

July - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Portugal football captain Cristiano Ronaldo won the Euro 2020 Golden Boot after finishing as the top-scorer in the tournament.

## TAMIL NADU

### New members to TNPSC

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed four new members to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).
- ❖ IAS officer S. Munianathan, Professor K. Jothi Sivagnanam, K. Arulmathi and Fr. A. Raj Mariasusai are the new members appointed by the government.
- ❖ Their term would be for six years or till they attain the age of 62.

### Terracotta container - Keezhadi

- ❖ A terracotta container was unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation.
- ❖ It had an intricately designed band running along its outer surface.
- ❖ It is not known if this is a part of a ring well or grain storing unit, as it has many layers.
- ❖ It has depressions such as thumb impressions and another has a band which has been equally divided into small squares, with deep lines in between.





## **NATIONAL**

### **First green Hydrogen Mobility project**

- ❖ The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) will set up the country's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh.
- ❖ NTPC REL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC.
- ❖ Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen.
- ❖ It has no carbon footprint.
- ❖ Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution Targets.
- ❖ It also ensures regional and national energy security, access and availability.

### **Bangabandhu Chair**

- ❖ The Delhi University will have a 'Bangabandhu Chair' to foster a better understanding of developments in Bangladesh.
- ❖ A MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Delhi University in Dhaka to set up this Chair.
- ❖ The Chair will focus on the common heritage of the two countries.
- ❖ The chair will honour Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ And also to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the country's Liberation War as well as India's diplomatic ties with Dhaka.

### **External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at Georgia**

- ❖ The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi Park.
- ❖ During his two-day visit to Georgia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership.
- ❖ He also handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva.
- ❖ Georgia is a strategically important country situated at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

#### **Note**

- ❖ St. Queen Ketevan was a 17th century Georgian Queen who attained martyrdom.



- ❖ Her relics were found in 2005 at the St. Augustine Convent in Old Goa.

### **India evacuates staff from Afghanistan's Kandahar as Taliban advances**

- ❖ Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan's Kandahar, some staff of the Indian embassy has been evacuated.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the emergency services of the consulate remain operational.
- ❖ India has its embassy in Kabul along with the consulates in Kandahar and Mazar.
- ❖ Two consulates in Herat and Jalalabad had ceased operations earlier there.

### **Fazil mango to Bahrain**

- ❖ A consignment of Geographical Identification certified Fazil mango variety sourced from Malda district of West Bengal.
- ❖ It was exported to Bahrain.
- ❖ The consignment of Fazil mango was exported by APEDA registered DM enterprises, Kolkata.
- ❖ It was imported by Al Jazira group, Bahrain.
- ❖ Mango in India is also referred to as 'king of fruits'.
- ❖ It is also referred to as Kalpavriksha (wish-granting tree) in ancient scriptures.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine**

- ❖ Cuba has developed world's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine Soberana 2 (Sovereign 2).
- ❖ Soberana 2 vaccine is administered in three dose regimens.
- ❖ It comprises of two shots of Soberana 2 and one shot of Soberana Plus.
- ❖ When the Soberana 2 vaccine is delivered with booster shot of Soberana Plus, it is 91 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.
- ❖ If this vaccine is approved, Cuba will become first Latin American country to manufacture and produce vaccine against Covid-19.
- ❖ Soberana 2 was developed by Finlay Institute in collaboration with Centre for Molecular Immunology and National Biopreparations Centre.

- ❖ A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine that combines weak antigen with strong antigen as a carrier.
- ❖ By doing that an immune system strongly response to a weak antigen.

### **US approves Blue Origin for Human Space Travel**

- ❖ Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved “Blue Origin license” in order to carry humans on New Shepard launch system into space.
- ❖ Former Amazon Chief Executive, Jeff Bezos, is to fly to space on July 20 through Blue Origin’s maiden crewed voyage.
- ❖ Blue Origin is authorized to carry humans while FAA license is valid through August.
- ❖ Blue Origin is approved to conduct these missions from its Launch Site One facility in Texas.
- ❖ This flight is coming after space-tourism rival Virgin Galactic successfully sent its crew to the edge of space.
- ❖ Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, SpaceX firm are working to usher in new era of routine commercial civilian space travel.
- ❖ Space travel has been popularized as “billionaire space race.”

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

### **Leonardo Da Vinci’s bear drawing at auction**

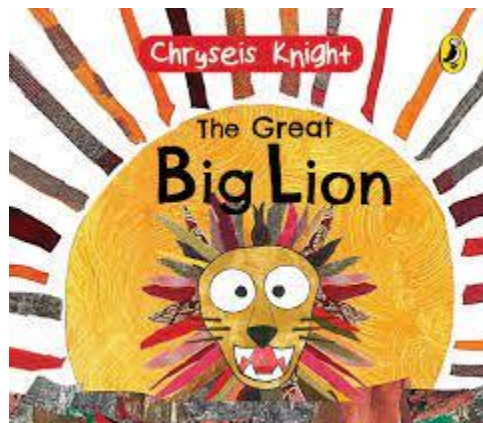


- ❖ A drawing of a bear's head by Leonardo da Vinci sold for a record £8.8m (\$12.1m) at a London auction.
- ❖ Measuring just 7x7cm, Head of a Bear is more than 500 years old.

- ❖ The sale has surpassed the previous record for a Leonardo drawing, set by the Horse and Rider, which sold for £8.1m in 2001.

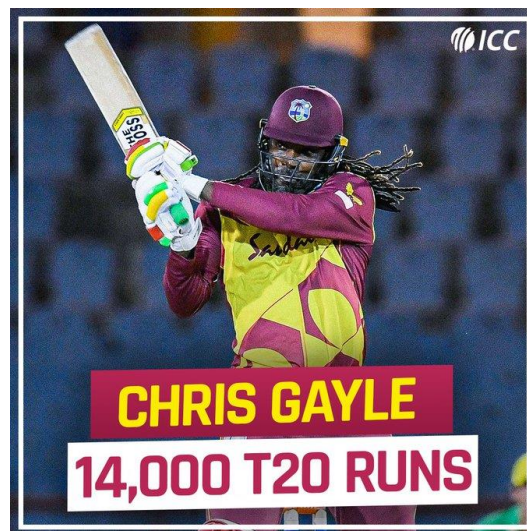
### **The Great Big Lion**

- ❖ A book titled “The Great Big Lion” was drawn and written by child prodigy Chryseis Knight.
- ❖ This book is a story about a lion and two children.
- ❖ The book was published by Penguin Random House India’s “Puffin” imprint.



## **SPORTS**

### **14,000 T20 Runs - Chris Gayle**



- ❖ Chris Gayle of West Indies is the highest run-scorer in T20 cricket.
- ❖ Gayle is 1st batsman to have scored 14,000 T20 runs.



- ❖ He breached the 14,000-run mark during the third T20I against Australia in St Lucia.

### **Croatia Grand Chess Tour**

- ❖ Former world champion Viswanathan Anand finished second in the Croatia Grand Chess Tour.
- ❖ Anand put on a brilliant performance and defeated his rival Garry Kasparov.
- ❖ Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was the winner of the 2021 Grand Chess Tour.



POS.		RAPID SCORE	BLITZ SCORE	CURRENT SCORE
1	 <b>GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE</b>	10.0	13.0	23.0
2	 <b>GM VISWANATHAN ANAND</b>	9.0	12.0	21.0
3	 <b>GM ANISH GIRI</b>	10.0	10.5	20.5
T-4	 <b>GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI</b>	11.0	9.0	20.0
T-4	 <b>GM JAN-KRZYSZTOF DUDA</b>	10.0	10.0	20.0
6	 <b>GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV</b>	9.0	10.0	19.0
7	 <b>GM ALEXANDER GRISCHUK</b>	8.0	10.0	18.0
8	 <b>GM ANTON KOROBV</b>	7.0	8.5	15.5
9	 <b>GM KASPAROV/SARIC</b>	10.0	2.5	12.5
10	 <b>GM JORDEN VAN FOREEST</b>	6.0	4.5	10.5

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Bastille Day - July 14**

- ❖ Bastille Day is commonly known as the national day of France.
- ❖ The national day of France is celebrated in remembrance of the fall of Bastille on July 14, 1789.
- ❖ It was on this day when an angry crowd stormed and captured the military fortress and prison (Bastille) where political prisoners were held captive.

