

September - 02

TNPSC BITS

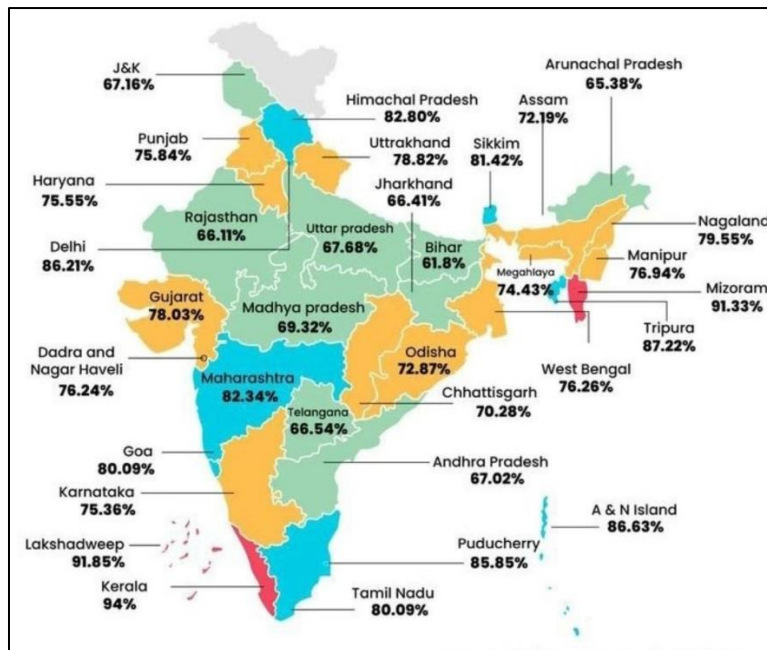
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated three new Vande Bharat Express in Chennai Central to Nagercoil, Madurai to Bengaluru Cantonment and Meerut City to Lucknow route
- ❖ Amazon is introducing its generative AI chatbot Rufus to India-based customers soon.
- ❖ India's Siemens Healthineers developed indigenous RT-PCR testing kit for Mpox.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec Limited have announced the initiation of the first ever phase 3 clinical trial for a dengue vaccine – DengiAll in India.
- ❖ The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has successfully launched the All-India Initiative on Creative Economy (AIICE) in Delhi.
- ❖ The 8th Dharma Dhamma conference was organised by the India Foundation in collaboration with Gujarat University in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) sent its Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate in the first edition of the Egypt International Airshow 2024.
- ❖ IIT Gandhinagar has set up the Centre for Narmada River Basin Management (cNARMADA) to conduct the Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) of the Narmada River basin.
- ❖ Soumya Swaminathan has released 'The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women', an autobiography written by activist Kalpana Sankar.
- ❖ A five-year-old Teghbir Singh from Ropar, Punjab, has become the first youngest Asian to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5895 m.
- ❖ Indian team has won a silver medal at the Maruhaba Cup at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 in Maldives.
- ❖ Satish Kumar, a 1986 batch railway mechanical engineer, has been appointed the new Railway Board chairman and chief executive officer (CEO).
 - He is the first Dalit to head this organisation in its 119-year history.

NATIONAL

Definition of Literacy and Full Literacy

- ❖ The Centrally Sponsored New India Literacy Programme (NILP) has implemented during five years from the FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27.

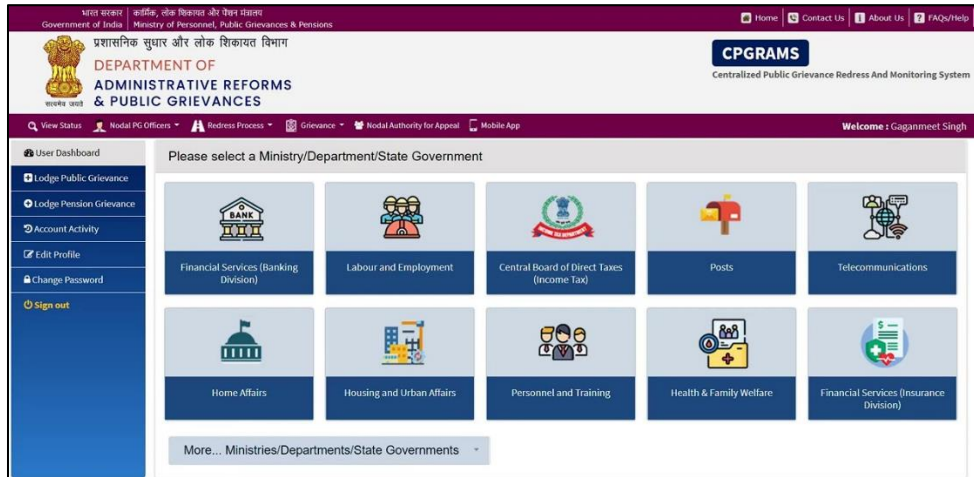
- ❖ The scheme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- ❖ For this, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has defined 'literacy,' and what it means to achieve 'full literacy.'
- ❖ It has stated that the literacy may be understood as the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension.
- ❖ It includes to identify, understand, interpret and create along with the critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy etc.
- ❖ Full literacy is to be considered equivalent to 100% literacy.
- ❖ Achieving 95% literacy in a State/UT that may be considered as equivalent to fully literate.
- ❖ According to the Census 2011, India faces a significant literacy challenge, with 25.76 crore non-literate individuals in the 15 years and above age group.
- ❖ It was comprising 9.08 crore males and 16.68 crore females.
- ❖ The Saakshar Bharat programme has certified 7.64 crore individuals as literate between 2009-10 and 2017-18.
- ❖ Still approximately 18.12 crore adults in India remain non-literate.



Guidelines for Effective Public Grievance Redressal

- ❖ The Centre has issued comprehensive guidelines for a time-bound handling of public grievances.

- ❖ The grievances can be filed by citizens on an integrated user-friendly CPGRAMS www.pgportal.gov.in portal.
- ❖ The timelines for effective grievance redressal have been reduced to 21 days from 30 days.
- ❖ In cases where grievance redressal is likely to take longer, citizens shall be given an interim reply.



GREAT scheme



- ❖ The 8th Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) has approved 4 Start-Ups with a grant of approx. INR 50 Lakhs, each.
- ❖ This was made under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme.

- ❖ It also approved a grant of approx. INR 20 Cr. to 5 Education Institutes to introduce courses in Technical Textiles.
- ❖ This was made under the ‘General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles’.
- ❖ The approved Start-Up projects are focused on key strategic areas of Composites, Sustainable Textiles, and Smart Textiles.

UDAN scheme version 5.4

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has launched version 5.4 of the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme.
- ❖ The bids for routes that were earlier cancelled would be invited under UDAN 5.4 as fresh bids.
- ❖ This is further expected to provide connectivity on unserved and underserved routes in the country.
- ❖ UDAN was launched in 2016 to improve air connectivity to remote or unserved areas.
- ❖ Additionally, the MoCA also launched guidelines for seaplane operations in India.



INTERNATIONAL

New Suicide drones - North Korea

- ❖ North Korea has unveiled a new “suicide drone.”
- ❖ The Suicide drones are explosive-carrying unmanned drones designed to be deliberately crashed into enemy targets, effectively acting as guided missiles.

- ❖ The suicide drone that looks similar to HAROP can fly over 1000 kilometers (600 miles).



ECONOMY

Unified Lending Interface

'NEW TRINITY: JAM-UPI-ULI'

“ The new trinity of **JAM** (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile)-
UPI-ULI will be a revolutionary step forward in India's digital infrastructure journey

—**Shaktikanta Das** | RBI GUV

What's Unified Lending Interface? > It is designed to address unmet credit demand, particularly for agriculture and MSMEs, by digitising access to data like **land records**

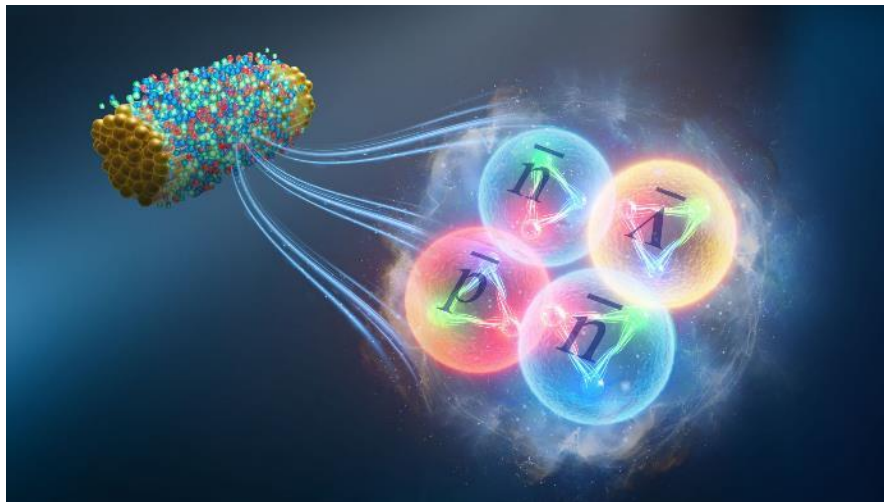
> A standardised, plug-and-play system that aims to reduce the need for extensive **documentation** from borrowers

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working in launch of the Unified Lending Interface (ULI).
- ❖ Similar to the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), this ULI will transform the lending landscape.

- ❖ ULI platform will facilitate a seamless and consent-based flow of the digital information, including land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders.
- ❖ It will cut down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Antihyper Hydrogen-4



- ❖ Antihyperhydrogen-4, Heaviest Antimatter Hypernucleus Ever, was discovered recently.
- ❖ It contains 1 antiproton, 2 antineutrons, 1 anti-Lambda hyperon.
- ❖ This antihyperhydrogen-4 decays when it is only a few centimetres away when it is trapped by an anti-Lambda hyperon.
- ❖ The newly discovered antihyperhydrogen-4 was produced at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) in the United States.
- ❖ Antiparticle is a subatomic particle that has the same mass as another particle and equal but opposite values of some other properties.

ENVIRONMENT

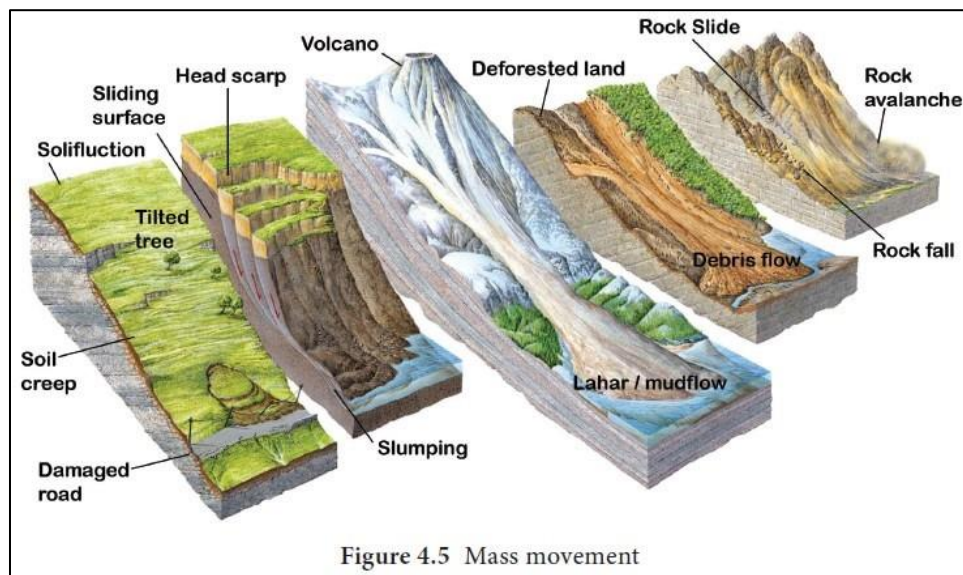
Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus

- ❖ A new genus and species of large theropod has been discovered in Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ This dinosaur was named Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus.

- ❖ They roamed our planet during the Callovian age of the Jurassic period between 165 and 161 million years ago.
- ❖ It is the first diagnosable theropod species from the Jurassic of Central Asia west of China.



Mass wasting in Tibet's Sedongpu Gully



- ❖ The high frequency of mass wasting events in the Sedongpu Gully of the Tibetan Plateau since 2017 and the rapid warming of the area could affect India.
- ❖ This area rarely experienced temperatures beyond 0° C before 2012.
- ❖ But, the nearby weather stations at Bomi and Linzhi revealed that the annual temperature in this area increased at rates of 0.34° to 0.36° C during 1981-2018
- ❖ The Sedongpu Gully, in the catchment of the Sedongpu glacier and its valley, is 11 km long and covers 66.8 sq. km.

- ❖ It drains into the Yarlung Zangbo, or the Tsangpo River, near where it takes a sharp turn — called the Great Bend.
- ❖ While flowing around Mt. Namcha Barwa (altitude 7,782 metres) and Mt. Gyala Peri (7,294 metres) to create a gorge 505 km long and 6,009 metres deep.
- ❖ This is one of the deepest gorges on the earth.
- ❖ Mass wasting is the gravity-influenced movement of rock and soil down a slope.
- ❖ A gully is a landform created by erosion from running water, mass movement or both.

