

April - 30

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN government decided to sell cooking gas cylinders through fair price shops.
  - The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Department already sells 5kg and 10kg free trade licence cylinders.
- ❖ The Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister of India Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (NTCPWC) at the Discovery Campus of IIT, Madras.
- ❖ The three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics (ICDFE-2023) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ OPEC's share of India's oil imports fell at the fastest pace in 2022-23 to the lowest in at least 22 years.
- ❖ International Jazz Day observed every year on April 30 to highlight jazz music and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.

## TAMIL NADU

### GI tag for Manamadurai Pottery



- ❖ The Manamadurai pottery recently earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Manamadurai in Sivagangai district is known for pottery making.
- ❖ The Vaigai river enriches the clay used for the Manamadurai pottery.

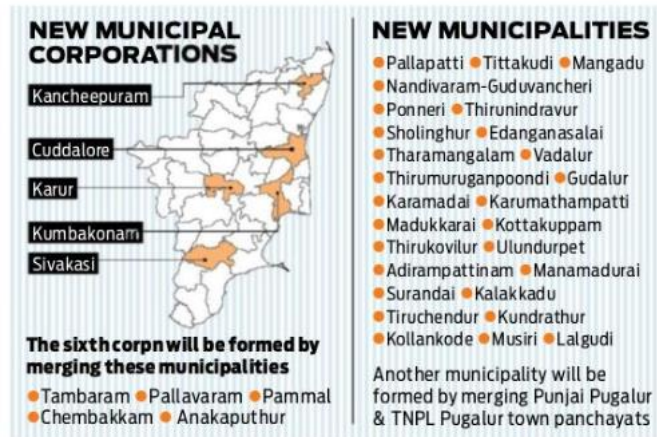
- ❖ The raw materials of pot Soil, water, sand, lead, graphite, calcium lime, ash, red lead, sodium silicate, manganese, iron, and plasticizing.
- ❖ The pot is painted in different colours.

## Selvamagal Saving Scheme Rank



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked second in the list of states with the highest number of accounts opened under the Selvamagal Savings Scheme.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh topped in the list.
- ❖ The Selvamagal Savings Scheme is a special savings scheme launched for 10-year-old girl children.
- ❖ So far, 38.38 lakh accounts have been opened in Tamil Nadu under this scheme.

## The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Rules – 2023



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has released new rules for urban local bodies.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations are divided into 4 categories.
  - Municipalities with a population of more than 10 lakhs are classified as Special Level Corporations,
  - Between 5 and 10 lakhs as Selection Level Corporations,
  - Between 3 and 5 lakhs as First Level Corporations and
  - With a population of up to 3 lakhs as Level 2 Municipal Corporations.
- ❖ Divisions based on income are:
  - Income above 15 crores are classified as special level municipalities.
  - Income between 9 crores and 15 crores are classified as examination level municipalities.
  - Income between 9 crores and 6 crores are classified as first level municipalities.
  - Income below 6 crores are classified as second level municipalities.
- ❖ Also, the number of councilors is to be selected in the Corporation, Municipalities and Boroughs on the basis of population.
- ❖ Number of councillors based on population:
  - 230 councilors in a corporation with a population of more than 80 lakhs.
  - Municipal Corporations with a population of 60 to 80 lakh may have 200 councillors.
  - Municipalities with a population of more than 2.25 lakh may have 52 councillors.
  - Municipalities with a population of less than 30,000 may have 22 councillors.
  - Municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 may have 21 councillors.
  - Municipalities with a population of 10,000 to 15,000 may have up to 12 councillors.

## **NATIONAL**

### **SC order to Governors**

- ❖ The Supreme Court reminded the Governors to bear in mind that Article 200 of the Constitution.



- ❖ This article mandates them to either give assent or return bills “as soon as possible”.
- ❖ The phrase ‘as soon as possible’ has a significant content and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities.
- ❖ The observation is part of a judicial order of the court in a petition filed by the State of Telangana complaining that Governor has kept pending several important Bills sent to her for assent in September 2022.

<b>GOVTS CAN'T BE AT GUV'S MERCY: T'GANA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Telangana government seeks <b>timeline for governors to respond on bills sent to them</b>, complaining that governor Tamilisai Soundarajan (pic) was sitting for long on 10 bills passed by the assembly</li> <li>➤ SC refers to Article 200 of the Constitution that says “provided that the governor may, <b>as soon as possible</b> after the presentation to him of the bill for assent, return the bill if it is not a</li> </ul>	<p>money bill together with a message requesting that the House or Houses will reconsider the bill...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Solicitor general Tushar Mehta protests, saying governor’s office had informed SC that <b>no bills are pending</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Telangana counsel presses for “general ruling”</b> on delays by governors, saying, “The elected governments in states cannot be put at the governor’s mercy”</li> </ul>

## 100 Food Streets



- ❖ Union Health Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has requested states/UTs to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.

- ❖ It will create an example for other such streets to come up across the country for ensuring hygienic and safe food practices.
- ❖ The aim of this project is to encourage safe and healthy food practices among food businesses and community members.
- ❖ An assistance will be provided under the National Health Mission in the ratio of 60:40 or 90:10.

### **Malaria cases from 2015 to 2022**



- ❖ India witnessed an 85.1-per cent decline in malaria cases and an 83.36-per cent decline in deaths caused by the disease from 2015 to 2022.
- ❖ India was the only high-burden, high-impact country in the South-East Asia region.
- ❖ India endorsed the malaria elimination roadmap of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Alliance at the East Asia Summit in 2015.
- ❖ It galvanised the region in striving to become malaria-free by 2030.

### **Vibrant Villages Program integrated PM Gati Shakti**

- ❖ Vibrant Villages Programme along China border is to be integrated with PM Gati Shakti mega project.
- ❖ Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) aims to develop infrastructure and open up villages to tourists.
- ❖ VVP also aims to stop migration of border population.
- ❖ VVP will also be part of the portal of Gati Shakti mega project.

- ❖ The digital platform of Gati Shakti brings 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- ❖ It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.

**Pragati Ki Gati  
Bharat Ki Shakti**

- To cover infrastructure initiatives like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Ports, UDAN, Economic Zones, Railways etc
- Social infrastructure such as hospitals, universities to be integrated in the next phase
- To develop new possibilities for the creation of future economic zones
- Comprehensive master plan mapping all existing/planned initiatives of Ministries
- Guide the creation of economic zones & connectivity infrastructure
- Help remove regional & sectoral imbalances in infrastructure & connectivity
- Aid faster growth of key sectors, employment generation & spearheading growth

### 'First village' signboard in India-China border





- ❖ India's Border Road Organisation (BRO) put up a signboard saying 'India's first village' in Mana village.
- ❖ It is located at north Indian state of Uttarakhand which borders China.
- ❖ The village is on the India-China border in Chamoli District.

### **India's First BSL-3 Mobile Laboratory**

- ❖ India's First BSL-3 Mobile Laboratory RAMBAAN was displayed at G20 Health Working Group Meeting in Goa.
- ❖ It is Made-in-India mobile clinic initiative Rapid Action Mobile BSL3+ Advanced Augmented Network (RAMBAAN).
- ❖ It is India's first state-of-the-art health infrastructure for pandemic preparedness.
- ❖ It can be used to reach remote regions to carry out testing.
- ❖ The GPS-enabled technology allows the bus to transfer the test report instantly.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **world's largest 'narco-state'**

- ❖ Syria has become the biggest narco-state in the world.
- ❖ Its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon.
- ❖ Captagon is commonly known as "party pills and "poor man's coke".
- ❖ It is a banned illicit drug recognized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC (2021).
- ❖ It is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine.

- ❖ A "narco-state" as a nation where a significant portion of the economy is reliant on the illicit trade of narcotic drugs.



### **Mongolia's 1<sup>st</sup> refinery**



- ❖ Mongolia's first oil refinery, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025.
- ❖ Mongolia is entirely dependent on Russia for its energy imports.
- ❖ The refinery would help Mongolia meet 70% of its demand domestically.



- ❖ Mongolia is quite rich in coking coal, copper, gold, uranium and rare earth elements.

### **Bangladesh New President**



- ❖ Mohammed Sahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh.
- ❖ He actively participated in the 6-Point Movement in 1966, Bhutta (Maize) Movement in 1967, mass uprisings in 1969, the election of 1970 and Liberation War in 1971.
- ❖ In 1975 he led a protest against the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ For that along with his family members, he was imprisoned for three years.

### **New trilateral to deepen regional relations**



- ❖ The first trilateral consultations between the Foreign Affairs Ministry of India, Armenia, and Iran took place in Yerevan, Capital of Armenia.

- ❖ They also discussed the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- ❖ This is a freight corridor that connects India, Iran, and Russia.
- ❖ The goal of INSTC is reducing the time and cost of transporting cargo from Mumbai to Moscow.
- ❖ The INSTC agreement was originally signed in 2002 by Russia, Iran, and India and has since been expanded.

## Safety Across Asia for the Global Environment



**Upcoming activities**

UNEP UNODC

- **Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE)**
  - To start an EU/UN/Asia cooperation **to contribute to the prevention of wildlife-related pandemics** by targeting risks at facilities and locations with a high risk of disease agents' transmission from wild animals to humans in four priority Asian countries
- **Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy**
  - **To fight trafficking in waste** between the EU and South East Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships, in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition, in line with the relevant policy frameworks in the EU and partner countries.

UN Environment Programme

- ❖ Safety Across Asia for the Global Environment (SAFE) is a United Nations project.
- ❖ It aims at surveying Asian wet markets and other facilities that pose a high risk of transmitting zoonotic diseases from animals to humans.
- ❖ Four Asian countries - China, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos - were initially selected for the survey.
- ❖ Now, China is not participating in this program and Vietnam and Laos also yet to approve the surveys.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Seeds in Space

- ❖ Last year, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) sent seeds into space.
- ❖ It aims to develop resilient crops that can help provide sufficient food as the planet heats up.

- ❖ This is the first feasibility study by these organisations to determine the effect of cosmic radiation, microgravity and extreme temperatures on plant genomes and biology.
- ❖ The Seeds of arabidopsis and sorghum were sent to space and having spent around 5 months at the International Space Station.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Military Expenditure Report

countries with the highest military expenditure in 2022

Rank			Spending (\$ b.), 2022	Change (%)		Spending as a share of GDP (%) <sup>b</sup>		World share (%), 2022
	2022	2021 <sup>d</sup>		2021-22	2013-22	2022	2013	
1	1	United States	877	0.7	2.7	3.5	4.0	39
2	2	China	[292]	4.2	63	[1.6]	[1.7]	[13]
3	5	Russia	[86.4]	9.2	15	[4.1]	[3.9]	[3.9]
4	3	India	81.4	6.0	47	2.4	2.5	3.6
5	8	Saudi Arabia	[75.0]	16	-2.7	[7.4]	[9.0]	[3.3]
<b>Subtotal top 5</b>			<b>1 412</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>63</b>
6	4	United Kingdom	68.5	3.7	9.7	2.2	2.3	3.1
7	7	Germany	55.8	2.3	33	1.4	1.2	2.5
8	6	France	53.6	0.6	15	1.9	1.8	2.4
9	10	South Korea	46.4	-2.5	37	2.7	2.1	2.1
10	9	Japan	46.0	5.9	18	1.1	0.9	2.1

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report.
- ❖ India was the fourth biggest military spender in the world in 2022.
- ❖ It stood after the United States, China and Russia.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia was in fifth place.
- ❖ The five countries accounted for 63% of the world's military spending.

- ❖ India's military spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world.
- ❖ It was 6% more than in 2021 and up by 47% from 2013.
- ❖ Total global military expenditure increased by 3.7% in 2022, hitting a new high of \$2,240 billion.
- ❖ Also, India's share of the global arms imports was the highest during the last five years at 11%.
- ❖ It followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%) and China (4.7%).

## STATES

### **Kochi Water Metro**

- ❖ It is first of its kind public boat service in India integrated with a metro rail network.
- ❖ This project is being implemented by Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRL).
- ❖ It will connect 10 islands around the city in Malabar coast.
- ❖ The overall project comprises of 78 electric boats with a total of 38 terminals.



### **Kerala's First Vande Bharat Express**

- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express in Thiruvananthapuram.



- ❖ It will connect Thiruvananthapuram with the northernmost Kasaragod district.
- ❖ It would cover the 586 km long journey in eight hours.

**FUTURE ON TRACK**



Also known as Train 18, it is India's first indigenously designed and manufactured semi-high speed and self-propelled train

Consumes 30% less energy compared to Shatabdi Express trains

Powered by a self propulsion module, which means it does not require a locomotive to pull it

At Kochuvelli in T'puram

In Palakkad

State-of-the-art amenities	TRAIN STATS	Seating capacity:	Executive class:	Non-executive class:	Total coaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automatic sliding doors</li> <li>GPS-based passenger information system and onboard Wi-Fi</li> <li>Emergency talk-back unit inside and outside the seating area</li> <li>Mini pantry in each coach</li> <li>Exterior coated with anti-graffiti vinyl wrap that makes cleaning easy</li> <li>Bio-vacuum toilets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top speed: <b>180kmph</b></li> <li>Operational speed: <b>130kmph</b></li> <li>Likely maximum speed in Kerala: <b>110kmph</b></li> </ul>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>16</b>

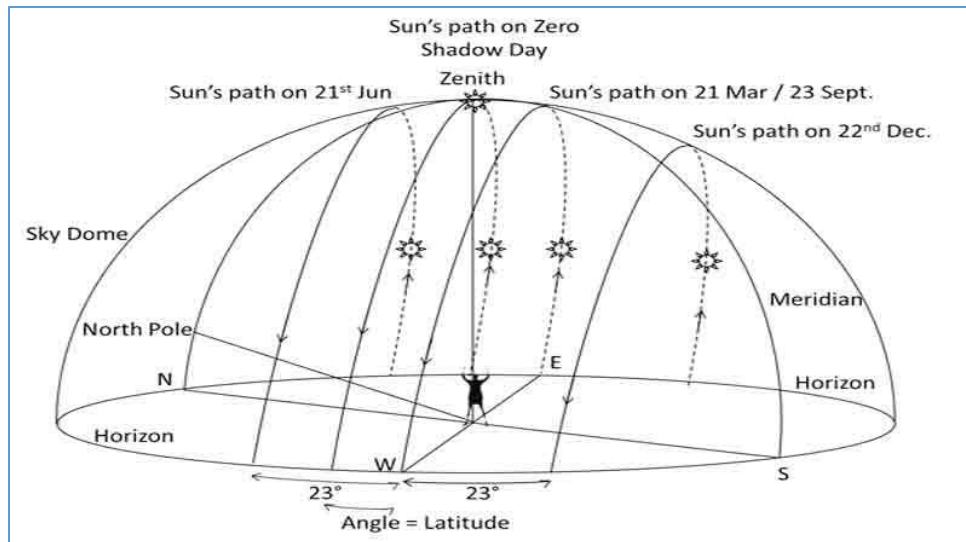
Mobile charging point at each seat

Aspiration-based fire detection system to detect fire at early stage itself & alarm system in all coaches

Four emergency lighting in each coach in case of power failure

Four emergency exit windows in each coach

## Zero Shadow Day



- ❖ Bengaluru is witnessed Zero Shadow Day on April 25 across the city.
- ❖ Zero Shadow Day is a rare and unique phenomenon that occurs at different times in different locations on Earth.
- ❖ During this brief period, the sun is precisely overhead at noon without any tilt.
- ❖ It occurs twice a year in locations between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, such as Bengaluru.

- ❖ For Bengaluru, the next one is on August 18.

## Indore-model waste treatment



- ❖ It is a widely recognized and successful waste management model implemented by the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC).
- ❖ It is a sustainable and cost-effective way of managing wet waste while also producing clean energy.
- ❖ It involves the bio methanation of wet organic waste, which produces bio-CNG (compressed natural gas) as a by-product.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Goldman Environmental Prize



- ❖ Alessandra Korap Munduruku, 39, has been awarded this year's Goldman Prize.
- ❖ This prize recognises grassroots activism.

- ❖ A leader from Brazil's indigenous Munduruku community has been recognised for her successful fight against mining in the Amazon rainforest.
- ❖ Other Goldman Environmental Prize recipients
  - Tero Mustonen from Finland,
  - Delima Silalahi, a Batak woman from North Sumatra, Indonesia
  - Chilekwa Mumba, a Zambian community organiser
  - Zafer Kizilkaya of Turkey
  - Diane Wilson, an American shrimp boat captain

### **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023**

- ❖ Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
- ❖ The award is given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- ❖ The national level award honours outstanding social scientists.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Girls in ICT Day 2023 – 27 April**



- ❖ It is an annual event celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April.
- ❖ It aims to encourage and empower girls and young women to explore and pursue careers in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- ❖ This Day was declared by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on April 8, 2011.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Digital Skills for Life".

### **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2023 - April 26**

- ❖ This day was established by the UNGA on December 8, 2016, in memory of Chernobyl disaster.
- ❖ It is observed in memory and honour of those who lost their lives.
- ❖ The Chernobyl disaster took place on April 26, 1986, at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine in the former Soviet Union.
- ❖ The accident took place during a routine safety test of a nuclear reactor.



### **World Veterinary Day 2023 - April 30**



- ❖ This annual event is celebrated on the last Saturday of April.



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of veterinarians and their contributions to animal health, welfare, and public health.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession.
- ❖ World Veterinary Day was first celebrated on April 29, 2000.
- ❖ It as an initiative by the World Veterinary Association (WVA).

### **Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2023 - April 30**



- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed to uplift the ideals of the Ayushman Bharat yojana.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat Yojana was launched in 2018.
- ❖ The Scheme has the benefits cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year.
- ❖ It aims to provide healthcare benefits to all Indians who can't afford proper medical facilities.
- ❖ It has provided insurance coverage to 40% of India's population for secondary and tertiary care, including hospitalization costs.

