

January - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Payment Corporation of India has now allowed to use of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by non-resident Indians using their international mobile numbers.
- ❖ NCERT has notified India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), which aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards.

NATIONAL

Bharat Pravah

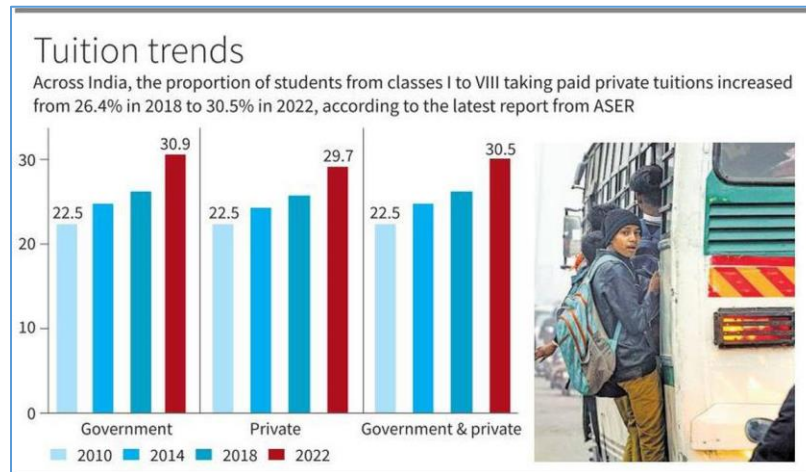


- ❖ Bharat Pravah-India along its shores is an initiative to highlight the significance and imagery of rivers, ports, and shipping through a series of nationwide events.
- ❖ Bharat Pravah will serve as a common platform to bring together stakeholders from different walks for the purpose of creating a larger vision of shipping, rivers, seas & people.
- ❖ It will highlight the challenges, policy issues and future goals relating to the maritime sector.

Annual Status of Education Report 2022

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022, was released by the NGO Pratham.

- ❖ Overall enrolment figures for the 6 to 14 years age group increased from 97.2% in 2018 to 98.4% in 2022.
- ❖ Government schools have seen a sharp increase in children enrolled from 65.6% in 2018 to 72.9% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of children in Class 3 in government or private schools who were able to read at the level of Class 2 dropped from 27.3% in 2018 to 20.5% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of children enrolled in Class 5 in government or private schools who can at least read a Class 2-level text fell from 50.5% in 2018 to 42.8% in 2022.
- ❖ Nationally, the proportion of children who can do division has increased slightly, from 44.1% in 2018 to 44.7% in 2022.
- ❖ The state with highest percentage of students going for tuitions is Bihar (71.7%), followed by Manipur (53.4%) and Jharkhand (45.3%).
- ❖ The exceptions are Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Tripura.
- ❖ UP, MP, Bihar, Tripura are among states with lowest attendance rate.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have over 86% enrolled students attending schools.



Bhopal Declaration

- ❖ Bhopal Declaration was released after discussion in the two-day meeting of Think-20 under G20 in Bhopal.
- ❖ It was released after the Think20 (T20) meeting of G20 countries' think tanks and research centres.

Highlights

- ❖ Emphasis on promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH

- ❖ Encouragement of value-oriented development in infrastructure
- ❖ Appeal for more inclusive development and care for all sections of society
- ❖ Special attention to children and development led by women
- ❖ Focus on bridging the gap between North and South
- ❖ Importance of localization in achieving G-20 sustainable development goals
- ❖ Necessity of triangular cooperation between government, society, and private organizations



INTERNATIONAL

European Green Deal



- ❖ The Green Deal Industrial Plan was announced by European Commission.
- ❖ This plan is a response to both the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other global renewable energy legislative commitments like the US' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

- ❖ The first pillar will see the introduction of the Net-Zero Industry Act
- ❖ The second pillar of the plan as outlined by the speech will boost investment and financing for clean tech production and manufacturing.
- ❖ The Green Deal Industrial Plan is a significant moment for European solar manufacturers.

MAREX-2023

- ❖ Sri Lanka and the United States are to conduct week-long joint military exercises.
- ❖ The 2023 edition of CARAT/MAREX Sri Lanka is the fifth such bilateral exercise.
- ❖ It aims to prepare for disaster relief and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific, amid China's increasing military manoeuvres in the strategic region.
- ❖ The exercise is named Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) / Marine Exercise (MAREX) Sri Lanka 2023.
- ❖ It will involve participants from the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Maldives National Defence Force.



ENVIRONMENT

Rare species of duck

- ❖ A rare species of duck, Greater Scaup was recently sighted in Loktak lake in Manipur's Bishnupur district after a gap of over 90 years.
- ❖ It is locally known as Sadangman.

- ❖ The Greater Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck species that belongs to the family of Anatidae.
- ❖ There are records of Captain L Gamble of Gurkha Rifles and Indian Civil Service officer JP Mills gunning down the ducks on January 25, 1925, and in December 1927, respectively.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Best small Bank Award



- ❖ Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank (TMB) has bagged 'Best Small Bank Award' in the 'Best Banks Survey for the year 2022'.

- ❖ The bank has won this award under the category of banks with the book size of less than ₹1 lakh crore.
- ❖ The 101-year-old TMB is one of the renowned old private sector banks having its headquarters in Thoothukudi.

MLK Grande Parade Special Award

- ❖ Indian-American Krishna Vavilala has been honoured with MLK Grande Parade Special Award.
- ❖ This is awarded for contributions towards connecting the Indian community with mainstream America as the US celebrated the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
- ❖ Vavilala is a long-time Houstonian and the founder and chairman of the Foundation of India Studies (FIS).



New Zealand's PM resignation

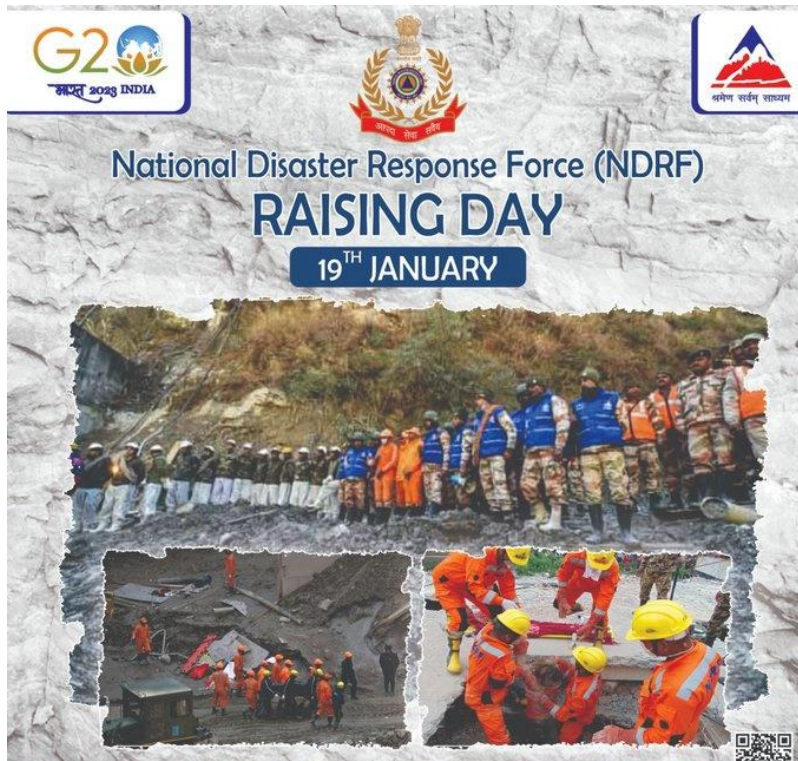
- ❖ New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, announcing her resignation from office.
- ❖ Ardern became prime minister in 2017 at the age of 37.
- ❖ She was New Zealand's third female leader and one of the youngest leaders in the world.
- ❖ Ardern was the second prime minister in the world to give birth while in office, after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990.

- ❖ New Zealand will choose its next prime minister in a general election held on October 14.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Disaster Response Force Day - January 19





- ❖ This Day has been celebrated on this day since 2006 when the rescue force was officially formed.
- ❖ The specialised, multi-skilled rescue force is made up of battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles.
- ❖ The NDRF is the primary agency responsible for conducting rescue operations during disasters like drowning, building collapses, landslides, devastating floods, earthquakes and cyclones.
- ❖ The Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005.

