

**March - 12**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has chosen feminist, teacher, and novelist Bama Faustina Soosairaj for the Avvaiyar award for the year 2024.
- ❖ IAS officer B. Jothi Nirmala Samy was named the Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner succeeding outgoing retired IAS officer V. Palanikumar.
- ❖ Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora made history as Pakistani province Punjab's first Sikh minister.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir police have initiated "Operation Kamdhenu" to curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges.
- ❖ India has celebrated the Jan Aushadhi Diwas on March 7<sup>th</sup> promote awareness about generic medicines and how they can be helpful for millions across the country.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **India's 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Force**



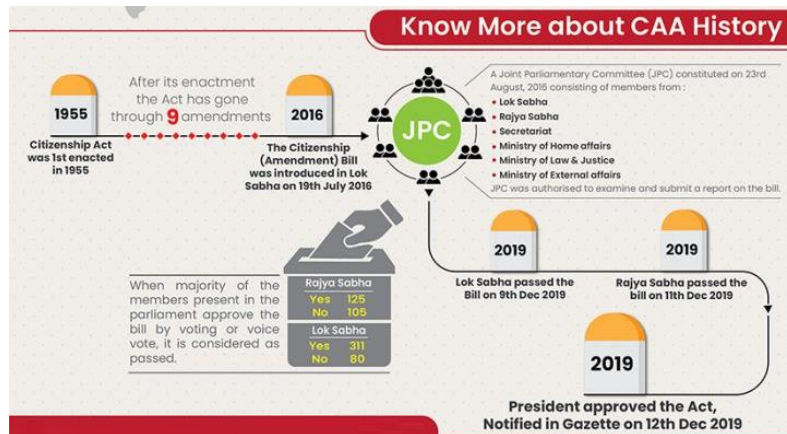
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched the country's 'first' marine force to protect marine resources and biodiversity in the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay.
- ❖ It will focus on the conservation and protection of precious marine biodiversity such as coral reef, sea grass, and other marine flora and fauna.
- ❖ The force will combat marine wildlife crimes, including smuggling, prevention, and poaching of marine animals.



- ❖ Twelve marine watchers have been engaged in the force from the local fishermen community in Ramanathapuram.

## NATIONAL

### Citizenship Amendment Act 2019



- ❖ The ministry of home affairs has notified the Citizenship Amendment Act's (CAA) rules recently.
- ❖ It is paving the way for the law's implementation across the country.
- ❖ These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for grant of Indian citizenship.
- ❖ The law makes it easier for Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, to get Indian citizenship.
- ❖ The law aims to give citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from these countries, who came to India before December 31, 2014.
- ❖ The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent.

### Resignation of Election Commissioner

- ❖ Weeks before the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commissioner Arun Goel has quit and his resignation has been accepted by the President.
- ❖ The three-member Election Commission of India already had a vacancy and will now be left only with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.
- ❖ In a landmark ruling in March last year, the Supreme Court had directed that Election Commissioners would be appointed by a panel consisting of
  - The Prime Minister,

- The Leader of the Opposition and
- The Chief Justice of India.
- ❖ The bench also stated that the order would stay in force until a law was made by Parliament.
- ❖ In December, the Parliament passed a Bill to replace the Chief Justice of India in the panel with a Union Cabinet minister.
- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was passed by Parliament.



### **Free Trade Agreement with EFTA Bloc**

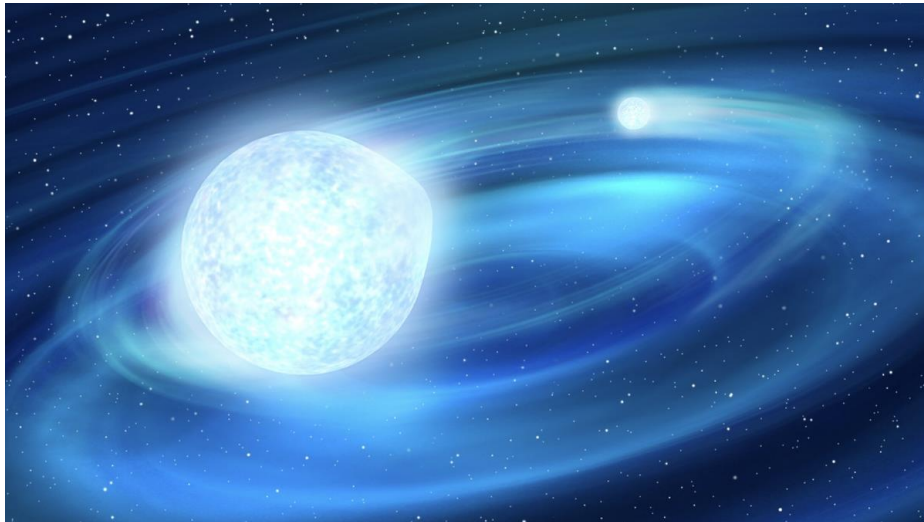


- ❖ India signed a free trade agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi.

- ❖ Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein are the four members of the EFTA.
- ❖ The deal is officially dubbed as the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- ❖ The agreement is likely made with the plan to attract \$100 billion in investments over a period of 15 years.
- ❖ Earlier to the signing, India had sought an investment commitment of \$50 billion during the first 10 years after the implementation of the agreement.
- ❖ Another \$50 billion will get over the next five years from the bloc members.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Helium-Rich Hot Subdwarf Stars



- ❖ A large international team of astronomers has discovered the smallest known star to date.
- ❖ Also, it found that it is paired with another, somewhat larger star.
- ❖ They burn helium at their cores and are typically found in galactic stellar groups.
- ❖ This star is part of a binary system known as J0526 and is located approximately 2,760 light years from Earth.
- ❖ The two stars are named J0526A, the larger unseen white dwarf; and J0526B, the hot subdwarf.
- ❖ The smaller star is approximately seven times the size of Earth, which means it is smaller than Saturn.
- ❖ It also has a surface temperature of approximately 2,226°C.



- ❖ It orbits the larger star approximately every 20 minutes.
- ❖ This means that it squeezes almost 72 years into just one Earth Day.
- ❖ Before TMTS J0526B, one of the smallest stars ever observed was the red dwarf EBLM J0555-57Ab, located 600 light-years from Earth.

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

### **Erasmus prize 2024**

- ❖ The Eminent writer Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024.
- ❖ He receives the prize for his passionate written contribution to the theme 'imagining the unthinkable'.
- ❖ He received Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary prize, in 2018.
- ❖ Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands founded the Premium Erasmianum in 1958.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Dissociative Identity Disorder Awareness Day 2024 - March 05**

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by people with dissociative identity disorder and what we can do to improve their standards of life.
- ❖ It is also known as Multiple Personality Disorder

- ❖ It is the condition where a person believes that he/she has multiple people living inside their minds.
- ❖ They are often controlled by multiple personalities and may face difficulties getting on with their normal lives.

### **What is Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)?**

People with DID will experience intense changes in their identity, feeling like different aspects of their identity are in control of their behaviour. This can happen in various ways:

- Each identity state may have a different pattern of thinking and relating to the world.
- These identity states may come across as different ages and genders.
- There may be one 'main' part of their identity.
- The different parts of their identity may have conflicting memories or experiences
- Some people refer to these different parts of their identity as alters or parts, and to all the parts together as a system.
- They might not feel like they have control over when different parts of their identity take over.
- They may experience amnesia when another part of their identity is in control.

### **International Women's Day 2024 - March 08**



- ❖ This day is acknowledging the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- ❖ The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.
- ❖ 2024's theme is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' and the campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion.'

- ❖ In 1910, Clara Zetkin proposed International Women's Day at the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen.
- ❖ The United Nations began celebrating the day in 1975.
- ❖ In 197, UN General Assembly invited member states to proclaim this day.

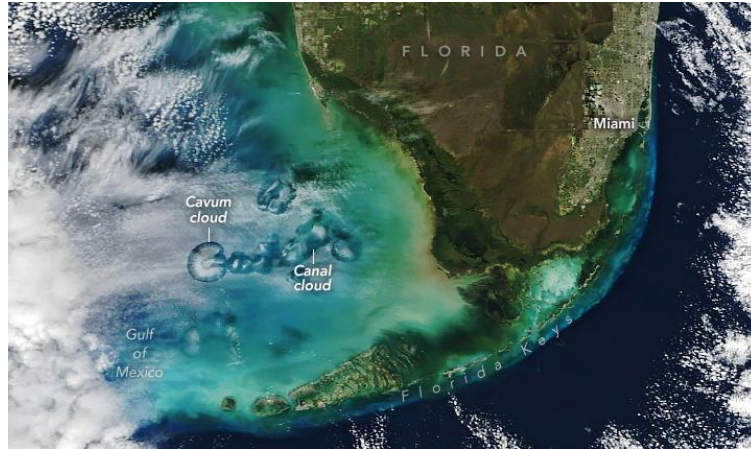
## MISCELLANEOUS

### Patagonia Cave Paintings

- ❖ The Archaeologists have discovered the earliest dated cave paintings in South America in Argentine Patagonia, dating back 8,200 years.
- ❖ The 895 paintings were found by Argentine and Chilean archaeologists in the Huenul 1 cave.
- ❖ The practice of painting the particular pattern seen in the cave was sustained for a period of at least 3,000 years.



## Cavum Clouds



- ❖ NASA shared a picture of clouds that showcasing the breathtaking view of Cavum clouds as seen from space.
- ❖ The Cavum clouds are also called hole-punch clouds or fallstreak holes.
- ❖ These odd cloud formations are caused by airplanes.
- ❖ Cavum clouds form when planes fly through banks of altocumulus clouds, mid-level clouds that have supercooled (below the freezing point of water but still liquid) water droplets.
- ❖ As air moves around the plane, a process called adiabatic expansion can make the droplets freeze into ice crystals.
- ❖ The ice crystals eventually grow heavy and fall out of the sky, leaving a hole in the cloud layer.

