

December - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ At the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India has lost the dispute over subsidies of sugar exports with the dispute settlement panel.
  - The dispute settlement panel ruled against India, on a complaint filed by Brazil, Australia, and Guatemala.
- ❖ Dubai became the world's first government to turn 100% paperless.
  - It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.

## TAMIL NADU

### JICA and TN sign pact



- ❖ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Tamil Nadu's Health and Family Welfare Department have signed a Record of Discussions for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) in the Tamil Nadu project.
- ❖ The project focus on strengthening the managerial and technical capabilities of health personnel with respect to NCD prevention and control.
- ❖ The death rate related to NCDs accounts for 63 percent of all deaths and the probability of death from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70 is 23 percent, according to UNICEF.
- ❖ This project will align itself with the Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project (ODA Loan Project signed in March 2016).



- ❖ It will also implement several activities to strengthen NCD management in the State.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Test to detect Omicron**

- ❖ The Researchers have developed an RT-PCR-based test, that can detect the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 in 90 minutes.
- ❖ The researchers are from IIT Delhi's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences.
- ❖ The test is based on detecting specific mutations, which are present in the Omicron variant while absent in other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2.

### **Green Hydrogen production**

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has tied up with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale-up Alkaline Electrolyze technology for Green Hydrogen production.
- ❖ This is a first-of-its-kind initiative to support India's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ India is looking to raise the share of renewables in its energy mix to 50 percent by 2030 from 38 percent currently.

### **NDPS (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ❖ It was an unusual amendment on just a sentence that alters the numbering of the provisions.
- ❖ 2021 Bill amends the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- ❖ The Amendment comprises a legislative declaration about what one section refers to.
- ❖ According to it, Section 2 clause (viiiia) corresponds to clause (viiiib) in Section 27, since 2014.

### **Chabahar Port**

- ❖ India, Iran, and Uzbekistan held talks on joint use of the Chabahar Port.

- ❖ They also underlined the important role played by the port in enhancing regional connectivity.
- ❖ Chabahar seaport is in Chabahar located in Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ The port serves as the only oceanic port of Iran.
- ❖ It comprises two separate ports namely, Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.



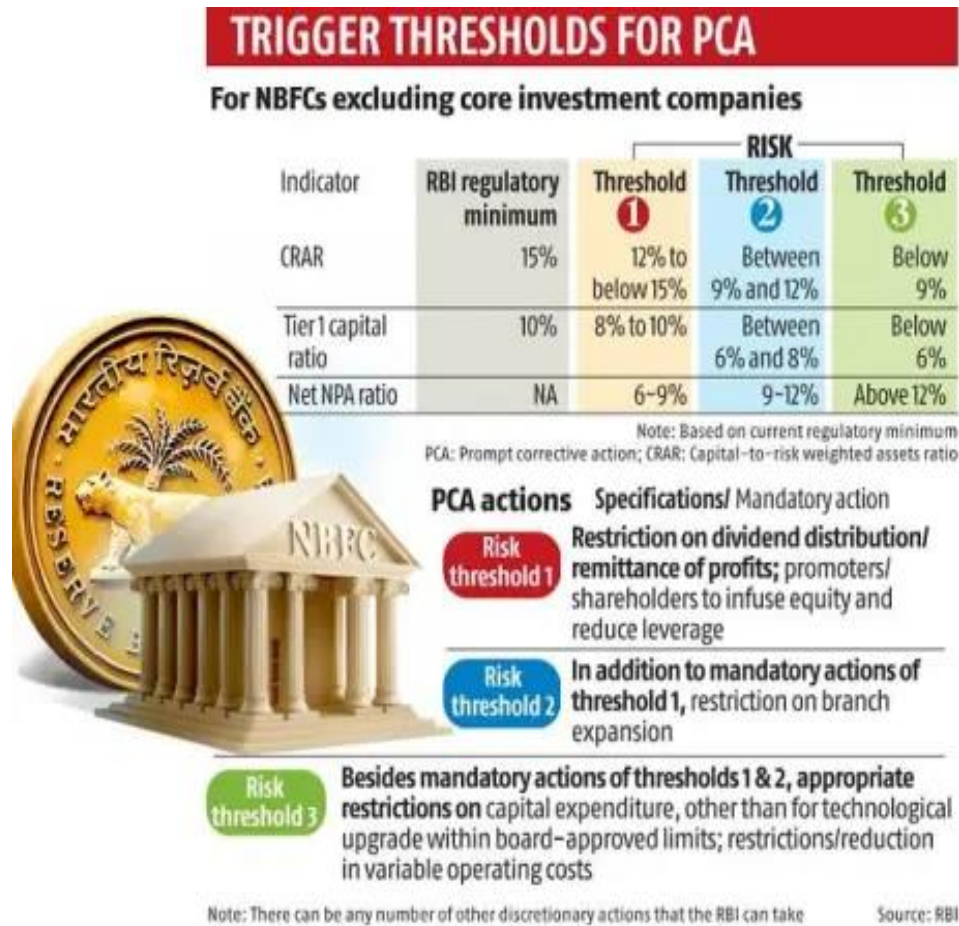
### **Aadhaar and voter cards to sex workers**



- ❖ The Supreme court directed the central government to start the process of issuing voter ID, Aadhaar, and ration cards to sex workers.
- ❖ It observed that fundamental rights are guaranteed to every citizen irrespective of vocation.

- ❖ The Supreme Court's direction came while hearing a plea filed by NGO, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee.
- ❖ The plea raised problems faced by sex workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Prompt Corrective Action Framework

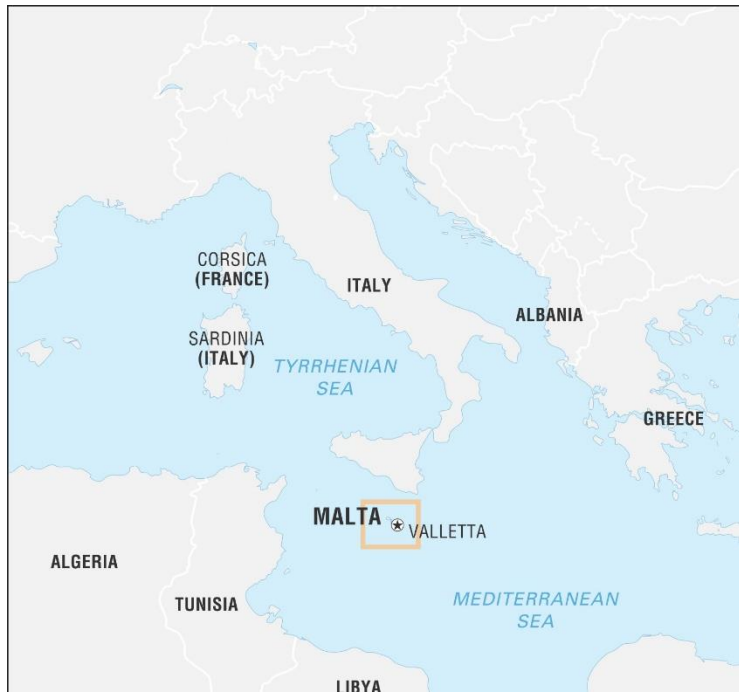


- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.
- ❖ Under the PCA framework, NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as capital adequacy ratio, non-performing assets, and Tier 1 capital will fall below the stipulated levels.
- ❖ The Banks are already covered under the framework.
- ❖ This framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFC.
- ❖ However, it will exclude government NBFCs, housing finance companies, primary dealers and other non-deposit taking NBFCs in the upper, middle, and top layers.
- ❖ The PCA framework for NBFCs will be implemented from October 1, 2022.

- ❖ This is done on the basis of the financial position of NBFCs on or after March 31, 2022.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Cannabis at home – Malta



- ❖ Malta has become the first country in European Union to legalize cannabis at home and for personal use.
- ❖ Under the new law, Malta has allowed people aged 18 and above to have up to seven grams of cannabis.
- ❖ They would also be allowed to grow up to four plants at home.

## ECONOMY

### bob World Wave

- ❖ Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a wearable payment solution called “bob World Wave”.
- ❖ To develop the “bob world wave”, the Bank of Baroda partnered with NPCI.
- ❖ It was developed by leveraging the existing NFC-based technology.
- ❖ This technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest worldwide.

- ❖ The lenders are using this opportunity for adopting more convenient and cashless digital payments systems.

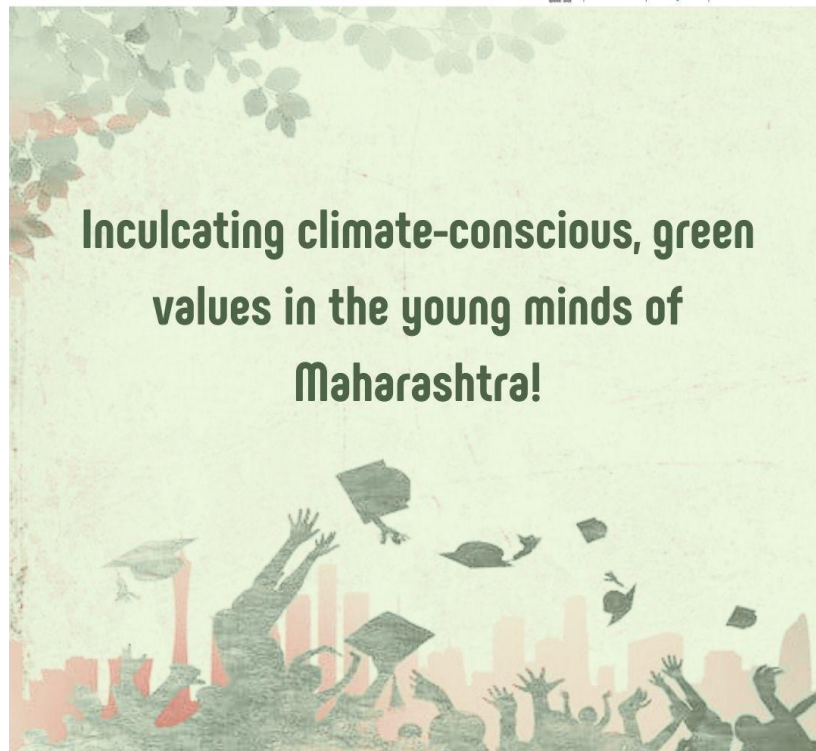


## STATES

### Majhi Vasundhara Curriculum



पर्यावरण व वातावरणीय  
बदल विभाग,  
महाराष्ट्र शासन



- ❖ Maharashtra State Government is in the process to introduce a comprehensive curriculum for Grades I-VIII.



- ❖ This is to inculcate climate-consciousness and green values in the next generation.
- ❖ This new curriculum has been developed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change and UNICEF.
- ❖ The curriculum is named as “Majhi Vasundhara (MV) Curriculum”.
- ❖ It is being introduced with the aim of inculcating application-based awareness on issues like climate change among students from Grades I-VIII.

### **First FM Radio Station – Ladakh**



- ❖ Ladakh received its first-ever FM radio station in the capital city, Leh.
- ❖ The first-ever Top FM radio in Leh was launched by Advisor of Ladakh, Umang Narula.
- ❖ The frequency for Leh & Kargil will be 91.1 FM.
- ❖ It will cover 50 kilometres of aerial distance in radius.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **DBS Bank India**

- ❖ DBS Bank India has been awarded the Economic Times Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance Excellence Awards 2021.
- ❖ The awards are,
  - ‘DBS Rapid (Real-time API)’ solution in the ‘Innovative API/Open Banking model’ category



- 'Intelligent Banking' in the 'Best Digital Customer Experience initiative' category.



## SPORTS

### **AIBA rebrands itself as IBA**



- ❖ The International Boxing Association has changed its acronym from AIBA to IBA.



- ❖ It promises to adopt a set of governance reforms so as to keep the sport's inclusion at the 2028 USA's Los Angeles Olympics.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Tea Day (ITD) - December 15**

- ❖ Tea is the second most used drink in the world after water.
- ❖ The first ITD was held in New Delhi in India in 2005.
- ❖ However, in 2015, the Indian government proposed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to expand International Tea Day across the world.

