

April - 12

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kim Cotton became the first woman to officiate as an on-field umpire in a men's international match between two ICC full-member teams.
  - Prior to this, Kim had worked as an on-field and TV umpire in 54 women's T20Is and 24 women's ODIs.
- ❖ The International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence was held in Oxford, the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Scotland's parliament appointed Humza Yousaf as first minister.
  - He is the youngest and the first Muslim leader of a government in western Europe.

## TAMIL NADU

### TN REACH initiative



- ❖ TN REACH, an institution mechanism will be formulated to use helicopters for travel between cities and towns.
- ❖ TN REACH stands for Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters.
- ❖ More than 80 unused helipads across Tamil Nadu will soon be put to use with helicopter services planned by the State government.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Industrial Corporation (TIDCO) will be the nodal agency to implement the plan.
- ❖ The mechanism would build upon

- Heli Disha- an administrative guidance manual for helicopter operations,
- Heli Sewa - a portal for providing online landing clearance for helicopter operations.

### **Longest elevated corridor**

- ❖ The first elevated corridor for Madurai district, part of the four-lane highway connecting Madurai with Thuvrankurichi in Tiruchi via Natham was inaugurated by PM.
- ❖ This is part of National Highway 785 and built under Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- ❖ This 7.3 km-long elevated corridor is the longest in Tamil Nadu.



## **NATIONAL**

### **National party status**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) accorded the status of a national party to Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party.
- ❖ It is also withdrawing the same for the Trinamool Congress, Communist Party of India, and the Nationalist Congress Party.
- ❖ With the removal of NCP, CPI, and TMC, there are now only six national parties in the country.
- ❖ BJP, Congress, National People's Party, CPM, Bahujan Samaj Party and the latest addition AAP are the national parties now.
- ❖ According to Election Commission rules, a party gets national status if it is recognized as a state party in four states.

- ❖ For recognition as a state party, it has to secure at least six percent of the valid votes polled and two seats each in Assembly or Lok Sabha polls.

## How is a party's status decided

A party needs to fulfill any of the following conditions to get national or state tag

### For national status

**Votes in LS, state polls:** A party should secure at least 6% of the votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in the Lok Sabha

**Seats in LS:** It should have at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states

**Must be a state party:** It is recognised as a state party in at least four states

### For state tag

**Votes in assembly polls:** The party must get at least 6% of the votes and win at least two seats in the assembly election

**1 MP must in LS:** It gets at least 6% of the votes polled and has at least one MP in the Lok Sabha

**Assembly seats:** It has at least 3% of the votes or three MLAs in the assembly, whichever is more

**Strength in House:** The party has at least one Lok Sabha member for every 25 assembly members, or any fraction thereof allotted to the state

**Performance in past polls:** It has at least 8% of the total valid votes polled in the state in the previous election to the Lok Sabha or assembly in the state

### Perks of national party

- Common party symbol across states
- Free airtime during elections on public broadcasters
- Space for a party office in New Delhi

## Anti-establishment terminology

## 'Claim cannot be made out of thin air'

SC ON PRESS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY:

"An independent press is vital for the robust functioning of a democratic republic... The press has a duty to speak truth to power, and present citizens with hard facts enabling them to make choices that propel democracy in the right direction."

**ON CLAIMS OF NATIONAL SECURITY:**  
"It is not sufficient for the state to identify its purpose in broad conceptual terms such as national security and public order... A claim cannot be made out of thin air without material backing for such a conclusion."

**ON 'SECURITY' AS A TOOL TO DENY REMEDIES:**  
"The state is using national security as a tool to deny citizens remedies that are provided under the law. This is not compatible with the rule of law."

**ON 'ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT' VIEWS BY THE PRESS:**  
"The critical views of the channel... on policies of the government cannot be termed, 'anti-establishment'. The use of such a terminology in itself represents an expectation that the press must support the establishment."

Understanding the Media One verdict >PII

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that Criticism of governmental policy cannot be termed "anti-establishment".
- ❖ It also, quashing the Centre's telecast ban on Malayalam news channel Media One.

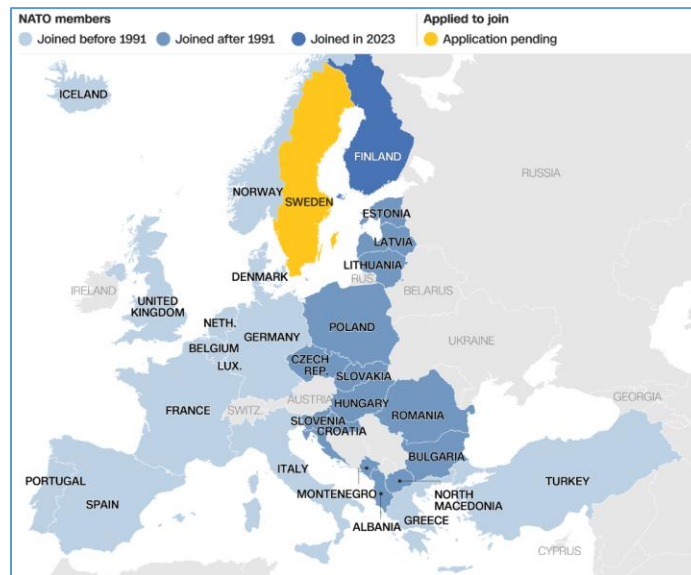


- ❖ Anti-establishment referred as that individual or Organisation who Opposed or hostile to the social, economic, and political principles of a ruling class (as of a nation).
- ❖ Criticism of government policy can by no stretch of imagination be brought within the fold of any of the grounds stipulated in Article 19(2).
- ❖ Article 19(2) lays reasonable restrictions in the interests of the security and sovereignty of India.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Finland in NATO

- ❖ Finland has become the 31st member of the NATO security alliance.
- ❖ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949.
- ❖ NATO aims to guarantee the security of its members through political and military means.
- ❖ NATO's protection does not extend to members' civil wars or internal coups.



### SCO's New dialogue partner

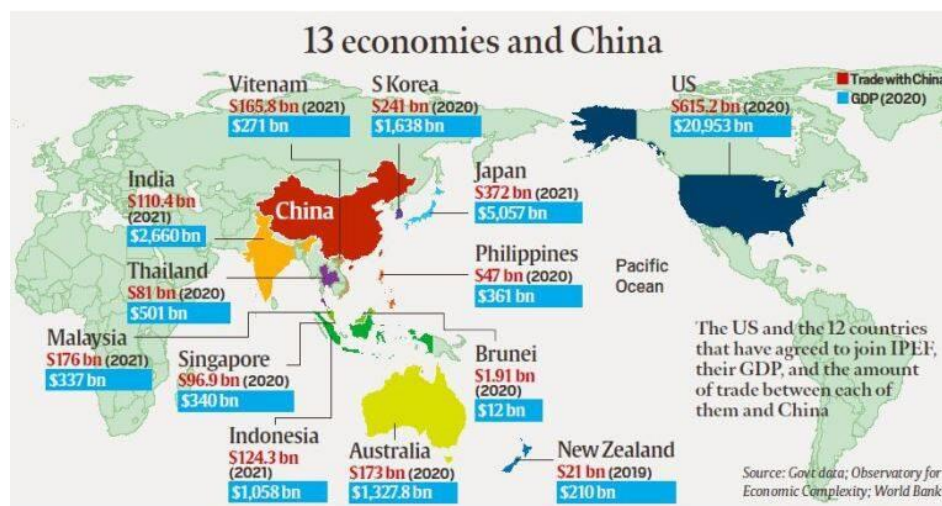
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has approved the decision to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a “dialogue partner.”
- ❖ The SCO is a security and political union of countries throughout Eurasia, including China, India and Russia.

- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization now includes India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- ❖ Observer countries include Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia.
- ❖ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey are currently dialogue partners.



## ECONOMY

### IPEF negotiating round



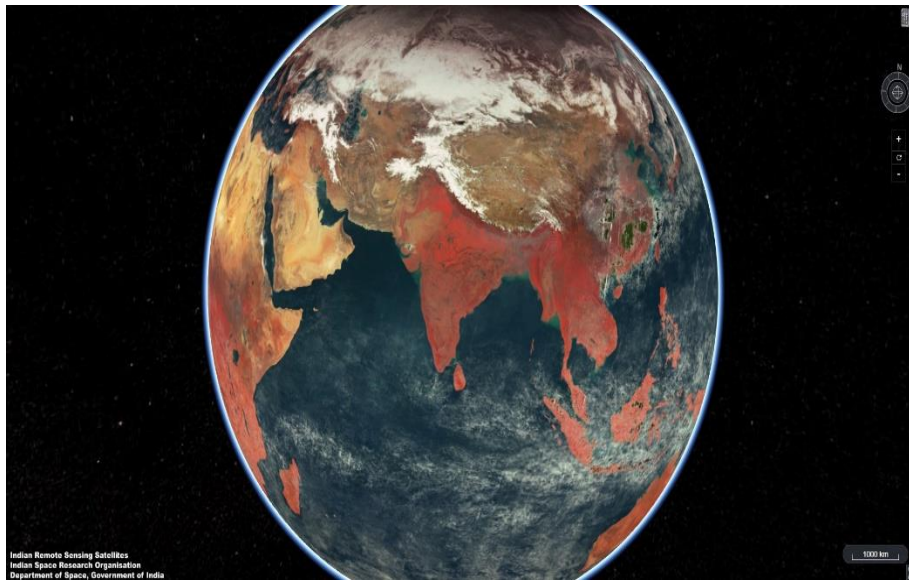
- ❖ The second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) negotiating round held in Bali, Indonesia.
- ❖ Negotiators from India and 13 other countries also participated in the Bali negotiating round.

- ❖ During the Bali Round, discussions covered all the four pillars of the IPEF
  - Trade (Pillar I)
  - Supply Chains (Pillar II)
  - Clean Economy (Pillar III) and
  - Fair Economy (Taxation & Anticorruption) - (Pillar IV).
- ❖ India participated in the discussions related to Pillars II to IV.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Images of Earth from Space

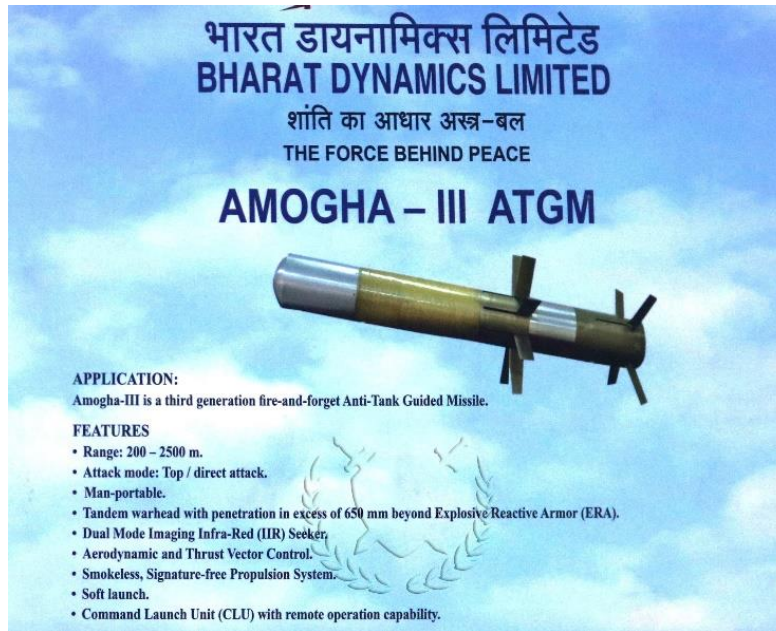
- ❖ ISRO has shared stunning new images of the planet clicked using Ocean Colour Monitor on Earth Observation Satellite (Oceansat-3).
- ❖ The images are a mosaic generated by National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) from data beamed back by the spacecraft.
- ❖ They provide information about global vegetation cover on land and ocean biota.
- ❖ OceanSat-3 is a nanosatellite that was launched by ISRO as part of the PSLV-C54 mission on November 2022.



### Missile Amogha III

- ❖ Bharat Dynamics Limited has carried out a successful test of its 'Amogha-III' Missile.
- ❖ It is the latest 3<sup>rd</sup> generation man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)

- ❖ It has a fire-and-forget capability and does not require external intervention after the launch.
- ❖ Range of the missile is 200 to 2500 meters.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Water and Heritage Shield



- ❖ A sacred Hopi site in Arizona was awarded the ICOMOS Water and Heritage Shield.



- ❖ The Sípàapu is a rocky dome made of limestone as well as a spring located on the Little Colorado river.
- ❖ It holds immense importance for the Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni tribes.
- ❖ This was awarded by the International Committee on Monuments and Sites International Science Committee.
- ❖ The purpose of the Shield is to help the public become aware of the significance of water and indigenous sacred sites all over the world and the right to cultural and historical memory.

### **MCC honorary life membership**

- ❖ The Marylebone Cricket Club has revealed the names of its latest members on whom the club has bestowed honorary life membership.
- ❖ The historic club gives honorary membership to the finest men and women who have contributed to the game.
- ❖ The members' list has five names from India.
- ❖ They are: Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Sports for Development and Peace - April 06**

- ❖ This day marks the opening of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.



- ❖ It aimed as sport to be celebrated as a tool to bring social change and foster peace and understanding.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Scoring for People and the Planet'.



### **World Health Day - April 07**



- ❖ This day commemorating the establishment of the World Health Organization in 1948.
- ❖ This year WHO celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- ❖ In April 1945, politicians from around the world gathered in San Francisco to establish the United Nations.
- ❖ At the meeting, leaders from Brazil and China suggested the creation of global organization specifically devoted to global health.



- ❖ The organization's headquarters are based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It has six regional and 150 country offices across the world.
- ❖ As this is the 75th anniversary, the WHO has chosen the theme as "Health for All".

