

April - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bengaluru-based e-commerce company and Walmart-backed Flipkart announced its plan to acquire Cleartrip for \$40 million.
- ❖ Soliha Shabir from Srinagar added her name in "India's World Records".
  - She is the youngest and first author in Jammu and Kashmir "who has recreated the life of Habba Khatoons poetry (Zoon Book)."
- ❖ The UK Government approves extradition of fugitive economic offender Nirav Modi.
  - He has been accused of fraud worth over Rs 14000 crores in the Punjab National Bank (PNB), which is India's biggest scam so far.
- ❖ A book titled 'Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me', Suresh Raina's autobiography, is set to be released.
  - The book is co-authored by Raina and the sports author Bharat Sundaresan.
- ❖ Mirabai Chanu set a new World Record in the women's 49kg at Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent.
  - She won the bronze medal at the event.
- ❖ The United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has picked Elon Musk's SpaceX for its Artemis programme.
  - It is to develop the first commercial lander and take the next two US astronauts to the moon by 2024.

## TAMIL NADU

### Terracotta dice at keezhadi

- ❖ A six-faced terracotta die and farming implements made of granite have been unearthed during the seventh phase of excavation at Keezhadi.
- ❖ During this phase, excavations are being carried out in three trenches at Keezhadi, three at Konthagai and one at Agaram.
- ❖ The Black and red-coloured potsherds and portions of farming implements, such as a plow made of granite, were also unearthed here.
- ❖ The use of die made of two different materials indicates that various strata of society existed (the rich used ivory die and the poor used terracotta) and shows that the civilization had enriched arithmetic knowledge.



## **NATIONAL**

### **Transport 4 All (T4All) Challenge**

- ❖ It was launched by the Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry in collaboration with Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP).
- ❖ The Challenge aims to bring together cities, citizen groups, and start-ups to develop solutions that improve public transport to better serve the needs of all citizens.
- ❖ All the Smart Cities, capitals of states and union territories (UTs), and all cities with a population of over 5 lakhs are eligible for the Challenge.

### **Gender Samvaad**

- ❖ Gender Samvaad is a joint attempt between the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE).
- ❖ It aims to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from this effort.
- ❖ The attempt is to generate greater awareness on gender related interventions under DAY-NRLM.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **National Climate Vulnerability Report**

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology recently launched the National Climate Vulnerability Report.



- ❖ It identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of vulnerability.
- ❖ According to the report, eight Eastern States in the country are highly vulnerable to climate change.
- ❖ They are Mizoram, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam.
- ❖ Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar have more than 60% of districts in the category of “highly vulnerable districts”.
- ❖ Jharkhand received the highest Vulnerable Index of 0.67.
- ❖ Jharkhand was followed by Mizoram, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh in the descending order of the index.
- ❖ They were named as “Relatively highly vulnerable state”.
- ❖ Maharashtra received the lowest Vulnerability Index of 0.42.
- ❖ Apart from Maharashtra, the other comparatively least vulnerable states are Goa, Nagaland, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana.
- ❖ They were named as the “Relatively Low Vulnerable states”.

	Vulnerability Indices	Ranking	Relative Vulnerability Category	Quartile (Q)-based categorisation of the vulnerability of states
Jharkhand	0.674	1.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Mizoram	0.645	2.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Orissa	0.633	3.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Chhattisgarh	0.623	4.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Assam	0.620	5.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Bihar	0.614	6.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
Arunachal Pradesh	0.594	7.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)
West Bengal	0.592	8.	High vulnerability	Top 25% most vulnerable states (Q1)

### **Lyrid Meteor Shower**

- ❖ It is active each year in April.
- ❖ The radiant of the meteor shower is located in constellation Lyra.
- ❖ Radiant of a meteor shower is the point from which the paths of the meteors originate.
- ❖ It has been classified as the medium strength meteor shower.
- ❖ They are caused due to a cloud of dust or debris left behind by the Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher.
- ❖ They are best viewed in northern hemisphere.

- ❖ A meteor shower occurs when the earth passes through the path of a comet.
- ❖ As the earth moves nearby, the bits of comet debris come under the influence of the earth's gravity.
- ❖ As they are pulled by the gravitational force of the earth, they begin to move towards the earth.
- ❖ When this happens, they burn up due to the friction created by the Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ The burning up of these debris is seen as streaks of light in the night sky.
- ❖ They are called meteor showers.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Raul Castro – Cuba**

- ❖ Raul Castro (89) steps down from leadership of the ruling Cuban Communist Party.
- ❖ Raul's departure ends a near six-decade family hold on power in Cuba that started in 1959.
- ❖ Thus, for the first time in six decades, Cuba's socialist government will not have a Castro in top leadership.
- ❖ After serving two terms as Cuba's president, Raul Castro stepped down from that office in 2018.
- ❖ He handed over the presidency to Miguel Diaz-Canel, 60, in 2018.
- ❖ Diaz-Canel will likely be elected as the new secretary-general of the Communist Party.



### **Background**

- ❖ Fidel Castro led Cuba for five decades.

- ❖ He dethroned the dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959 along with his brother Raul.
- ❖ He was the world's third longest-serving head of state, after Britain's Queen Elizabeth and the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- ❖ Raul succeeded Fidel Castro as the head of the Communist Party in 2011.
- ❖ He led the Cuban socialist government to make deals with US President Obama in 2014.
- ❖ It opened up the Cuban economy to the US for the first time since 1960.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Earth Day – April 22

- ❖ The UN General Assembly designated this day as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.
- ❖ It is the world's largest environmental movement.
- ❖ It was first started in 1970.
- ❖ The theme of Earth Day 2021 is “Restore Our Earth”.



### International Girls in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day – April 22

- ❖ It was established by United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ❖ It is a global movement aimed at inspiring girls.

- ❖ It is to motivate girls and women to consider science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- ❖ It will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary this year.
- ❖ 2021 Theme is 'Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures'.

