

September - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ VK Yadav was appointed as Railway Board's First Ever Chairman and CEO.
  - He is the first to hold such a post in the railway's history.
- ❖ Usha Padhee has been given additional charge as Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
  - She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post.
- ❖ The Adani Group has acquired 74% stake in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai.
  - Now it is the second largest private operator in India after the GMR group, which operates the Delhi and Hyderabad airports.

## NATIONAL

### Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity

- ❖ The Union Minister of New & Renewable Energy has launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for Electricity.
- ❖ It is a pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity.
- ❖ The introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy (RE) rich States.
- ❖ The key features of GTAM include bilateral transaction (of RE) in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers.





## **Suspension of Question Hour**

- ❖ The Central government has decided to suspend the Question Hour and curtail Zero Hour for Monsoon Session.
- ❖ In the past too, the Question Hour has been suspended.
- ❖ However, they were suspended during national emergencies.
- ❖ Also, there is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
- ❖ The current suspension has been done during a regular session.

### **Question Hour**

- ❖ It is regulated according to parliamentary rules.
- ❖ The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour.
- ❖ But in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.
- ❖ Prior to Independence, the first question on government was asked in 1893.

### **Type of Questions**

- ❖ Starred question - this requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- ❖ Unstarred question - this requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
- ❖ Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days.
- ❖ It is answered orally.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Changes in Qatari labor**

- ❖ Qatar has scrapping rules that made it compulsory for workers to take owner's permission before switching jobs.
- ❖ This is known as 'kafala system' or a "no objection certificate" made migrant workers get permission from their employers before changing jobs.
- ❖ The 'kafala' system is a system that lays down obligations in the treatment and protection of foreign 'guests'.
- ❖ Kafala means 'to guarantee' or 'to take care of' in Arabic.
- ❖ Also, it increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$274 or 1000 Qatari riyals.



- ❖ Qatar is hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup with the event setting in motion a huge construction programme employing foreign workers.
- ❖ It is being practiced in the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and also in the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.

## **STATES**

### **Aarey reserve forest**

- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced the reservation of 600 acres of Aarey land near Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) as forest.
- ❖ The govt claiming it as the first instance of an extensive forest blossoming within the limits of metropolis anywhere in the world.
- ❖ A reserve forest denotes forests accorded a certain degree of protection.
- ❖ The term was first introduced in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 during British India
- ❖ Rights to all activities like hunting, grazing, etc. in reserved forests are banned unless specific orders are issued otherwise.
- ❖ The reserved forests are declared by the respective state governments but national parks or wildlife sanctuaries are declared by the central government.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **World University Ranking 2021**

- ❖ Times Higher Education announced the results of World University Rankings, 2021.
- ❖ In the 2021 ranking, India has recorded its highest ever number of universities to qualify Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2021.
- ❖ However, none of Indian Universities could make it to top 300.
- ❖ Around 63 universities from India have qualified for the ranking.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Science, or IISc, Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.
- ❖ The others in the list of top 500 are- IIT Ropar and IIT Indore.
- ❖ Bharathiar University and VIT University are secured 801-1000 category.
- ❖ This year 14 more universities have qualified as compared to that of the 2020 ranking.



- ❖ It is the highest jump by any country in south Asian region.
- ❖ The University of Oxford was at the top position followed by Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- ❖ The United States was the most represented country with 59 entries in the top 200.
- ❖ It was followed by UK with 29, Germany with 21.
- ❖ China's Tsinghua University was the first Asian university to make it to top 20.

<b>INDIAN INSTITUTES IN THE'S WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021</b>		
<b>Institute</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
IISc	301-350	301-350
IIT Ropar	301-350	351-400
IIT Indore	351-400	401-500
Banaras Hindu University	601-800	601-800
ICT, Mumbai	501-600	601-800

### **Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Food Systems - Report**

- ❖ It is published by World Wide Fund (WWF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), non-profit organization EAT & think tank Climate Focus.
- ❖ It aims to help policymakers adopt food systems solutions and set more ambitious targets and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, in turn, improve biodiversity, food security, and public health.
- ❖ According to the report, Food system's production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food account for up to 37% of all greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries are expected to resubmit their NDCs every five years.

**Food Systems: Emissions and Solutions**

Food system activities account for up to <b>37%</b> of total global emissions	Food system actions could deliver <b>20%</b> of global emissions reductions needed by 2030	Over <b>90%</b> of NDCs fail to take food systems approaches to reduce these emissions
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