



November - 15

# TNPSC BITS

❖ The Asian Hockey Federation CEO Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of China's Autonomous Region Macau was elected as the new president of the International Hockey Federation.

### **NATIONAL**

# **Transport 4 All Challenge Stage 2**



- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the "Transport 4 All Challenge" Stage 2.
- ❖ It aims to ease the mobility experience of Indian citizens.
- ❖ The challenge seeks to promote digital innovation in formal as well as informal public transportation.
- ❖ The challenge has 3 stages viz. Problem Identification, Solution Generation and Pilot Testing.
- ❖ More than 130 cities have taken part in the Stage I of the challenge, which was launched on April 15, 2021.
- ❖ 46 cities that qualified for Stage II used the survey data to develop more than 165 problem statement.





❖ Stage-2 of the challenge is currently open for startups to develop solutions for problems identified by the cities.

# Citizen Perception Survey - 2022

- ❖ It is conducted as part of the Ease of Living Index.
- ❖ It was conducted for the first time in 2020.
- ❖ The purpose of the Survey is to directly capture the perception of citizens regarding the quality of life in their cities.
- It captures citizens' perceptive on public transport, education facilities, health care services, water availability, cost of living, employment opportunities, among others.
- ❖ The Ease of Living Index is a comprehensive assessment that evaluates cities across India based on their quality of life, economic ability and sustainability.
- ❖ The third round of this index was included as part of the Urban Outcomes Framework 2022.



### **ECONOMY**

### Self-Reliant India Fund

- ❖ Self-Reliant India Fund is Rs.10,000 crore fund launched by the Indian Government.
- ❖ It is a SEBI-registered category-II Alternative Investment Fund.
- ❖ It was launched by the Government to provide growth capital to MSME Sector.





- ❖ It operates via the mother-fund and daughter-fund (Fund of Funds) structure.
- ❖ The mother fund is the SEBI fund that invests up to 20 per cent of the overall corpus.
- ❖ The daughter fund raises the rest 80 per cent of the capital from the outside sources.



### **FEATURES**

- Ensures availability of growth capital to the MSMEs, through equity/ equity like structured instruments
- Encourages MSMEs in moving towards listing on the Stock Exchanges, and growing beyond the bracket of MSME.
- Supports faster growth of MSME businesses, thereby igniting the economy & creating several employment opportunities.
- Supports enterprises which have the potential to graduate beyond the MSME bracket and become National/International champions.

SRI Fund contributes towards achieving India's \$5 trillion GDP target by creating a vibrant MSME ecosystem, and making Aatmanirbhar Bharat

### **ENVIRONMENT**

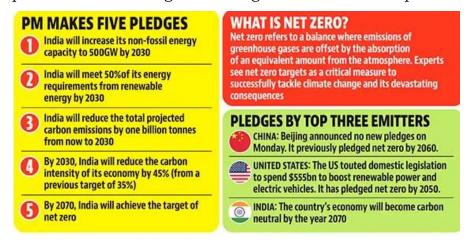
### Carbon neutral tourist destination by 2041

- ❖ Mathura-Vrindavan aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041.
- ❖ This means that tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region.
- ❖ It includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi.
- ❖ Instead, only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area.
- ❖ All 252 water bodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived.





- ❖ The eight key cities of this region would also be connected through an inland waterways system and a narrow-gauge railway line.
- ❖ The existing 12.9 km narrow gauge railway line connecting the twin cities of Mathura and Vrindavan would be redeveloped.
- Net Zero Carbon Emission is referred to as carbon neutrality.
- ❖ It does not mean that a country/state would bring down its emissions to zero.
- ❖ But it is a state in which a country's/state's emissions are compensated by the absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.



### REPORTS AND INDICES

### **QS Asia University Rankings 2023**



- ❖ UK-based ranking authority Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released a QS Asia University Rankings 2023.
- ❖ The 2023 ranking is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition.





- ❖ It highlights the top universities in the continent of Asia.
- ❖ The rankings are based on 11 indicators.
- ❖ The top performer is China's Peking University.
- ❖ It held second position in the 2022 ranking.
- ❖ Other top performers are National University of Singapore and China-based Tsinghua University.
- ❖ 5 universities from China secured their places in top 10 performers.
- ❖ A total of 118 Indian institutes featured in the ranking.
- ❖ 5 IITs, IISc and Delhi University entered the top 100 in the ranking.
- ❖ Total of 19 Indian universities featured in the top 200.
- ❖ IIT-Bombay (40) is the top performer in the ranking.
- ❖ The second-best performer in India is IIT Delhi (46th place).
- ❖ Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore was ranked at 52nd position.
- ❖ It followed by IIT Madras (53), IIT Kharagpur (61), IIT Kanpur (66), and Delhi University (85).

### **STATES**

# Vadodara municipal bond



- ❖ Vadodara became the second city in India to issue a municipal bond with assistance from the US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance.
- ❖ The bond will provide funds for infrastructure projects in Vadodara.
- ❖ Municipal finance can help to pay for vital capital projects including roads, energy, water, sanitation, and other essentials.





❖ Pune was the first city to issue such a bond in 2017.

# PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

# International Kannadiga Rathna award 2022

- ❖ Yaduveer Krishnaraja Chamaraja Wadiyar has been chosen for the International Kannada Rathna award.
- ❖ He is a member of the former royal family.
- ❖ Dubai Kannadigas bestowed this award to commemorate Kannada Rajyothsava.



# **TELEMEDICON 2022**



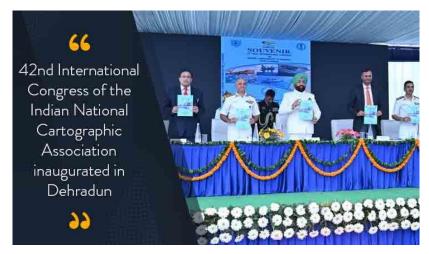
- ❖ The 18th Edition of the International Telemedicine Conference held at Amrita Hospital, Kochi.
- ❖ Telemedicine Society of India and Kerala Chapter host this event.





- ❖ It aims to build platforms involving healthcare regulators, health funding authorities, service providers, and international experts.
- ❖ The core theme of the event is 'Strengthening Health Systems Through Sustainable Telemedicine and Digital Health'.

### **INCA Congress**



- ❖ The 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) held in Dehradun.
- ❖ It was organized by the National Hydrographic Office.
- ❖ The theme of the event is 'Digital Cartography to Harness Blue Economy'.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

# India's First Sovereign Green Bonds Framework







- ❖ The Union Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs has approved the final Sovereign Green Bonds Framework of India.
- ❖ The Framework comes close on the footsteps of India's commitments under "Panchamrit" as explained by the Prime Minister at COP 26 at Glasgow in November 2021.
- ❖ Green bonds are issued by companies, countries and multilateral organisations to exclusively fund projects that have positive environmental or climate benefits and provide investors with fixed income payments.
- ❖ The projects include renewable energy, clean transportation and green buildings, among others.
- Proceeds from these bonds are reserved for green projects.

