

October - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has won the 'Best Innovation in Refinery' award for a second year in succession from the ministry of petroleum and natural gas.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) organised a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in collaboration with UNICEF and National Stock Exchange in Mumbai.

## TAMIL NADU

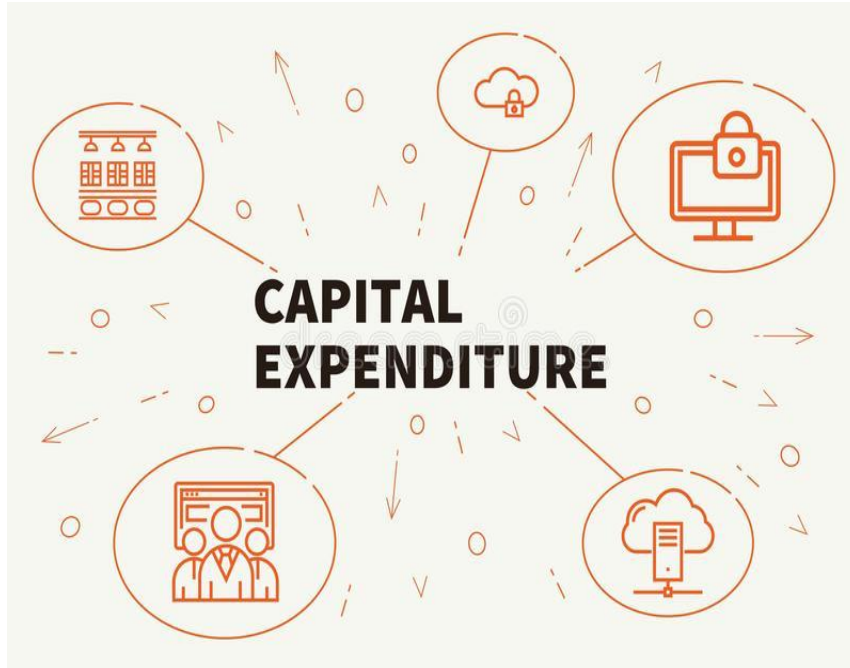
### Project Nilgiri Tahr



- ❖ Chief Minister has launched Nilgiris Tahr Project to conserve the state animal, on October 12.
- ❖ The implementation cost of the Nilgiris Tahr Project will be Rs 25.14 crore.
- ❖ It will be used during a period of 5 years from 2022 to 2027.
- ❖ The project will follow a multi-pronged strategy, including synchronised surveys to estimate numbers of Nilgiri Tahr individuals through the use of Radio Telemetry, including Radio collaring and others.

- ❖ Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to Western Ghats.
- ❖ Valparai in Anamalai Tiger Reserve serves as a conducive habitat for Nilgiri Tahr.

### State's capital expenditure



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has incurred a capital expenditure of ₹9,955 crore so far in 2023-24 (till August 2024).
- ❖ It has seen a reduction of 7.37% in the comparable period in 2022-23.
- ❖ The State had provided ₹44,366 crore for capital expenditure in the Budget estimates for 2023-24.
- ❖ It spent 22.44% of the budgeted amount till August.

### KaniTamil 24

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will be organising a three-day 'KaniTamil 24' conference in Chennai in February 2024.
- ❖ The conference would elaborate on the latest advancements in computing and exploring the possibilities of using Tamil in natural language processing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, machine translation, sentimental analysis, large language models and automatic speech recognition.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> conference on Tamil computing organised when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister in 1999.

- ❖ The second such conference on Tamil computing is being organised after 25 years.



## NATIONAL

### Guidelines on Bima Vahaks

## Boosting insurance access

**IRDAI's draft norms for the Bima Vahak scheme are aimed at improving last-mile connectivity to raise rural insurance access**

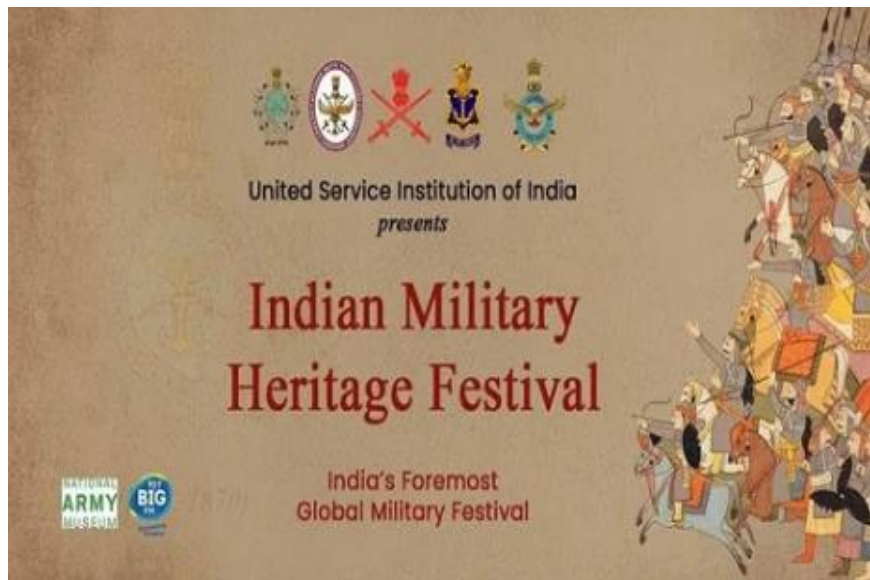
- The Bima Vahak scheme is a core component of the IRDAI's 'Insurance for all by 2047' goal
- Under the scheme, Bima Vahaks will gain the trust of locals for the distribution of insurance products
- Insurers will have to implement a board-approved policy in hiring and training Bima Vahaks



- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued guidelines on Bima Vahaks.
- ❖ This is the women-centric, dedicated distribution channel for enhancing insurance inclusion with a focus on rural areas.
- ❖ IRDAI plans to deploy 'Bima Vahaks' in every Gram Panchayat across the country by December 31, 2024.

- ❖ Bima Vahaks are expected to have a key role in taking Bima Vistaar, or affordable, accessible and comprehensive cover mooted by the regulator, to the target segment.
- ❖ The Bima Vahaks (individual as well as corporate) are to be provided with handheld electronic communication devices.
- ❖ These devices are integrated to the electronic platform of the insurers and sell and service Bima Vistaar and other products specified by the regulator.

### **Indian Military Heritage Festival**



- ❖ A two-day festival showcasing the heritage and culture of India's armed forces will be held in Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Military Heritage Festival will be hosted by the United Service Institution (USI) of India
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind festival is being organised in association with a news organisation at Manekshaw Centre

### **75 Years of India - Switzerland Friendship**

- ❖ India and Switzerland celebrated 75 years of friendship and collaboration at a quaint Kumaon village in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The three-day event, 'Swiss Himalayan Bounty', held last week at a homestay in Satoli village at an altitude of 6,000 ft.
- ❖ The roots of the cordial relations between India and Switzerland can be traced back to 1948 when they signed the Treaty of Friendship in New Delhi.

- ❖ Switzerland has emerged as one of India's principal partners in Europe, with significant foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing between the two countries.
- ❖ Switzerland's FDI in India is amounted to \$9.8 Bn, among the top 5 countries in Europe.
- ❖ India is home to more than 323 Swiss companies.



### **National framework for climate services**



- ❖ India is set to launch its maiden national-level framework towards providing climate services and information.
- ❖ It is spearheaded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- ❖ The National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) envisions to bring a seamless working platform for users of climate information and services, and help decide and mitigate climate risks for key sectors — agriculture, energy, disaster management, health and water.
- ❖ Initially, the NFCS will work in bridging functioning gaps between the various agencies who require climate services.
- ❖ Since the 2009 declaration of frameworks for climate services, Switzerland, China, Germany and the United Kingdom have launched the NFCS.

### **IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance Portal**



- ❖ The Govt of India launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard.
- ❖ The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.
- ❖ It will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.
- ❖ It has been implemented by IIT Kanpur.

### **Schemes for Medical and Pharma sector**

- ❖ The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched initiatives to nurture Innovation, research, and development in the Medical and Pharmaceutical sectors.
- ❖ These Initiatives are
  - National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India and

- Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP).
- ❖ Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest pharmaceutical industry in the world by volume with current market size of around USD 50 Billions.

National Policy on Research & Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India

**Benefits:**

- Facilitate Innovation and Research in Product Development
- Incentivize Private and Public Investment in Innovation
- Build an Enabling Ecosystem to Support Innovation & Cross-sectoral Research
- Set up an Indian Council of Pharmaceuticals and Med-tech Research and Development

**Objectives:**

- To Enable rapid drug discovery and development & innovation in medical devices sector
- To Incentivize Private Sector Investment In Research
- To Strengthen R&D Ecosystem
- To Enable Coordination Among the Existing Policies & Programs
- To Facilitate the Rapid Development and Availability of Innovative Drugs and Medical Devices

## Mera Yuva Bharat

# MERA YUVA BHARAT

**Impact:**

- ❖ Leadership Development in the Youth  
—————
- ❖ Better alignment between youth aspirations and community needs  
—————
- ❖ Enhanced efficiency through Convergence of existing programmes  
—————
- ❖ Act as a one stop shop for young people and Ministries  
—————
- ❖ Create a centralized youth data base  
—————
- ❖ Ensuring accessibility by creating a physical ecosystem

- ❖ The Centre has announced the setting up of a new government platform for youth development.
- ❖ It is named as ‘Mera Yuva Bharat’ or MY Bharat.

- ❖ The platform is aimed at developing leadership skills among youth to make them social innovators and leaders in the communities.
- ❖ Youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years can avail the benefits of the platform.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World Heritage Sites in Danger**

- ❖ UNESCO placed the World Heritage Sites located in Ukrainian cities of Kyiv and Lviv on its list of places “in danger.”
- ❖ It is the first step towards excluding these sites from UNESCO's World Heritage List which features 1,157 sites.
- ❖ It opens the door to additional financial and technical aid in order to implement new emergency measures.
- ❖ Saint Sophia Cathedral, present in Kyiv, dates back to the 11th century and is among the best-known landmarks of the city.
- ❖ Lviv, the western Ukrainian city near the Polish border, was founded in the late Middle Ages.
- ❖ This historic centre was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998.



### **Multilateral Treaty to Address Digital Services Taxes**

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently published a multilateral treaty recently.
- ❖ This treaty has the potential to replace a patchwork of national digital services taxes if it gains sufficient support from countries.
- ❖ The treaty release comes as a significant development in the ongoing efforts to reform the cross-border taxation of multinational corporations.



- ❖ This marks the first pillar of a two-pillar overhaul of international taxation rules, which was collectively agreed upon by nearly 140 countries in 2021.

TARGET DEADLINES	
Pillar One	Pillar Two
Early 2022 – Text of a Multilateral Convention (MLC) and Explanatory Statement to implement Amount A of Pillar One	November 2021 – Model rules to define scope and mechanics for the GloBE rules
Early 2022 – Model rules for domestic legislation necessary for the implementation of Pillar One	November 2021 – Model treaty provision to give effect to the subject to tax rule
Mid 2022 – High-level signing ceremony for the Multilateral Convention	Mid 2022 – Multilateral Instrument (MLI) for implementation of the STTR in relevant bilateral treaties
End 2022 – Finalisation of work on Amount B for Pillar One	End 2022 – Implementation framework to facilitate co-ordinated implementation of the GloBE rules
<b>2023 – Implementation of the Two-Pillar Solution</b>	

### Beijing convention on the judicial sale of ships



- ❖ 15 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Switzerland, signed the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships.
- ❖ It aims to promote legal certainty and predictability at the international level by creating a uniform regime for the international effects of ‘judicial’ sales of ships.
- ❖ The Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships, as it is now known, was developed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

- ❖ It addresses the problem of bona fide new owners and those financing the purchase of vessels.
- ❖ For instance, it is dealing with previous creditors laying claim to the ship as security for a loan.
- ❖ The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) acting as the repository for these notices and certificates of judicial sale.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030

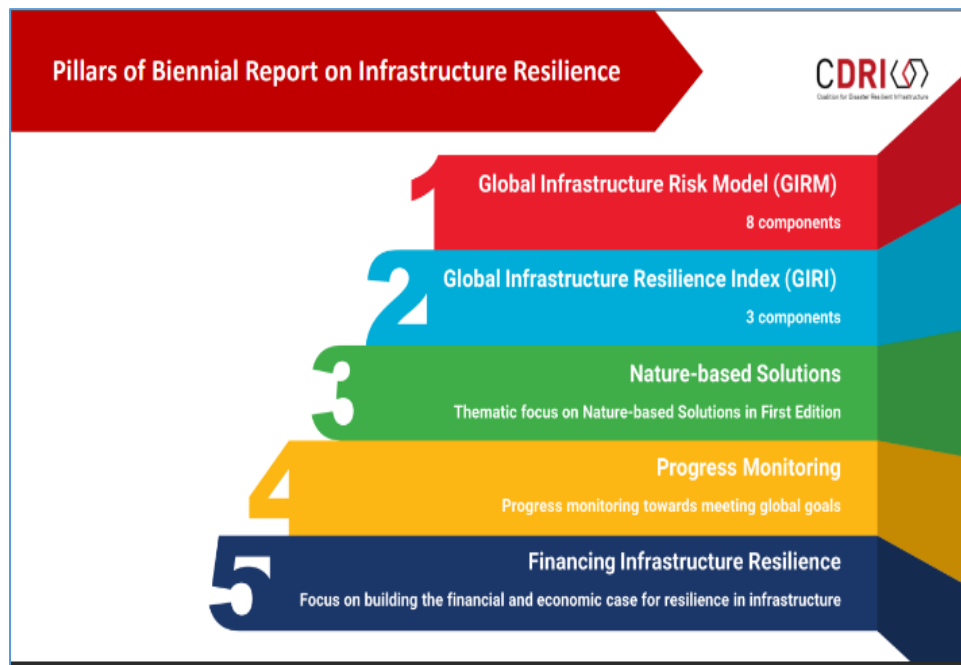


- ❖ The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has launched the Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030.
- ❖ CPF is a partnership of 16 global organisations chaired by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ They aim to highlight the need for increased action and political commitment to implement forest solutions in pursuit of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ❖ The Call to Action for Forests Towards 2030 has four focal areas:
  - Implementation and action;
  - Data, science and innovation;
  - Finance for forests; and
  - Communication and awareness-raising.

- ❖ The world has lost 420 million hectares of forest through deforestation since 1990.
- ❖ The rate slowed from 12 million hectares per year during 2010-2015 to 10 million hectares per year during 2015-2020.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience



- ❖ The Biennial Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience: Capturing the Resilience Dividend released by Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ❖ The Climate change may lead to an estimated global average annual loss (AAL) in infrastructure sectors and buildings of between \$732 and \$845 billion.
- ❖ This means around 14 per cent of 2021- 2022 global gross domestic product is at risk.
- ❖ About half of this contingent liability is held by low- and middle- income countries (LMIC).
- ❖ The global AAL from disasters and climate change in just the principal infrastructure sectors is between \$301 and \$330 billion.
- ❖ High-income countries account for approximately 67 per cent of the global infrastructure asset value.
- ❖ Upper and lower middle-income countries account for 24.8 per cent and 7.0 per cent, respectively.

- ❖ While low-income countries account for 0.6 per cent.
- ❖ The climate change is expected to increase AAL by 11 per cent in high-income countries.
- ❖ It may increase by 12-22 per cent in middle-income countries and 33 per cent in low-income countries.

### **2023 World Trade Report: Re-globalization**

- ❖ The 2023 World Trade Report, published by the WTO, explores the role of international trade in building a more secure, inclusive, and sustainable world.
- ❖ The report advocates for “re-globalization,” expanding trade integration to more economies, people, and issues.
- ❖ Trade flows within hypothetical geopolitical “blocs” are growing faster than those between them.
- ❖ It is indicating a shift towards friend-shoring.
- ❖ Re-globalization is a concept that advocates expanding and strengthening international trade and economic integration, focusing on making globalization more inclusive, secure, and sustainable.
- ❖ It emphasizes the need to address contemporary global challenges, such as geopolitical tensions, economic inequality, and climate change, through greater cooperation and trade integration among nations.



## **STATES**

### **GI Tag for various products**

- ❖ The Goa cashew (kernel) has successfully secured the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir's Basohli Pashmina & Udhampur Kalari get Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- ❖ Kalari, a popular Dogra cuisine, finds its origin in Udhampur district's Ramnagar.
- ❖ Made from milk, it is the most relished street food snack among ethnic Dogras.
- ❖ The renowned Rasabali sweet from Kendrapara, Odisha received geographical indication (GI).
- ❖ It has an its origin to the 262-year-old Sree Baladevjew temple in Kendrapara.



### **Caravan Park in Kerala**



- ❖ The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will develop the caravan park and camp shelter at Bekal Fort in Kasaragod.

- ❖ The caravan park at Bekal will be the first park in the public sector in the State.
- ❖ The coastal village and its magnificent 17th century fort are one of the major attractions for the tourists in north Kerala.

### **Largest pumped storage project**



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh opened India's largest pumped storage project recently.
- ❖ The project is being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company.
- ❖ The project is located in the Khemla block, Neemuch district.
- ❖ It has a capacity of 1440 megawatt (MW), with storage for 7.5 hours.
- ❖ Now it being expanded to 1920 MW with storage of 6 hours to provide a storage of nearly 11 Giga watt hours (GWh) daily.

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

### **India's 1st deaf Lawyer**

- ❖ Sarah Sunny made history after she became India's first deaf lawyer to argue in the country's Supreme Court.
- ❖ The court also appointed its own interpreter for Ms Sunny, the first in the court's history.

- ❖ Earlier, the Delhi High Court set a precedent when it allowed deaf lawyer Saudamini Pethe to appear in a case.

## SILENT HEARING

- Advocate-on-record Sanchita Ain makes unusual request to a CJI-led bench – deaf advocate Sarah Sunny be permitted to **virtually argue a case** concerning rights of PwDs **with help of sign language interpreter**
- **CJI agrees** & Sarah and interpreter Saurav Roychowdhury log in
- When the case is called out, duo do a rapid tango of **silent sign language converted to arguments**

## 500<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati

The queen of Gond **RANI DURGA VATI** killed herself on June 24, 1564



# THE GOND QUEEN

Became famous for **defeating Baz Bahadur**, the ruler of Malwa

Took over the <b>GOND KINGDOM</b> when her husband <b>Dalpat Shah</b> died in 1550	Fought with great courage against the <b>Mughal army</b> ; was able to move it back three times
	In the end got seriously injured; didn't heed the advice of her Mahout of running away; <b>stabbed herself</b> instead

The govt, recognising her bravery, renamed University of Jabalpur as **Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya**

*Durgavati Express, the train that runs between Jabalpur Junction & Jammu tawi was also named after her*

- ❖ The 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati was celebrated by the Centre at the national level on October 05.
- ❖ The Foundation stone was laid for her grand memorial to be built in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.



- ❖ A postage stamp and a silver coin were released in her memory.
- ❖ She was the ruling queen of Gondwana in the mid-16th century.
- ❖ Rani Durgavati administered the kingdom after Her Husband, Dalpat Shah's death in 1548.
- ❖ She constructed reservoirs such as the Ranital, Cherital, and Adhartal.

