

April - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian government has named Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who is the country's ambassador to Nepal, as India's next Foreign Secretary.
  - He will be taking charge after incumbent Harsh Vardhan Shringla.
- ❖ In India, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has also projected changes in the spatial distribution of malaria.
  - It warned about the potential outbreaks in the Himalayan region, besides the southern and the eastern states.
- ❖ The Delhi government has set up Hobby Hubs for government schools in Delhi after school hours to promote extra-curricular activities.
  - The idea is to make optimum use of school infrastructure and to use it after school hours to promote these extra-curricular activities.
- ❖ HDFC Bank Limited has been adjudged Best Performing Bank in Self Help Group (SHG) Linkage by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
  - HDFC Bank is the only private bank to be honored with the award for its contribution to SHGs by NRLM.

## TAMIL NADU

### Coins in Adichanallur



- ❖ The discovery of two punch-marked coins of the Sangam era, with symbols of sea turtles, marked the first of its kind found in the archaeological history of Adichanallur.
- ❖ It is a historic site located in the lower valley of Tamirabarani in Srivaikuntam taluk, Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ Adichanallur was largely known as an ancient burial mound where funerary urns were found.
- ❖ The site was first excavated by German archaeologist Dr. Jagor in 1876.
- ❖ With the latest collection of findings (punch-marked coins), the archaeological recovery suggests Adichanallur could have either been a coin manufacturing site or one of the earliest places of human settlement.

## NATIONAL

### HDFC Limited and HDFC Bank



- ❖ HDFC's board of directors has approved the merger of HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation).
- ❖ The deal will be building the housing loan portfolio of the bank and will also be enhancing its existing customer base.
- ❖ Once the merger deal is completed, HDFC Bank will become a 100% publicly owned company with no identifiable promoter group.

- ❖ Post the merger deal, the existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will own 41% stake in HDFC Bank.

## India's Export in 2021-2022



- ❖ In 2021-22 fiscal, the merchandise exports of India grew to touch a record high of USD 418 billion.
- ❖ The sectors that played a key role in the increase of merchandise exports include engineering, petroleum products, jewellery, gems, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals.
- ❖ During 2021-22, the goods trade (imports and exports) of the country crossed USD 1 trillion.
- ❖ India's imports also touched USD 610 billion a record of its own.
- ❖ In March 2022, the outbound shipments of the country also touched a record high of USD 40.38 billion.
- ❖ In 2020-21, the merchandise exports of the nation were worth USD 292 billion.
- ❖ During the period of April 2021 to March 2022 the Agriculture exports crossed USD 48 billion.

- ❖ The US, Bangladesh, the UAE, Singapore, the Netherlands, the UK, Hong Kong, Germany, and Belgium were the top export destinations for the products.

## INTERNATIONAL

### UN Human Rights Council - climate expert

- ❖ The United Nations Human Rights Council has appointed Dr. Ian Fry as the world's first independent expert on human rights and climate change.
- ❖ Dr. Fry has been appointed for a period of three years.
- ❖ He holds dual citizenship of Tuvalu and Australia.
- ❖ The first to hold the post will be Ian Fry, who holds both Australian and Tuvaluan nationality.

Award	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norway)
Women's Single	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Naomi Osaka (Japan)
Men's Double	Hubert Hurkacz / John Isner	Wesley Koolhof / Neal Skupski
Women's Double	Laura Siegemund / Vera Zvonareva	Veronika Kudermetova / Elise Mertens

### International Air Connectivity Scheme



- ❖ The International Air Connectivity Scheme (IACS) has been launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.



- ❖ It is launched with the objective of enhancing air connectivity from India's certain states with some selected international destinations so as to promote socio-economic growth.
- ❖ This newly launched scheme has been supported by the State Governments.

## ECONOMY

### WMA limit for States/UTs



- ❖ The Reserve Bank reduced the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and union territories to Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore.
- ❖ WMAs are short-term loans provided by the RBI to the government to help it deal with any discrepancies between receipts and payments.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New Chemical Reference Material





- ❖ Six new and rare Reference Materials (RMs) have been indigenously developed by the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
- ❖ RMs are the purest form of chemical that is required in all WADA-accredited laboratories across the world for anti-doping analysis.
- ❖ the six RMs have been indigenously developed by NDTL in collaboration with the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati.
- ❖ Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the RMs during NDTL's 15th Governing Body Meeting.
- ❖ Till now, India has been importing RMs from Australia and Canada.

## ENVIRONMENT

### IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report – Highlights

#### PREVIOUS IPCC ASSESSMENT REPORTS: HIGHLIGHTS

##### FIRST REPORT, 1990

- Emissions resulting from human activities are increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases
- Global temperatures have risen by 0.3°–0.6°C in 100 years. In business-as-usual scenario, likely to increase by 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels by 2025, and 4°C by 2100
- Sea-level likely to rise 65 cm by 2100
- Report formed basis for negotiation of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992

##### SECOND REPORT, 1995

- Revises projected rise in global temperatures to 3°C by 2100, and sea-level rise to 50 cm
- The scientific underpinning for Kyoto Protocol in 1997

##### THIRD REPORT, 2001

- Revises predicted temperature rise to 1.4°–5.8°C by 2100 compared to 1990
- Rainfall to increase; sea-level likely to rise by 80 cm from 1990 by 2100.
- Frequency, intensity and duration of extreme weather events to increase
- Presents new and stronger evidence

to suggest most of warming attributable to human activities

##### FOURTH REPORT, 2007

- Greenhouse gas emissions rose by 70% between 1970 and 2004
- Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2005 (379 ppm) the highest in 650,000 years
- In worst-case scenario, global temperatures could rise 4.5°C by 2100 from pre-industrial levels; sea-levels could be 60 cm higher than in 1990
- Wins 2007 Peace Nobel for IPCC
- Report is the scientific input for the 2009 Copenhagen climate meeting

##### FIFTH REPORT, 2014

- Temperature rise by 2100 could be 4.8°C from pre-industrial times
- Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O “unprecedented” in last 800,000 years
- More frequent and longer heat waves “virtually certain”
- “Large fraction of species” face extinction
- Forms scientific basis for negotiations of Paris Agreement in 2015

- ❖ The latest series of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report has highlighted that without immediate emissions reductions across all sectors, it would be difficult to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The report also stated that to keep the temperature checked to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the global emission of greenhouse gas has to peak before 2025 and by 2030 it must be reduced by 43 percent.

## STATES

### Gangaur festival

- ❖ It is celebrated in Rajasthan and some parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal.
- ❖ It is one of Rajasthan's most important festivals.
- ❖ The women worship Gauri, the wife of Lord Shiva.



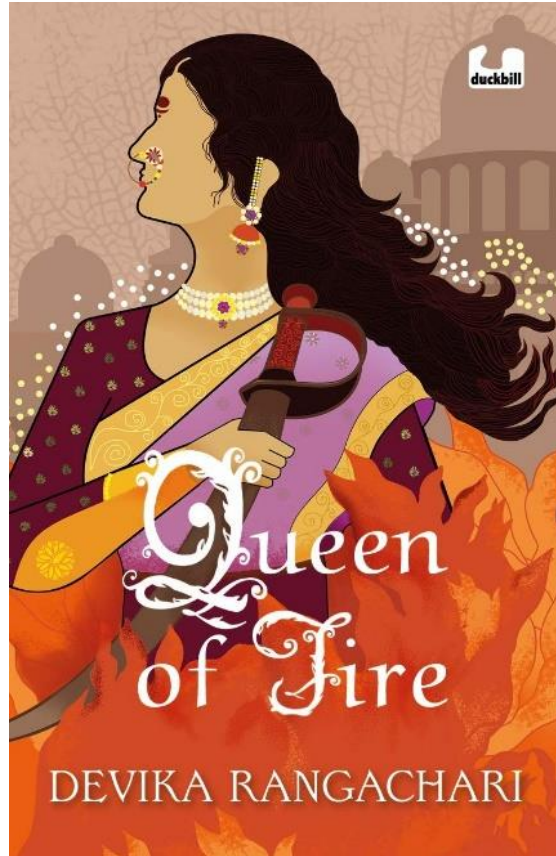
## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Book by by Devika Rangachari

- ❖ Award-winning children's writer and historian, Devika Rangachari have authored a new novel titled "Queen of Fire".
- ❖ It explores the story of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.



- ❖ The book focuses on the journey of Rani Lakshmbai as a queen, soldier, and statesman.



### **Grammy Awards 2022 - Indian Winners**



- ❖ At the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, two Indian musicians were among the winners.



- ❖ Falu, an Indian-American singer-songwriter won her maiden Grammy in the category of Best Children's Music Album.
- ❖ Falguni Shah or Falu won the award for her album A Colorful World.
- ❖ Composer Ricky Kej also won his second Grammy as he and Stewart Copeland won the award in the category of Best New Age Album.
- ❖ In 2015, Ricky Kej had won his first Grammy Award.

## SPORTS

### **Miami Open 2022**



- ❖ The 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament was the 37th edition of the men's and women's events.
- ❖ It was held in Miami Gardens, Florida, USA.
- ❖ Miami Open is classified as an ATP Masters 1000 event on the 2022 ATP Tour and a WTA 1000 event on the 2022 WTA Tour.

