

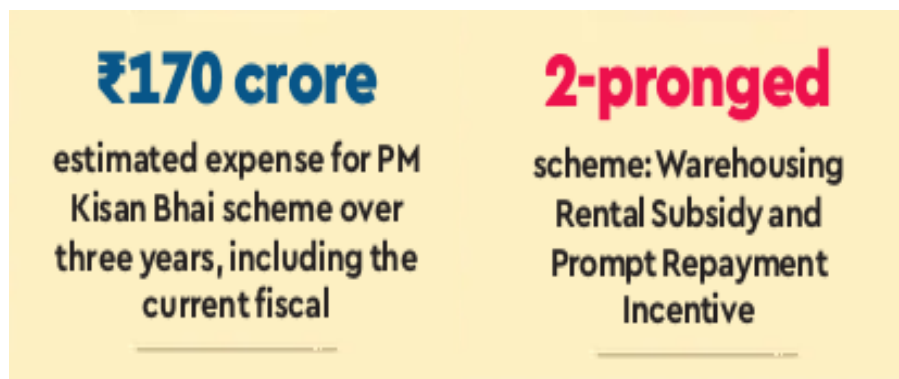
November - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In a first for India, a prisoner in Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, accused under the UAPA, has been released on bail with a condition to wear a GPS Anklet device.
- ❖ NHAI has accepted Insurance Surety Bond for the monetization program of the upcoming bid of Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) Bundle 14.
  - This will be the first time this innovative instrument is being utilized as a Bank Guarantee (BG) in the road infrastructure sector for monetization of bids.
- ❖ The US Supreme Court adopted its first formal code of conduct governing the ethical behavior of its nine justices in its 234-year history.
- ❖ World Philosophy Day was observed annually on the third Thursday of November (16<sup>th</sup>).
  - It encourages people to contemplate philosophical ideas, engage in debates, and address societal issues.

## NATIONAL

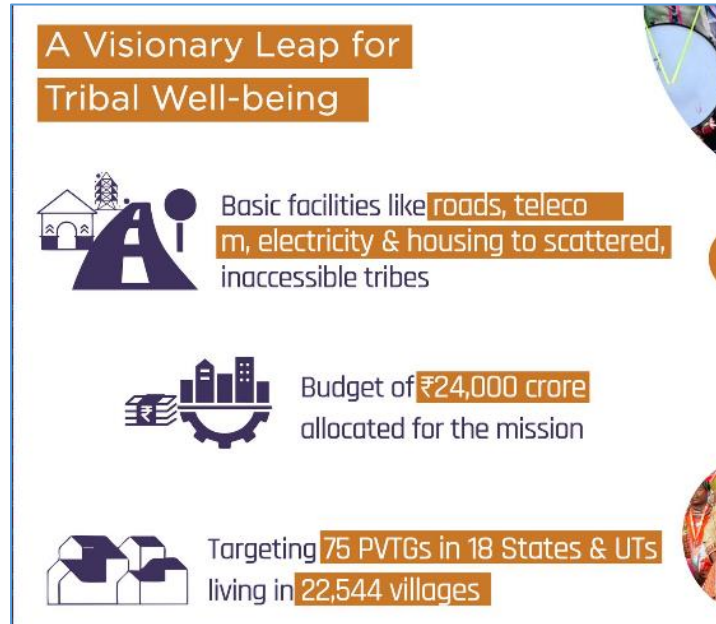
### PM Kisan Bhai (Bhandaran Incentive) scheme



- ❖ This scheme aims to incentivize farmers to retain their produce for a minimum of three months post-harvest.
- ❖ It is granting them the autonomy to decide when and where to sell their crops.
- ❖ It seeks to break the monopoly of traders in setting crop prices, giving farmers greater control over their produce.
- ❖ The storage incentive will be provided for a maximum of three months.

- ❖ Besides, produce stored for 15 days or less will not be eligible for the subsidy.
- ❖ The scheme may be piloted in states such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

### **PM-PVTG Development Mission**



- ❖ This was launched on birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda - November 15.
- ❖ This scheme is meant for the overall development of around 28 lakh people from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- ❖ It aims to bring critical infrastructure like power, water, road connectivity, housing, education, and healthcare to the 75 PVTG communities living in remote villages.
- ❖ PVTG communities living in over 22,000 remote villages across 18 States and Union Territories.

### **India - CITES RST**

- ❖ India has been removed from Review of Significant Trade (RST) for Red Sanders, under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- ❖ This can be a major boost to farmers who grow Red Sanders for export.
- ❖ India was under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process for Red Sanders since 2004.

- ❖ The CITES RST process enables disciplinary action in the form of trade suspensions directed at countries that do not meet their obligations.
- ❖ Red sander (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is a high market value tree, endemic to few districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India has been a party to the CITES since 1976.



## ECONOMY

### India finance report 2023

#### Key Takeaways

Due to increased regulations and net owned funds criteria, there were 3110 cancellations compared with 685 registrations of NBFCs in past 8 years

Overall CRAR (capital to total assets ratio) for NBFCs is 27.6% compared with stipulated 15%

Gross NPA ratio was 5.8% and net NPA ratio was 2.3% in FY 2022

53% of total loans are disbursed by NBFCs through digital mode vis-à-vis 6% in case of Banks

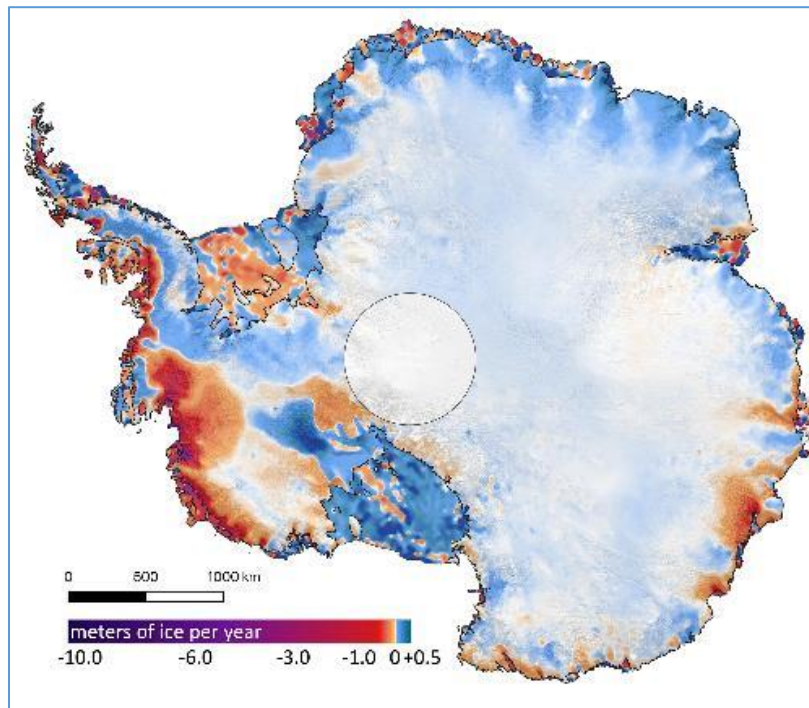
Top 5 sectors for NBFCs in respect of credit are **Industry, retail loans, other non-food credit, services and agriculture**

- ❖ The first edition of the India Finance Report was published by the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), an independent body set up by the RBI.

- ❖ The report points out that there are 9,666 non-banking financial institutions (NBFI), classified into different categories.
- ❖ The phase from 2013 to 2018, was high growth, with NBFCs' credit-GDP ratio increasing from 8.6 percent to 11.5 percent.
- ❖ The credit-GDP ratio of banks declined from 59.1 percent to 51.2 percent in the same period.
- ❖ In 2022-23, NBFCs witnessed a notable improvement with the CRAR rising to 27.6 per cent from 22.9 per cent in 2019-2020.
- ❖ Similarly, gross and net non-performing asset (NPA) ratios continue trending downwards.
- ❖ The RBI has discouraged deposit-taking NBFCs and their number has declined from 784 in 2002 to 49 now.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Melting Ice and Heavier Snowfall: An Antarctic Paradox



- ❖ A new study has revealed that the reduction in sea ice in the continent is linked to heavier snowfall in the region.
- ❖ They found that ice-free ocean surface leads to more precipitation and snowfall in the region.



- ❖ But, the increased rate of snowfall was not enough to completely offset the impact of climate change and ice melting.
- ❖ This new trend can partially counteract the impact of melting ice, thus slowing down the increase in global sea levels.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### **Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040 Report**

- ❖ OECD released the interim report named “Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040: A Policy Scenario Analysis.”
- ❖ In 2022, 21 million tonnes (MT) of plastics leaked into the environment globally.
- ❖ If the plastics use would continue to grow, leading to a 50 per cent increase in leakage of macroplastics into the environment by 2040.
- ❖ It is meaning about 30 MT of plastic would leak into the environment, of which 9 MT would enter aquatic environments.
- ❖ The elimination actions of this would cost 0.5 per cent of global GDP in 2040.
- ❖ Investment needs for waste collection, sorting and treatment amounting to over \$1 trillion between 2020 and 2040.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### **Freedom fighter N Sankaraiah (102)**

- ❖ Freedom fighter and senior-most Communist leader in the country N. Sankaraiah passed away recently at Chennai.
- ❖ He is one of the founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).




- ❖ He was among the 32 national council members of the Communist Party of India (CPI), who left the party over ideological differences, which led to the formation of the CPI(M) in 1964.
- ❖ Sankaraiah was elected to the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1967, 1977 and 1980.
- ❖ He was also secretary of the party's state committee from 1995 to 2002.
- ❖ Earlier in 2021, Sankaraiah was conferred with the Thagaisal Thamizhar Award by Chief Minister.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Public service broadcasting day 2023 - November 12

**Public Service Broadcasting Day**  
12 November



राष्ट्रिय महात्मा गांधी  
12 नवम्बर 1947 को ब्रह्ममण्डल में प्रसारण के लिए

To commemorate the maiden visit of Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studios of All India Radio on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1947, the day is celebrated as Public Service Broadcasting Day. This was Gandhiji's FIRST and ONLY visit to AIR studios, New Delhi. He addressed the refugees camping in Kurukshetra, Haryana on this day .

- ❖ The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the only visit of MK Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

- ❖ He addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.
- ❖ The day was officially declared as Public Service Broadcasting Day in 2001.

### **International Day of Tolerance 2023 - November 16**

- ❖ International Day for Tolerance was initially established by the United Nations in 1996.
- ❖ It aims to promote understanding among cultures and foster respect for diversity.
- ❖ This day is observed in commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by UNESCO member states on November 16, 1995.



### **National Press Day 2023 - November 16**



- ❖ This day is observed to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966.



- ❖ It is a statutory body which was established to ensure the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of journalism.
- ❖ The quasi-judicial body was re-established in the year 1979 under the Press Council Act, 1978.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”.

