

April - 14

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Guneet Monga is to be conferred with honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier Award).
  - It is the second-highest civilian French honour and has earlier been awarded to big Hollywood names like Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bruce Willis.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates named the next two astronauts in its space programme including the country's first female astronaut.
  - Noura al-Matroushi is the UAE's first female astronaut.
- ❖ Advanced Antiquities Management System was introduced by the Goa government recently.
  - It was the first such system in the country for storage of antiquities.

## NATIONAL

### Right to Religion

- ❖ In a recent case, the Supreme Court has said people are free to choose their religion.
- ❖ People have a right under the Constitution to profess, practise and propagate religion (Article 25).
- ❖ Religious faith is a part of the fundamental right to privacy.
- ❖ The Constitution Bench judgment has already upheld inviolability of the right to privacy, equating it with the rights to life, of dignity and liberty.

### Tika Utsav

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently appealed to the Chief Ministers of the States to organise "Tika Utsav".
- ❖ Tika Utsav is a vaccine festival.
- ❖ It is to be held between April 11, 2021, and April 14, 2021.
- ❖ The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible.
- ❖ It will also focus on zero wastage of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ COVAXIN and COVISHIELD are the two major COVID-19 vaccines that are currently administered in India.



### **AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020**

- ❖ Six higher education institutions have been awarded the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Lilavati Awards 2020.
- ❖ It is based on the theme 'women empowerment'.
- ❖ The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati".
- ❖ The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- ❖ Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II.

### **Winners**

- ❖ The SWEAT (Sona Women Entrepreneurship and Training) from Sona College of Technology, Tamil Nadu won the contest in the 'Women Entrepreneurship' sub-theme.
- ❖ The runner-up award was given to Bharatiya Vidyapeeth, under the 'Digital Literacy' sub-theme.
- ❖ Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development Pune won the award under the sub-theme 'Literacy'.
- ❖ Also, the WIT Women Health Coalition from Walchand Institute of Technology, Maharashtra, won the award under the 'Women's Health' sub-theme.
- ❖ Apart from these, Ms Radiant Seetha from Thiagarajar Polytechnic College won the contest in the 'Legal Awareness' whereas Ms Paritrana from St. Joseph's College of Engineering, Tamil Nadu won the award for the 'Self Defense.'

## INTERNATIONAL

### Mega free trade agreement



- ❖ Singapore ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.
- ❖ It is the world's largest free trade agreement, led by China.
- ❖ In doing so, Singapore became the first among 15 participating countries to ratify RCEP.
- ❖ The RCEP must first be ratified by at least six ASEAN and three non-ASEAN member states to come into effect.
- ❖ Once implemented, RCEP would be the world's largest free trade agreement, covering around one-third of the world's population and about 30% of the world's economy.
- ❖ RCEP is a multi-nation trade pact, comprising 10 ASEAN economies as well as Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.
- ❖ The RCEP was signed in November 2020.
- ❖ India had opted out of it in 2019.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Dolphins in Chilika Lake

- ❖ Odisha has released the final data on the dolphin census.
- ❖ The population of dolphins in Chilika has doubled this year compared with last year.
- ❖ Forest officials sighted 188 dolphins this year in Chilika Lake, up from 163 in 2020
- ❖ Three species were recorded during the census.
- ❖ The Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins were sighted this year.
- ❖ The 2021 dolphin census report also revealed that Gahiramatha is the home of the state's largest population of dolphins.
- ❖ Gahiramatha was declared a marine sanctuary in 1997 to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles in the Gahirmatha beach.
- ❖ Gahirmatha beach is the world's largest rookery of sea turtles.
- ❖ Chilika is India's largest brackish water lake.
- ❖ Dolphins have been included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and categorised as 'endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List.

## SPORTS

### Nethra Kumanan

- ❖ Nethra Kumanan became the first Indian woman ever to qualify for the Olympics in Sailing.
- ❖ She will be the 10th Indian to qualify for a sailing event in the Olympics.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Parkinson's Day – April 11

- ❖ It is a nervous system disorder.
- ❖ The day marks the birthday of Dr James Parkinson from London.
- ❖ He was the first person to systematically described the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease.

- ❖ This year, the theme will be Mental Health in Parkinson's and Parkinson's Care.



### **International Day of Human Space Flight – April 12**



- ❖ The UN General Assembly declared that April 12 was to be celebrated as International Day of Human Space Flight.
- ❖ On 12 April 1961, 1st human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin.
- ❖ He was a Soviet citizen, who became the first person to journey into outer space.
- ❖ 12 April was also the date of the 1st Space Shuttle STS-1 of Columbia launched in 1981.
- ❖ On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to orbit the Earth
- ❖ On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot upon the surface of the moon.

- ❖ Apollo and Soyuz were the first joint US-Russian space flight.

### **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day – April 13**

- ❖ Jallianwala Bagh Massacre refers to the incident that took place in 1919 at Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh.
- ❖ This year is the 102nd anniversary of the incident.
- ❖ On April 13, 1919 people gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi.
- ❖ The Police Officer General Dyer ordered his troops to shoot the people.
- ❖ After this, the Hunter commission was formed to enquire this.
- ❖ General Dyer's action was praised by Punjab Lieutenant Governor Sir Michael O' Dwyer.

