



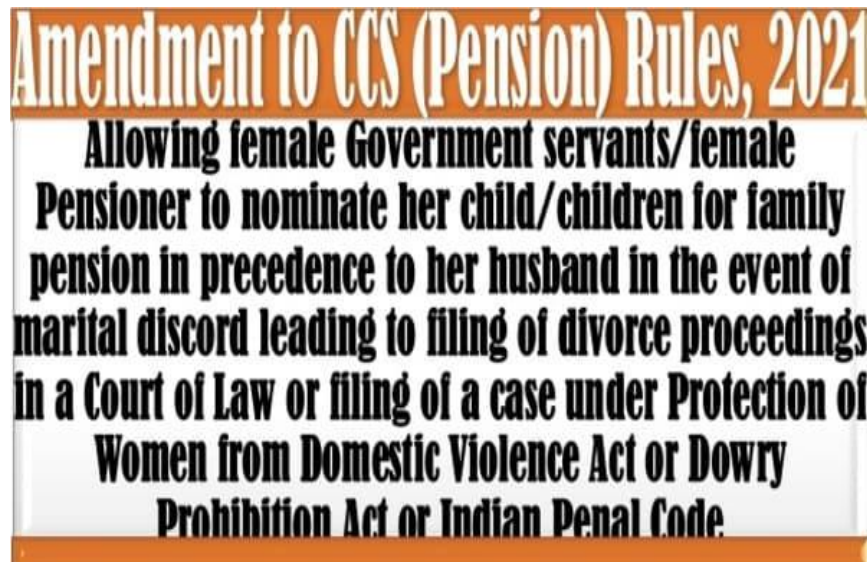
January - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Recently, the Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (DFRP) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam in Chengalpattu district was dedicated to the nation by PM Modi.
 - It is the first industrial-scale plant in the world that is capable of handling both carbide and oxide spent fuels from fast reactors.
- ❖ Françoise Bettencourt Meyers has become the first woman in the world to be worth over \$100 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh's first floating airconditioned restaurant run by UPSDTC, was inaugurated on Yamuna River.

NATIONAL

Amendment of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 2021



- ❖ The Indian Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions announced that the provisions of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 (CCS) have been amended.
- ❖ It will be allowing the female government employees to nominate their child or children for the family pension in place of their husband if divorce proceedings are pending or a case has been filed against their spouse.



- ❖ Till now, the rules provided for the family pension to first go to the surviving spouse and the children became eligible to receive it only after the death of the spouse.

Exchange of nuclear installations 2024

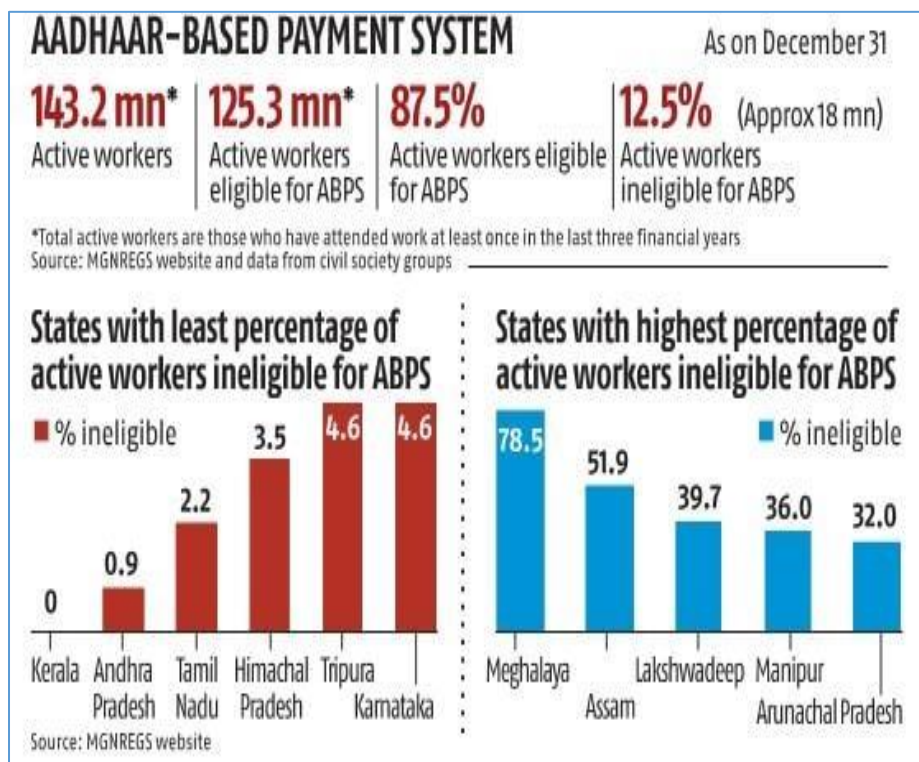
- ❖ India and Pakistan on January 1 exchanged a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral pact.
- ❖ This pact prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ It mandates the two countries to inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.
- ❖ The first one is having taken place on January 1, 1992.
- ❖ Also, the lists of prisoners were exchanged.
- ❖ Totally 231 Indian prisoners in Pakistan, including 47 civilian prisoners and 184 fishermen.
- ❖ There are a total of 418 Pakistanis in Indian jails, including 337 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen.”



Aadhaar-based payment system for MGNREGS

- ❖ It is a method of disbursing payments to MGNREGA workers using their unique 12-digit Aadhaar number as their financial address.

- ❖ The Workers will get exemption on a case-to-case basis from the Aadhaar-based payment system of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ❖ 34.8% of the registered workers and 12.7% of active workers remain ineligible for this mandatory payment method.
- ❖ Total number of registered job cards is 14.32 crore, out of which just 9.77 crore (68.22%) is active job cards.
- ❖ There is a total of 25.25 crore workers, out of which just 14.32 crore (56.83%) are active workers.
- ❖ Since April 2022 to till date, about 2.85 crore job cards have been deleted by following the due process by the states.



INTERNATIONAL

India at Square Kilometre Array Observatory

- ❖ India has joined a mega project – Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).
- ❖ The SKAO is not a single telescope but an array of thousands of antennas, to be installed in remote radio-quiet locations in South Africa and Australia.
- ❖ It will operate as one large unit meant to observe and study celestial phenomena.

- ❖ Some of the countries taking part in building the SKA include the UK, Australia, South Africa, Canada, China, France, India, Italy and Germany.



ECONOMY

PLI to Ola



Cos need to have 50% domestic value addition in products to be eligible for sops

 Can start claiming incentives from day of receiving certification for sales in **2023-24**

A promotional graphic for the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. It features a yellow Ola e-scooter on the right. On the left, there is a light blue background with text. The top part says 'Cos need to have 50% domestic value addition in products to be eligible for sops' in red. Below that, there is an icon of a hand holding three plus signs, followed by the text 'Can start claiming incentives from day of receiving certification for sales in 2023-24'.

- ❖ Ola Electric has become the first Indian e-scooter (e2W) company to get eligible for the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.
- ❖ Ola Electric will get benefits ranging from INR 15,000 to 18,000 per unit.

- ❖ To qualify for this scheme, e-scooter startups need to invest at least Rs 1,000 crore.

ENVIRONMENT

New 'silverline' butterflies

- ❖ A new species of Silverline butterfly *Cigaritis meghamalaiensis* has been discovered at the Meghamalai hills.
- ❖ The species is named after Meghamalai region.
- ❖ It has become the first butterfly species to be described from the Western Ghats in 33 years.
- ❖ A hitherto-unreported taxon was last described from the Western Ghats in 1990 – *Eurema (Terias) nilgiriensis* (Yata, 1990), or the Sahyadri Grass Yellow (Nilgiri grass yellow).



New Frog genera

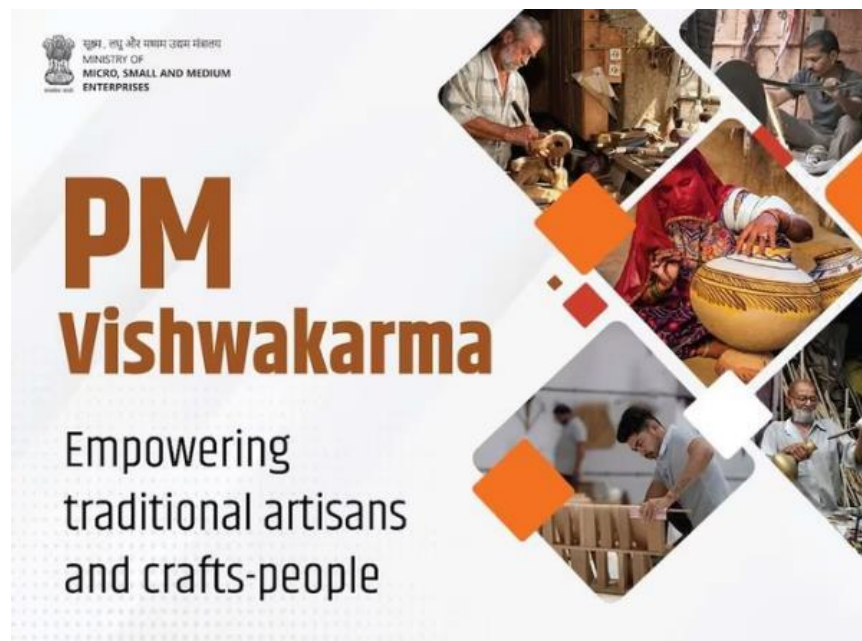
- ❖ Researchers have identified three new-to-science frog genera in the biodiverse hotspot of the Namdapha-Kamlang landscape in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The first discovery, *Gracixalus patkaiensis*, is a green frog that's almost transparent.
- ❖ The second frog, named *Alcalus fontinalis*, more than a decade after the last species in the genus discovered.
- ❖ The newest and the third frog to be discovered is found in marshy areas and is named after the Noa-Dihing river.
- ❖ This "music frog" is named *Nidirana noadihing*.

- ❖ The scientific records of amphibian species in India, which began in 1799 with five species being described, now have around 470 amphibian species.



STATES

Vishwakarma Yojana in J&K



- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana.

- ❖ This initiative aims to empower and enhance the skills of the craftsman community.
- ❖ It recognises artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificates and ID cards.
- ❖ The scheme includes basic training of five to seven days, advanced training of 15 days or more, a stipend of ₹500 per day.
- ❖ It also provides a free modern toolkit worth ₹15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas.

End of Free Movement Regime



- ❖ The Union government is all set to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border.
- ❖ Then, People living in border areas, who could cross over to India, will require visas.
- ❖ India and Myanmar share an unfenced border, and people on either side have familial and ethnic ties, which prompted the arrangement in the 1970s.
- ❖ It was last revised in 2016.
- ❖ Under the FMR, every member of the hill tribes, who is either a citizen of India or a citizen of Myanmar, and who resides within 16 km on either side of the border, can cross the border on production of a border pass.
- ❖ This pass usually valid for a year, and they can stay for up to two weeks per visit.



- ❖ India shares a 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar, which passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Youth Award 2024



- ❖ Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has selected Bisathi Bharat of Anantapur district for the National Youth Award.
- ❖ It was conferred annually to individuals and voluntary organisations serving in the arena of youth development.
- ❖ The award will be presented during the 27th National Youth Day to be observed on January 12.

MISCELLANEOUS

On-time performance review of 2023

- ❖ Hyderabad and Bengaluru airports have bagged the global second and third rank in the list.
- ❖ IndiGo stood fourth best among Asia Pacific airlines with over 82 per cent on-time arrivals.

- ❖ Kolkata airport stood ninth in the medium airports category.
- ❖ St Paul airport in Minneapolis, US, took the top spot among global airports, ahead of Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
- ❖ Avianca Airlines of Colombia was the first among global airlines for punctuality.

The top performing global airports of 2023 were:

Airport	On time ranking	On time departure	Total flights
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)	1	84.44%	289,817
Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD)	2	84.42%	168,426
Kempegowda International Airport (BLR)	3	84.08%	237,461
El Dorado International Airport (BOG)	4	84.01%	292,486
Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC)	5	83.99%	226,705

