

April - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tulsi (Shabari) waterfall in Chitrakoot is set to open the first glass skywalk bridge in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The book “Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond” is edited by Professor Raman Mittal and Professor Seema Singh.
- ❖ RBI introduced a significant policy amendment, enabling Indians to diversify their hedging strategies against gold price volatility in overseas markets.
- ❖ Amitabh Bachchan is to be honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award 2024.
- ❖ ISRO has developed a lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle for rocket engines, which it described as a breakthrough in rocket engine technology.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'.
- ❖ Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will step down on May 15 after two decades at the helm, and hand the power to his deputy Lawrence Wong.
- ❖ Donald Trump became the first former US President to face a criminal trial in a case that involves paying hush money to actress.
- ❖ Every year on April 16, World Voice Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of the human voice and vocal health.

## NATIONAL

### CDP-SURAKSHA

- ❖ The Union government has come up with a new platform to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).
- ❖ The platform is known as CDP-SURAKSHA.
- ❖ SURAKSHA stands for “System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance.”
- ❖ The platform will allow an instant disbursement of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the e-RUPI voucher from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ The CDP is a component of the central sector scheme of National Horticulture Board.

- ❖ So far, 55 horticulture clusters have been identified, out of which 12 have been selected for the pilot.
- ❖ Four more clusters — a floriculture cluster in West Bengal, coconut clusters in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and white onion clusters in Gujarat — are also in the pipeline.



## ECONOMY

### India's Worst Deposit Crunch in 20 Years



- ❖ The credit-deposit ratio at its highest in at least 20 years as loan offtake rose across categories including home loans and other loans for consumption.
- ❖ The current credit-deposit ratio is at 80%, which is the highest it has been since 2015.

- ❖ The pace of growth of bank credit surpassed deposit growth in FY24.
- ❖ In FY24, deposits grew 13.5% to ₹204.8 trillion, non-food credit grew 20.2% to ₹164.1 trillion as on 22 March.
- ❖ In FY23, deposits grew 9.6% and credit 15.4%

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Gaia BH3 Black Hole

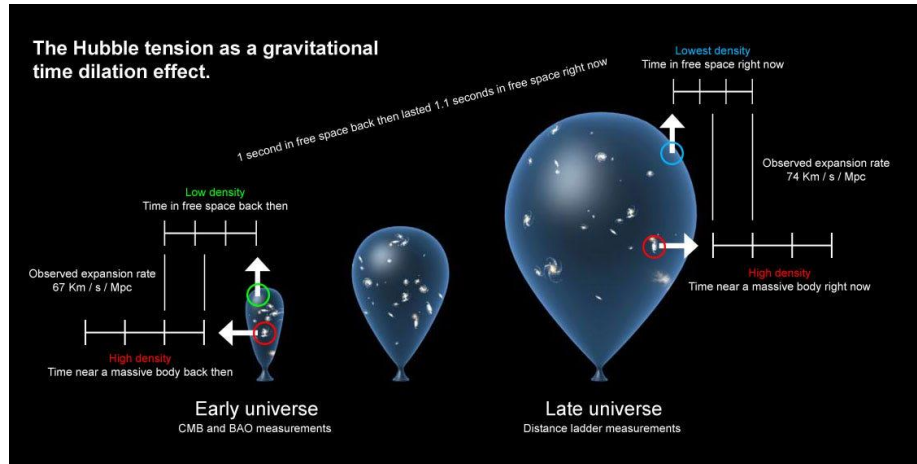
- ❖ Astronomers at the European Space Agency (ESA) have identified the biggest stellar black hole, named Gaia BH3.
- ❖ It is discovered in the Milky Way, with a mass 33 times that of the Sun.
- ❖ This black hole is also extremely close to us — at a mere 2000 light-years away in the constellation Aquila.
- ❖ It is the second-closest known black hole to Earth.



### Hubble Tension

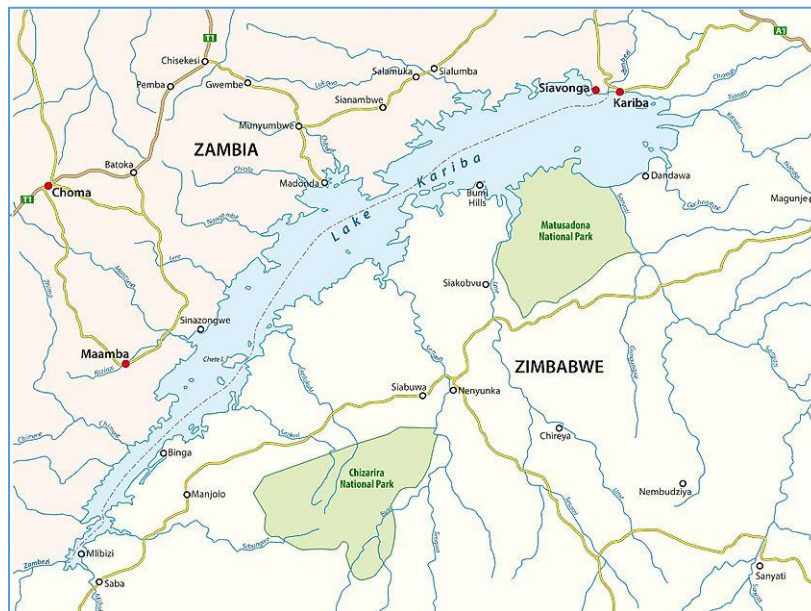
- ❖ Scientists from Germany and the U.K. have proposed a radical explanation for the discrepancy in measurements of the universe's expansion rate, known as the Hubble tension.
- ❖ New data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) also confirms a long-standing mystery.
- ❖ It is the expansion rate of the universe we see today doesn't match what we expect based on the early universe.
- ❖ Using observations of the young universe, scientists can calculate an expected expansion rate for the present day.

- ❖ They can also directly measure the current expansion with special objects called "standard candles."
- ❖ When these two values are compared, they disagree significantly.
- ❖ The Hubble constant, denoted as  $H_0$ , describes the rate at which galaxies are moving away from each other due to the expansion of the universe.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Lake Kariba Water levels



- ❖ Water levels at Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe have dropped dramatically because of the latest El Niño drought.
- ❖ Water in the lake had dropped to just 13.52% of its capacity.



- ❖ Water levels in the lake fluctuate according to the rainfall – this time last year, the lake was 21.94% full, but levels dropped as low as 12% in 2015.
- ❖ The 280 kilometre-long, human-made Lake Kariba is part of the Kariba Dam.
- ❖ Lake Kariba is the world’s largest man-made lake and reservoir by volume.
- ❖ This was built between 1955 and 1959 in the Zambezi River basin between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Top 10 busiest airports in 2023

- ❖ A report by the Airports Council International shows that in 2023, 8.5 billion passengers took to the skies worldwide.
- ❖ It is a huge jump of 27.2% from the previous year.
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has secured 10th position, with a passenger traffic of 72.2 million flyers in 2023.
- ❖ The Atlanta Airport has once again claimed the title of the world's busiest airport, with 104.65 million passengers in 2023.
- ❖ The DBX in the United Arab Emirates has surged to second place and Dallas–Fort Worth International Airport comes next on the list.

PASSENGERS*						
2023	2022	2019	AIRPORT	2023	% CHANGE VS 2022	% CHANGE VS 2019
1	1	1	ATLANTA, USA (ATL)	104 653 451	11.7	-5.3
2	5	4	DUBAI, UAE (DXB)	86 994 365	31.7	0.7
3	2	10	DALLAS/FORT WORTH, USA (DFW)	81 755 538	11.4	8.9
4	8	7	LONDON, UK (LHR)	79 183 364	28.5	-2.1
5	16	5	TOKYO, JAPAN (HND)	78 719 302	55.1	-7.9
6	3	16	DENVER, USA (DEN)	77 837 917	12.3	12.8
7	7	28	ISTANBUL, TURKEY (IST)	76 027 321	18.3	45.7
8	6	3	LOS ANGELES, USA (LAX)	75 050 875	13.8	-14.8
9	4	6	CHICAGO, USA (ORD)	73 894 226	8.1	-12.7
10	9	17	NEW DELHI, INDIA (DEL)	72 214 841	21.4	5.4

\* Total passengers enplaned and deplaned, passengers in transit counted once

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Fire Service Day 2024 - April 14

- ❖ This day commemorates all the brave firefighters who lost their lives during a ship explosion at the Mumbai dockyard in 1944.



- ❖ This day also provides a forum for spreading awareness of fire safety and prevention.
- ❖ Additionally, Fire Service Week is also observed from April 14 to April 20.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Ensure Fire Safety to contribute towards nation building'.



## World Hemophilia Day 2024 - April 17

### World Haemophilia Day

*Haemophilia is a bleeding disorder in which blood doesn't clot properly which leads to abnormal bleeding.*

**TYPES OF HAEMOPHILIA**

- Haemophilia A**  
Low levels of blood clotting protein Factor VIII (FVIII) cause impaired clotting, leading to prolonged bleeding.
- Haemophilia B**  
Low levels of blood clotting protein Factor IX (FIX) lead to impaired clotting, resulting in prolonged bleeding.
- Haemophilia C**  
Low levels of blood clotting protein factor XI result in impaired clotting, leading to prolonged bleeding. It's a rare form of haemophilia.

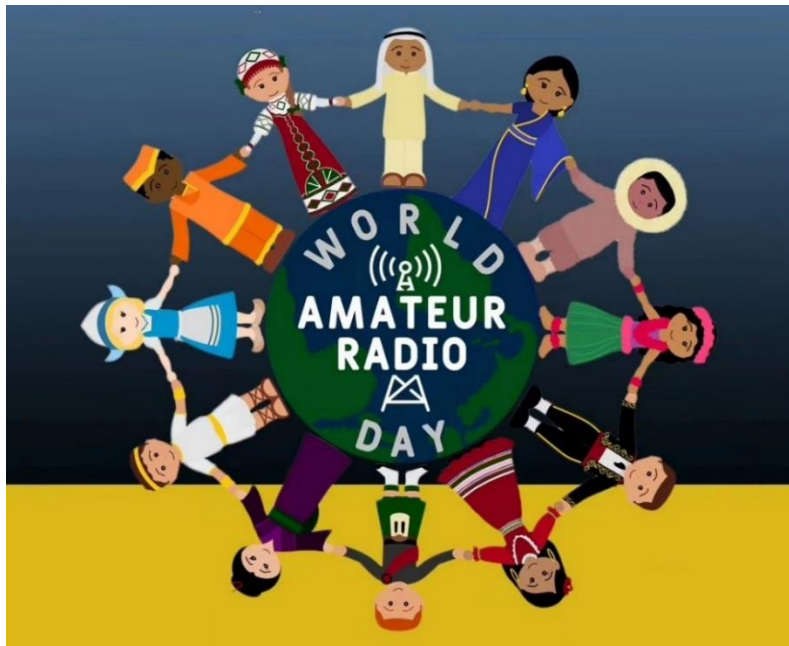
*Let's raise awareness about the types of haemophilia & support those affected!*

The image is a poster for World Haemophilia Day. It features a hand with a red ribbon around it, symbolizing awareness. A drop of blood is shown on the index finger. The text describes the condition and lists the types of haemophilia.

- ❖ This worldwide event is organised by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH).

- ❖ This day tries to create awareness about this condition that can help people have access to diagnosis, treatment and comprehensive care.
- ❖ Hemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly.
- ❖ It is leading to spontaneous bleeding as well as bleeding following injuries or surgery.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders".

### **International Amateur Radio Day 2024 - April 18**



- ❖ The day is dedicated to promoting the use of amateur radio and to enhance its spectrum privileges.
- ❖ Amateur radio is the first type of wireless communication that uses short-wave radio waves.
- ❖ This was first instituted by radio amateurs in 1925.
- ❖ On 18 April 1925, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was established in Paris.

### **World Heritage Day 2024 - April 18**

- ❖ The International Day for Monuments and Sites is also known as World Heritage Day.

- ❖ The day was first celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1983.
- ❖ The aim is to promote awareness about the cultural heritage and diversity on the planet.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter".
- ❖ India is home to a total of 3691 monuments and sites.
- ❖ Of these 40 are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

