

April - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ US President Donald Trump appointed Indian-American Sudarsanam Babu as the member of National Science Board of USA.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced two new helpline numbers in its control room to help needy amid the coronavirus crisis.
 - The helpline numbers are 1930 (all India toll-free number) and 1944 (dedicated to the Northeast).
- ❖ India's oldest National Park Jim Corbett National Park, situated in Uttarakhand, has built isolation wards for animals.
 - It is India's first quarantine facility for animals.
- ❖ India's third-largest motorbike manufacturer TVS Motor has sealed a \$20 million deal to buy British brand Norton Motorcycles.
 - It is the latest swoop by an Asian company on an iconic British brand, after Jaguar Land Rover became part of Tata Motors.
- ❖ The IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva named former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and 11 others to her external advisory group.
 - It is to provide perspectives from around the globe on key developments and policy issues including responses to Covid 19.
- ❖ After Goa, Manipur becomes COVID-19 free.
 - It is the second state in India.
- ❖ The Tata Group has contributed about 40,000 PCR kits worth about ₹ 8 crore to the Tamil Nadu government to help in the testing of COVID-19 cases in the State.
- ❖ The daily wage of the workers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme has been enhanced by rupees 27 to 256 from 229 in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Seven leading IITs (IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee) have decided not to participate in Times Higher Education (THE) world rankings.
 - They doubt the transparency of the THE rankings.



INTERNATIONAL

USA Immigration ban

- ❖ The USA has imposed ban on migration into the country.
- ❖ It would last for 60 days and apply to those seeking “green cards” for permanent residency.
- ❖ A green card is known officially as a Permanent Resident Card.
- ❖ Green card holders are statutorily entitled to apply for U.S. citizenship.

ECONOMY

Surplus Rice - Sanitizers

- ❖ The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) has decided that surplus rice available with Food Corporation of India is to be used in manufacturing ethanol.
- ❖ Ethanol is used in hand sanitizers.
- ❖ Under the NBCC, it was also decided that the surplus rice is to be used for making Ethanol blended petrol programme.
- ❖ The decision has been taken in accordance with the National Policy of Biofuels, 2018.
- ❖ Under the policy, during every crop year, when there is an oversupply of food grains as that expected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, then the surplus quantity shall be used to produce ethanol.
- ❖ The Government of India launched the Ethanol Blending Programme in 2003 for undertaking the blending of ethanol in petrol to address the environmental concerns due to fossil fuel burning, provide remuneration to farmers, subsidize crude imports and achieve forex savings.
- ❖ At 99%-plus purity, ethanol is used for blending with petrol.

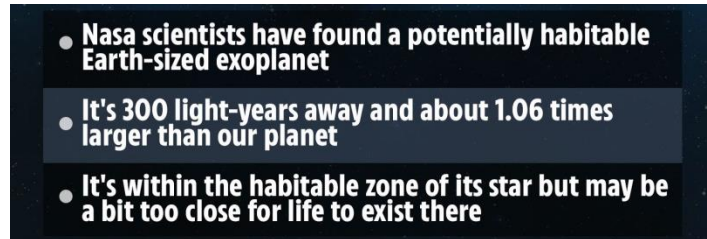
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Exoplanet

- ❖ A group of Scientists from NASA discovered a planet called Kepler-1649c.
- ❖ It is orbiting in its star's (red dwarf star Kepler-1649) habitable zone.
- ❖ The habitable zone is the area around a star where a rocky planet could support liquid water.



- ❖ It is located 300 light-years from Earth.
- ❖ It is most similar to Earth in size and estimated temperature.
- ❖ This newly revealed world is only 1.06 times larger than our own planet.
- ❖ Also, the amount of starlight it receives from its host star is 75% of the amount of light Earth receives from our Sun.
- ❖ It means the exoplanet's temperature may be similar to our planet's as well.
- ❖ But unlike Earth, it orbits a red dwarf.



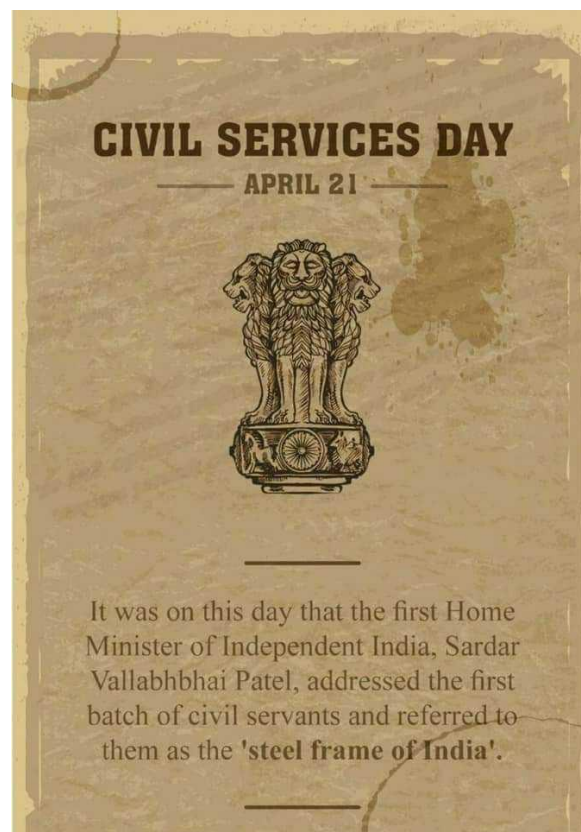
- ❖ A year on Kepler-1649c is equivalent to only 19.5 Earth days.
- ❖ This type of star is known for stellar flare-ups that may make a planet's environment challenging for any potential life.
- ❖ This gives us even greater hope that a second Earth lies among the stars, waiting to be found.
- ❖ The data gathered by missions like Kepler and Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite [TESS] will continue to yield amazing discoveries.
- ❖ There are other exoplanets estimated to be closer to Earth in size such as TRAPPIST-1f and Teegarden c.
- ❖ Others may be closer to Earth in temperature, such as TRAPPIST-1d and TOI 700d.
- ❖ But there is no other exoplanet that is considered to be closer to Earth in both of these values that also lies in the habitable zone of its system.
- ❖ The Kepler space telescope is a retired space telescope launched by NASA to discover.
- ❖ Named after astronomer Johannes Kepler, the spacecraft was launched in 2009 into an Earth-trailing heliocentric orbit.
- ❖ NASA announced its retirement in 2018.
- ❖ It was designed to survey a portion of Earth's region of the Milky Way to discover Earth-size exoplanets in or near habitable zones.
- ❖ It was to estimate how many of the billions of stars in the Milky Way have such planets.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Civil Services Day – April 21

- ❖ It was on this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel addressed the first batch of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House at Delhi.
- ❖ He referred the civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.
- ❖ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has observed this Day.
- ❖ The first such observation function was held in 2006.





World Creativity and Innovation Day – April 21

- ❖ It is celebrated by the United Nations.
- ❖ The day creates awareness about the importance of innovation and creativity to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The World also celebrates the World Creativity Innovation Week April 15 – April 21.
- ❖ It was first was celebrated on April 21, 2018.



International Mother Earth Day – April 22

- ❖ It is being celebrated since 1970.
- ❖ It is celebrated to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
- ❖ It is celebrated this year under the theme - Climate Action.
- ❖ It is celebrated by World Earth Day Network.
- ❖ Earth Day Network is a non-profit organization.
- ❖ This year is the 50th anniversary of World Earth Day.
- ❖ Earth Day is leveraging Citizen Science and emerging technologies to engage one million global citizens in the 50th anniversary “Earth Challenge 2020”.
- ❖ On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, China, and some 120 other countries.
- ❖ Earth Day was founded by American senator Gaylord Nelson for environmental education.



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