

December - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NITI Aayog, in partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Global Development Network (GDN), published a report, 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy'.
- ❖ Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL), has been conferred with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023.
 - It is awarded in the category of the Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year 2023 for its storage water heater.
- ❖ The Government of India has unveiled a video that captures ten extraordinary moments when India left an indelible mark on the global stage in 2023.
 - It includes Chandrayaan 3's Historic Landing, Digital Payments Leadership and World's Largest Office Building at Surat.
- ❖ The 8th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) was conducted by Royal Thai Navy at Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ On December 25, Former Indian Prime Minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee's birthday is observed as "Good Governance Day" since 2014.
- ❖ The Veer Bal Diwas is observed in December 26 to commemorate the sacrifice of the two youngest sons of the 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, in 1705.

NATIONAL

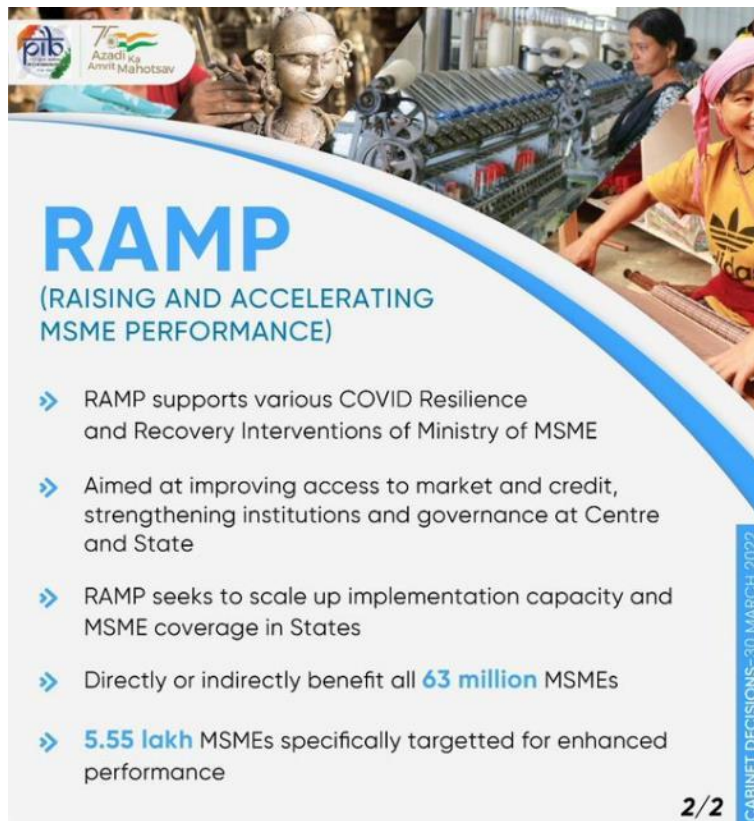
Tax devolution to States 2023

23	Tamil Nadu	2976.10
24	Telangana	1533.64
25	Tripura	516.56
26	Uttar Pradesh	13088.51
27	Uttarakhand	815.71
28	West Bengal	5488.88
	TOTAL	72961.21

- ❖ The Centre had released ₹72,961.21 crore as tax devolution to States.

- ❖ The largest share has gone to Uttar Pradesh at ₹13,088.51 crore, followed by Bihar at ₹7,338.44 crore.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh got ₹5,727.44 crore and it was followed by West Bengal at ₹5,488.88 crore; Maharashtra at ₹4,608.96 crore; Rajasthan at ₹4,396.64 crore and Odisha at ₹3303.69 crore.
- ❖ The remaining States' share has been lower than ₹3,000 crore and ranged from ₹281.63 crore (Goa) — ₹2,976.10 crore (Tamil Nadu).

RAMP program



The infographic features a background image of a woman operating a textile loom. In the top left corner, there are logos for 'pib' and '75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The main title 'RAMP' is in large blue letters, followed by the subtitle '(RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE)'. Below this, five bullet points describe the program's goals and impact. At the bottom right, it says '2/2' and 'CABINET DECISIONS - 30 MARCH 2022'.

RAMP
(RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE)

- RAMP supports various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of Ministry of MSME
- Aimed at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at Centre and State
- RAMP seeks to scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in States
- Directly or indirectly benefit all **63 million** MSMEs
- **5.55 lakh** MSMEs specifically targetted for enhanced performance

2/2
CABINET DECISIONS - 30 MARCH 2022

- ❖ Union MSME Ministry launches 3 sub-schemes under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme.
- ❖ The initiatives include
 - MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme),
 - MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) and
 - MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments.

- ❖ The key objectives of RAMP are to accelerate centre-state collaboration in MSME promotion and development, enhance the effectiveness of existing schemes of the MSME Ministry.

Election Commission's Guidelines

TYPES OF DISABILITIES INCREASED TO 21 IN ACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which overwrote the former Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995, was passed by Parliament in Dec 2016➤ The number of disabilities have been increased from seven to 21➤ It added acid attack victims, speech and language disability and specific-learning disability among the list of disabilities	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The new categories of disabilities also include three blood disorders – Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Dwarfism and muscular dystrophy have been indicated as a separate class of specified disability➤ The Act also casts the responsibility up on the state governments to take measures to ensure that the disabled persons enjoy their rights equally with others➤ Additional benefits such as reservation in higher education, government jobs and reservation in allocation of land have also been provided for such persons

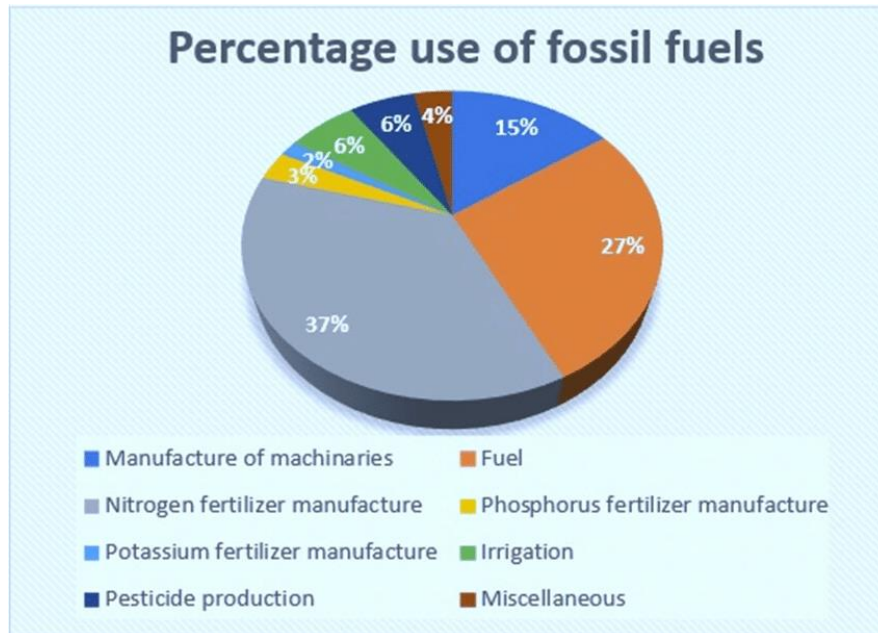
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has asked the political parties to avoid the usage of derogatory language in political discourse against Persons with Disabilities.
- ❖ In a bid to promote the principle of accessibility and inclusivity in politics, the Election Commission today issued guidelines.
- ❖ The commission has asked political parties to strictly avoid comments related to disabilities that perpetuate stereotypes and prejudices.
- ❖ Usage of derogatory language in public statements, speech, articles, and campaign outreach material is also barred as per the guidelines.
- ❖ Any usage of such language, terminology, context, mockery, derogatory references or insult to PwDs ... may attract provisions of Section 92 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

ENVIRONMENT

Fossil Fuel Usage in Food Production

- ❖ Food production currently accounts for an estimated 15 per cent of global fossil fuel usage annually.
- ❖ It is equivalent to 4.6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.

- ❖ This food production drives emissions on par with the combined emissions of all European Union countries and Russia.
- ❖ The global food demand is expected to increase by 35-56 per cent by 2050, with a corresponding rise in fossil fuel usage.
- ❖ This is the first time that researchers have estimated global fossil fuel usage across the entire food supply chain, from farm to plate.



World's smallest fanged frog



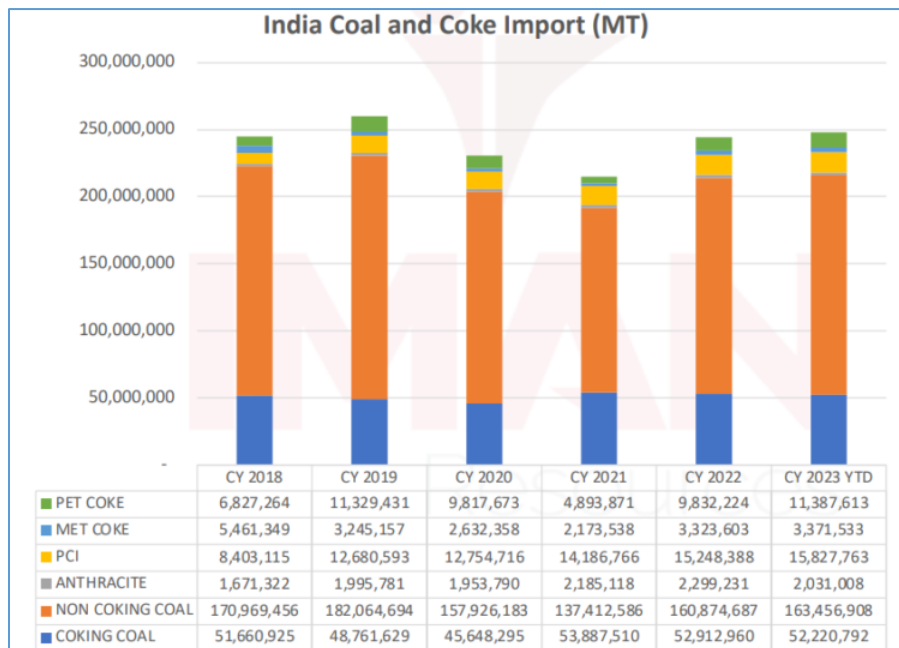
- ❖ Biologists have discovered a new species of the terrestrially-nesting fanged frog genus *Limnonectes* living on Sulawesi Island, Indonesia.
- ❖ The species has the smallest adult body size among all *Limnonectes* frogs from the island.

- ❖ It has a maximum snout-vent length of about 3 cm (1.2 inches).

REPORTS AND INDICES

Coking coal import 2023

- ❖ India's coking coal imports are at a five-year high for the April-November period (11 months) of this fiscal at 38.14 million tonnes (mt).
- ❖ Imports were slightly higher on a Y-o-Y basis with nearly 38.12 mt of shipments coming in for the comparative period last year.
- ❖ Australia continues to be dominant supplier, accounting for 60 per cent of the shipments.
- ❖ Russia is the third largest supplier replacing countries such as Canada and Mozambique.

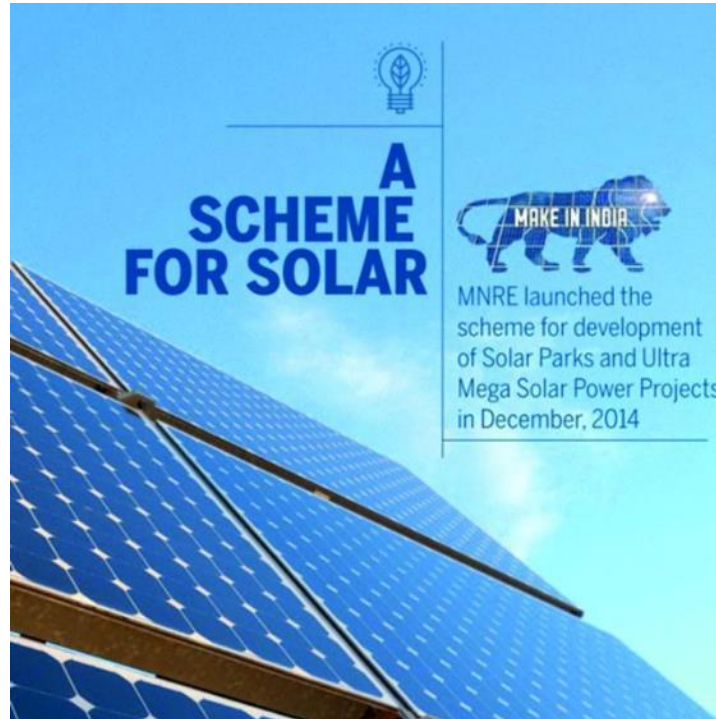


STATES

Solar Park scheme

- ❖ Two states – Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh – have deployed higher capacities through the solar park scheme.
- ❖ The Scheme for “Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects” was rolled out in December 2014 with an aggregate capacity of 20,000 MW.

- ❖ Further, the capacity of the Solar Park Scheme was enhanced to 40,000 MW in March 2017 to set up at least 50 Solar Parks.
- ❖ The timeline of the scheme is up to 2023-24.
- ❖ Of the 10,401 MW capacity, Rajasthan has so far commissioned 3065 MW of capacity, while Andhra Pradesh has commissioned 3050 MW.
- ❖ Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have commissioned 2000 MW and 1000 MW capacity respectively.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2023

- ❖ Six heritage projects from India have secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ❖ The Rambagh Gate in Amritsar received the Award of Excellence.
- ❖ The Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, Haryana, David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai, India; and Bikaner House in New Delhi earned the Award of Merit.
- ❖ The Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple in Kerala and Pipal Haveli of Gurdaspur district in Punjab, was honoured for its sustainable development.

- ❖ Among the 12 recognised sites, five are from China, six from India, and one from Nepal.
- ❖ The jury evaluated a total of 48 projects from 8 countries and selected 12 for this prestigious honour.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Consumer Rights Day 2023 - December 24



- ❖ In 1986, the Consumer Protection Act was passed and received the assent of the President on December 24.

- ❖ Since then, this National Day is celebrated on this day to commemorate the occasion.
- ❖ The Consumer Protection Act acts to protect consumers from defective goods, negligent services, and unfair trade practices.
- ❖ The six fundamental rights of the Consumer Protection Act are Right to safety, right to choose, Right to be informed, Right to be heard, Right to seek redressal and Right to consumer education.
- ❖ The World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on March 15.


MISCELLANEOUS

Loneliness impact on health

HOW TO IDENTIFY LONELINESS

A noticeable decrease in engaging with friends, family, or social activities

- Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or a lack of interest in life can be indicators of loneliness
- Less frequent or shorter responses in conversations may signal loneliness
- Excessive use of social media or technology for interaction can hint at underlying loneliness
- Changes in sleeping patterns, like difficulty sleeping or oversleeping, are often linked to loneliness




HOW TO COPE WITH LONELINESS

- Actively pursue opportunities for social engagement
- Participate in activities or groups that align with your interests
- Get involved in volunteer work to connect with others and find purpose
- Engage in regular physical activities for mood enhancement and social interaction

Keep in touch with friends and family through consistent communication

- Incorporate mindfulness and meditation into your routine for mental well-being.
- Consider therapy or counseling if loneliness becomes overwhelming.



- ❖ Loneliness has been declared as a pressing global health threat with a mortality effect equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
- ❖ According to the WHO, in older adults, loneliness is associated with a 50% increased risk of developing dementia and a 30% increased risk of coronary artery disease or stroke.
- ❖ Additionally, between 5% and 15% of adolescents are lonely, according to the research findings.

