

September - 20

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union minister Rajnath Singh has become the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft Tejas, from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.

## TAMIL NADU

### Keezhadi Archeological Site, Sivagangai

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district, could be dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.
- ❖ A report titled, 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai' has been published by the TNAD.
- ❖ The new findings in the report placed the Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed.
- ❖ First three excavations were carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, and the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD.
- ❖ The results suggested that the second urbanisation of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains.
- ❖ The report now spels the site as "Keeladi" as against the erstwhile widely used Keezhadi.
- ❖ This is a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age.





### Tamil Brahmi Script

- ❖ Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were recovered from the site of excavation.
- ❖ Keeladi findings fix the date of Tamil-Brahmi script at 6th century BCE.
- ❖ It establishes that local people have attained literacy or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE.

### Animals

- ❖ The Skeletal fragments of following animals found at the site were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune for analysis of their age.
  - cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, nilgai, blackbuck, wild boar and peacock.
- ❖ The society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes.

### Carbon Dating

- ❖ Six carbon samples collected from site were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.
- ❖ One of the six samples collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S. “goes back to 580 BCE”.
- ❖ Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology.

## **NATIONAL**

### **New Airforce Chief – RKS Bhadauria**

- ❖ Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria has been appointed as the new Indian Air Force chief.
- ❖ A highly decorated officer, Bhadauria was instrumental in finalising the Rafale jet deal with France.
- ❖ He is currently vice chief of air staff and will take over the post of chief of Air staff after his predecessor BS Dhanoa retires on September 30.
- ❖ He was also due to retire on the same day as BS Dhanoa.
- ❖ But since he is appointed now, he will serve a three-year term or till the age of 62, whichever is sooner.

### **Mortality Estimates of Pregnant Women and Children**

- ❖ An estimated 2.8 million pregnant women and newborns die every year, or 1 every 11 seconds.



- ❖ The death is attributed to mostly of preventable causes.
- ❖ This mortality estimate is released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Division, UNFPA and the World Bank Group.
- ❖ In 2017, according to the latest estimates,
  - Over 800 women died each day from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.
  - Within 28 days of life, 7,000 newborn babies died every day.
- ❖ Through its “Every Child Alive” global campaign, UNICEF urges governments, private sector and civil society to ensure the maternal health and survival of newborns.

### **Mobile Phones for PwDs**

- ❖ The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has approved a series of measures to increase Information and Communications Technology (ICT) access to persons with disabilities (PwD).
- ❖ It has mandated all major mobile phone manufacturers, which produce 5 or more models, to produce at least one model which satisfies the needs of PwDs.
- ❖ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 recognises 21 disabilities.
- ❖ Mobile phone makers will be mandated to extend the benefits of ICT to all such people.
- ❖ Samsung has recently launched 2 models focused on PwDs.

### **Mineral Exploration**

- ❖ Mines and Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi has urged coal industry to boost India's mineral output by 200 per cent in the next seven years.
- ❖ He invited them to use the Rs.1500 crores lying unspent with the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).
- ❖ Mining sector has a pivotal role to play in the 'Make in India'.
- ❖ National Mineral Policy 2019 proposes to attract private investment through various incentives like financial package, right of first refusal at the time of auction etc.

## **Right to Access Internet – Kerala High Court**

- ❖ The Kerala High Court held that the right to have access to the Internet is part of both
  - The fundamental right to education
  - The right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution
- ❖ The landmark judgement has been delivered in the RK Faheema Shirin V State of Kerala, 2019 case.
- ❖ The court ordered the principal of Sree Narayanaguru College, Kozhikode, to re-admit the suspended student Faheema Shirin.
- ❖ Shirin was suspended for using mobile phone after stipulated hours.
- ❖ In 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council released a non-binding resolution condemning intentional disruption of internet access by governments.
- ❖ It also states that right of access to Internet is a fundamental freedom and a tool to ensure right to education.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in the S. Rengarajan and others v. P. Jagjivan Ram (1989) has also laid out that restrictions on fundamental freedom can be justified only on anvil of necessity and not for convenience or expediency.



**Internet Access is  
Basic Fundamental  
Right:  
Supreme Court**



## INTERNATIONAL

### **Daxing Airport – Beijing’s Mega Airport**

- ❖ China will open a new mega airport on the eve of 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule.
- ❖ Beijing Daxing International Airport is an addition to the already existing world’s second busiest Beijing airport.
- ❖ Beijing Capital International airport handled 100 million passengers in 2018.
- ❖ World’s No.1 busiest airport is at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, USA.
- ❖ Daxing airport is nicknamed as ‘Starfish’ for its shape. The design minimises distance between security checks and gates.
- ❖ The earthquake-proof airport has a train station located directly beneath it.



## STATES

### **Google AI Lab in Bengaluru**

- ❖ Google is launching an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Lab in Bengaluru to create products for world market.
- ❖ The Lab will be led by Manish Gupta, a SEM (Society for Experimental Mechanics) Fellow.
- ❖ It ties up with state run BSNL for expanding Wi-Fi hotspots in villages in Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Google plans to introduce ‘tokenized’ cards.

- ❖ It enables payment for things using a “digital token on the phone” rather than actual debit card or credit card number.

## SPORTS

### **Dhanush Srikanth – Hearing Impaired Teen Shooter**

- ❖ Telangana based Dhanush Srikanth has become the first shooter with hearing impairment to get selected in the Indian national squad.



- ❖ He will compete in the junior (U-21) men's 10m air rifle team for the Asian Championships in Doha scheduled in November.
- ❖ He is also the first shooter with hearing impairment to win a national medal in the regular category by topping the Khelo India Youth Games.

