

March - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Taiwan recently launched a “Freedom Pineapple” campaign on Twitter.
  - It was to condemn the ban on the import of pineapples from Taiwan by China.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh has inaugurated the state’s first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko.
- ❖ Sharath Kamal, a professional table tennis player from Tamil Nadu, becomes the first Indian paddler to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

## NATIONAL

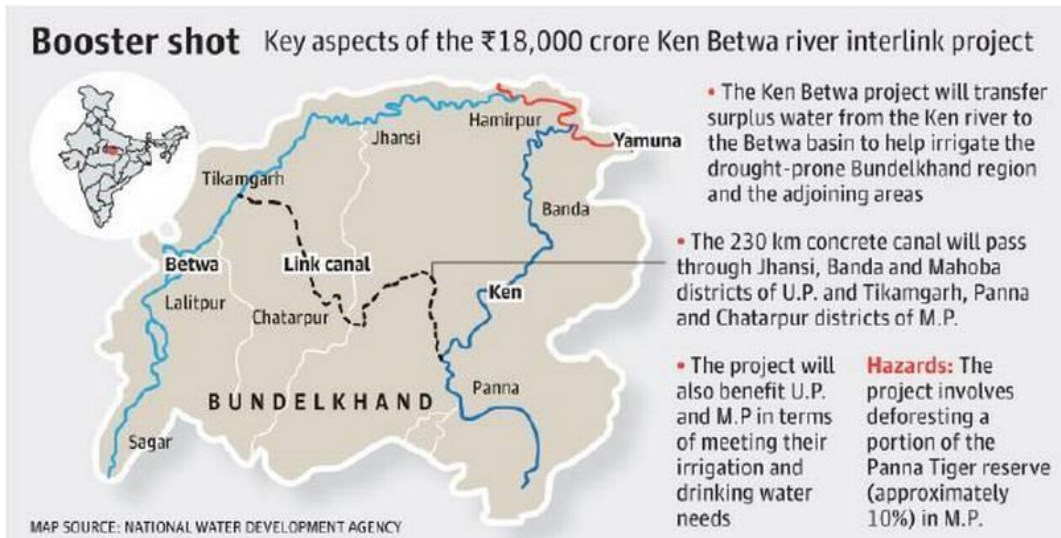
### **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021**

- ❖ It seeks to amend the Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957.
- ❖ It aims to provide for the removal of the distinction between captive and merchant mines.
- ❖ It empowers the central government to issue directions regarding the composition and utilization of funds maintained by the District Mineral Foundation.
- ❖ It allows the centre to reserve any mine (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) to be leased through an auction for a particular end-use (such as iron ore mine for a steel plant).
- ❖ The Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 provides that the states will conduct the auction of mineral concessions (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals).

### **Ken-Betwa Interlinking**

- ❖ The Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have signed a historic agreement to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP).
- ❖ This is the country’s first river interlinking project.
- ❖ The project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
- ❖ Ken and Betwa rivers originate in Madhya Pradesh and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
- ❖ Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.

- ❖ Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve at Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Construction of Daudhan dam will submerge 10% of the critical tiger habitat of Panna Tiger Reserve.



### Gram Ujala Scheme

- ❖ The government of India has launched the “Gram Ujala Scheme” to provide the cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas.
- ❖ It offers the world’s cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a mere ₹10.
- ❖ It also proposes to take back the incandescent and compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs of the rural consumers.
- ❖ The scheme does not come with the government’s support or subsidy.
- ❖ It will be financed entirely through the carbon credits.
- ❖ That will be claimed under the “United Nations’ Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)”.
- ❖ This is the first such scheme in India.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by the Union power and new and renewable energy ministry.
- ❖ In the first phase, the scheme was launched from Arrah district in Bihar.
- ❖ In this phase, around 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed in the villages of Arrah (Bihar), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and western Gujarat.
- ❖ In the year 2014, the previous Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All (Ujala) scheme had cut the LED bulb prices.



- ❖ India is currently the second-largest LED market across the world by value.

**Gram Ujala programme** will provide affordable, high-quality, and long-lasting LED bulbs, which will **positively impact energy** usage and **economies** of rural households.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Patent Cooperation

- ❖ India and Japan have agreed to recognize each other's offices to act mutually as competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) for any international patent application filed with them.
- ❖ This decision was taken during the recent review meet of Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme.
- ❖ The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) is a set of initiatives for providing accelerated patent prosecution procedures by sharing information between some patent offices.

### Global House Price Index

- ❖ India finished last place at 56th rank in the latest global house price index.
- ❖ It was released by Knight Frank.
- ❖ According to the report, markets like New Zealand (19%), Russia (14%), the US (10%), Canada and UK (both 9%) have recorded accelerated growth in rankings.
- ❖ Turkey continues to lead the annual rankings, followed by New Zealand and Slovakia.

### 2011 Istanbul Treaty

- ❖ Turkey has pulled out of the world's first binding treaty to prevent and combat violence against women.
- ❖ The 2011 Istanbul Convention requires governments to adopt a legislation prosecuting domestic violence and marital rape.

- ❖ It is a human rights treaty of the Council of Europe against violence against women.



### **Strongest military force in the world**

- ❖ China has the strongest military force in the world.
- ❖ The USA comes in 2nd place followed by Russia at 3rd place.
- ❖ India stands at number four.
- ❖ This study was released by defence website Military Direct.

## **STATES**

### **Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021**

- ❖ Bihar Cabinet has approved this policy.
- ❖ It became the 1st Indian State to have an ethanol promotion policy.
- ❖ The policy allows the extraction of ethanol from maize.
- ❖ Earlier it was restricted to sugarcane.
- ❖ So far, the government of India has granted permission for ethanol production from B-heavy molasses, C-heavy molasses, grains unfit for human consumption, sugarcane juice, sugar, sugar syrup, surplus rice and maize.

### **Jewel Shops by Karnataka**

- ❖ The Karnataka State government is planning to open jewellery retail outlets.
- ❖ It aims to promote the yellow metal with 'Brand Karnataka' image.

- ❖ It also plans to sell gold coins with the State emblem, Gandaberunda (mythical two-headed bird).
- ❖ Karnataka is the only State in the country that produces gold.
- ❖ The government is planning to modernise the Hutti Gold Mines.
- ❖ The state is also planning to rename Hutti Gold Mines Ltd as Karnataka State (Hutti) Gold Mines Ltd.
- ❖ The State government is planning to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) exclusively for jewellery in Kalyana region for the overall development of the region.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Tomar king Anangpal II**



- ❖ The government has recently formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th-century Tomar king, Anangpal II.
- ❖ Anangpal II was belonged to the Tomar dynasty.
- ❖ They ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana between the 8th and 12th centuries.
- ❖ Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan.



- ❖ Chauhan was defeated by the Ghurid forces in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana).
- ❖ After that war the Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192.
- ❖ The Tomar dynasty shifted its capital in the 8th century, to Dhillikapuri (Delhi) during the reign of Anangpal II.
- ❖ He gave Delhi its present name.

