

April - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting took place in Mumbai.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Second G20 Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency, chaired by India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant took place in Kumarakom, Kerala.
- ❖ The two-day Science-20 conference under India's G20 presidency held at the Hapania International Fair Ground in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ India's top men's doubles badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Ranki Reddy and Chirag Shetty won Swiss Open Super 300 Badminton doubles title in Basel, Switzerland.
- ❖ Indian weightlifters Dhanush Loganathan and Jyoshna Sabar won bronze medals in their respective categories in the IWF World Youth Championships, held at Albania.

## NATIONAL

### New Vande Bharat Express



- ❖ Indian Railways' eleventh Vande Bharat Express was launched recently.

- ❖ It will operate from Rani Kamalapati station in Bhopal and Hazrat Nizamuddin in the national capital.
- ❖ This is the Madhya Pradesh's first Vande Bharat Express.
- ❖ It is also the second fastest Vande Bharat Express after the New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Marburg virus disease – Tanzania

- ❖ Tanzania has announced its first outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus disease (MVD).
- ❖ The MVD was first discovered in 1967 in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany and Belgrade, Serbia.
- ❖ It is from the same “virus family” as Ebola.
- ❖ It causes a severe haemorrhagic fever, while fatality rates have varied from 24% to 88%.
- ❖ There have been several outbreaks since its discovery, with the worst being Angola in 2004-2005 with 227 deaths.
- ❖ The virus is initially transmitted to people from fruit bats, and then from person to person through body fluids or contaminated objects.



### Britain on trans-Pacific pact

- ❖ The United Kingdom has agreed to join an 11-country Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

- ❖ UK looks to deepen ties in the region and build its global trade links after leaving the European Union.
- ❖ The CPTPP is the successor to a previous trans-Pacific trade pact.
- ❖ Its members include fellow G7 members Canada and Japan, and historic UK allies Australia and New Zealand.
- ❖ The remaining members are Mexico, Chile and Peru, along with Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Brunei.



## ECONOMY

### Committee to strengthening MDBs



- ❖ Under the aegis of India's G20 Presidency, a 11-member expert group has been set up to explore measures to strengthen the multilateral development banks (MDBs).

- ❖ Professor Lawrence Summers, President Emeritus, Harvard University and N K Singh, are co-convenors of the G20 Expert Group.
- ❖ The panel would work on making a road map for an updated MDB ecosystem for the 21st century.
- ❖ It would develop Mechanisms for coordination among MDBs for them to address and finance global development and other challenges more effectively.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Reusable Launch Vehicle Mission

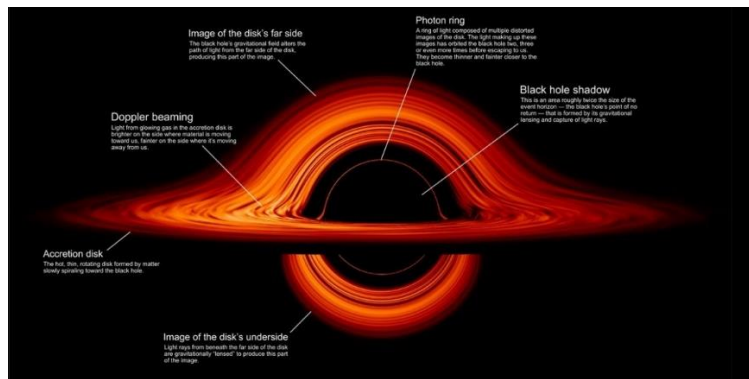


- ❖ The ISRO in collaboration with the IAF and DRDO successfully conducted the RLV autonomous landing mission (RLV LEX) at Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- ❖ This test was the second of five tests that are a part of ISRO's efforts to develop RLVs, or spaceplanes/shuttles.
- ❖ It can travel to low earth orbits to deliver payloads and return to earth for use again.
- ❖ The first test with RLV-TD (HEX1) involved the vehicle landing on a hypothetical runway over the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ While the 2<sup>nd</sup> LEX experiment involved a precise landing on a runway.
- ❖ Three more experiments — return flight experiment (REX), powered cruise flight, and Scramjet Propulsion Experiment (SPEX) — have to be conducted.

### Monster black hole

- ❖ Astronomers have discovered one of the biggest black holes inside a galaxy.

- ❖ The giant black hole has a mass of 30 billion suns.
- ❖ It could consume billions of suns like the one in our Solar System.
- ❖ The black hole is located in one of the galaxies of the Abell 1201 galaxy cluster.
- ❖ It is located hundreds of millions of light-years from Earth.
- ❖ This is discovered through gravitational lensing method for the first time.
- ❖ Gravitational lensing is where a foreground galaxy bends the light coming from a more distant object and magnifies it.
- ❖ When a star collapses at the end of its life, it gives birth to black hole.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Cyrtopodion Vindhya



- ❖ A new species of naked-toed gecko (Cyrtopodion) has been discovered in Dahod and Panchmahals districts in Gujarat.
- ❖ It has been named after Vindhya hills as 'Cyrtopodion Vindhya'.
- ❖ It is the fifth endemic species of reptile described in the last fifteen years from the state of Gujarat.

- ❖ These gekkonid lizards distributed across the arid regions of north Africa, Arabia, and Central Asia to north western India.
- ❖ There are 23 known species of genus *Cyrtopodion* genus of the Gecko family.
- ❖ This is the twenty-fourth one.

### **50 years of Bandipur Tiger Reserve**

- ❖ Bandipur in Karnataka completed 50 years as a Project Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ On April 1, 1973, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched the flagship conservation programme to arrest the big cat's dwindling population.
- ❖ There were 12 tigers in Bandipur when Project Tiger was launched.
- ❖ Today, the number of tigers utilizing the park is 173.
- ❖ Bandipur was among the first nine reserves to be brought under the flagship programme.
- ❖ The Bandipur Tiger Reserve is an important component of the country's first biosphere reserve, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.



## **SPORTS**

### **Women's Boxing World Championships**

- ❖ Indian women boxers recreated history and brought home four gold medals at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship.
- ❖ Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75) and Saweety Boora (81kg) won gold for the country.
- ❖ India stood on the top in the gold medal tally at the championship
- ❖ This was India's second time in history to win four gold medals at the Women's World Boxing Championships.

- ❖ In 2006, Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny Lalremliani and Lekha K.C won gold for the country.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

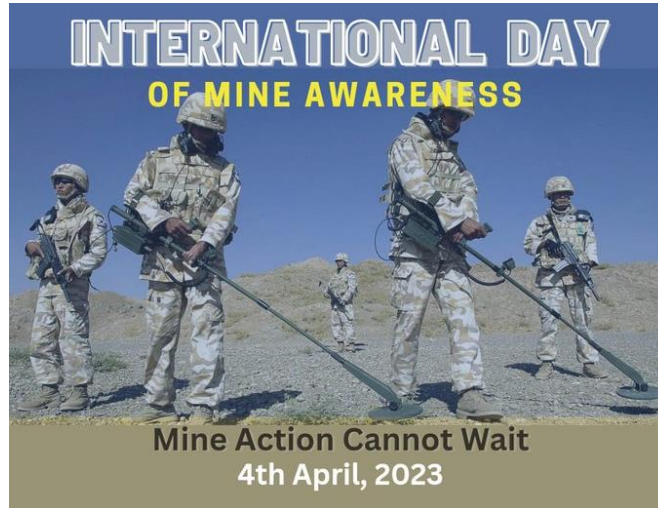
### Prevention of Blindness Week 2023 - April 1/7



- ❖ The Government of India organises the Prevention of Blindness Week from April 1-7 every year to raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness.

- ❖ The annual event aims to support individuals with visual impairments, and to promote access to eye care services.
- ❖ Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, the first health minister of India, established the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.
- ❖ The observance of the week was started in 1960.

### **International Day of Mine Awareness - April 04**



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication.
- ❖ The mine action community plays a significant role towards achieving the mine action goals.
- ❖ And it is led by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).
- ❖ Theme of the year is “Mine Action Cannot Wait”.
- ❖ In 1997, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was established for signature.
- ❖ It led the first campaign against mines.
- ❖ And 164 countries have ratified it since then.

