

January - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Puducherry government has announced ₹200 as Pongal gift each to below poverty line (BPL) ration cardholders in the Union territory of Puducherry.
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has unveiled Khadi India's official e-Commerce site eKhadiIndia.com.
- ❖ The North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala under the Indian Ministry of Culture and Jammu & Kashmir Academy jointly organized the National folk dance festival at Jammu and Kashmir.

## TAMIL NADU

### Modernize and restore the irrigation system of Cauvery

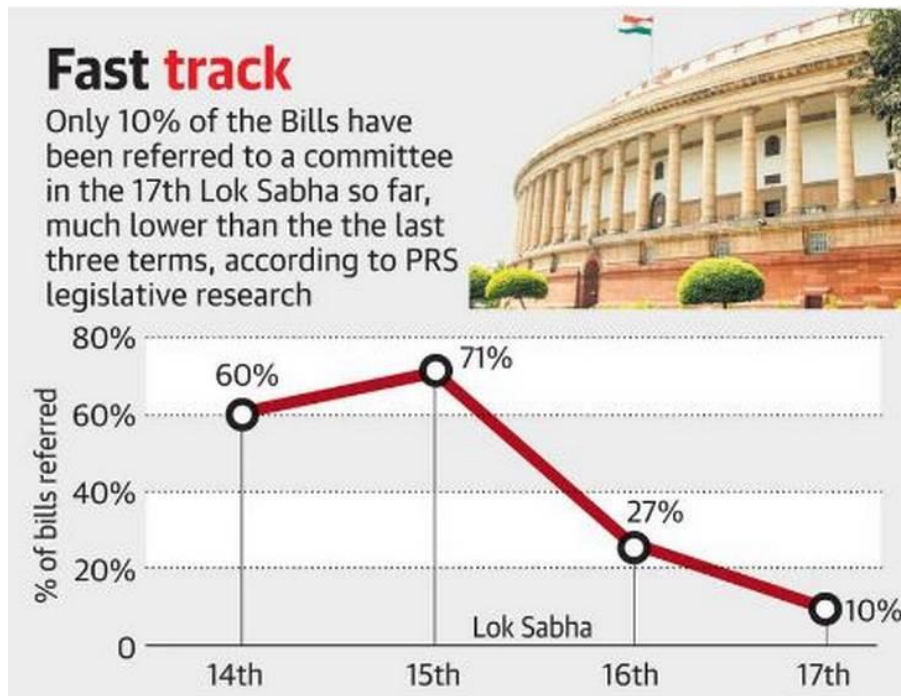
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has embarked on a ₹350 crore work to modernize and restore the irrigation system of Cauvery sub basin.
- ❖ It includes:
  - Budalur and Tiruvaiyaru taluks of Thanjavur district,
  - strengthen Nandan canal in Villupuram district, and
  - construct seven check dams between Bhavanisagar dam and Kalingarayan anicut in Erode district.
- ❖ The seven check dams will come up at various locations of Bhavani river and its tributaries over a length of 69km.
- ❖ The proposed artificial recharge structures will be built in Sathya Mangalam, T N Palayam, Gobichettipalayam and Anthiyur blocks.

## NATIONAL

### Rajya Sabha - Lowest number of sittings

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha sat for just 33 days in 2020, its lowest-ever tally of sittings in a year.
- ❖ Both sessions of Parliament — Budget session and the monsoon session — had to be cut short due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The Budget session was scheduled to have 31 sittings but it was brought to a close after 23 sittings.

- ❖ Similarly, the monsoon session, which was to have 18 sittings amidst strict restrictions, could manage to have only 10.
- ❖ There are only three other occasions when the Upper House sittings were below 50 days in a year.
- ❖ They are 48 in 1999 and 46 each in 2004 and 2008.
- ❖ But during the year 2020, the annual productivity of Rajya Sabha has been 82.7%, the highest annual productivity during the last 11 years.
- ❖ A total of 39 Bills have been passed by the Rajya Sabha during 2020, including 12 during the Budget session and 27 during the monsoon session.



### **World Longest Railway Platform**

- ❖ Karnataka's Hubballi railway station is set to get the world's longest railway platform with dimensions of 1,400 metres length and 10 metres width.
- ❖ Hubballi is the headquarters of South Western Railway (SWR).
- ❖ Gorakhpur railway station in Uttar Pradesh has the longest platform (1366 m) operational now, the second on the list is Kollam Junction (1180 m) in Kerala.



A platform at Gorakhpur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh is World's longest platform , measuring 1,366m (4,483 ft).  
Gorakhpur is the headquarters of North Eastern Railway.

In a ongoing yard remodelling work at Hubballi, Headquarter station of South Western Railway, a 1400m, platform is planned .

### **Dadasaheb Phalke South Awards 2020**

- ❖ The winners of Dadasaheb Phalke Awards South 2020 have been announced for Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam films.
- ❖ From the Tamil film industry, Dhanush has bagged the Best Actor award for his performance in Asuran, while Jyothika won the Best Actress award for the film Raatchasi.
- ❖ Parthiban has been awarded Best Director for his remarkable film Oththa Seruppu Size 7.
- ❖ Ajith won the Most Versatile Actor in Tamil films.

## DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARDS SOUTH - 2020

### WINNER LIST




DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARDS SOUTH 2020	
TAMIL	
Best Film	To Let
Best Actor	Dhanush ( Asuran)
Best Actress	Jyothika (Raatchasi)
Best Director	R Parthiepan(Oththa Seruppu Size 7)
Best Music Director	Anirudh Ravichander
Most Versatile Actor	Ajith Kumar

## INTERNATIONAL

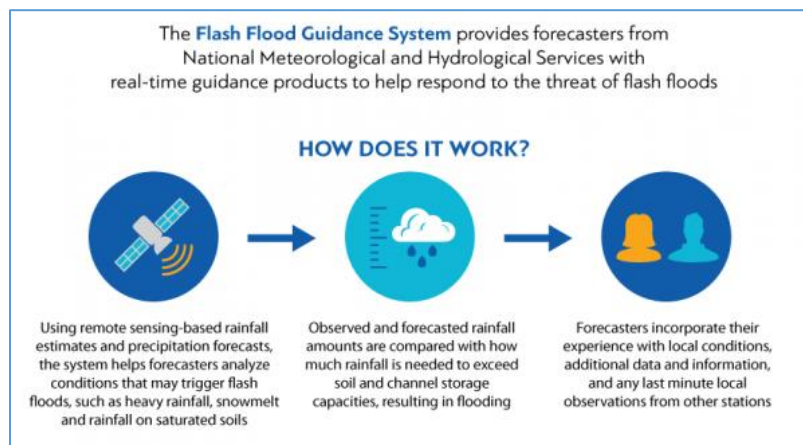
### Asia Protected Areas Partnership

- ❖ India has been chosen as the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for a period of three years till 2023.
- ❖ India will replace South Korea.
- ❖ The APAP is chaired by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Asia.



### Flash Flood Guidance Services

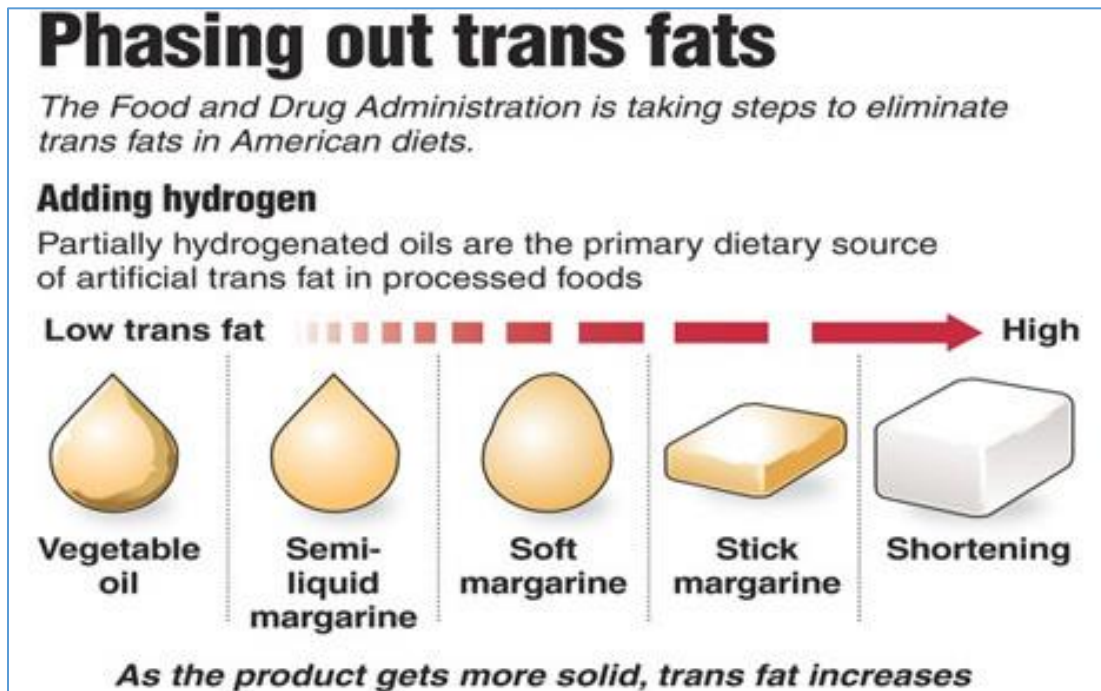
- ❖ India launched this service for South Asia.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is a robust system designed by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Trans Fat levels

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently announced that all edible refined oils, vegetable fat spreads, Vanaspati, margarines, Bakery shortening and mixed fat spreads can contain only 3% or less trans fats.
- ❖ It also aims at reducing it to 2% by the year 2022.
- ❖ India in 2011 had first passed a regulation which had set a limit of 10%.
- ❖ It was further reduced to 5% in 2015.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has called for global elimination of trans fat by 2023.
- ❖ The trans fats are created artificially during the hydrogenation process of vegetable oils.
- ❖ They result in partially hydrogenated vegetable oils.
- ❖ These partially hydrogenated vegetable oils are the major source of Trans fats.
- ❖ Consumption of Trans fats results in heart diseases.
- ❖ India has the highest burden of heart diseases due to high trans-fat in the world.





## ENVIRONMENT

### **Mathikettan Shola National Park**

- ❖ One-kilometre area surrounding the Mathikettan Shola National Park was declared as ESZ.
- ❖ The notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Environment Protection Act 1986.
- ❖ Mathikettan Shola National Park is situated in the high ranges of southern Western Ghats in Kerala.
- ❖ It is the last remnant of the original forests of the Cardamom Hill Reserve.
- ❖ It shares an inter-state boundary with Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The area earmarked for the construction of the Neutrino Observatory is in Theni.
- ❖ It is the east side of Mathikettan Shola National Park.
- ❖ This area will not be an ESZ.
- ❖ Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ❖ The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- ❖ They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

