

January - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 24 states and union territories (UTs) have joined together to set up a total of 1,023 'fast-track special courts' (FTSCs) to dispose of over 1.60 lakh rape cases across the country.
 - The FTSC will be set up as part of National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW).
- ❖ India will erect non-cut steel fence in the sensitive areas of Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
 - The first steel fence is to be erected across 7-km stretch in Assam's Silchar, the border across Bangladesh. After the erection, the border is to be analysed by the BSF (Border Security Force).

NATIONAL

India & Germany - Zero Budget Natural Farming

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Government signed Memorandum of Understanding with a German firm to implement Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in the state.
- ❖ Zero Budget Natural Farming is a chemical-free agricultural farming practice.
- ❖ The Government of India is promoting ZBNF through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana since 2015-16.
- ❖ The ZBNF was first adopted by Karnataka.
- ❖ In 2018, Andhra Pradesh was the first state to introduce an ambitious plan of 100% of natural farming in the state by 2024.

International recognition for Indian airports

- ❖ Airports Authority of India (AAI) has announced that 4 Indian airports have received international recognition for reducing the carbon emission level.
- ❖ The standards were set by Airports Council International (ACI) for the grading.
- ❖ The 4 airports are as follows:
 - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (West Bengal)
 - Biju Patnaik International Airport (Odisha)
 - Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (Uttar Pradesh)
 - Trivandrum International Airport (Kerala).



Operation Sankalp

- ❖ Indian Navy has commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named Op SANKALP, in the Gulf region.
- ❖ This operation has to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ The operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including
 - Ministry of Defence,
 - Ministry of External Affairs,
 - Ministry of Shipping,
 - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

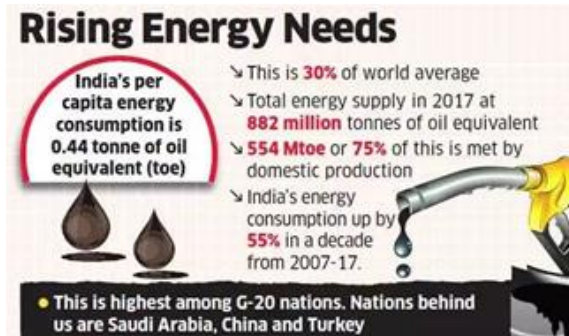
Green Credit Scheme

- ❖ The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has approved a scheme.
- ❖ It allows “forests” to be traded as a commodity.
- ❖ It allows the Forest Department to outsource one of its responsibilities of reforestation to non-government agencies.
- ❖ FAC is an apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial ends.
- ❖ Previously in 2015, a ‘Green Credit Scheme’ for degraded forest land with public-private participation was recommended.
- ❖ But it wasn’t approved by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), who is the final authority.

India’s Energy Policy Report

- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) launched India’s Energy Policy Report.
- ❖ The report insisted that India should adopt NITI Aayog’s National Energy Policy.
- ❖ IEA released its “India Report 2020”, in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The report also said that the oil demand of India will overtake China by mid-2020.
- ❖ It also said that India is the third largest consumer of oil after China and United States.
- ❖ India is the fourth largest oil refiner in the world.

- ❖ The products mainly include diesel and gasoline.



INTERNATIONAL

Nepal's Seke Language

- ❖ Near-extinct Nepalese language 'Seke' has just 700 speakers around the world.
- ❖ Seke means golden language.
- ❖ It is one of the over 100 indigenous languages of Nepal.
- ❖ The Seke language has been retreating due to Nepali which is Nepal's official language.
- ❖ Seke considered to be a definitely endangered language under UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.
- ❖ United Nations (UN) observed that 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Degree of endangerment	Intergenerational Language Transmission
safe	language is spoken by all generations; intergenerational transmission is uninterrupted >> not included in the Atlas
vulnerable	most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains (e.g., home)
definitely endangered	children no longer learn the language as mother tongue in the home
severely endangered	language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves
critically endangered	the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently
extinct	there are no speakers left >> included in the Atlas if presumably extinct since the 1950s

ECONOMY

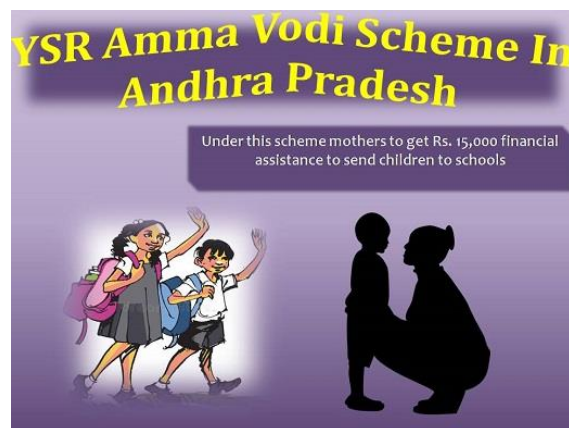
V-CIP for KYC

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the first time has introduced Aadhaar-based Video Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).
- ❖ This process will allow banks and other lenders to complete the KYC (Know Your Customer) process of customers on video itself.
- ❖ This facility can be used as an alternative to the already available e-KYC facility.
- ❖ To introduce V-CIP, RBI has amended guidelines under the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005.

STATES

Amma Vodi scheme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Amma Vodi Scheme in Chittoor.
- ❖ The scheme aims at benefitting school students (includes both public and private schools) studying in classes I to XII.
- ❖ Under the scheme, these students belonging to Below Poverty Line will get Rs 15,000 per annum.
- ❖ However, the guardian or mother of the child should ensure 75% attendance of the child.
- ❖ The State Government has allocated Rs 6318 crores under the scheme.
- ❖ The amount is to be directly transferred to the accounts of the mothers till the children complete their Class 12 education.





Arunachal Pradesh - new logo for the state

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly adopted a new logo which will reflect the distinct identity and culture of the state.
- ❖ The new logo consists of the
 - National Emblem to signify the federal system of the Indian Constitution.
 - Flower foxtail orchid (*Rhynchosytilis retusa*) which represents the state, its people and culture.
 - Blue colour denotes the autonomy of the assembly secretariat.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award

- ❖ Agricultural Scientist Dr M S Swaminathan and Social worker Dr. Gutta Muniratnam have been selected as the 1st recipient of the Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence.
- ❖ The award was given at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana.



Prof.M.S.Swaminathan

Dr.G.Muniratnam

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hindi Day – January 10

- ❖ World Hindi day is commemorated every year to promote use of Hindi language abroad.
- ❖ Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad observed the annually.
- ❖ The first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur on January 10, 2006.
- ❖ Hindi is the fifth most spoken language among the total languages spoken in the world.
- ❖ 'National Hindi Day' is celebrated on September 14 every year.
- ❖ The Constituent Assembly gave Hindi the status of official language on September 14, 1949.



MISCELLANEOUS

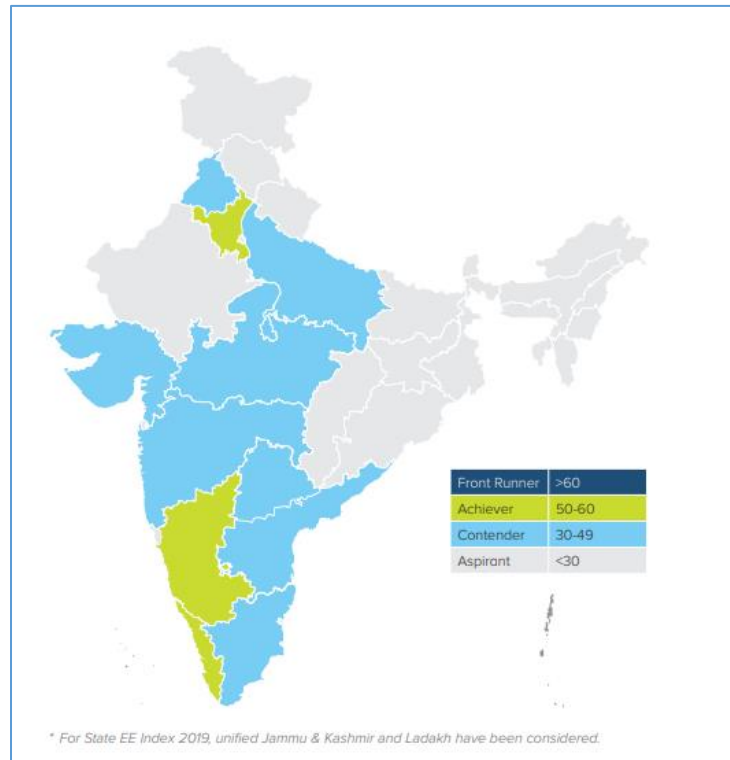
State Energy Efficiency Index - 2019

- ❖ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched the State Energy Efficiency Index, 2019.
- ❖ The report was prepared considering the basic energy requirements such as coal, electricity, gas and oil.
- ❖ The report tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency initiatives in 36 states and Union Territories based on 97 indicators.
- ❖ Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Puducherry were the best performers (Achiever category) according to the report.
- ❖ Manipur, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir were the least performers (Aspirant category).

- ❖ This year, BEE has included Energy Conservation Building Code as one of its indicators.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

- ❖ The BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.



Colonial structures – Kolkata

- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated Old Currency Building, Metcalfe House, Belvedere House and Victoria Memorial Hall of Kolkata to the country.
- ❖ The buildings were renovated by Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ The RBI operated from the Currency building till 1937 after which it was abandoned.
- ❖ The building was named after Lord Metcalfe, the Governor General of India.
- ❖ The Belvedere House was Mir Jafar’s palace.

