

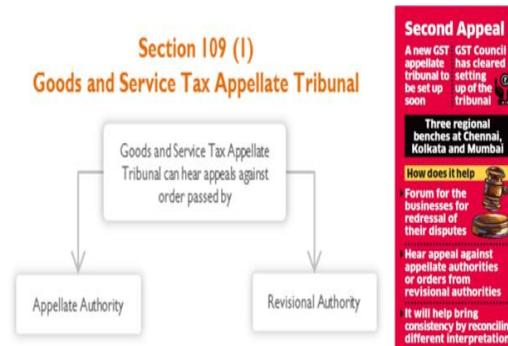
February - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The World Health Organisation will be setting up mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub in Telangana.
- ❖ The first G20 Working Group meeting of Culture was held at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

## NATIONAL

### GST Appellate Tribunal setup



- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax Council has decided to set up a national GST appellate tribunal with a primary bench in Delhi and benches in other states.
- ❖ The number of benches in a state will be decided by the state government based on the requirements of its population.
- ❖ The appellate body will be headed by a judge from the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a high court.
- ❖ A single-member bench is likely to be authorised to hear cases of tax dispute below Rs 50 lakh.
- ❖ For cases involving amounts more than Rs 50 lakh, it would have to be heard by a double member bench.

### SWARM Drone System

- ❖ The Indian Army has started taking delivery of its first heterogeneous swarm Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) system for use on the battlefield.

- ❖ This is the world's first operational high density swarming UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) induction for military applications.
- ❖ They are Supplied by an Indian start up – Bengaluru based NewSpace Research & Technologies.
- ❖ The swarm of 100 drones is capable of hitting targets at least 50 kms away into enemy territory.
- ❖ They using advanced autonomy, computing, communication and AI protocols to execute various mission objectives with minimal human intervention.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Unidentified objects in US



- ❖ The US military is unsure what three flying objects it shot out of the skies over North America.

- ❖ As it was travelling at 20,000 ft (6,100m), it could have interfered with commercial air traffic.
- ❖ The last object which shot down was cylindrical in shape and 200 feet tall.
- ❖ The payload of this object was more than 1000 pounds.
- ❖ Earlier, the US Air Force used its F-22 fighter jets to shoot a Chinese surveillance balloon near the South Carolina coast.
- ❖ The next day it shot another object near Alaska Air Space.
- ❖ Yet another unidentified object was shot over northern Canada.
- ❖ This fourth shooting was done in Lake Huron.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> President of Bangladesh**

- ❖ Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter will be Bangladesh's new President.
- ❖ He became 22<sup>nd</sup> President by default as there was no rival candidate.
- ❖ The incumbent President Hamid is the longest-serving president of Bangladesh with 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- ❖ According to their Constitution, he cannot hold a third term.

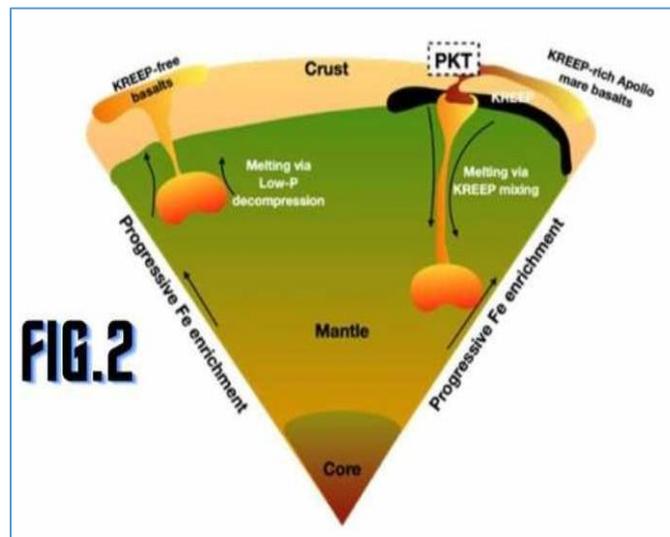


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Origin of basalts on Moon**

- ❖ Moon's dark regions that are visible to the naked eye, known as the 'mare'.

- ❖ They are remnants of a violent history of the Solar System.
- ❖ There are no records, though, of these frenzied events on Earth.
- ❖ The large mare regions on the near side of the Moon, that can be seen from Earth, mainly consists of basalts comprising volcanic rocks.
- ❖ These regions hold the key to how the Moon cooled and evolved.
- ❖ They also providing information on what were the sources of heat that melted and crystallised the material to the present-day rocks.
- ❖ The Apollo, Luna, and Chang'E-5 missions have brought to Earth an extensive collection of mare basalts.
- ❖ Apollo mare basalts date back to the age of 3.8–3.3 Ga (Ga is one billion years).
- ❖ ISRO stated the calculations show that these basalts must be a result of low-pressure melting in the Moon.
- ❖ Further, they also reveal that these basalts originated from a cool, shallow, and compositionally distinct part of the lunar interior.
- ❖ The Moon's interior melted in the form of basalt magmatism from as early as 4.3 - 3.9 Ga globally.
- ❖ The potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorous rich zone of moon known as Procellarum KREEP Terrane (PKT). This PKT region formed as later as 3.8-3.0 Ga.



### **Moon Venus Jupiter Conjunction**

- ❖ The Moon, Venus, and Jupiter came together in a synchronized celestial dance in the skies across the world.

- ❖ The three heavenly bodies formed a triangle-like shape in the night sky as they came closer to each other.
- ❖ The conjunction was, however, short-lived as the Earth rotated on its axis.
- ❖ currently Venus is the 3rd-brightest natural body in the sky, after the sun and moon.
- ❖ It is so dazzlingly bright that at times it can even be spotted in daylight.



## ENVIRONMENT

### **Rhododendrons carpet**

- ❖ Rhododendron, meaning rose tree in Greek, is considered an indicator species for climate change.
- ❖ Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas are home to more than one-third of all types of rhododendrons found in India.
- ❖ The Botanical Survey of India's new publication titled 'Rhododendrons of Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalaya - An Illustrated Account' lists 45 taxa of rhododendrons.
- ❖ There are 132 taxa (80 species, 25 subspecies and 27 varieties) of rhododendrons found in India.
- ❖ Of the 45 taxa recorded in the publication, 24 are found in the Darjeeling Himalayas and 44 in the Sikkim Himalayas.
- ❖ They are native to the temperate regions of Asia, North America, and Europe, as well as to the tropical regions of southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- ❖ Rhododendrons were first recorded by Captain Hardwick in Jammu and Kashmir in 1776.

- ❖ It is the national flower of Nepal and the state tree of the state of Uttarakhand in India.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Labour Resilience Index 2023





- ❖ The White Shield released the Global Labour Resilience Index during the World Government Summit.
- ❖ The index measures the capacity of the economy to withstand employment fluctuations and the ability to fight back.
- ❖ The first of its kind report ranked 136 countries based on parameters such as technological disruptions, pandemics, green economy transition, etc.
- ❖ Denmark was ranked first in the index followed by Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Singapore, and Sweden.
- ❖ India was ranked 65<sup>th</sup> place in the report.
- ❖ All the other countries in South Asia are ranked below 80.
- ❖ Pakistan secured 97<sup>th</sup> place.
- ❖ More than one-third of the countries (49 countries out of 136) score less than 50 out of 100 on labour market resilience.

