

August - 01

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide reservation for the 'transgender community in all the government services.
  - The state provides one per cent reservation.
- ❖ Kenya and United Kingdom are co-hosting a Global Education Summit in the city of London.
  - The objective is to raise 5 billion USD for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).
- ❖ India's billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala has announced to launch his own ultra-low-cost airline called Akasa Air.
  - Airbnb and Par Capital Management are among the investors in Akasa Air.

## TAMIL NADU

### Silver coin at the Keeladi



- ❖ A punch-marked silver coin was found at the Keeladi excavation site in Sivagangai during the 7th phase of excavation.
- ❖ It indicates that people from this region traded with the north India using these coins prevalent in the 6th century BCE.
- ❖ The coin, which is marked with the figures of the sun, moon, bull, taurine, an animal figurine, and geometric designs show that Keeladi inhabitants were a trading community.

- ❖ Silver punch-marked coins were in circulation from the time of Mahajana padas of the 6th century BCE.

## NATIONAL

### Rafale squadron at Hasimara

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) operationalised its second Rafale fighter squadron by formally inducting jets into the No. 101 Squadron at Air Force Station Hasimara in West Bengal.
- ❖ The IAF has so far inducted 26 Rafale jets in eight batches; the previous batch was inducted on July 21.
- ❖ The squadron, bestowed with the title 'Falcons of Chamb and Akhnoor', was formed on May 1, 1949 at Palam.
- ❖ It has operated the Harvard, Spitfire, Vampire, Su-7 and MiG-21M aircraft in the past.
- ❖ The squadron saw active participation in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars.
- ❖ The first Rafale squadron, the No.17 Golden Arrows, is based at Ambala.



### Garima Grihas for transgender persons

- ❖ The Garima Grihas for transgender persons is being set up with the help of community-based organizations.
- ❖ 12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter to transgender persons.
- ❖ Such shelter homes have been set up in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

## **Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021**

- ❖ The Parliament passed the landmark 'Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021'.
- ❖ This bill will repeal and replace the Lighthouse Act 1927.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and management of aids to navigation in India.
- ❖ As per the bill, the central government will appoint Director General, Deputy Director Generals or Directors for districts.
- ❖ The Director General can advise the central government on matters related to aids to navigation, among others.
- ❖ The provisions of the bill will apply to the entire country including various maritime zones including territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone.



## **Women unemployment rate - India**

- ❖ Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2% in 2019-20 from 5.1% in 2018-19.
- ❖ This is according to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ❖ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased from 24.5% in 2018-19 to 30% in 2019-20.
- ❖ Out of total employment generated (in person days) under MGNREGS, women's share has increased to around 207 crore person days in 2020-21.

## **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill**

- ❖ This Bill has been passed recently.
- ❖ This bill seeks to increase the role of additional district magistrates and district magistrates regarding the matters which concern adoption and child care.
- ❖ This Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- ❖ The Act states that only on the issuance of an adoption order by the civil court child adoption becomes final.
- ❖ The Bill will amend the rule and instead of the court, the additional district magistrate as well as district magistrate will issue adoption orders.

- The Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- Defining eligibility parameters for appointment of Child Welfare Committee members and the categorizing previously undefined offences as serious offences are some of the other aspects of the Bill.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Serendipity Sapphire**

- ❖ The world's largest star sapphire cluster was found Ratnapura area, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It weighs around 510 kilograms or 2.5 million carats.
- ❖ The cluster has been named the "Serendipity Sapphire".





### **Youngest mountaineer to scale K2**

- ❖ A 19-year old Pakistani climber became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2.
- ❖ K2 is the second-highest peak in the world.
- ❖ Mr. Shehroze Kashif from Lahore achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen.
- ❖ Pakistan, Nepal, and China are home to the 14 highest peaks in the world, also known as the 8,000ers.
- ❖ Five 8,000-metre peaks, including K2 and Nanga Parbat are in Pakistan.



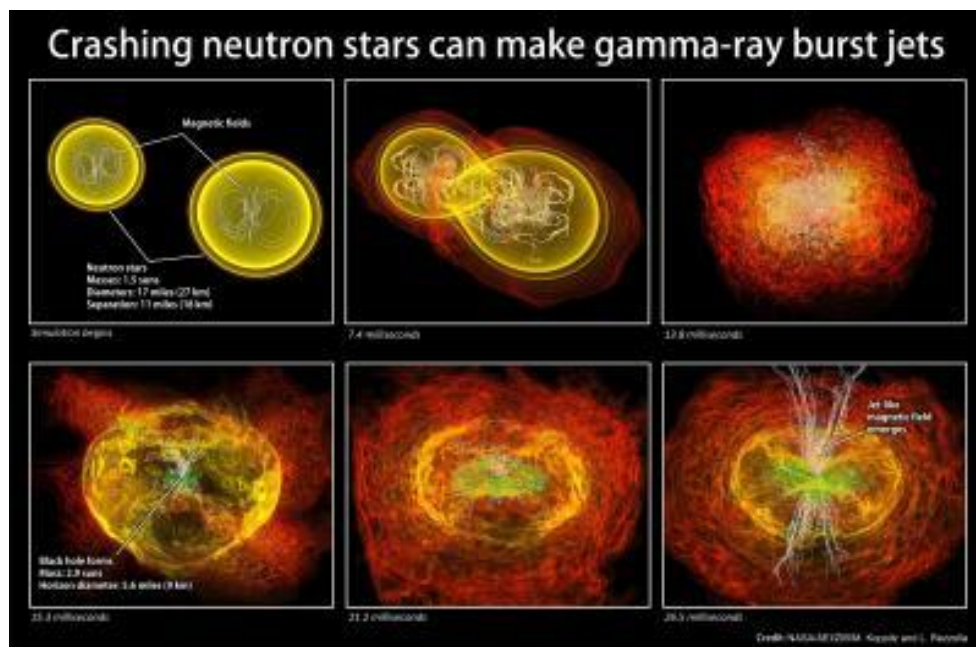
### **UNESCO adds 7 sites to World Heritage List**

- ❖ The World Heritage Committee added seven sites to UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- ❖ Four of the sites have been inscribed for their rich biodiversity. They are
  - Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island (Japan),
  - Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (Republic of Korea),
  - Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) and
  - Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands (Georgia).
- ❖ The three cultural sites are the
  - Dutch Water Defence Lines;
  - Arslantepe Mound archaeological tell in Turkey; and
  - Colonies of Benevolence in Belgium and the Netherlands.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Short gamma-ray bursts

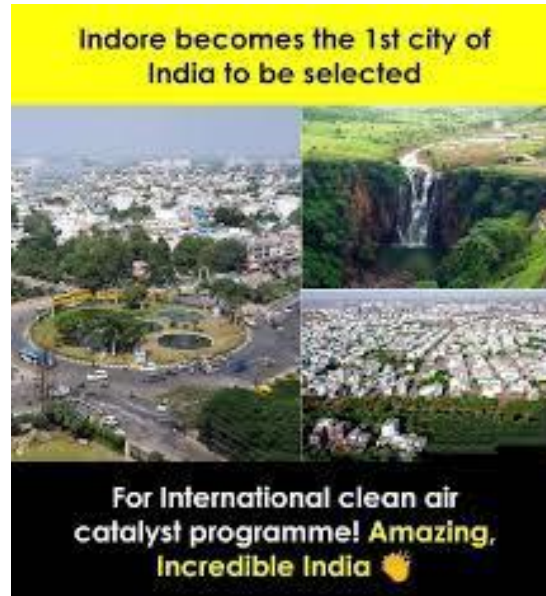
- ❖ A group of astronomers, including from India, has detected a very short, powerful burst of high-energy radiation.
- ❖ It lasted for about a second.
- ❖ It had been racing towards the earth for nearly half the present age of the universe.
- ❖ The burst detected by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope turned out to be the shortest gamma-ray burst (GRB) caused by the death of a massive star.



## ENVIRONMENT

### International Clean Air Catalyst Programme - Indore

- ❖ The Indore city of Madhya Pradesh, or the cleanest city of India, has become the only city from the country to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- ❖ The project will be operated for a period of five years.
- ❖ This is to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.



## STATES

### Export of Raja Mircha

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GOV  
मेरी सरकार

Bringing the North-Eastern States  
on the Export Map

**'RAJA MIRCHA' FROM  
NAGALAND EXPORTED TO  
LONDON FOR THE FIRST TIME**

A consignment of King Chilli 'Raja Mircha'  
was sourced from Peren district of the state

- APEDA in collaboration with the Nagaland  
State Agricultural Marketing Board (NSAMB)  
facilitated the export consignment
- The chilli, referred to as Bhoot Jolokia and  
Ghost pepper, got GI certification in 2008
- Naga King Chilli is one of the top five  
world's hottest chillies based on the  
Scoville Heat Units (SHUs)

- ❖ Over 250 kilograms of Raja Mircha, was exported to London from Nagaland.
- ❖ Raja Mircha is also known as Naga King Chilli.
- ❖ It is the first such export from Nagaland.

- ❖ Raja Mircha got Geographical Indication certification in 2008.
- ❖ It constantly figures in the top five on the list of the world's hottest chilies based on Scoville Heat Units.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### UN Best Small Business Winners from India



- ❖ Three enterprises based in India are among the winners of 'Best Small Businesses' global competition as announced by the United Nations.
- ❖ This competition was organized in concomitance with the UN Food Systems Summit.
- ❖ The winners from India are Oorja Development Solutions India, Edible Routes Private Limited and Taru Naturals.

## SPORTS

### Online Chess Title

- ❖ Delhi youngster Vantika Agarwal has won the National women online chess title.
- ❖ Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri took the third spot.
- ❖ Maharashtra's Soumya Swaminathan and Tamil Nadu's R Vaishali finished fourth and fifth respectively.





❖ In Junior Open section, Tamil Nadu's VS Raahul won the first position.

