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas.

## ECONOMY

### BharatPe - new app



- ❖ BharatPe has launched a “12% Club” app.
- ❖ The app that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12 per cent annual interest or borrow at a similar rate.
- ❖ BharatPe has partnered with LenDenClub (RBI-approved NBFC) for this app and lending arrangement.
- ❖ Consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money on the “12% Club” app.
- ❖ Apart from this, consumers can avail of collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh on the 12 per cent Club app for tenure of 3 months.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### EASE Reforms Index Award 2021

- ❖ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards.
- ❖ State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).
- ❖ Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third.
- ❖ Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.

**There were awards for various themes and the winners of these themes are given below**

S.No	Theme	Winner
1.	Smart Lending for Aspiring India	Bank of Baroda
2.	Tech-enabled ease of Banking	SBI
3.	Institutionalised Prudent Banking	Bank of Baroda
4.	Governance and Outcome centric HR	Union Bank of India
5.	Deepening FI and Customer Protection	Union Bank of India

