

January - 01

TNPSC BITS

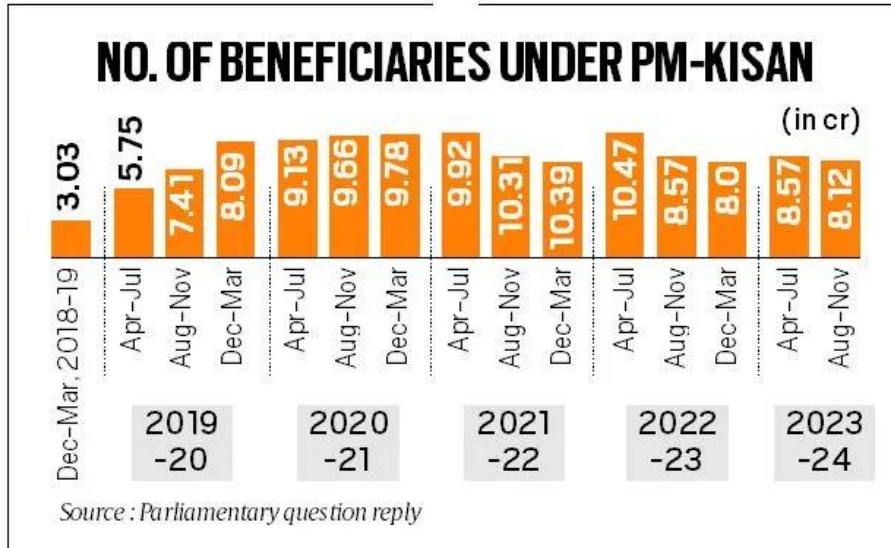
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Kerala Chief Ministers jointly released a souvenir to mark the centenary celebrations of Vaikom Satyagraha at Chennai.
- ❖ The Centre appointed Nina Singh as the Director General of CISF.
 - It is making her the first woman to head this elite force.
- ❖ President of India has nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna of the Supreme Court as Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ❖ Around 1,300 tabla players performed at the 99th International Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.
 - It has entered the Guinness World Records for achieving the “largest tabla ensemble”.
- ❖ Sports entrepreneur Vita Dani has become the first Indian to be inducted as a governing board member of the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation.
- ❖ P Indira Devi, ICAR Emeritus professor at Kerala agricultural university (KAU) was conferred with the title of the Indian society of agricultural economics (ISAE) fellow 2023.
- ❖ Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu, the newly appointed Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council, was honored with the prestigious "Man of the Year-2023."
- ❖ The Ayodhya railway junction was given a new name as Ayodhya Dham.
- ❖ Jacques Delors, a former head of the EU Commission and key figure in the creation of the euro currency, has passed away recently.
- ❖ India has made its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil obtained from the UAE.
 - It is marking a significant move in the country's initiative to promote the global use of its local currency.

NATIONAL

PM-KISAN Scheme beneficiaries

- ❖ The number of PM-Kisan beneficiaries are dropped by over 20 per cent to 8.12 crore now from a peak of 10.47 crore in April-July 2022.
- ❖ The government has added back 34 lakh farmers under the “saturation drive”.

- ❖ Of the 34 lakh, Uttar Pradesh accounts for the most — 8.50 lakh.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan 2.39 lakh, Manipur 2.27 lakh, Jharkhand 2.2 lakh, and Maharashtra 1.89 lakh.



Women in Ayushman Bharat Yojana



- ❖ Women account for approximately 49% of the total Ayushman cards created and approximately 48% of total authorised hospital admissions.

- ❖ Ayushman cards are made under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri — Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ Currently as per the government figures 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12 crore families are covered under the scheme.
- ❖ Approximately 28.45 Crore Ayushman Cards have been created since the inception of the scheme.
- ❖ Of that, approximately 9.38 crore Ayushman Cards have been created during the year 2023.

INTERNATIONAL

Colombo Security Conclave

- ❖ India's National Security Adviser (NSA), Ajit Doval, took part in the sixth NSA meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- ❖ The meeting also included member-states, Mauritius and Sri Lanka, and observer-states, Bangladesh and Seychelles.
- ❖ The organisation came into its own in 2011, with Sri Lanka joining India and the Maldives for a trilateral maritime security grouping.
- ❖ In 2020, India expressed interest in expanding the CSC to Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Bangladesh.



Venezuela and Guyana Land Dispute

- ❖ Venezuela and Guyana have agreed not to use force or threaten one another in their long-standing dispute over a border region.
- ❖ Both countries planned to meet again in Brazil within the next three months to resolve any outstanding issues.

- ❖ Venezuela insists Essequibo should be under its control because it was within its borders during the Spanish colonial period.
- ❖ But Guyana says a border drawn by international arbitrators in 1899 means it is part of Guyana.
- ❖ Guyana argues the controversy should be resolved by the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands.
- ❖ While Venezuela says the court does not have jurisdiction.

LATIN AMERICA

Disputed Essequibo region

Venezuela will hold a referendum on Sunday on whether to establish a new state in the disputed Essequibo region, an oil-rich territory long ruled by Guyana.



ECONOMY

Iron Ore Exports to China

- ❖ China has emerged the highest buyer of iron ore from India with nearly 24.75 million tonnes (mt) being exported for April-November period (eight months).
- ❖ This is the highest export to China in absolute terms in over the last three years, and second highest since FY20.
- ❖ So far, this fiscal, nearly 95 per cent of India's iron ore shipments have gone to China.

- ❖ From 18.15 mt for 8 months of FY20 or 76 per cent of total shipments, it shot up to 92 per cent of at 35.19 mt in FY21 - the highest in absolute numbers.

The dragon's share

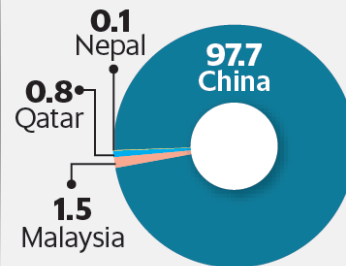
India's iron-ore exports to China jumped 10 times in Dec from Nov to \$153 mn, which was 98% of its total iron ore exports.

Iron ore exports from India (\$ mn)

	Nov	Dec	Change (%)
China	14.26	153	972.9
Malaysia	0	2.27	0
Qatar	0.67	1.28	91
Nepal	0.03	0.1	233.3

Source: commerce and industry ministry

Share of total iron ore exports (%)



Trend and Progress of Banking in India

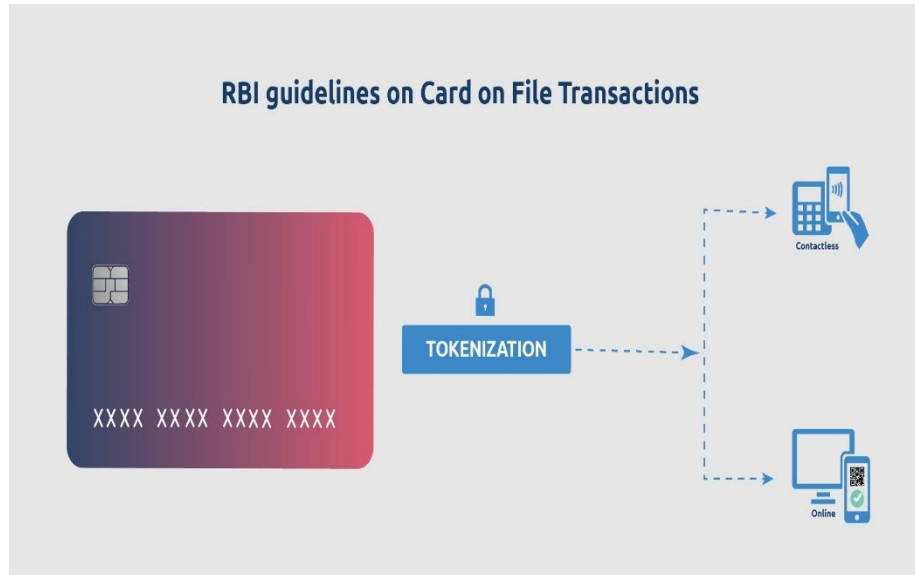
STRESS TEST FINDINGS

- Net non-performing assets hit record low of **0.8%**
- Under baseline scenario, gross NPA ratio may improve to **3.1%** by Sept
- Capital position will be at **12.2%** under severe stress scenario, well above the minimum capital requirement
- The recent increase in risk weights of select retail loan categories may have implications for NBFC credit growth
- Contagion risks warrant monitoring due to increased inter-bank exposure

- ❖ Indian banks' gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio fell to 3.2 per cent at the end of September.
- ❖ The GNPA ratio for Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) dropped to 3.9% at the end of March 2023.
- ❖ The report also highlighted that commercial banks' consolidated balance sheet grew by 12.2% in 2022-23, the highest in nine years.

- ❖ At the end of September 2023, the capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of SCBs stood at 16.8 percent.

Card-on-file tokenisation



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now enabled card-on-file tokenisation (CoFT) through card issuing banks and institutions.
- ❖ It aims to enhance convenience for cardholders to get tokens created and linked to their existing accounts with various e-commerce applications.
- ❖ The card details when stored with a merchant is known as card-on-file (CoF).
- ❖ This free availability of information was used to compromise the safety of financial data of users.
- ❖ RBI introduced the rule of tokenisation in Sep 2021 where instead of card details, a specially created token is saved with the merchant.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SLIM Mission - Japan

- ❖ Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft entered into orbit around the moon recently.
- ❖ If the landing attempt succeeds, Japan will become only the fifth country to soft-land a robotic craft on the natural satellite.
- ❖ By sacrificing some time, SLIM could be more fuel-efficient.
- ❖ SLIM is the second Japanese attempt this year to soft-land on the moon.

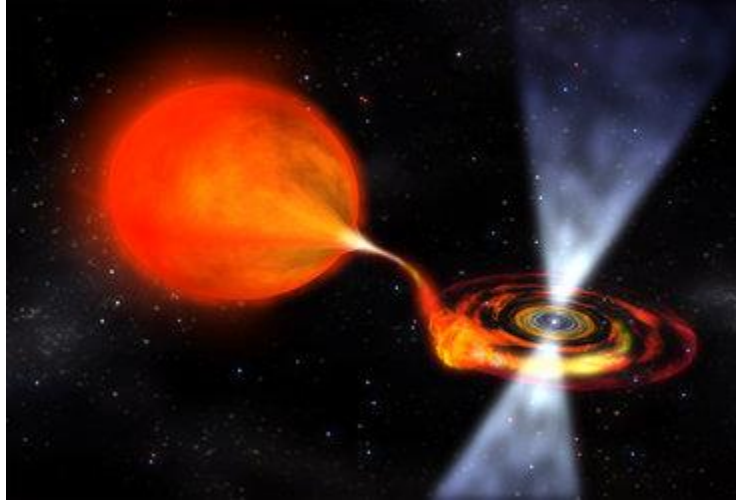
- ❖ The HAKUTO-R M1 lander, built by Japanese company ispace, crashed in late April.



Bright sub-second X-ray bursts

- ❖ AstroSat, has detected bright sub-second X-ray bursts from a new and unique neutron star with an ultrahigh magnetic field (magnetar).
- ❖ This is expected to help understand the intriguing extreme astrophysical conditions of magnetars.
- ❖ One of the key findings was the detection of 67 short sub-second X-ray bursts, with an average duration of 33 milliseconds.

- ❖ Of these bursts, the brightest one lasted for about 90 milliseconds.
- ❖ AstroSat is the India's first multi-wavelength space-based observatory.
- ❖ Magnetars are neutron stars having an ultrahigh magnetic field that are much stronger than the terrestrial magnetic field.



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