

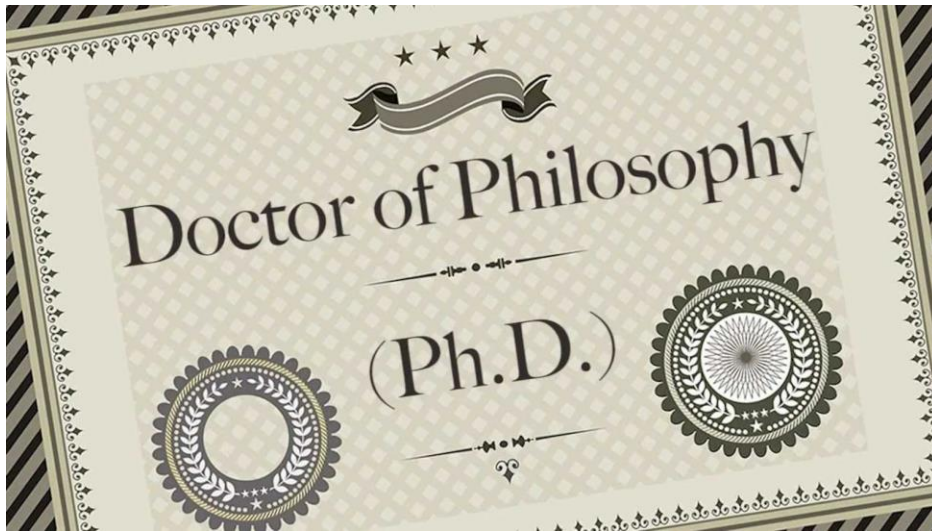
February - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The G20 member countries participating in the first Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting in Bengaluru have agreed on collective efforts in priority areas to achieve energy security and diversified supply chains of new energy sources.

TAMIL NADU

PhD graduates in the state

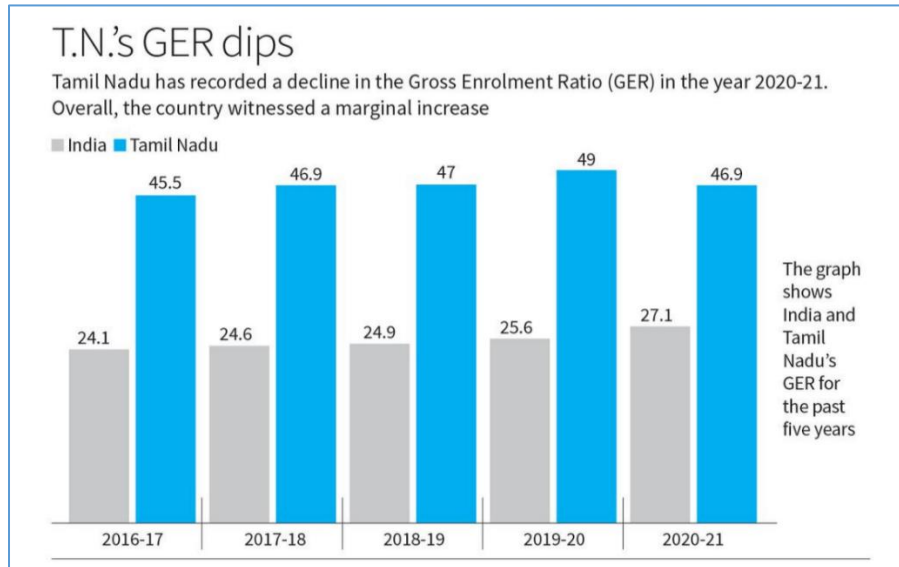


- ❖ Tamil Nadu has once again produced the highest number of PhD holders in the country.
- ❖ The state has produced 3,206 PhD doctorates in the academic year 2020-21.
- ❖ In that 1,493 are female and 1,713 are male research scholars.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh comes second in the list by awarding 2,217 PhD degrees.
- ❖ Karnataka and Delhi stand in the third and fourth position by producing 2,125 and 2,055 PhD graduates respectively.
- ❖ As per AISHE report 2019-2020, Tamil Nadu produced 5,324 PhD students.

Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross Enrolment Ratio dropped by 2.1 percentage points to 46.9% in 2020-21 from the year before.
- ❖ India recorded a marginal increase in GER from 25.6% to 27.3%.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu was among very few States that recorded a decline.
- ❖ This was the first time the State recorded a decline in the past five years.
- ❖ Despite the decline, Tamil Nadu continued to have the highest GER among major States.
- ❖ TN followed by Uttarakhand (45.7%) and Kerala (43.2%).
- ❖ Chandigarh, Puducherry and Delhi have the highest of 66.1%, 60.8% and 47.6%, respectively.



NATIONAL

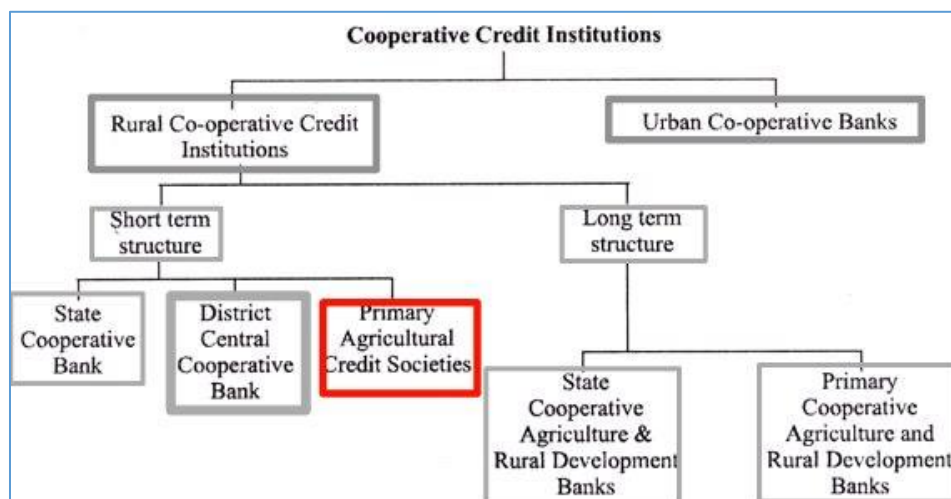
Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability Project



- ❖ Indian Government in collaboration with UNEP is implementing a project called 'Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability' in India.
- ❖ It is a "Waste to Wealth" scheme.
- ❖ The main objective of the project is to reduce the negative impacts of the textile sector on the environment.
- ❖ This includes reducing the use of synthetic materials like polyester.
- ❖ Polyester will not decompose.
- ❖ The scheme was also launched to promote the recycling and reusing of textiles.
- ❖ Textile waste from India accounts for 8.5% of global textile waste.
- ❖ Over 7800-kilo tonnes of textiles wastes are accumulated in India annually.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies role

- ❖ The Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) will soon start providing services like the one offered by Common Service Centres (CSC).
- ❖ The PACS will now be able to undertake 20 different activities including water distribution, storage, Bank Mitra.
- ❖ More than 300 services can be made available to the rural population including 13 crore farmer members of PACS.
- ❖ It will increase the business activities of PACS and help them to become self-sustaining economic entities



Zoop food delivery facility

- ❖ Indian Railways has launched a new service, "Zoop".

- ❖ It is a WhatsApp-based food delivery facility for train passengers.
- ❖ The service will be available on the popular messaging platform, allowing passengers to place food orders from the comfort of their seats.



INTERNATIONAL

Green Deal Industrial Plan



- ❖ The of EU proposal involves building a simpler regulatory framework, providing faster access to funds, enhancing skills and improving the EU's trade network.



- ❖ The move has come just a few months after the United States announced its Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- ❖ contains billions of dollars of tax cuts for clean energy and climate change programs with incentives for US-based manufacturing.

ECONOMY

Reliance accepts CBDC



- ❖ Reliance Retail has recently announced that it has started accepting retail payments via the RBI's Digital Rupee.
- ❖ Thus, it becomes the first Indian retailer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India launched the first pilot of its retail Digital Rupee on December 1, 2022.
- ❖ This currency is available in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.
- ❖ The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) has also been issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins.
- ❖ The CBDC is the digital version of fiat money that will co-exist with hard cash.

REPORTS AND INDICES

CITES Database on red sanders smuggling

- ❖ The CITES trade database has recorded 28 incidents of Red Sanders confiscation, seizure, and specimen from the wild being exported from India.

- ❖ These consignments were exported to China (53.5%), Hong Kong (25.0%), Singapore (17.8%) and the United States of America (3.5%) from 2016 to 2020.
- ❖ Red Sanders *Pterocarpus santalinus*, or red sandalwood, is an endemic tree species with distribution restricted to the Eastern Ghats of India.
- ❖ The report titled “RED SANDERS: Factsheet on India’s Red Sanders in illegal wildlife trade” was released recently.
- ❖ As per the report, China remains the largest importer with more than 13,618 tonnes of the products, followed by Hong Kong (5,215 tonnes) and Singapore (216 tonnes).
- ❖ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments.
- ❖ Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimen of wild animals and plants, does not threaten the survival of the species.

The potential and the problem



1,000 metric tonnes

The annual market demand for Red Sanders

Rs 50 lakh - 1 cr

The price commanded by a tonne of this timber in international markets

50-80%

The population decline in this species over the last 3 generations



Distribution of Red sanders in India

1,000 sq km

The area of occupancy by Red Sanders that's endemic to the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

117

Smuggling cases of Red Sandalwood registered in 2011



60-100 years

For Red Sanders to reach good harvestable width

STATES

FAME Scheme Rank

- ❖ Maharashtra leads the way in total sales of electric cars that have taken advantage of the FAME II subsidy.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The top five states combined account for more than 56% of the 0.85 million electric vehicles purchased via the plan.
- ❖ According to available FAME II subsidy statistics, the six states dominate sales, accounting for 93% of the 6,397 electric four wheelers sold in the country.

THE PECKING ORDER				
State	Total EV sales where FAME II was availed		Two-wheeler EV sales based on FAME II subsidy	Motor vehicle registration share as on March 19 (%)
Maharashtra	143,986	(16.8)	139,109	12
Karnataka	120,070	(14.05)*	112,997	7.1
Tamil Nadu	82,955	(9.71)	80,784	10.2
Gujarat	72,302	(8.46)	70,778	8.5
Rajasthan	60,584	(7.09)	58,185	5.9
Uttar Pradesh	39,572	(4.6)	11,707	11
Kerala	39,379	(4.6)	36,313	4.4

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Surajkund Mela 2023



- ❖ The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is being conducted at Surajkund, Faridabad.
- ❖ The Mela is conducted by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- ❖ The finest craftspeople from all over India come to participate in the Crafts Mela.
- ❖ Surajkund International Crafts Mela is a highly acclaimed world's biggest crafts fair.

SPORTS

National Ice Hockey Championship



- ❖ The 12th edition of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for men - 2023 organized in Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ ITBP wins the Championship for the third consecutive time
- ❖ The ITBP is a pioneer in the adventure sports in the country
- ❖ And it possesses an unparalleled record of mountaineering and allied sports in the country.

