

February - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministerial-level Defence dialogue 2020 between India and South Korea was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government, for the first time, will use drones for mapping villages.
 - This will replace the land survey work, done either manually or with the help of satellite images.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir administration renamed Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department (PHE & IFC) as the 'Jal Shakthi Department'.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad had found a molecule called "AIM-4" that can help in the treatment of rare neurodegenerative disease called "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" (ALS) known as "Lou Gehrig's disease".
- ❖ Lord J is the 1st and only Anonymous singer in the world, launches his Autobiography Book "Lord J: Lord of Anonymity".
- ❖ As per the RTI query has revealed that for every 100 anganwadi (or day-care centre) beneficiaries in India, only 7 belong to urban areas.

NATIONAL

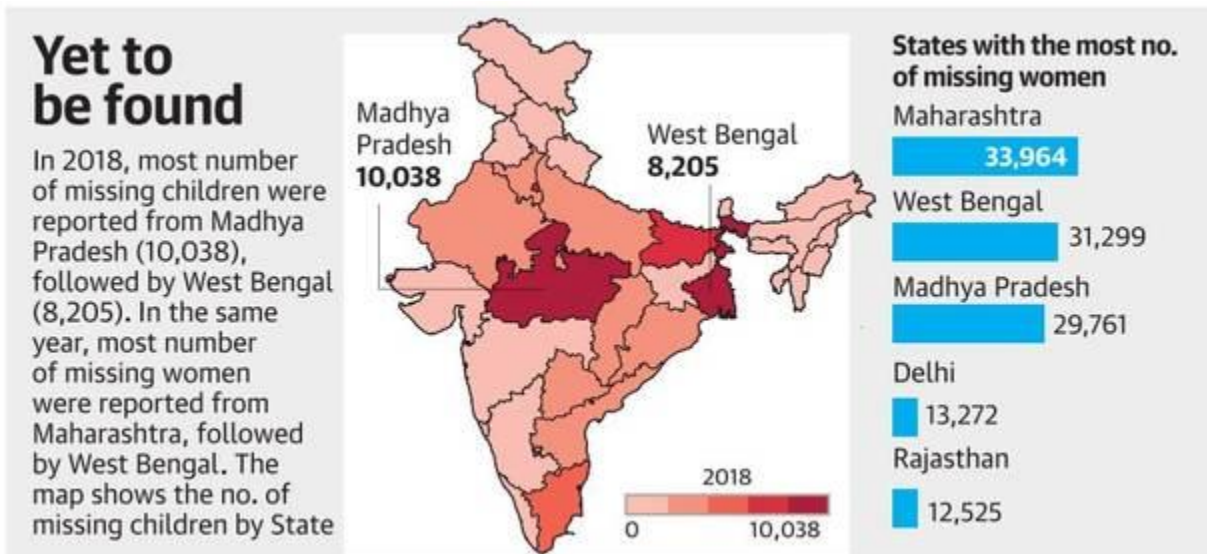
Scheme SFURTI

- ❖ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implemented a new scheme named "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" (SFURTI).
- ❖ Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.
- ❖ The scheme was first launched in 2005 to boost cluster development by MSME.
- ❖ The following schemes have been merged with SFURTI.
 - Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans.
 - Scheme for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP).
 - Scheme for Rural Industries Service Center (RISC) and
 - Other small interventions like Ready Warp Units, Ready to Wear Mission, etc.



Missing women and children in India Report

- ❖ Report on 'missing women and children in India' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ The data for the analysis has been taken from the annual Crime in India (CII) report compiled by the NCRB for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ According to the report, Maharashtra registered the highest number of missing women followed by West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh during 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ The number of missing children are highest in the State of Madhya Pradesh, followed by West Bengal, Delhi and Bihar.



INTERNATIONAL

International Religious Freedom Alliance

- ❖ The United States launched the 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance.
- ❖ It will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world.
- ❖ Among the prominent countries to join the alliance are Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Israel, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Greece.
- ❖ Poland will host the next ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Warsaw in July 2020.

ENVIRONMENT

World's oldest Bamboo Fossil

- ❖ A fossil of a leafy branch discovered from the early Eocene in Patagonia in 1941 is still considered to be the oldest bamboo of the world.
- ❖ Additionally, a recent examination by Dr Peter Wilf from Pennsylvania State University revealed the real nature of the plant (*Chusquea oxyphylla*).
- ❖ The corrected identification is significant because the fossil in question was the only bamboo macrofossil still considered from the ancient southern supercontinent of Gondwana.
- ❖ The oldest microfossil evidence for bamboo in the Northern Hemisphere belongs to the Middle Eocene.
- ❖ While other South American fossils are not older than Pliocene.





New natural gas field

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has discovered huge shallow gas resources called 'Jebel Ali gas field'.
- ❖ It is estimated that reserves of 80 trillion standard cubic feet spanning an area of 5,000 square kilometres (sqkm) in the cross-border area of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- ❖ This discovery will enhance UAE's aim of achieving gas self-sufficiency & also help promote major development projects.

STATES

India's first Glass floor bridge

- ❖ India's first Glass floor bridge to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It will be the replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. It has been in place for 94 years.
- ❖ The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).
- ❖ This new bridge will be safe for commutation for at least 150 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

SKOCH Award

- ❖ "Boron Nitrate Based Personal Hybrid Combat Armour" won the prestigious SKOCH Award.
- ❖ This armour produced by the defence sector start-up company called Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ It also won in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) competition around See-Through-Armour and Illegal Defence Drones in iDex (Innovations for Defence Excellence) category.
- ❖ It is first company to consolidate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the defense sector.

Mystic Kalinga Literary Award

- ❖ Famous Odia and English writer Manoj Das will receive Mystic Kalinga Literary award- Indian and Global languages.

- ❖ Mystic Literary award has been instituted to recognize and celebrate inspiring writers, poets and performers.
- ❖ He was also awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2020, Padma Shri in 2001, Saraswati Samman and Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution in the field of literature & education.

India International Seafood Show -2020

- ❖ The 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 has commenced at Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ Thi show held based on the theme “Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition”.
- ❖ The show is being organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
- ❖ It is a biennial show, this time being held in Kochi after 12 years, its 21st edition was held in Goa in January 2018.



MISCELLANEOUS

Report on Cancer by WHO

- ❖ In order to mark World Cancer Day on February 4, 2020, WHO and its specialized International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released 2 reports.
 - “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all” by WHO
 - “World Cancer Report “Cancer research for cancer prevention” by IARC

- ❖ It aims to setting the global agenda on the disease & focused on research and prevention.
- ❖ As per the report by the WHO, one in 10 Indians to have cancer in their lifetime and one in 15 died of the disease.
- ❖ 11.6 million new cases of cancer were reported in India & and 7,84,800 people died due to cancer in 2018.
- ❖ 50 % of smokers worldwide live in China, India and Indonesia.
- ❖ WHO has predicted that cancer cases will jump by 81 % by 2040 in poor countries.

8th International Intellectual Property Index - 2020

- ❖ The U.S Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020.
- ❖ The 2020 index mapped the IP ecosystem in 53 global economies which included three new economies-Greece, Dominican Republic, and Kuwait.
- ❖ India's position has downgraded to 40th rank in comparison to 36th position out of 50 countries in 2019.
- ❖ The index has been topped by the United States followed by UK, Sweden, France and Germany.
- ❖ Among Asia, India is ranked 4th which is topped by Australia and followed by Brunei (2) and China (3).
- ❖ Among Lower-middle-income economies, India is at 2nd position which is topped by Egypt.

