

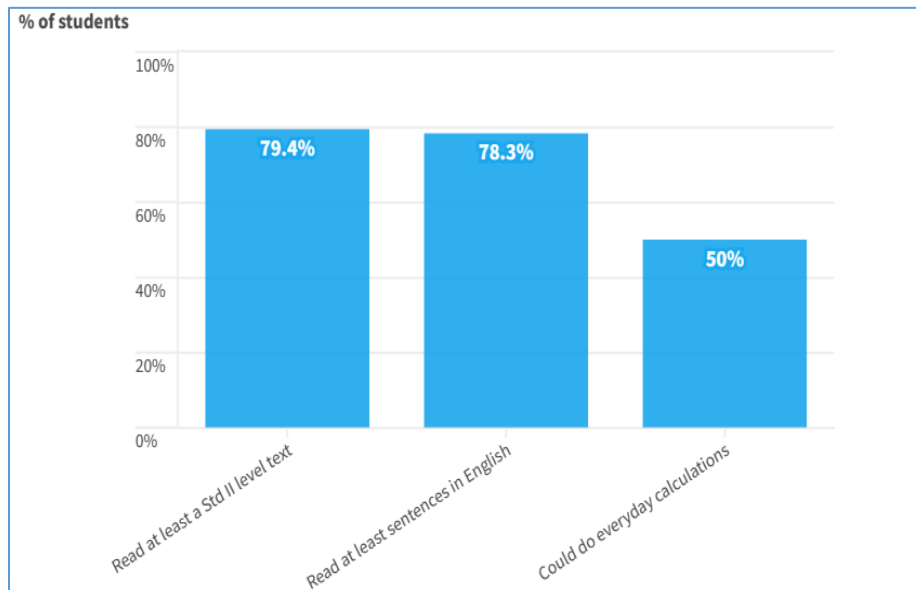
January - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT) Madras has joined hands with Altair to launch an eMobility Simulation Lab.
- ❖ The deployment of artificial reefs off the coast of 42 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram district began recently.
 - The project is meant to boost fish resources and promote sustainable management.
- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has removed the Aadhaar card from the list of documents acceptable as date of birth (DOB) proof.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma overtook Glenn Maxwell and Suryakumar Yadav in the list of players with the most centuries (5) in T20 internationals.
- ❖ England's Sue Redfern is set to become the first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire to stand in a bilateral series during the upcoming WT20I between Australia and South Africa.

TAMIL NADU

Beyond Basics' survey - Perambalur

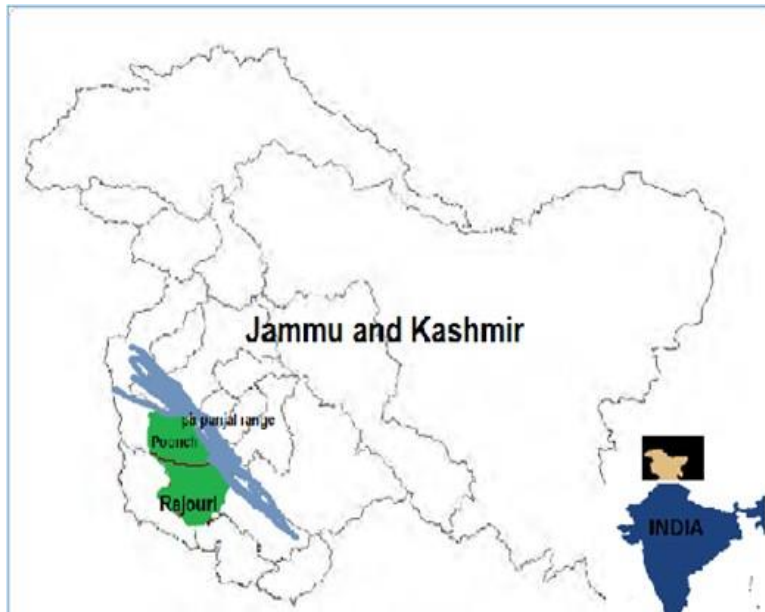


- ❖ The ASER 2023 'Beyond Basics' survey was conducted in 28 districts across 26 states.

- ❖ The survey found that 97.2% of youth aged 14-18 were enrolled in some form of formal education institutions.
- ❖ Of that 70.3% youth were enrolled in government institutions.
- ❖ It showed that under a quarter of the teens surveyed could not read a Class II-level text in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ While the all-district average indicated that 25% of teens could not read a Class-II text, in Perambalur district.
- ❖ 2.8% of the youth was not enrolled anywhere, and this was found to be higher among 17-18-year-olds as compared to the 14-16 age group.
- ❖ Among those aged 17-18, 12.4% males were not enrolled in any formal education institutions as compared to 4% females.
- ❖ Additionally, 16.4% were engaged in some work.
- ❖ Among all teens aged 14-18 years in Perambalur, 52.1% could do at least division and 78.3% could read at least sentences in English.
- ❖ Against the average of 63% who could perform digital tasks, Tamil Nadu stood at 68.3%.

NATIONAL

Operation Sarvashakti



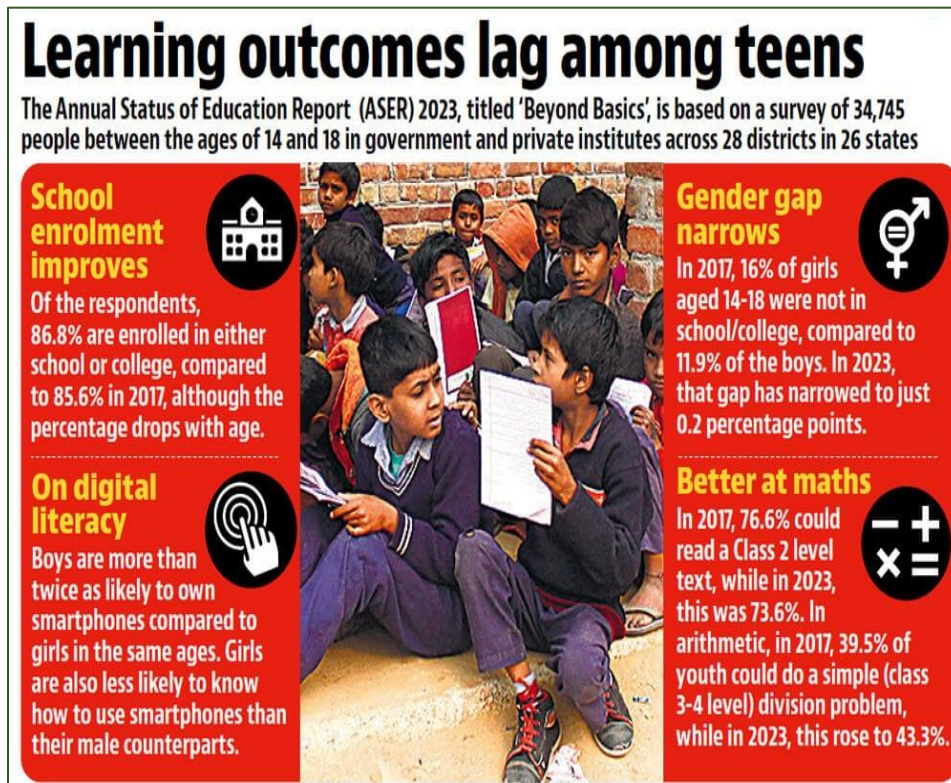
- ❖ Indian Army is launching a large-scale counter-terror operation — Operation Sarvashakti.

- ❖ It raided the Poonch-Rajouri region to flush out terrorists that have been hiding and spreading reign of terror in the forested region.
- ❖ The operation is reportedly modelled after Operation Sarp Vinash, conducted in 2003-04 in the same region.

2023 ASER Survey – Key Findings

Learning outcomes lag among teens

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, titled 'Beyond Basics', is based on a survey of 34,745 people between the ages of 14 and 18 in government and private institutes across 28 districts in 26 states



- School enrolment improves** (School icon): Of the respondents, 86.8% are enrolled in either school or college, compared to 85.6% in 2017, although the percentage drops with age.
- Gender gap narrows** (Gender icon): In 2017, 16% of girls aged 14-18 were not in school/college, compared to 11.9% of the boys. In 2023, that gap has narrowed to just 0.2 percentage points.
- On digital literacy** (Smartphone icon): Boys are more than twice as likely to own smartphones compared to girls in the same ages. Girls are also less likely to know how to use smartphones than their male counterparts.
- Better at maths** (Maths icon): In 2017, 76.6% could read a Class 2 level text, while in 2023, this was 73.6%. In arithmetic, in 2017, 39.5% of youth could do a simple (class 3-4 level) division problem, while in 2023, this rose to 43.3%.

- ❖ This year's survey puts the spotlight on youth aged 14 to 18 years in rural India which was last studied in the 2017 survey.
- ❖ Around 30% are already working, often for their parents.
- ❖ About one in four children in the 14-18 age group still cannot read a Std II-level text fluently in their regional language.
- ❖ Across enrolment categories, girls do better than boys in this respect.
- ❖ More girls aspire to continue studying after class 12 than boys.
- ❖ More than half struggle with division (3-digit by 1-digit) problems, a skill that is usually expected in Std III or IV.
- ❖ About 57% can read sentences in English; more than 73% among them can also tell their meanings.
- ❖ Boys do better than girls in both arithmetic and English reading.

- ❖ About 90% of surveyed households had smartphones.
- ❖ Of the surveyed children, almost 95% boys and 90% girls could use a smartphone.
- ❖ The 'basic' ASER survey was first implemented in 2005 and is conducted annually until 2014.
- ❖ Since, 2014, it switched to an alternate-year cycle in 2016.

INS Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir

- ❖ Indian Navy Ships Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir were decommissioned on 12 Jan 2024 after rendering four decades of glorious service to the nation.
- ❖ Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir were built at Gdynia Shipyard, Poland as Polnocny class Landing Ships.
- ❖ They were commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1984, 1985 and 1986 respectively.



3

150 years of IMD

- ❖ On the occasion of India Meteorological Department (IMD) 150th year of establishment, it launched various initiatives.
- ❖ IMD launched a national framework of climate services (NFCS) to protect critical sectors through climate monitoring.
- ❖ It also launched Panchayat Mausam Sewa, a nationwide service to forecast weather at panchayat levels.

- ❖ IMD aims to reach every household with weather information through initiatives like mobile App and decision support system (DSS).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New nuclear batteries



- ❖ Betavolt, a Chinese startup, has developed a battery capable of powering smartphones for an impressive 50 years without requiring recharging.
- ❖ It is termed as the world's first miniaturized atomic energy system.
- ❖ This nuclear battery utilizes 63 nuclear isotopes compactly arranged within a module smaller than a coin.

- ❖ After the decay period, the 63 isotopes transform into a stable, non-radioactive isotope of copper, posing no environmental threat or pollution.

ENVIRONMENT

Double Cicada Explosion

- ❖ A double cicada emergence is on the cards this year, a rarity that is happening after 221 years.
- ❖ Two broods of cicadas will explode from the ground at the same time: Brood XIII and Brood XIX.
- ❖ Typically, the insects emerge from underground every 13 or 17 years, depending on the brood.
- ❖ But this year, both these broods will emerge together.
- ❖ This rare joint explosion of cicadas last happened in the year 1803, the year the Louisiana Purchase was made.
- ❖ Its next occurrence will happen only 421 years later.
- ❖ Cicadas are insects that spend the early stages of their lives underground.
- ❖ Once fully grown, they emerge in millions for food and to mate.
- ❖ While Brood XIX of cicadas emerges once every 13 years, Brood XIII explodes from the ground every 17 years.



STATES

India's First Dark Sky Park

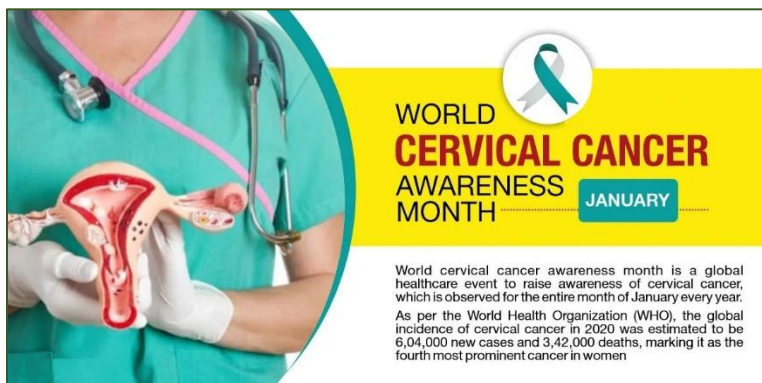
- ❖ The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park.

- ❖ It is the fifth such park in Asia for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.
- ❖ A dark-sky preserve is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that restricts artificial light pollution.
- ❖ The purpose of the dark-sky movement is generally to promote astronomy.
- ❖ Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park is one of the premier tiger reserves of India.
- ❖ It is the first one to span across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month - January



- ❖ This global healthcare event observed for the entire month of January every year, its aim to raise awareness of cervical cancer globally.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Learn. Prevent. Screen".



- ❖ The global incidence of cervical cancer in 2020 was estimated to be 6,04,000 new cases and 3,42,000 deaths.
- ❖ In 2020, nearly 90% of new cases and deaths were reported in low- and middle-income nations.

