

January - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya, secured a bronze medal at the Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane wrestling tournament held in France.
- ❖ The 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- ❖ The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar, has commenced in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is poised to make history by delivering her sixth consecutive Budget, comprising five annual Budgets and one interim.
 - This milestone was previously achieved solely by the former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.
- ❖ The world's first large methanol-enabled container vessel has been named "Ane Mærsk" in South Korea.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is preparing to open its first alcohol store in the capital Riyadh, which will serve exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.

TAMIL NADU

Kazhugumalai rock cut temples



- ❖ The entire hillock housing the famous Vettuvan Koil and the Jain abode at Kazhugumalai is to be declared as 'Protected Archaeological Monument' of the Department of Archaeology.
- ❖ It is known as 'Ellora of Southern India'.

- ❖ Vettuvan Koil of Thoothukudi that translates into ‘Sculptors’ Paradise,’ is a Pandya-era incomplete Hindu cave temple built between 8th and 9th century.
- ❖ The carvings reflect the southern temple style of Pandya-era.
- ❖ The rock-cut temple has 122 sculptures.
- ❖ The Kazhugumalai Jain beds are rock relief sculptures dating back to 8th or 9th century with rock-cut images of ‘tirtankaras’.

NATIONAL

Vijay Raghavan Panel Report



- ❖ This nine-member committee has recently submitted a comprehensive report addressing concerns about the functioning of the DRDO.
- ❖ The DRDO’s role is to be limited to research and development without being involved in developing prototypes or technology demonstrators.
- ❖ Also, any production and further development should be done by selected private players or public sector undertakings.
- ❖ It recommended the setting up of close to 10 national-level laboratory facilities instead of the existing 40 or more DRDO labs across the nation.
- ❖ Besides, the setting up of five national test facilities has also been recommended, which will be open to private players for testing their weapons systems.
- ❖ Limited public awareness and transparency regarding DRDO's activities and achievements leads to negative perception and criticism.
- ❖ Efficient transfer of developed technologies must be from DRDO to private industries for mass production.

- ❖ It suggested the creation of the Department of Defence Science, Technology, and Innovation under the Defence Ministry.

SOTTTER Report of TISS

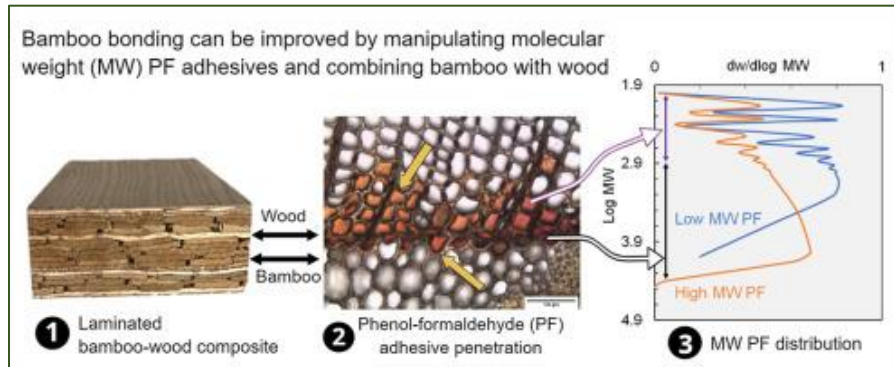
National average number of Schools (*), Teachers and Enrollment ()**

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Total	1,489,115	9,507,123	265,235,830
% rural of total	82.92%	70.09%	69.71%
Government	65.70%	49.25%	51.68%
% of govt in rural	91.97%	85.44%	84.53%
Government (other)	3.31%	2.11%	2.33%
Government Aided (***)	5.54%	8.38%	10.19%
Private	22.55%	37.24%	33.28%
% of private in rural	60.70%	52.22%	50.92%
Madarsa (recognized)	1.34%	0.99%	1.01%
Unrecognized	1.91%	2.03%	1.51%

- ❖ Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) released a report titled "Right Teacher for Every Child: State of Teachers, Teaching, and Teacher Education Report 2023".
- ❖ The study is based on existing available data and survey findings from Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Punjab, Mizoram and Telangana
- ❖ It showed low levels of competency in regional language among primary school teachers.
- ❖ 90% of teachers hold some kind of professional certification.
- ❖ Only 46% of primary school teachers were found to possess the necessary professional certification.
- ❖ In many states, the private sector employs 40% or more of the teaching workforce.
- ❖ These schools typically have better facilities (like libraries, computer labs and internet access — 76% in private schools vs only 38% in government schools.
- ❖ More than 50% of teachers in private or non-government schools said that they are working without written contracts.
- ❖ The Government schools also reported a high proportion (41%) of unsupportive parents.

- ❖ Provisioning of physical education teachers was overall low with 36 per cent in government schools and 65 per cent private schools.
- ❖ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, (2009) mandates a student-teacher ratio at the school level of 30:1 for Classes 1 to 5, and 35:1 for Classes 6 to 8.

Technology on Bamboo Composites



- ❖ During the second day of India International Science Festival (IISF 2023), the Know-How Technology on “Bamboo Composites” was transferred to materials manufacturing company.
- ❖ Bamboo composites are materials that blend bamboo fibres with other substances to form composite materials.
- ❖ The bamboo composite product resembles teak wood with better durability & dimensional stability, high strength, density, mechanical strength, fire resistance, moisture resistance, and natural & aesthetic appearance.
- ❖ Within 3-4 years, the bamboo gets matured can be utilised for developing into bamboo composite, unlike teak wood, which requires 30-40 years to grow.
- ❖ Bamboo is also an excellent absorber of CO₂ and releases oxygen in large amount (approximately 35%) which helps to cure global warming.

Guidelines for Green Claims

- ❖ Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has issued its guidelines to prevent false pro-environment claims.
- ❖ The draft guidelines target greenwashing – the deceptive practice of making misleading environmental claims.
- ❖ This will be effective from February 15, 2024, these mandate that green claims in ads are reliable, verifiable and transparent.

- ❖ Ads making relative claims like “greener” or “eco-friendlier” must provide evidence.
- ❖ Ads cannot market legal compliance itself as an environmental achievement.
- ❖ Brands cannot highlight the absence of one damaging component that competitors also lack as an ecological benefit.



ENVIRONMENT

Golden Tiger



- ❖ The 'rarest' golden tiger was captured on camera in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) after three years.
- ❖ A Coimbatore-based tourism professional Gaurav Ramnarayanan captured photo of this tiger.
- ❖ Previously in July 2020, a "golden tiger" was sighted in Kaziranga.

- ❖ The “golden tiger,” was an example of unusual colour aberration, and it could be due to excessive inbreeding.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Customs Day 2024 - January 26



- ❖ This date commemorates the founding of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).
- ❖ This day highlights the importance of customs in facilitating smooth cross-border trade operations.
- ❖ The WCO was formerly known as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), in 1952.
- ❖ WCO's inaugural session took place on January 26, 1953, with 17 participating member nations.
- ❖ Now it has 183 member administrations overseeing nearly 98% of world trade.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose',

International Day of clean energy 2024 - January 26

- ❖ This year January 26 is the first-ever International Day of Clean Energy.

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness and encourage action for a fair and inclusive transition to clean energy that benefits everyone.
- ❖ Adopting clean energy is integral to the fight against climate change.
- ❖ Global clean energy cumulative capacity expected to reach over 4,500 GW by the end of this year.
- ❖ G20 countries account for almost 90% of global clean energy capacity today.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2024 - January 27



- ❖ Germany has been observing it since 1996.
- ❖ In November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day.



- ❖ On January 27, 1945, the forces of the Soviet Union liberated the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- ❖ Some 1.1 million people were killed in Auschwitz, the vast majority (about 90%) of them Jews.

