



March - 27

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Jal Shakti Ministry has signed a pact with the United Nations Office for Project Services and the government of Denmark.
  - This is to bring the tap water connections to the 11 water-scarce districts of the Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions in Uttar Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan mission.
- ❖ The Joe Biden administration has announced the re-establishment of Homeland Security Dialogue with India.
  - This was discontinued by previous Donald Trump dispensation.

## TAMIL NADU

### Operation Tiruvallur

- ❖ Indian Army has undertaken 'Operation Tiruvallur'.
- ❖ This operation is for the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance.
- ❖ The aim of the operation is to provide a safe environment for citizens in and around Gummidipoondi area in Tiruvallur.
- ❖ Dakshin Bharat Area under the Southern Command of the Army is undertaking this sensitive operation.

## NATIONAL

### NV Ramana - Next CJI

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India SA Bobde has recommended Justice NV Ramana's name as the 48th CJI after he retires next month.
- ❖ SA Bobde is set to retire on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- ❖ The Justice Ramana is from Andhra Pradesh.

### ICG Ship Vajra

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vajra' was commissioned at Kattupalli in Chennai.
- ❖ The 98-meter ship has been designed and built by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli, Chennai.



- ❖ The Ship is equipped with state-of-the-art facility and is designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high speed boats.
- ❖ The vessel can also be used in Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol.
- ❖ It is also capable of carrying Pollution Response Equipment for oil spill response at Sea.

### **Annual export ranking index**

- ❖ The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an annual export ranking index of different districts.
- ❖ The index will rank each district on its export competitiveness.
- ❖ A district export action plan that will include identification of goods and services with export potential in the district.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **UN-sponsored ceasefire in Yemen**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia government has proposed UN-sponsored ceasefire in Yemen.
- ❖ Saudi is awaiting a response from the Houthi movement.
- ❖ This peace initiative is by Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It is also highlighted that Saudi Arabia will keep supporting the government of Yemen in country's fight against Houthi rebels.
- ❖ The country hopes that Houthi rebels will accept the ceasefire proposal to negotiate peace consultations between Yemeni parties in a bid to reach out to a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement.

### **Resolution against Sri Lanka's human rights record**

- ❖ The UNHRC resolution adopted the resolution titled 'Promotion of Reconciliation Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka'.
- ❖ The resolution was adopted after 22 out of 47 members voted in favour of it.
- ❖ 11 countries voted against the resolution.
- ❖ India was among the 14 countries that abstained from voting.



Item 2: L.1/Rev.1 "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka"

Y	ARGENTINA	N	ERITREA	Y	NETHERLANDS
Y	ARMENIA	Y	FIJI	N	PAKISTAN
Y	AUSTRIA	Y	FRANCE	N	PHILIPPINES
Y	BAHAMAS	A	GABON	Y	POLAND
A	BAHRAIN	Y	GERMANY	Y	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
N	BANGLADESH	A	INDIA	N	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
N	BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	A	INDONESIA	A	SENEGAL
Y	BRAZIL	Y	ITALY	N	SOMALIA
Y	BULGARIA	A	JAPAN	A	SUDAN
A	BURKINA FASO	A	LIBYA	A	TOGO
A	CAMEROON	Y	MALAWI	Y	UKRAINE
N	CHINA	Y	MARSHALL ISLANDS	Y	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
Y	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	A	MAURITANIA	Y	URUGUAY
N	CUBA	Y	MEXICO	N	UZBEKISTAN
Y	CZECH REPUBLIC	A	NAMIBIA	N	VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)
Y	DENMARK	A	NEPAL		

IN FAVOUR 22      AGAINST 11      ABSTAIN 14

### Joint patrolling - India and Madagascar

- ❖ The navies of India and Madagascar undertook first joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ❖ They also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
- ❖ The first-ever joint patrol between navies reflects growing defence ties between two Indian Ocean neighbours aimed at common objective of ensuring maritime security in Indian Ocean Region.

### Indo-French Space Collaborations

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) are working on their third joint satellite mission.
- ❖ ISRO and CNES have completed the feasibility study to realise the earth observation satellite mission with TRISHNA, thermal infrared imager.
- ❖ TRISHNA will monitor the water cycle to help in properly utilizing it.
- ❖ ARGOS of CNES will be integrated into ISRO's OCEANSAT-3 satellite.
- ❖ ARGOS is the global satellite-based data collection and location system.
- ❖ It is dedicated to studying and preserving the environment.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Shymala Gopinath committee**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a standing external advisory committee.
- ❖ This will evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs).
- ❖ The committee has five members, with former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath as the chairperson.
- ❖ The panel will have a tenure of three years.
- ❖ According to guidelines, applications for universal banks and SFBs will first be evaluated by the RBI to ensure prima facie eligibility of the applicants.
- ❖ After that the newly formed committee will evaluate the applications.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **India's First Free-Space Quantum Communication**

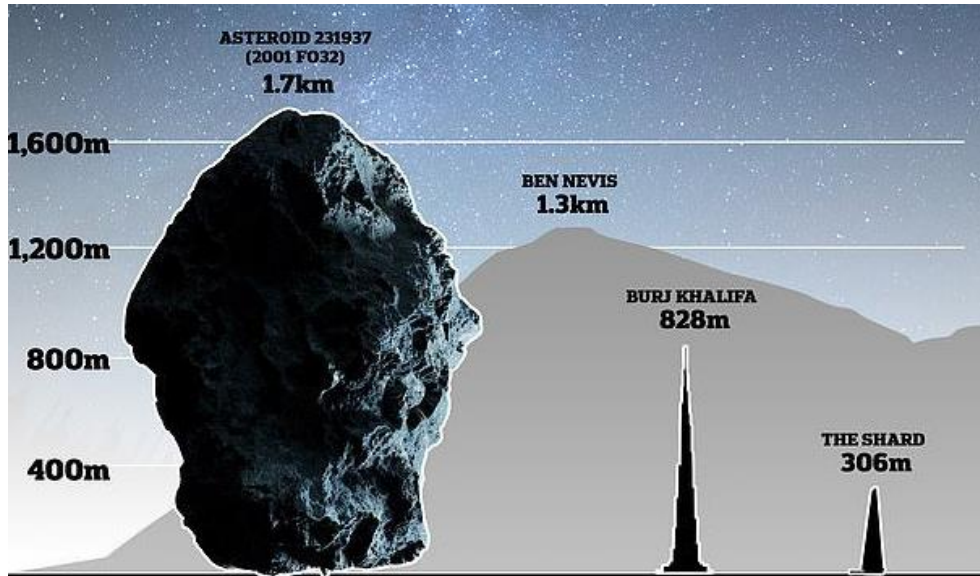
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 metres.
- ❖ This is a first-of-its-kind initiative.
- ❖ The demonstration has included live videoconferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals.
- ❖ This is a major milestone achievement for unconditionally secured satellite data communication using quantum technologies.
- ❖ This is demonstrated at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, between two line-of-sight buildings within the campus.
- ❖ The experiment was performed at night, in order to ensure that there is no interference of the direct sunlight.
- ❖ The experiment is a major breakthrough towards ISRO's goal of demonstrating Satellite Based Quantum Communication.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Asteroid 2001 FO32**

- ❖ Asteroid 2001 FO32 is the largest asteroid passed by Earth in 2021.

- ❖ It was discovered 20 years ago by Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) program in Socorro, New Mexico in 2001.
- ❖ When it is at its closest to Earth, it is at a distance of 2 million km (Equal to 5¼ times the distance from Earth to the Moon).
- ❖ So, it has been designated as a “potentially hazardous asteroid”.



### **Candida Auris**

- ❖ The Researchers found Candida Auris on remote beaches of Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- ❖ They also held that they can potentially bring next pandemic.
- ❖ Candida Auris, a multidrug-resistant fungus, has become a 'superbug' as it is able to resist main anti-fungal treatments.
- ❖ C. Auris survives on the skin before entering the body through wounds.
- ❖ Once in the bloodstream, it causes severe illness.
- ❖ It can lead to sepsis - a condition that kills up to 11 million people a year globally.
- ❖ C. auris spreads from one patient to another in hospitals.
- ❖ It is targeting people with weakened immune systems.
- ❖ It spreads through contact with contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment.
- ❖ It is difficult to identify with standard lab methods.



## ***Candida auris:*** **A drug-resistant germ that spreads in healthcare facilities**

*Candida auris* (also called *C. auris*) is a fungus that causes serious infections. Patients with *C. auris* infection, their family members and other close contacts, public health officials, laboratory staff, and healthcare workers can all help stop it from spreading.

### **Why is *Candida auris* a problem?**



**It causes serious infections.** *C. auris* can cause bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in hospital and nursing home patients with serious medical problems. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die.



**It's often resistant to medicines.** Antifungal medicines commonly used to treat *Candida* infections often don't work for *Candida auris*. Some *C. auris* infections have been resistant to all three types of antifungal medicines.



**It's becoming more common.** Although *C. auris* was just discovered in 2009, it has spread quickly and caused infections in more than a dozen countries.

