

April - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ LG of South Korea has confirmed that it is closing down its mobile phone business.
  - The company's mobile phone unit has been a loss-making affair for about six years.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently reported that as many as 116 districts in India have reported zero malaria cases in 2020.
  - In 2020, India had reduced the disease burden of Malaria by 84.5%. And also, it has reduced the deaths due to Malaria by 83.6%.
- ❖ A Glacier burst occurred in Sumna, Neeti Valley located in Chamoli district in India-China border.
  - In India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of more than a vertical foot and half of ice each year since 2000.
- ❖ The US Senate recently passed a bill to help combat the rise of hate crimes against the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans.
  - Of all the states, California is facing a greater number of hate crimes.
- ❖ South Africa's second-largest lender FirstRand Bank exited India after 12 years.
  - FirstRand became the second global bank to exit India after Citigroup.

## NATIONAL

### Global Energy Review report

- ❖ The International Energy Agency recently released the Global Energy Review report.

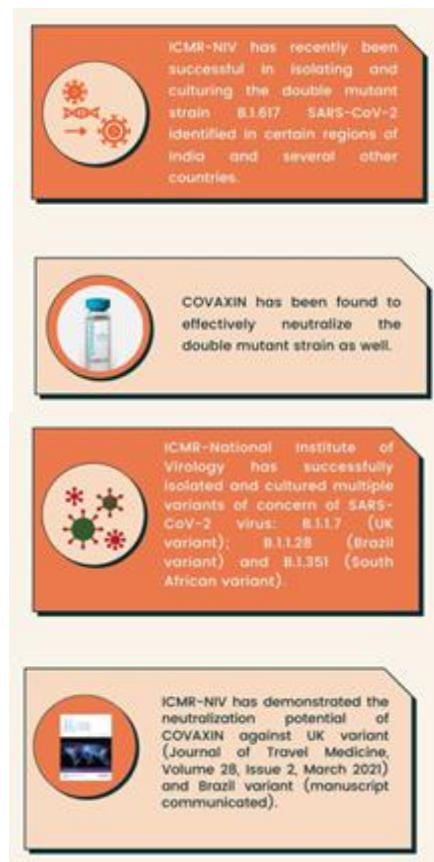
#### *In India*

- ❖ According to the report, the Carbon Dioxide emissions in India is to be 1.4% higher than the levels recorded in 2019.
- ❖ The coal-fired power generation is to increase by three times higher than the increase in generation from the renewables.
- ❖ The coal demand is expected to increase by 9%.
- ❖ India has pledged to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% under Paris Agreement.

- ❖ Currently, the carbon dioxide emissions of India is 60% below the global average.

### **COVAXIN neutralizes double Mutant Strain**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently announced that COVAXIN neutralises the Double Mutant Strain of COVID-19.
- ❖ The National Institute of Virology recently demonstrated the neutralisation potential of COVAXIN against the Brazil variant and UK variant.
- ❖ The B.1.617 is a recently spreading double mutant variant of COVID-19.
- ❖ It carries the mutations of E484Q and also the mutations of L452R.



### **COVISHIELD protects against Double Mutant**

- ❖ The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology recently announced that COVISHILED vaccine protects against B.1.617 variant.
- ❖ It is also called the double mutant strain.

- ❖ The vaccines were tested against the double mutant variety using the Vitro Neutralisation assay.
- ❖ Vitro Neutralisation assay is used to detect if an antibody is capable of preventing virus replication.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Australia and China's Belt and Road deal**

- ❖ The Australian Government recently announced that it has cancelled deals on Belt and Road initiative over national interest.
- ❖ In 2018, the Victorian State Government had signed two agreements with China.
- ❖ An agreement was signed to promote infrastructure development initiative in the state.
- ❖ The second agreement was signed in 2019 that aimed to bring in Chinese investments in the state.
- ❖ Both these agreements were signed under the Belt and Road Initiative of China.
- ❖ The Australian Government recently cancelled both these agreements.

#### **Note**

- ❖ In December 2020, the Australian Government introduced the Australia Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangement) Act.
- ❖ The law allows Australian Government to cancel any agreements signed between a foreign country and the state authorities.
- ❖ This shall be done if the actions of the agreement threatened national interest.

### **State of Emergency in Ethiopia**

- ❖ Ethiopia recently declared Emergency in the southern part of Amhara region as violence broke out in various parts.
- ❖ The violence in the region began after an ethnic Oromo Imam was shot dead outside a mosque.
- ❖ This increased the clashes between the Ethnic Oromo civilians and the Amhara Security forces.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Ace Money Neobank**

- ❖ Aceware FinTech Services launched Kerala's first neobank called Ace Money Neobank.
- ❖ It has joined in partnership with YES Bank and ICICI Bank for this.
- ❖ Aceware is a Kerala-based fintech services company.
- ❖ The services of Ace Money Neobank are available at all the panchayats in Kerala.

### **Neobanks**

- ❖ It is a kind of digital bank, entirely online instead of being present physically at a specific location.
- ❖ Chqbook (Chqbook.com) - India's first Neobank for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships.
- ❖ FamPay - India's first Neobank for teenagers.
- ❖ Finin - India's first full-fledged consumer neobank.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **World Assessment Report II**

- ❖ The United Nations recently released the Second World Ocean Assessment report.
- ❖ It is the work of hundreds of scientists appointed by the members of United Nations from all over the world.
- ❖ It follows the initial report, "World Ocean Assessment I" published in 2015.

### **Findings**

- ❖ The number of dead zones in the oceans have doubled.
- ❖ It has increased from 400 in 2008 to 700 in 2019.
- ❖ 90% of the Mangrove Seagrass and marsh plant species are facing extinction.
- ❖ 30% of seabird species are facing the threat of extinction.
- ❖ Only 10% of the ocean has been explored and studied.
- ❖ The heat content in the oceans has more than doubled since 1990.
- ❖ 15% of the Sandy beaches are seeing retreating shorelines.

### **Dead Zone**

- ❖ Dead Zone is a common term used for Hypoxia.

- ❖ The largest dead zone is located in the Arabian sea.
- ❖ This covers almost 63,700 square miles in Gulf of Oman.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day - April 26

- ❖ The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster
- ❖ It also creates awareness of the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) proclaimed the day on April 26, 2016.
- ❖ On this day in 1986, a reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine with devastating consequences.



### World Intellectual Property Day - April 26



- ❖ This day is being observed to celebrate creativity and raise awareness about how copyright, trademarks and designs impact daily life.
- ❖ This year's theme of the Day is: 'IP and SMEs: Take your ideas to markets'.



- ❖ This is aimed at promoting the role of small and medium enterprises in economy and how they can use intellectual property rights to build stronger and more competitive businesses.

