

November - 04

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Army has launched a messaging app called Secure Application for Internet (SAI).
  - It will provide secure voice, text and video calling services to its soldiers.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force test fired the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft.
  - It was an air-launched version of the BrahMos.
- ❖ The Status of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as a star campaigner for the party WAS revoked by the Election Commission of India.
  - It was issues for “repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him”.

## TAMIL NADU

### Tamilnadu’s new Agriculture Minister

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit allotted the Agriculture portfolio to Higher Education Minister KP Anbalagan.
- ❖ Mr Anbalagan has been re-designated as Minister for Higher Education and Agriculture.
- ❖ Earlier, the former Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passed away at 72.
- ❖ Duraikkannu is the third legislator from Tamil Nadu to succumb to Covid-19.
- ❖ The other two are the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha member H. Vasantha Kumar and the state Assembly member J. Anbalagan.

### ASER report on Tamilnadu

- ❖ The 15th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2020 was recently released by the Pratham Education Foundation.
- ❖ Pratham is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the country which works towards providing quality education to underprivileged children.
- ❖ The study aimed to look at various aspects of school education and its impact under COVID-19.



- ❖ This included school enrolment patterns, household resources available, home support available for learning and access to learning material.
- ❖ According to the survey, nearly 93.7% of the students from government schools in the Tamilnadu State had access to textbooks whereas only 68.1% of private school students had them.
- ❖ Of all the children surveyed, 64.6% of them in Tamilnadu were found to have access to digital learning through smartphones.

#### Other data

- ❖ West Bengal ranks first in decline of school dropout rate.
- ❖ West Bengal also holds the first position in the country in terms of text books provided to the students with 99.7 per cent coverage.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Draft model Act on land titles**

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has released the draft model Act and rules for states on land titles.
- ❖ It aims to reduce litigations and ease the land acquisition process for infrastructure projects.
- ❖ State governments will have the power to order for establishment, administration and management of a system of title registration of immovable properties.
- ❖ A party aggrieved with an order of the land dispute resolution officer may file an appeal before the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal within 30 days of passing of such an order.
- ❖ A special bench of High court shall be designated to deal with appeals against the orders passed by the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal.

#### Backdrop

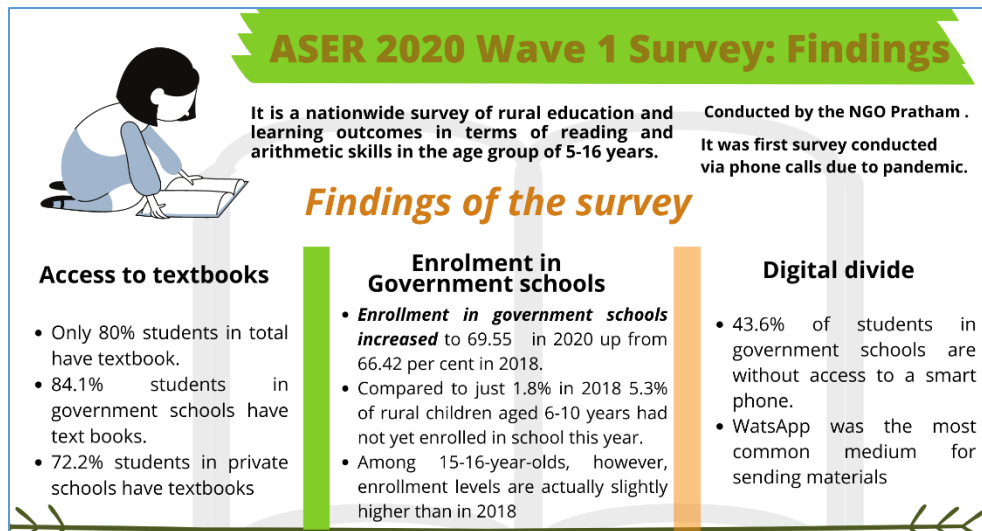
- ❖ The current system of land records was inherited from the Zamindari system of colonial times.
- ❖ Now, the rules to title of land is provided by the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.
- ❖ The primary law that regulates the registration of land related documents is Registration Act, 1908.

### **ASER report**

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) for Rural India was recently released by Pratham Education Foundation.

### Key Findings

- ❖ According to the survey, only one-third of the surveyed children had access to online learning.
- ❖ 3% of rural children were not enrolled in school in 2020.
- ❖ Around one in three children were not involved in learning activity.
- ❖ Only 47.4% of surveyed children had access to smartphones in West Bengal.
- ❖ It was 77.1% in Jammu and Kashmir, 88% in Punjab, 90% in Himachal Pradesh, 82.3% in Haryana.
- ❖ The children in Kerala topped the list with 94.3%.
- ❖ WhatsApp was the most common medium of communication to send learning materials.
- ❖ The first-generation school learners in the country are falling in India.



### **First Raising Day of Ladakh**

- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated its first raising day on October 31st and thus the Union Territory Foundation Day.
- ❖ The theme for the first-year celebration of Ladakh as a UT is 'One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment.'
- ❖ The region was initially a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- ❖ It became a Centre-ruled union territory on this day in October 31st of 2019.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Doing Business in India Report 2020**

- ❖ It was released by the UK India Business Council.
- ❖ It is being published for the sixth time since 2015.
- ❖ India's score of doing business has improved from 2.74 in 2019 22.9 to in 2020.
- ❖ According to the report, for the third consecutive Year Maharashtra emerged as the state with maximum incremental improvement.
- ❖ It was followed by Karnataka, Delhi, Gujarat and Tamilnadu.

### **Industrial Relations Code 2020**

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour recently notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.
- ❖ The rules are to be implemented by April, 2021.
- ❖ The rules are to supersede
  - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949
  - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954
  - Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946 and
  - Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957.
- ❖ Under the new Rules, the establishments with more than 300 workers will have to seek Government Approval to lay 15 days in prior to the lay off.
- ❖ Earlier, the limit was 100 employees.
- ❖ Also, the closure of establishments should be done after seeking 60 or 90 days prior approval from the Government.
- ❖ It also prescribes subscription charges to the trade unions.

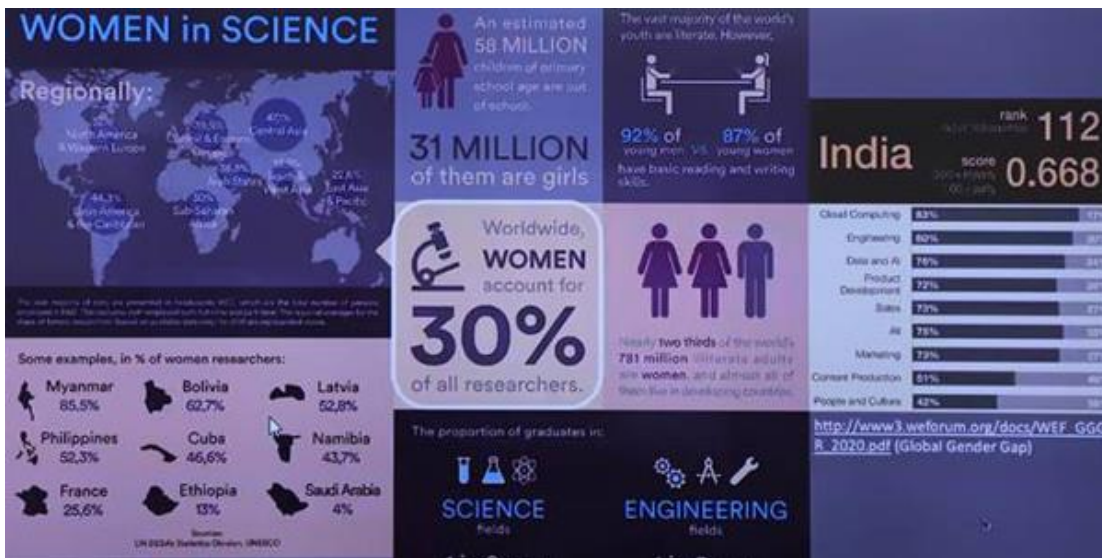
## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Hydrogen Generation Technology**

- ❖ The IISc and the Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology.
- ❖ It is to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.
- ❖ The technology is to be demonstrated at the Indian Oil Research and Development Centre at Faridabad.

## SERB-POWER initiative

- ❖ The Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan launched this initiative.
- ❖ The scheme mitigates gender disparity in science and engineering research funding programmes in Indian academic Institutions and Research and Development Laboratories.
- ❖ The scheme was exclusively designed for women scientist.
- ❖ SERB is Science and Engineering Research Board.
- ❖ It is a statutory body operating under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ POWER is Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.



## 16 Psyche

- ❖ A recent study has found that this asteroid could be made entirely of metal.
- ❖ Images from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has shown that the surface may mostly comprise iron and nickel, similar to the Earth's core.
- ❖ It is also made of rare metals such as gold, cobalt, platinum, rhenium and iridium.
- ❖ It is an asteroid which orbits between Mars and Jupiter in the Asteroid belt.
- ❖ It was named after the ancient Greek goddess of the soul, Psyche.



## ENVIRONMENT

### New shrimp species

- ❖ The Scientists associated with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources have identified four species of shrimps hitherto not found in Indian waters.
- ❖ It was found at the coral reefs in the Agatti Island of Lakshadweep group of islands.
- ❖ The two species were named as Periclimenella agatti and Urocaridella arabianesis after the Agatti island and the Arabian Sea respectively.



### Panna Biosphere Reserve

- ❖ UNESCO allots India's Panna Tiger Reserve the 'Biosphere Reserve' status.
- ❖ Panna is now UNESCO's 12th Biosphere reserve in India.
- ❖ It brought its tiger population back from zero to 54 in ten years.
- ❖ In 2009, the entire tiger population had been eliminated by poaching.



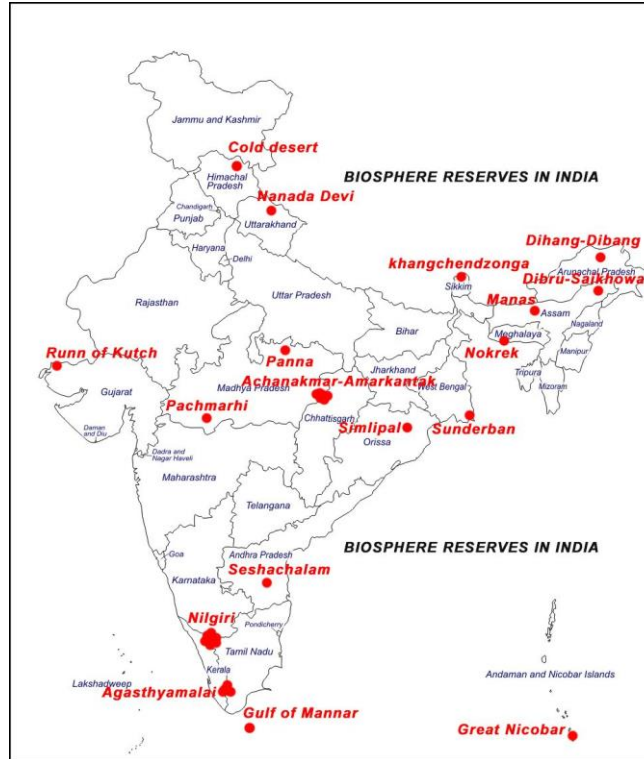


- ❖ Two female tigers were relocated there from Bandhavgarh National Park and Kanha National Park in March 2009.
- ❖ Panna was designated a biosphere reserve by India in 2011.
- ❖ It is the third in Madhya Pradesh after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak.

Name	States/ UT	Year
<b>Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve</b>	Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka	2000
<b>Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve</b>	Tamil Nadu	2001
<b>Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve</b>	West Bengal	2001
<b>Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve</b>	Uttarakhand	2004
<b>Nokrek Biosphere Reserve</b>	Meghalaya	2009
<b>Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve</b>	Madhya Pradesh	2009
<b>Simlipal Biosphere Reserve</b>	Odisha	2009
<b>Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve</b>	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2013
<b>Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve</b>	Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh	2012
<b>Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve</b>	Kerala and Tamil Nadu	2016
<b>Khangchendzonga National Park</b>	Sikkim	2018

#### Recent issue

- ❖ The Government of India along with Government of Madhya Pradesh and Government of Uttar Pradesh have planned to link the Ken River with Betwa River along this reserve.
- ❖ This is the country's first river interlinking project.
- ❖ This involves construction of 283 km long Daudhan Dam.
- ❖ It provides water access to the drought prone region of Bundelkhand.
- ❖ Panna is characterized by forests and marshy vegetation.
- ❖ It spans 576 kilo meters in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ It is a critical tiger habitat area and hosts the Panna Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It also hosts the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Khajuraho Group of Monuments.
- ❖ It was declared in 1993 as the twenty second Tiger reserve of India and the fifth in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ 12 of the 18 biosphere reserves in India are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



### **Mansar Lake Development Plan**

- ❖ Union government has recently inaugurated the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Surinsar Lake and Mansar Lake are considered to be twin lakes.
- ❖ Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.
- ❖ It is located in Jammu.
- ❖ It is a freshwater lake as well as a natural lake.





## STATES

### **Kevadia Tourism Circuit**

- ❖ PM Modi recently inaugurated some tourism projects around the Statue of Unity (SoU), now called the 'Kevadia Tourism Circuit'.
- ❖ Kevadia is a village in the tribal Narmada district in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is home to the Sardar Sarovar Dam reservoir on the Narmada river.
- ❖ Prime Minister also inaugurated the world's first-ever technology-driven nutrition park for children at Kevadia in Gujarat.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### **Sean Connery**

- ❖ Sean Connery, a Scottish actor, has passed away.
- ❖ He was very famous for his portrayal of James Bond as British agent 007.
- ❖ He was the first person to act in such a role.
- ❖ The character was created by novelist Ian Fleming.



### **28<sup>th</sup> Ezhuthachan Puraskaram**

- ❖ Writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for the 28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram
- ❖ The award is named after Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language.
- ❖ It is the highest literary honour of the Kerala government.

- ❖ Instituted in 1993, it is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi.

### **Emmett Leahy award**

- ❖ The Emmett Leahy award for 2020 was conferred on Dinesh Katre from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.
- ❖ Katre is the first Indian to bag this award.
- ❖ Established in the US in 1967, this international award recognises contributions of persons in the field of records and information management.



### **Till We Win - Book**

- ❖ It is a new book by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria.
- ❖ It has been co-written by two other doctors Chandrakant Lahariya and Gagandeep Kang.
- ❖ It will give a definitive account of India's fight against Covid-19 and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 10<sup>th</sup> Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week – October 24 to 31

- ❖ Through this Week, UNESCO and WHO are joining forces to tackle disinformation and misinformation.
- ❖ It was led by UNESCO and hosted by the Republic of Korea,
- ❖ It was held under the theme “Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone”.

