

November - 02

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Green Building Congress 2020.
  - During this event, the CII launched the GreenPro Ecolabel Standard for Steel Rebars.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad is the first one in India to start paperless e-boarding.
  - This is the first step towards e-boarding facility for international flights.

## TAMIL NADU

### Madurai AIIMS

- ❖ The former ICMR director VM Katoch, who is currently president of JIPMER, has been appointed as the president of the upcoming All India Institute of Medical Sciences project at Thoppur in Madurai.
- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has also appointed TN Dr MGR Medical university VC chancellor Dr Sudha Seshayyan as its member.
- ❖ The oncologist and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) president Shanmugam Subbiah have been appointed as a member.
- ❖ Three more members –two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha -- will be members of the board.

## NATIONAL

### Norms for Mandatory Packaging

- ❖ The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials.
- ❖ As per the decision, 100 percent of food grains and 20 percent of sugar will be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

## INTERNATIONAL

### India-Central Asia Dialogue

- ❖ Recently, India virtually hosted the second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue.
- ❖ An additional USD 1 billion Line of Credit has been given by India for the Central Asian countries.
- ❖ The first meeting of the dialogue was held in Samarkand, the Republic of Uzbekistan in January 2019.
- ❖ It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-Cold war.
- ❖ All the countries participating in the dialogue, except for Turkmenistan, are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.



### Singapore International Arbitration Centre

- ❖ It is a not-for-profit international arbitration organisation based in Singapore.
- ❖ It administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules.
- ❖ Recently, it has given its verdict in Amazon's favour, puts Future-Reliance deal on hold.
- ❖ India was the top user of its arbitration seat with 485 cases being referred to SIAC.
- ❖ India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai.



## **‘Reading between the Lines: What the World Really Thinks of Teachers’ – report**

- ❖ It was released by the UK-based Varkey Foundation.
- ❖ India was sixth in the list to valuing its teaching workforce among 35 countries.
- ❖ China, Ghana, Singapore, Canada, and Malaysia are ahead of India in the list.
- ❖ India's expenditure on education of government spending is 14 per cent.

## **ECONOMY**

### **National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPPMF)**

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India launched the NPPMF.
- ❖ It is envisaged to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.

### **Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities**

- ❖ Niti Aayog released this report.
- ❖ The report says that 92% of customers received electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises.
- ❖ India on an average is receiving 17 hours of electricity per day.
- ❖ Nearly 85% of customers reported to have a metered electricity connection.
- ❖ The households connected to the electricity grid has increased from 59.4% to 100% in the country.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh performed far below than the other utilities.

### **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved this project.
- ❖ These two phases are to be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank and AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).
- ❖ The project aims to rehabilitate 736 dams in India.
- ❖ The project is being implemented by the Central Dam Safety Organization of Central Water Commission.
- ❖ India ranks third after China and USA in number of large dams.
- ❖ There are 5,264 large dams in India and 437 are under construction.

## The 2020 World's Safest Banks


- ❖ The New York-based trade publication Global Finance has announced its 29th annual ranking of the World's Safest Banks.
- ❖ DBS Bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year.
- ❖ Also, DBS Bank is ranked at 4th position as the safest commercial bank in the world.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Singapore.
- ❖ World's Safest Banks 2020: KfW, Germany (Rank1), Zuercher Kantonal bank, Switzerland (Rank2) and BNG Bank, Netherland (Rank3).
- ❖ State Bank of India is the safest bank in India.

Rank	Company Name	Country	Fitch	Moody's	S&P	Total Score
1	KfW	Germany	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30
2	Zuercher Kantonalbank	Switzerland	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30
3	BNG Bank	Netherlands	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30

## STATES

### Dharani Portal

- ❖ The Telangana government launched the Dharani portal.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind in the country for storing digitised land records and registration of properties.
- ❖ Telangana was the first State in the country to use Information Technology in its Revenue Department.

<p><b>Streamlining records</b></p> <p>FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PORTAL BEING CONCEIVED AS PART OF WIDE RANGING REFORMS IN REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.</p>	<p>Chief Minister to launch the portal at Muduchintalapalli in Medak-Malkajgiri district</p>	
	<p>Beneficiaries to get their documents the same day.</p>	<p>Slot booking mandatory for the parties.</p> <p>Dharani to work with seven dedicated servers.</p>
<p>Disaster recovery site being set up outside the State for data safety.</p>		
	<p>Unlike in the past, registration process and mutation of documents to be completed within 10 minutes.</p>	<p>Control room and dedicated staff at the State-level to look into technical issues.</p>
	<p>₹ 57 crore @ ₹ 10 lakh to each mandal released for maintenance of the portal.</p>	
<p>Registrations to continue in spite of absence of tahsildars, naib tahsildars being trained to operate the system.</p>		
<p>More reforms in the offing in Revenue administration in future, says Chief Secretary</p>		

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Third India International Film Festival of Boston

- ❖ Late actor Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in this festival.
- ❖ The Malayalam film Kaanthi won the Best Feature Film Award.
- ❖ The Best Actor Male was won by Victor Bannerjee.
- ❖ The Best Actor Female went to Shylaja Ambu.



### **Keshubhai Patel (1928-2020)**

- ❖ Keshubhai Patel (92), the BJP's first chief minister in Gujarat, passed away.
- ❖ He was Gujarat's CM from March 1995 to October 1995 and from March 1998 to October 2001.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi succeeded him as Gujarat chief minister in October 2001.

