

October - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force retained Pakistan on the 'Grey List of countries.'
  - This time it had added three new countries namely Turkey, Jordan & Mali, to the Grey List.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the book titled "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition".
  - It was authored by Uday Mahurkar and Chirayu Pandit.
- ❖ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna Inc and Johnson & Johnson.
  - It also announced that Americans can choose a different shot from their original inoculation as a booster.

## TAMIL NADU

### **Makkal Palli programme**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government is implementing a new teaching scheme as part of bridging the learning gap and losses during the lockdown for children studying from Classes 1 to 8.
- ❖ Teachers will now be reaching out to the students.
- ❖ The prime objective of the Makkal Palli (People's School) programme is to provide learning in a non-school closer to home, small cohort setup.

## NATIONAL

### **Electric cooking**

- ❖ In Delhi and Tamil Nadu, 17 per cent of families are using some form of electric cooking.
- ❖ This is as per an independent study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).
- ❖ Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam, and Kerala are leading the transition towards electric cooking.

### **UPSC - Helpline number**

- ❖ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has launched a toll-free helpline number.
- ❖ This facility can be used by the government job aspirants belonging to economically weaker sections and backward classes.
- ❖ The toll-free number was launched with the objective of helping candidates in filling up application forms or resolving their queries related to the examinations or recruitments of UPSC.
- ❖ The toll-free number is “1800118711”.

### **UDAN Day - 21st October**

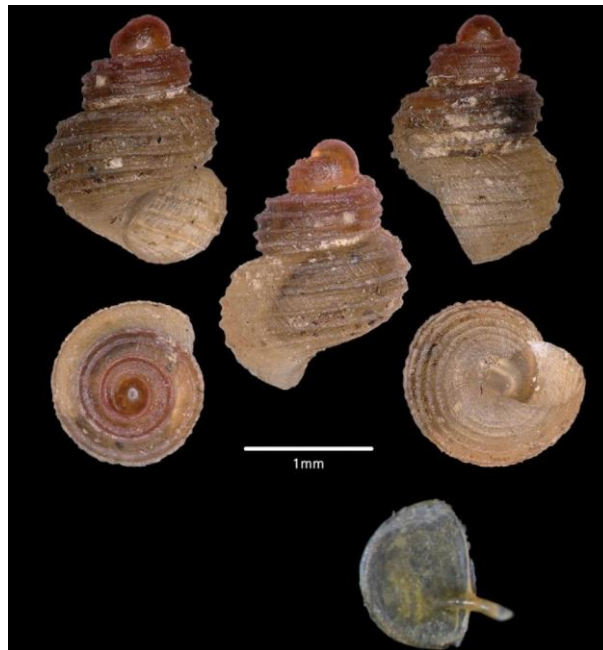


- ❖ The Government of India has identified 21st October as UDAN Day.
- ❖ This was the day on which the scheme document was first released.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at enhancing connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country and making air travel affordable.
- ❖ It is a key component of the Centre’s National Civil Aviation Policy led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ It was launched in June 2016.

- ❖ The scheme will be jointly funded by the central government and state governments.

### **Micro snail species**

- ❖ A micro snail species named *Georissa mawsmiensis* has recently been discovered from Mawsmi in Meghalaya.
- ❖ These are confined to microhabitats consisting of limestone caves or karst landscapes formed by the dissolution of limestone.
- ❖ This is 170 years after the last such discovery was made.
- ❖ It was in 1851 that *Georissa saritta*, a member of the same genus as the latest find.
- ❖ The members of the *Georissa* genus are widely distributed across and reported from Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Barbados**

- ❖ The Caribbean Island called Barbados, in a bid to become a republic has elected its first-ever president.
- ❖ This move will also remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state of Barbados.

- ❖ Sandra Mason will swear in as president on November 30, 2021.
- ❖ Sandra Mason is the current governor-general of the island.
- ❖ November 30 marks the 55th anniversary of the independence of Barbados from Britain.



### **Special Trust fund**

- ❖ The United Nations has set up a special trust fund for Afghanistan.
- ❖ This is to provide urgently needed cash directly to Afghans.
- ❖ It was set up with the aim of injecting liquidity into Afghan households.
- ❖ Germany is a first contributor to the fund.

### **Sakharov Prize**

- ❖ Imprisoned Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was recently awarded this European Union's top human rights prize.
- ❖ The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is commonly known as the Sakharov Prize.

- ❖ This is an honorary award for individuals or groups who have dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights and freedom of thought.
- ❖ Named after Russian scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, the prize was established in December 1988 by the European Parliament.



### **Hypersonic missile - US**

- ❖ The United States has successfully tested hypersonic missile technology.
- ❖ Hypersonic Missile Technology is a new weapons system that is already being deployed by Russia and China.
- ❖ The test was conducted at a NASA facility in Wallops, Virginia.



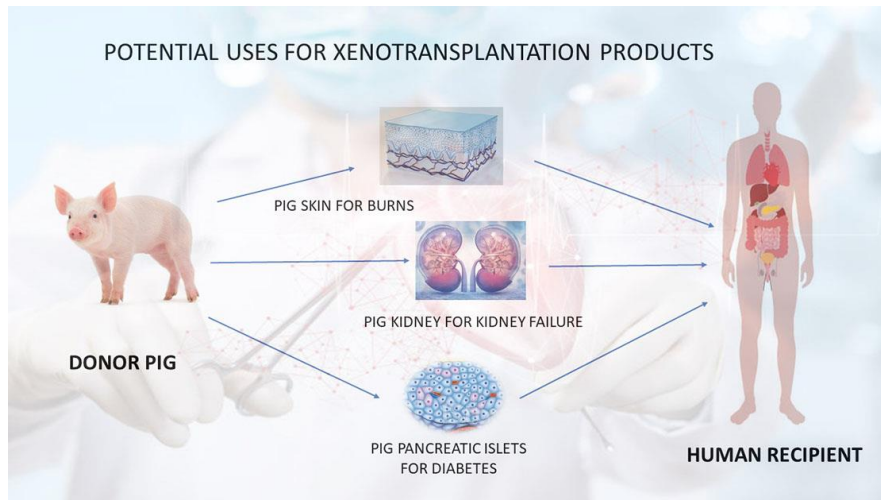
### **Cumbre Vieja volcano**

- ❖ Cumbre Vieja volcano erupted in Spain's La Palma Island.

- ❖ The economy of La Palma, part of Spain's Canary Islands, is based mainly on tourism and banana plantations.
- ❖ The Spanish government has pledged millions of euros (dollars) to help rebuild damaged infrastructure.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Pig-to-human kidney transplants



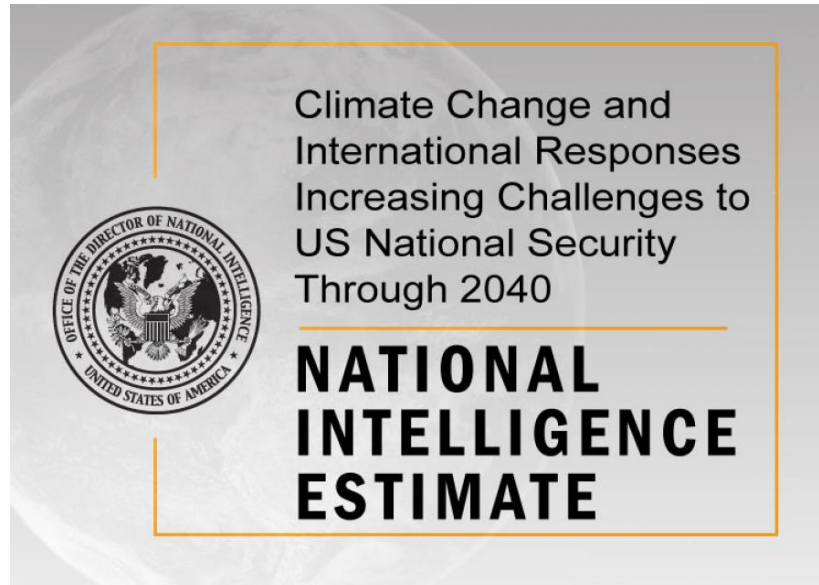
- ❖ For the first time, US Medical surgeons successfully attached a kidney from a genetically modified pig to a human patient
- ❖ Scientists got the kidney from a pig genetically engineered so that it wouldn't produce a sugar called alpha-gal.
- ❖ Alpha-gal attacks the human immune system and would trigger the body to reject the organ.
- ❖ The recipient's body didn't immediately reject the kidney.
- ❖ And the kidney functioned normally for the hours it was attached.

## ENVIRONMENT

### National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on climate

- ❖ The United States categorised India as a 'country of concern' on climate.
- ❖ This was mentioned in its report called "National Intelligence Estimate on climate".
- ❖ This was the first-ever kind of report on climate.

- ❖ It was put together by the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award



- ❖ Film directors Martin Scorsese and Istvan Szabo will be honoured with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ They will be awarded at the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ❖ This is to be held in Goa.

- ❖ Also, this is the first time that IFFI has invited major OTT platforms to participate in the international film festival.

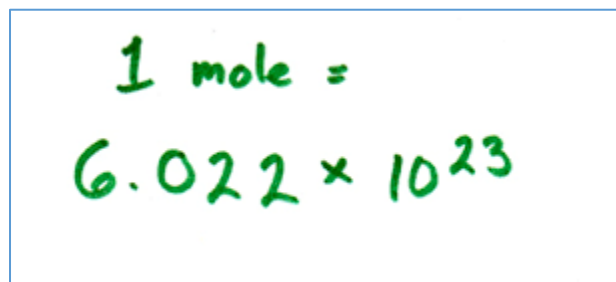
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Stuttering Awareness Day – 22 October

- ❖ This day is observed every year since 1998.
- ❖ The day is intended to raise public awareness of the millions of people who have a speech disorder of stuttering or stammering.
- ❖ Theme of 2021 is “Speak the change you wish to see”.



### Mole Day – 23 October


$$1 \text{ mole} = 6.022 \times 10^{23}$$

- ❖ Every year mole day is celebrated which is popular amongst all chemistry enthusiasts.
- ❖ This day is marked to commemorate and honour the Avogadro's number.
- ❖ The celebration of this day happens from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. commemorating the chemistry is measuring unit.
- ❖ This occasion aims to make the students interested in chemistry and its concepts.





- ❖ The theme for the occasion is inspired by the mascot - A Mole.
- ❖ This year the theme is Despica Mole Me.

