

January - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The newly-inaugurated Mopa International Airport in Goa has been named after former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- ❖ Varanasi Cantt railway station awarded 'Eat Right Station' with a 5-star rating certification by FSSAI.
  - This certification is granted by FSSAI to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.

## TAMIL NADU

### Octave 2023

- ❖ Octave 2023 is a festival that celebrating the culture of North-eastern India.
- ❖ It is organised by the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, in Chennai.
- ❖ This festival will enable the residents of Chennai to appreciate the Northeast's culture, diversity and richness.
- ❖ The North-eastern eight States makes up for 4% of our population and 8% of geography of India.



## NATIONAL

### India's First Green Hydrogen Blending Project

- ❖ NTPC Limited and Gujarat Gas Limited have commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project in Surat.

- ❖ Green hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water, using electricity generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power.
- ❖ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board given permission for a 5% vol./vol. blending of green hydrogen with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) initially.
- ❖ The blending level is to be gradually increased to reach 20%.



### **18<sup>th</sup> National Scout and Guide Jamboree**

- ❖ Rajasthan hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> National Scout and Guide Jamboree after a 66-year gap.
- ❖ The Jamboree provide a platform for young scouts to share their customs, food habits, handicrafts, and religious practices with each other.
- ❖ A variety of competitions was also to be organized during the Jamboree.



### **BIND scheme**

- ❖ The Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- ❖ It will focus on expanding and upgrading the infrastructure of Prasar Bharati, as well as improving the digital content and distribution network.
- ❖ As part of the project, Prasar Bharati will also purchase OB vans and digitally upgrade DD and AIR studios to make them HD ready.

- ❖ Currently, DD operates 36 TV channels, including 28 regional channels, while AIR operates over 500 broadcasting centers.
- ❖ The BIND scheme will increase the coverage of AIR FM transmitters in the country to 66% by geographical area and 80% by population, up from 59% and 68%, respectively.

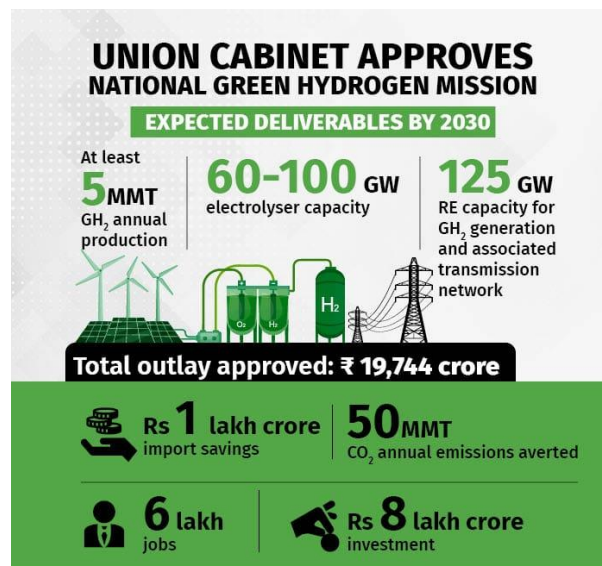
**Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development Scheme**

Cabinet approves Central Sector Scheme 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development' (BIND) with outlay of **Rs. 2,539.61 crore**

**Benefits:**

- ✓ Development of high-quality content for both domestic and international audience
- ✓ Availability of diverse content by upgrading capacity of DTH platform to accommodate more channels
- ✓ Purchase of OB vans and digital upgradation of DD and AIR Studios to make them HD ready

## National Green Hydrogen Mission



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission.

- ❖ This Mission aims to make India a Global Hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ❖ The Mission will facilitate demand creation, production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen.
- ❖ It will help in India becoming energy independent and in Decarbonisation of major sectors of the economy.

### **National Campaign on RISE**

- ❖ The National Campaign on 'RISE - Rising India Through Spiritual Empowerment', was organized by Brahma Kumaris at Mount Abu, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is aimed at spiritually empowering Indian nationals in order to fulfill the dream of a "Golden India."
- ❖ Brahma Kumaris believes that self-transformation leads to world transformation.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Asian Pacific Postal Union**

- ❖ India took over leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union from January 2023.
- ❖ Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh will assume the charge of Secretary General of the Union during India's four-year tenure there.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 32 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.

- ❖ It aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between the member countries and promote cooperation in the field of postal services.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Silent Valley Bird Survey



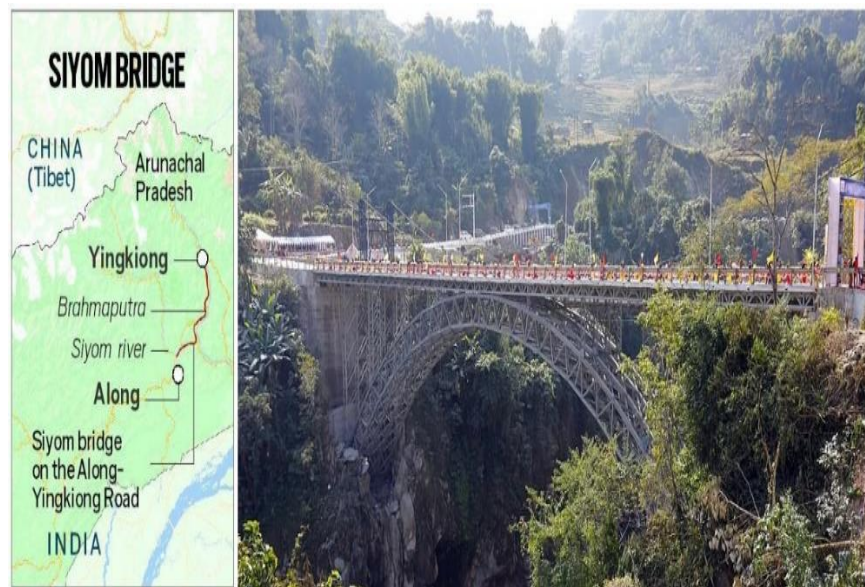
- ❖ A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in the last week of December.
- ❖ The survey marked the 30th anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley.
- ❖ This survey identified 141 species, of which 17 were new.
- ❖ So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.
- ❖ As many as 139 birds had been identified in a survey held in 2006.
- ❖ The number species went up to 142 in the last survey held in 2014.

- ❖ The first survey was held in the last week of December 1990.
- ❖ Silent Valley National Park was first explored by botanist Robert Wight in 1847.
- ❖ The park is located in the vicinity of the Mukurthi peak, the fifth-highest peak in South India.

## STATES

### **Siyom Bridge - Arunachal Pradesh**

- ❖ Recently, the Siyom bridge was inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This infrastructure project was completed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ It is located on the Along-Yinkiong Road.
- ❖ The Siyom bridge will greatly enhance the speed of troop deployment, as well as the transportation of heavy equipment and mechanized vehicles.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### **Astronaut Walter Cunningham**

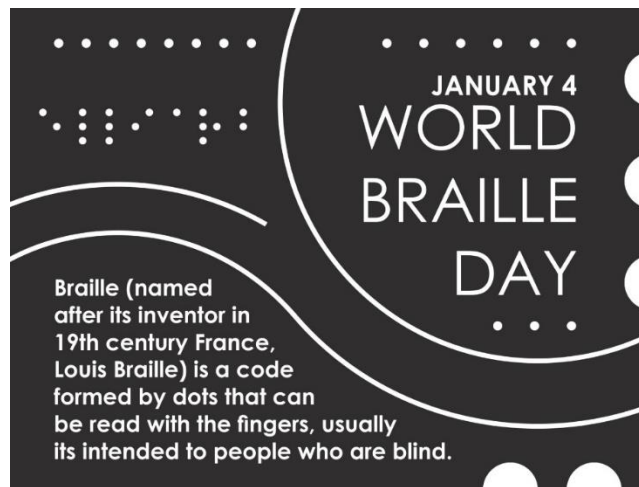
- ❖ Astronaut Walter Cunningham passed away recently.
- ❖ He was the last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission in NASA's Apollo program.
- ❖ He was one of the three astronauts aboard the 1968 Apollo 7 mission.

- ❖ It was NASA's first crewed space mission after unsuccessful Apollo 1 mission.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Braille Day - January 04



- ❖ The day is celebrated to create awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the realization of human rights for the blind.
- ❖ January 4 is birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system.
- ❖ Braille was born in France on January 4, 1809.
- ❖ He developed the system that has allowed blind individuals to read and write, increasing their independence and access to education and employment opportunities.

- ❖ Braille is a system of representing alphabetic and numerical symbols using six raised dots.

### **World Day of War Orphans - January 06**

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about children orphaned in wars, spread information about their plight and emphasise the psychological, social, and physical obstacles that children experience as they grow up.
- ❖ The World Day of War Orphans was founded by the French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses.
- ❖ The day offers communities an opportunity to address the plight of war orphans.
- ❖ Since 2001, the estimated number of war orphans has declined consistently but at a rate of only 0.7 percent per year.

