

May - 24

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia observed on every year May 17.

## **NATIONAL**

### **BioRRAP Portal**

- ❖ This portal BioRRAP stands for Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal.
- ❖ It will be catering to the needs of all those seeking regulatory approval for biological development and research in India.
- ❖ This is a portal by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ❖ This portal is only for research-related activities.
- ❖ It cannot be used for the purpose of product development.

### **IIT-JEE Open to 25 Countries**

- ❖ IIT-JEE (IIT-Joint Entrance Exam) is set to go global, as the Indian government is planning to take conduct the engineering exam in 25 countries—from the US to Vietnam.
- ❖ IIT-JEE was held in Kuala Lumpur and Lagos last year.
- ❖ Now, the countries where the examinations will be conducted are the US, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE, among others.
- ❖ Earlier, with the cooperation of the Indian government, the IIT-JEE exams were held in 12 countries.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global Food Security Call to Action Meeting**

- ❖ The United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken has chaired a “Global Food Security Call to Action” meeting of foreign ministers from around 30 countries.

- ❖ It aims to reviewing the urgent development and humanitarian needs and identifying steps to address the challenges of global nutrition, food security, and resilience.
- ❖ This meeting has been held days after India decided to ban wheat exports.
- ❖ So that skyrocketing prices in the country due to shortages can be checked.

### **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework**

- ❖ 13 countries have joined a new, US-led Asia-Pacific trade initiative names as Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.
- ❖ Thirteen countries including US, India, and Japan are part of the trade initiative.
- ❖ Others on the starting list of members are Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ❖ IPEF is intended to offer US allies an alternative to China's growing commercial presence across the Asia-Pacific.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

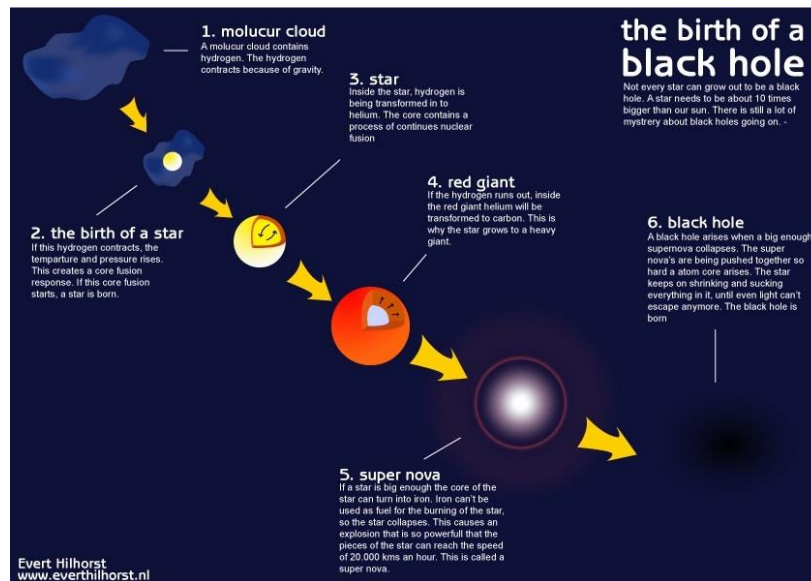
### **Icy Lava Flows in Pluto**

- ❖ New findings about Pluto have been reported by the NASA's New Horizons probe.
- ❖ The probe reported that icy lava flows have covered substantial tracts of its surface.
- ❖ The findings drew particular attention to a mountainous feature named Wright Mons.
- ❖ A mountainous feature named Wright Mons was found on Pluto.

- ❖ That rises 4-5 km above its surroundings.
- ❖ The only spacecraft to visit Pluto is NASA's New Horizons.
- ❖ It passed close by in July 2015.

## Black Hole Birth

- ❖ India's Astrosat space telescope has witnessed the birth of a black hole in space for the 500th time.
- ❖ A black hole is a place in space where gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape its pull.
- ❖ Astrosat, consisting of five science instruments, studies the universe in ultraviolet, optical, and X-ray radiation.
- ❖ Launched in 2015, Astrosat has been observing Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRB) that happen when a star dies.



## GM crop research Norms

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has issued guidelines easing norms for research into genetically modified (GM) crops and circumventing challenges of using foreign genes to change crops profile.

### Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants- 2022

- ❖ This guideline is a road map for the development and sustainable use of genome editing technologies in India.

- ❖ It exempts researchers who use gene-editing technology to modify the genome of the plant from seeking approvals from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.
- ❖ The guidelines say that all requirements that researchers must adhere to develop transgenic seeds will apply to gene-edited seeds except clauses that require permission from the GEAC.

## STATES

### World largest IRESP

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy laid foundation stone for world's largest 5,230 MW Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRESP).
- ❖ It is the first project in the world which will produce green hydrogen.
- ❖ Also, the IRESP is a first of its kind single location energy storage project with wind and solar capacities.



### Lok Milni scheme

- ❖ Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann launched a programme called Lok Milni.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind public interaction program.

- ❖ This interactive programme was launched with the aim of providing a single-window platform to the people of the state for the redressal of the complaints that they have.

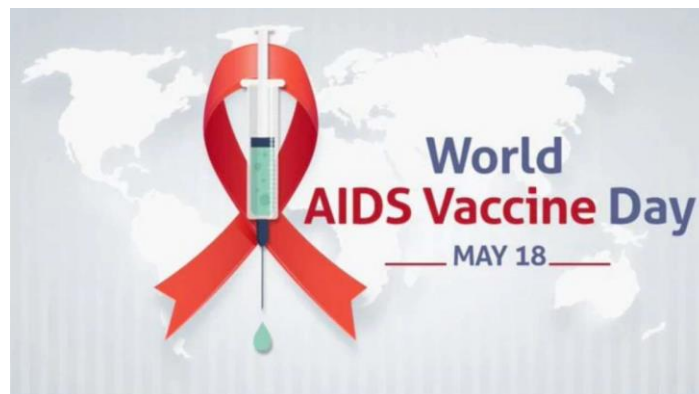
### **State-Owned OTT Platform**

- ❖ The Kerala government will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform on November 1.
- ❖ It will be offering film lovers an array of movies, short films and documentaries of their choice.
- ❖ Kerala will become the first state in India to have a state-owned OTT platform.
- ❖ The OTT platform named as CSPACE.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World AIDS Vaccine Day - May 17**



- ❖ The origin of the World AIDS Vaccine Day is rooted in a speech delivered by former US President Bill Clinton on May 18, 1997.
- ❖ In 1998, the first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed for the first time to commemorate the first anniversary of Clinton's speech.
- ❖ HIV was first discovered in 1983.

### **International Museum Day – May 18**

- ❖ It to raise awareness among people about the museums as an important means of cultural exchange and development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people.
- ❖ The theme of International Museum Day 2022 is "The Power of Museums".
- ❖ Since 1977, every year, ICOM has organised International Museum Day.



### **World Bee Day – May 20**



- ❖ On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born in 1734.
- ❖ The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.

- ❖ The UN Member States approved Slovenia's proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.

### **World Metrology Day – May 20**

- ❖ It aims to create awareness about the Metrology, the science of measurement and its application.
- ❖ The day highlights the use of Metrology in scientific fields, innovation, industries, trading and other fields.
- ❖ The day is an annual celebration of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1875.
- ❖ The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is Metrology in the Digital Era.

