



January – 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court has suggested setting up of a 3-member panel comprising of
 - Nandan Nilekani (co-founder of Infosys), and
 - Vijay P Bhatkar (renowned computer scientist)
- to suggest reforms for conducting the competitive examinations fairly by the government bodies.

NATIONAL

Committee for Campaign Silence Period

- ❖ The Committee appointed by the Election Commission of India has submitted its report on digital media and campaigning during last 48 hours before polls to the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.
- ❖ The Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha.
- ❖ The panel was mandated to review and suggest modifications in the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act dealing with campaigning in the last 48 hours and related provisions of the Model Code of Conduct.
- ❖ No campaigning is allowed in the last 48 hours so that voters can think independently. This period is also called silence period.
- ❖ The Recommendations of the Committee will be considered by the Commission in detail for follow up action.

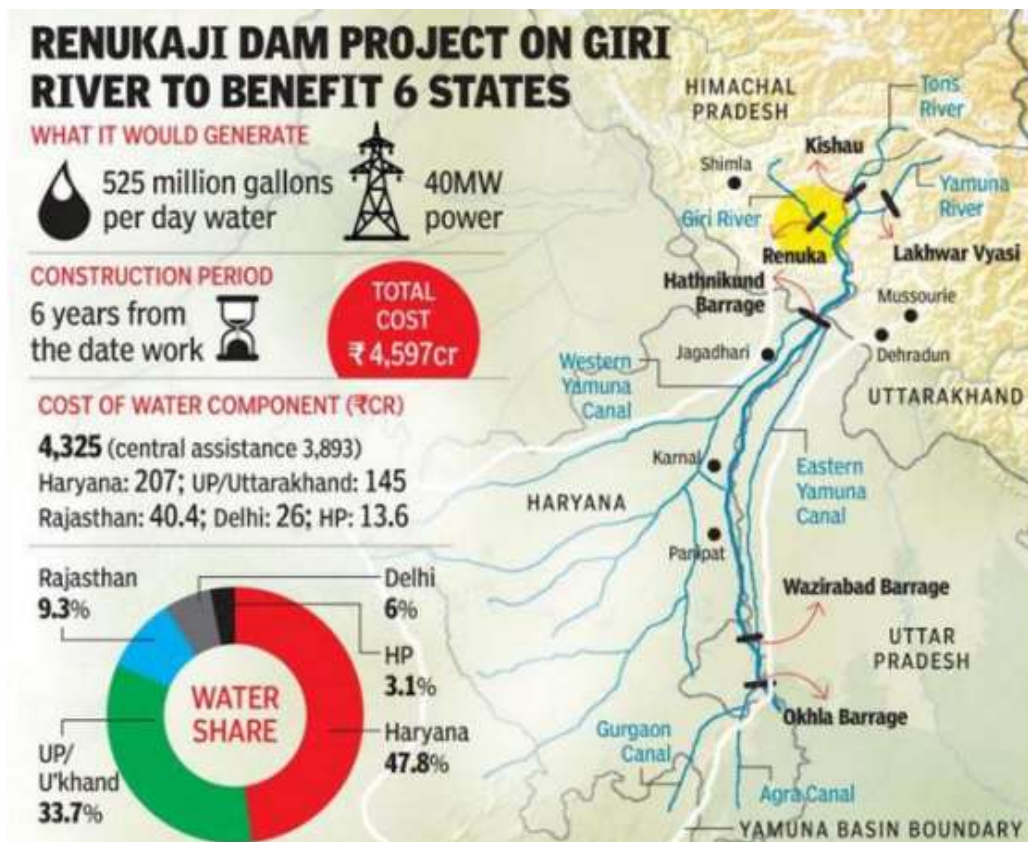
Agreement for Renukaji Multipurpose Dam Project

- ❖ Six states Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are signed an agreement for construction of Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project in the presence of Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ❖ Renukaji Dam project has been conceived as a storage project on the Giri river in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It envisages construction of 148 m-high rock-filled dam for supply of 23 m³/s water to Delhi and other basin states.



Renukaji Multi-Purpose Project

- ❖ Three projects are proposed to be constructed on the Yamuna and two of its tributaries.
- ❖ These includes
 - Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand,
 - Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh,
 - Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ These three projects were identified as National Projects in 2008 under which 90% funding of the cost of irrigation & drinking water component will be provided by the Government of India and the rest 10% cost will be borne by the beneficiary states.





INTERNATIONAL

Tata Steel's Netherlands plant 'factory of the future'

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recognised Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant in Netherlands and six others as 'Manufacturing Lighthouses' state-of-the-art production facilities.
- ❖ Tata Steel has successfully adopted and integrated the cutting-edge technologies of the future and drove financial and operational impact.
- ❖ Assessing more than 1,000 factories in 2018, it has been inducted into WEF's prestigious community.
- ❖ The WEF set up a network of leading intelligent production companies ('Lighthouses') under its 'Shaping the Future of Production' initiative in 2017.
- ❖ It allows the exchange of knowledge and promote collaborations in the area of the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' in production.

ECONOMY

Global Economic Prospects report 2019

- ❖ The World Bank has released the Global Economic Prospects report 2019 titled "Darkening Skies".
- ❖ The Growth among advanced economies is expected to drop to 2% this year.
- ❖ Slowing external demand, rising borrowing costs and persistent policy uncertainties may impact the outlook for Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDE).
- ❖ South Asia is expected to grow at 7.1% in 2019 with much of the contribution would come from India.





Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)

- ❖ The RBI has made changes with the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to allow
 - Charitable institutions,
 - Central government entities and
 - State government entitiesto deposit gold under the GMS.
- ❖ The ambit of the scheme was expanded to,
 - Bring out the unaccounted gold with the charitable institutions.
 - Enable the government agencies to deposit gold which they had confiscated.

Background

- ❖ The GMS was launched with the tagline “Earn, while you secure”.
- ❖ The scheme provides the dual benefit of interest (denominated in gold) on the gold deposited and an option of encashing the gold at maturity.
- ❖ All the scheduled commercial banks except the RRBs are authorised to implement the scheme.

Gold Monetisation Scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">🏠 A person or entity can earn interest in either cash or gold units, by depositing the precious metal with the banks🏠 Interest payable after 30/60 days of opening of the account🏠 Threshold limit for deposit-30 gms🏠 Interest earned on it exempted from income tax and capital gains tax🏠 A person or institution holding surplus gold can get it valued from BIS-approved hallmarking centres🏠 Minimum period for Gold Savings Account -One year	 <p>India imports as much as 800-1000 tonnes of gold each year Though stocks of gold in India are estimated to be over 20,000 tonnes, mostly this gold is neither traded, nor monetised</p>
Gold Monetisation Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none">🏠 Minimum deposit- 30 grams🏠 Short term (1-3 years), medium term (5-7 years) and long term (12-15 years)🏠 Interest: 2.25-2.5%🏠 To run till maturity unless depositors withdraw them🏠 Resident Indians, MFs and ETFs can make the deposits	



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NIC Command and Control Centre

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) inaugurated the National Informatics Centre (NIC)'s Command and Control Centre (CCC) and its Centre for Excellence in Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ It aims to provide a platform to provide innovative new solutions and to test and develop solutions for projects undertaken by NIC at central and state level.
- ❖ It has been established with a motto 'Inclusive AI' for responsive governance to work towards improving Government service delivery to citizens.

ENVIRONMENT

National Clean Air Programme

- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has recently launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ It aims to tackle the challenge of increasing pollution in the cities and towns.
- ❖ The important features of the programme are
 - It is a 5-year action plan with a tentative target of 20-30% reduction in concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024, with 2017 as the base year.
 - The plan covers 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 states and Union territories,
 - These cities were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.
 - The plan document is not binding on the states since the document is not a legal document.

- ❖ Cities are considered as Non-attainment cities, if they were consistently showing poorer air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- ❖ Cities included under the list of Non-attainment cities Delhi, Varanasi, Bhopal, Kolkata, Noida, Muzaffarpur, and Mumbai.



STATES

West Bengal Ayushman Bharat scheme

- ❖ The West Bengal government has decided to exit from the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ With this, it has joined states of Telangana, Kerala, Odisha, and Delhi which have opted out of the scheme for varied reasons.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar lifetime award

- ❖ Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology, has been bestowed with the 'Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar' – a lifetime award by the National Teachers' Congress and MIT World Peace University, Pune.
- ❖ This award has given for an inspiring teacher throughout, and for showing his excellent performance in teaching, research and institution building.
- ❖ The award ceremony took place at the 3rd edition of 'Global National Teachers' Congress' which was held at MIT World Peace University, Kothrud, Pune.
