



May – 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India handed over two Mi-24 attack helicopters to Afghanistan and two more will be sent as replacement. These helicopters were gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015.
 - Under a tripartite agreement, India has agreed to purchase the attack helicopters from Belarus and supply them to Afghanistan.
- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have created a “wearable supercapacitor” that can be stitched on to any fabric. It can store and deliver large amount of electrical energy, exceeding other similar devices.
 - This supercapacitor can be used for powering GPS location-based devices or a LED lamp or even charge small electronic devices.
- ❖ Karnataka has declared that it will create a second Chinkara deer (*Gazelle bennettii*) Wildlife Sanctuary in Bukkapatna (Tumakuru district). It had established the first such sanctuary in 2016 at Bagalkot district.
 - 60% of the global population of Indian gazelles or Chinkara is presently found in the Western Rajasthan.
- ❖ Taiwan's Parliament passed a bill legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first place in Asia to do so.
 - The bill would allow same-sex couples to form 'exclusive permanent unions' and would let them apply for a 'marriage registration' with government agencies.
- ❖ Anna University has signed an agreement with the National Security Depository Limited (NSDL) to upload Academic records of students who have studied at university departments and autonomous and non-autonomous affiliated institutions on the National Academic Depository (NAD) web portal.
 - The university has so far uploaded degree certificates awarded since 2012 on the NAD web portal. The NAD was initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2017.
- ❖ According to CNRS research centre of France, it takes 25 watts per hour and thus creating 20 grams of carbon dioxide emissions to send a 1 MB email.
 - Greenhouse gas emission from Information and Communication technologies is expected to be 4% in 2020. It makes ICT more carbon emission intensive than aviation industry (2% emission in 2018) and comparable to Automobile industry (8% in 2018).

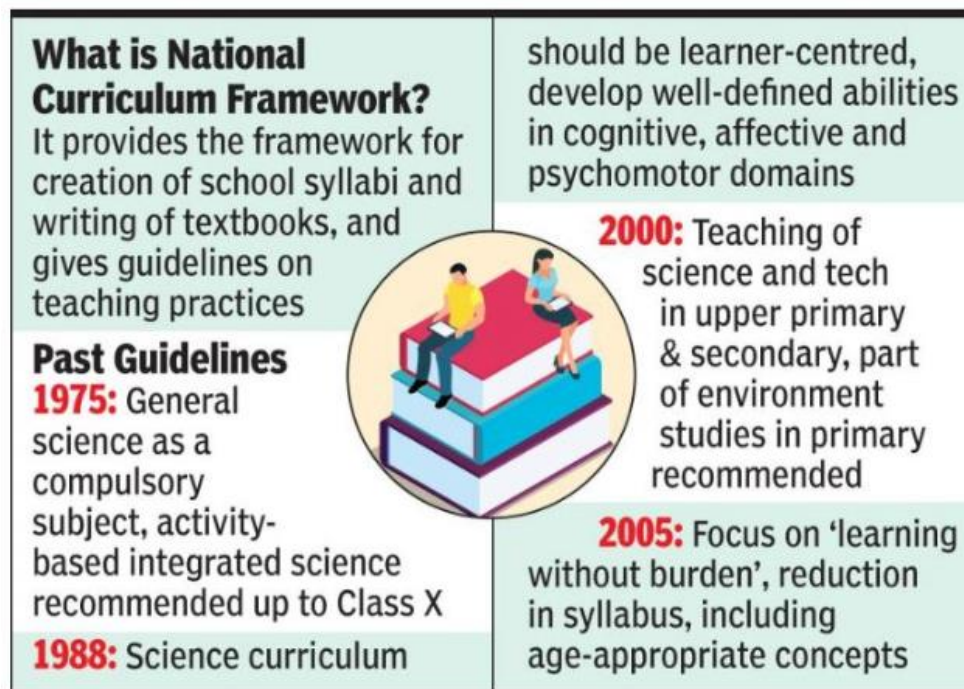


- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind move, Legal Cadet Corps (LCC), on the lines of the National Cadet Corp, has been put together in Jharkhand.
 - The move is aimed at raising legal awareness among children, especially students of classes 9 to 12, by ensuring that legal education is made a part of regular school curriculum.

NATIONAL

NCERT Syllabus review

- ❖ The director of NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) has announced plans to review the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005.
- ❖ The NCF provides the framework for creation of the school syllabi and the writing of textbooks.
- ❖ It also gives guidelines on teaching practices in India.
- ❖ Four NCF have been released in 1975, 1988, 2000 and 2005.
- ❖ The task committee to review syllabus will be created shortly.



Pharma Pricing Control

- ❖ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slashed the prices of 9 non-scheduled cancer drugs by up to 87 %.
- ❖ Earlier this year government had capped the price of 42 cancer drugs at 30 %.
- ❖ NPPA was established in 1997.
- ❖ It functions under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- ❖ NPPA publishes lists of medicines and their maximum ceiling prices under the Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO).

MRSAM Missile

- ❖ Indian Navy along with DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries has carried out successful test-firing of the MRSAM missile.



- ❖ These Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) the missiles will significantly enhance the
 - anti-air warfare capability Indian Navy
 - overall combat effectiveness



- ❖ These Surface to Air Missiles are fitted onboard the Kolkata Class Destroyers and would also be fitted on all future major warships of the Indian Navy.

Drought Advisory

- ❖ The Union government has issued a drought advisory to 6 States - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The drought advisory is issued to states when the water level in reservoirs is 20 per cent less than the average of live water storage figures of the past 10 years.
- ❖ This advisory recommends states to use water for drinking purpose only till the dams are replenished.

INTERNATIONAL

US Immigration

- ❖ The United States President Donald Trump has introduced a legislation to form a merit-based immigration system.
- ❖ It grants permanent legal residency based on points for people based on age, knowledge, job opportunities and civic sense.
- ❖ Immigrants will also be required to learn English and pass a civics exam prior to admission.
- ❖ Current immigration system mostly favours applicants with family ties to the US.
- ❖ Indian professionals and skilled workers, waiting to get Green Cards or permanent legal residency, stand to benefit the most.

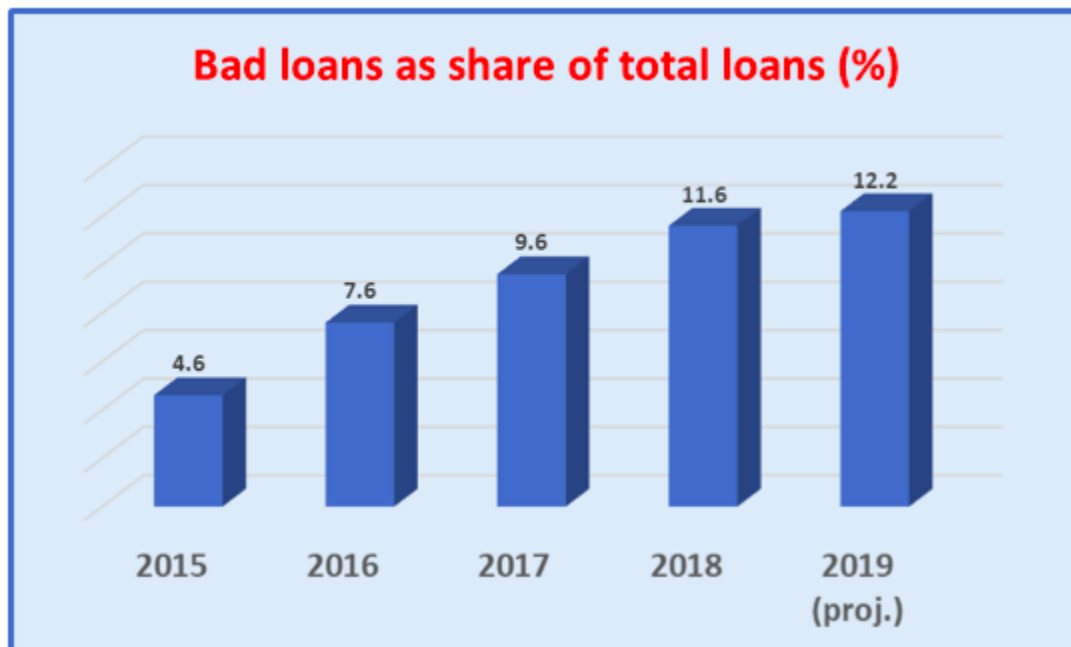
ECONOMY

Under-reporting Bad Loans

- ❖ Union Bank of India, Indian Bank and Central Bank of India have reported “divergence” in bad loan recognition.
- ❖ Divergence takes place when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finds that a bank has
 - Under-reported bad loans
 - Not reported bad loans



- ❖ RBI spotted the “divergence” in their 2018-19 4th quarter financial year results (Jan 2019 – March 2019) because these banks reported “loss”.
- ❖ Their loss was reportedly due to “higher provisioning” for old bad loans which were given in 2017-18 financial year.



What is Provisioning?

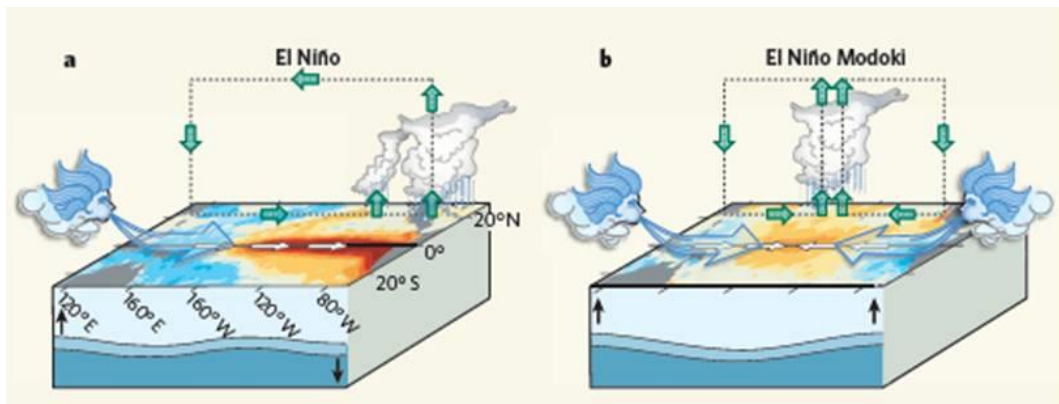
- ❖ When a loan is not being repaid, the Bank has to reconstitute this Money from its other sources like Profit.
- ❖ Banks setting aside a part of money from Profits to compensate for a probable loss is called Provisioning.
- ❖ Banks do Provisioning to cover the risk.

ENVIRONMENT

El Nino Modoki

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has predicted that El Nino Modoki events in India from 2020 may
 - increase the frequency of heat waves
 - increase the duration of heat waves
- ❖ South India and coastal regions are expected to be affected by more heat waves.

- ❖ Heat waves in India are usually followed by El Nino events.
- ❖ El Nino is warming of Eastern Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ But El Nino Modoki event is the Warming up of central Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is the first time that a research has connected future heat waves in India with El Nino Modoki events.
- ❖ Additional factors expected to make the heat waves worse are
 - Depletion of soil moisture
 - transfer of heat from the earth to the atmosphere



STATES

Arunachal Pradesh - Pakke

- ❖ Researchers from Mysore carried out a study about Hornbills in Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They noted that hornbills are the
 - top seed dispersers
 - large-sized frugivores (fruit eating birds)
- ❖ Plants depend on frugivore birds to disperse the seeds and for further spread of the area.
- ❖ Any decline of frugivores could severely affect the ecosystem.

Hornbill Fact Box

Scientific Name: *Buceros bicornis*

Location: Himalayan foothills, hill forests in northeast India and wet evergreen forests of west India.

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

Listed in Appendix I of CITES

Threats: Killed widely to make Traditional Hats called Bopia Hat

State Bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh (ONLY)

Every year Great Hornbill festival celebrated in Nagaland.



MISCELLANEOUS

World Record Sale

- ❖ French artist Claude Monet's 1890 art work "Mueles" was sold for a record breaking price of \$110.7 million.
- ❖ It is regarded as one of the finest examples from Monet's acclaimed 'Haystacks' series of paintings.
- ❖ Mueles became the first work of an Impressionist Art to be sold for over \$100 million (Rs. 778 Crores) at an auction.

Impressionism

- ❖ Impressionism is a style of painting associated mainly with French artists of the late nineteenth century.
- ❖ Impressionist painting seeks to re-create the artist's or viewer's general impression of a scene.



*An Impressionist
Painting*



Mueles Painting
