

March - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The cases of avian influenza (bird flu) are being reported from various parts of Kerala.
 - It is a viral infection that can infect not only birds, but also humans and other animals.
- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) sanctioned the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, Himachal Pradesh to set up a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at the institute.
 - It will be under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

NATIONAL

PM Ujjwala Yojana

- ❖ The government in September, 2019 met the target of eight crore LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- ❖ But, only three States have become kerosene free. These include- Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Union Territories that have become kerosene-free are the Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry.





About

- ❖ It was launched in May 2016.
- ❖ It aims to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to women from below poverty line households.

NPR

- ❖ No document would have to be submitted for the NPR or National Population Register.
- ❖ No one would be declared "D" (doubtful) if they failed to produce such papers.
- ❖ This was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Parliament.
- ❖ The process of collecting information for NPR will start in April 2020 and will be completed by September.
- ❖ NPR will be conducted across India, except Assam as the state has already gone through the National Register of Citizens.
- ❖ The data for National Population Register was collected in 2010 along with the house listing phase of Census of India 2011.

About

- ❖ The NPR is a register of the usual residents of the country.
- ❖ It contains information collected at the local (village/sub-town), subdistrict, district, state and national level under provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- ❖ A usual resident is defined, for the purposes of the NPR, as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more, or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months.
- ❖ The law compulsorily seeks to register every citizen of India and issue a national identity card.
- ❖ The process of updating NPR will be carried out under the aegis of the Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India Under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

NPR and Census

- ❖ While the process of NPR and Census will begin simultaneously, the two databases are not same.
- ❖ The decennial census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India.



- ❖ While NPR only contains demographic information, more details are required for census like information on demography, economic activity, literacy and education, and housing and household amenities besides others.
- ❖ The census is the basis for reviewing the country's progress in the past decade, monitoring the ongoing schemes of the government and plan for the future.

WION's global summit

- ❖ The third edition of WION's (World Is One News) global summit was held in Dubai.
- ❖ Theme: "Navigating and negotiating global imperatives".
- ❖ WION is India's first international news channel dedicated to putting forth India's perspective on impactful global issues.
- ❖ The WION Global Summit is a platform for global leaders to engage in dialogue on a common global agenda.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment bill 2020

- ❖ The amendment aims to protect the successful bidders of insolvent companies from risk of criminal proceedings.
- ❖ The criminal proceedings may be expected from previous promoters of the company.
- ❖ It seeks to remove bottlenecks and streamline the corporate insolvency resolution process.
- ❖ It aims to provide protection to new owners of a loan defaulter company against prosecution for misdeeds of previous owners.

About

- ❖ The IBC, which came into force in 2016, has already been amended thrice.

Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020)

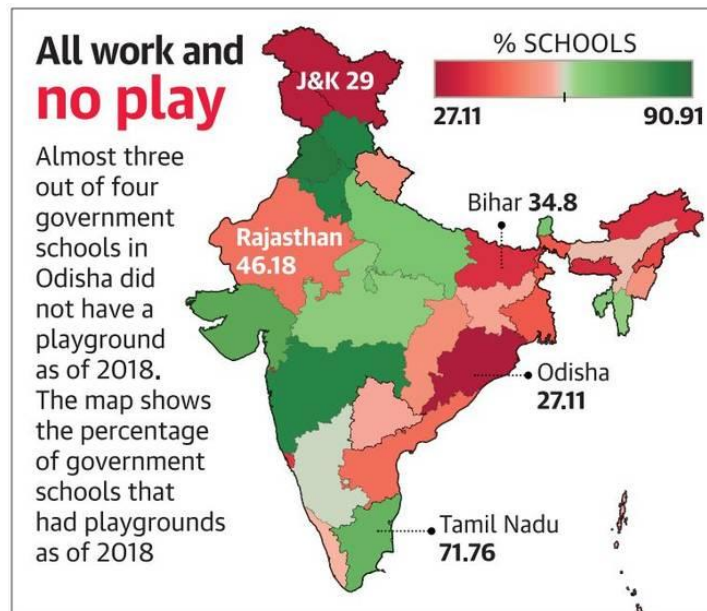
- ❖ National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020) was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in Goa.
- ❖ This is for the first time the 03 pillars of national SAR mechanism i.e. Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Defence, took part in SAREX-20.
- ❖ It had the theme of Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue code named 'HAMSAR'.

- ❖ SAREX exercise is being conducted biennially by Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).



Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2017-18 survey

- ❖ Over 40% government schools don't have power and playgrounds.
- ❖ Only 56% of schools have electricity, with the lowest rates in Manipur and Madhya Pradesh, where less than 20% have access to power.
- ❖ Less than 57% of schools have playgrounds, including less than 30% of schools in Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir.





INTERNATIONAL

International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS)

- ❖ It is a group of senior military leaders, security experts, and security institutions across the globe dedicated to anticipating, analyzing, and addressing the security risks of a changing climate.
- ❖ The launch of the IMCCS was announced at The Hague, Netherlands, in 2019 as a response to a growing demand from military professionals for sharing information and best practices on addressing the security and military dimensions of climate change.
- ❖ The IMCCS is administered by the Centre for Climate and Security.
- ❖ World Climate and Security report is published recently by IMCCS.

ECONOMY

Kisan Rail Scheme

- ❖ The Government of India recently formed a committee in order to make suggestions on Kisan Rail Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2020-21.
- ❖ The Kisan Rail is being launched to set up national cold supply chain in the country.
- ❖ The perishable goods under the scheme are to be transported through freight trains with refrigerated coaches.

ENVIRONMENT

United For Biodiversity

- ❖ The Global Coalition for Biodiversity was launched.
- ❖ The initiative was launched by the European commission.
- ❖ The coalition was named “United for Biodiversity”.



Changes in Snow Cover

- ❖ According to NASA and JAXA findings Winter snow cover is now expected to last for 110 days, down from the 126 days between 1982 and 2014.
- ❖ The patterns of change were visible in maps showing changes in the duration of winter snow cover between 2071 and 2100.
- ❖ This was compared to data from 1982-2014.
- ❖ The largest decline in snow cover was expected between 40- and 50-degrees latitude across North America and Asia.

Hazardous Contamination

- ❖ According to recent update of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there are 128 sites in India contaminated by toxic and hazardous substances.
- ❖ West Bengal led the list with 27 sites followed by Odisha at 23.

CPCB

- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF).
- ❖ It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974.
- ❖ The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- ❖ CPCB has its head office in New Delhi, with seven zonal offices and 5 laboratories.
- ❖ It advises the central government to prevent and control water and air pollution.

