

February - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks was held under the patronage of the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz bin Salman Al Saud.

## TAMIL NADU

### **Bonded Labour System Abolition Day**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced that it will observe February 9 as Bonded Labour System Abolition Day.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the first state in the country to make such an announcement.
- ❖ Union government enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act on February 9, 1976.

## NATIONAL

### **Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha**

- ❖ Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge has become the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ He had been the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha between 2014 and 2019.
- ❖ The incumbent Ghulam Nabi Azad's term ends on February 15.





## **Indian Sign Language dictionary**

- ❖ The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary.
- ❖ The new edition will comprise of 10,000 terms of daily.
- ❖ It will also include the academic, legal, medical technical, administrative and agricultural terms in it.
- ❖ The 2nd edition of the Indian Sign language was released in the year 2019 with 6,000 terms.
- ❖ Its first edition was released in the year 2018 with 3,000 terms.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Anti-Radicalism Bill**

- ❖ The French parliament has approved the Ant-Radicalism bill in a bid to fight the Islamic radicalism.
- ❖ The bill seeks to strengthen the government oversight of mosques and religious schools.
- ❖ It will also take strong actions against the polygamy and forced marriage.
- ❖ The bill provides for measures with the aim of rooting out the Islamic radicalism.
- ❖ It is a part of the broader French efforts with the aim of fighting extremism.
- ❖ It will also promote respect for French values.

### **SAARC Virtual Meet**

- ❖ India will host the virtual health secretary-level meeting with the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- ❖ During the meeting the members will discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
- ❖ Pakistan has also been invited to attend the meeting.
- ❖ Earlier the Coronavirus Emergency Fund was set up by the SAARC members in order to response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ India had proposed to contribute USD10 million for the fund.
- ❖ SAARC was founded on December 8, 1985.
- ❖ It is headquartered at Kathmandu, Nepal.



### **Global Covid-19 Vaccination Plan**

- ❖ UN asked the G20 nations to prepare a “Global Covid-19 Vaccination Plan”.
- ❖ It stated that, the 10 wealthier countries have administered 75 percent of global vaccinations across the world.
- ❖ 130 poorer countries of the world have not received even a single dose of the vaccine.
- ❖ WHO’s COVAX scheme has signed the deal with Pfizer-BioNTech for 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccine for the poorer countries.

### **World Solar Bank**

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) have planned to launch the World Solar Bank (WSB) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.
- ❖ It is scheduled for November 2021.
- ❖ It will support India’s attempt to secure its leadership in the climate arena.
- ❖ The headquarter of the World Solar Bank is expected to be set up in India.
- ❖ It will be first multilateral development bank that will be set up in India.
- ❖ The WSB have planned to disburse around \$50 billion to the member countries of ISA over next 10 years.

## **ECONOMY**

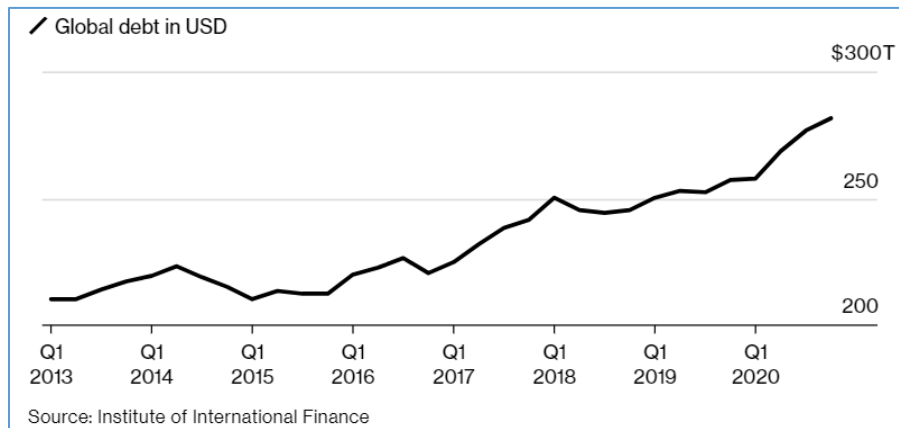
### **Takeover of DHFL**

- ❖ RBI approved the takeover of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) by Piramal Group.
- ❖ Now, the Piramal Group will require to take permission of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to take over the DHFL.
- ❖ DHFL is a deposit-taking housing finance company.
- ❖ It is the second housing finance company of India.
- ❖ Now this company stands bankrupt.

### **IIF Report on debt**

- ❖ The Institute of International Finance (IIF) has reported that, World debt reached record \$281 trillion at end of 2020
- ❖ This accounts for more than 355 per cent of global GDP.

- ❖ This will increase by another \$10 trillion in the year 2021 since the political and social pressures pushes for more spending.
- ❖ This in turn will increase the debt load past \$92 trillion with the end of 2021.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Oldest DNA recovery

- ❖ The Scientists have recovered the oldest DNA on record from the teeth of Siberian Mammoths.
- ❖ The DNA was extracted from the molars of mammoths.
- ❖ These mammoths were found in the north-eastern Siberia some 1.2 million years ago.
- ❖ DNA was recovered and sequenced from the remains of three individual mammoths.
- ❖ The mammoths were among the large mammals who dominated Ice Age landscapes.
- ❖ Mammoths is the species of extinct elephantid of genus Mammuthus.



## STATES

### **KFC debit cards**

- ❖ Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) will soon issue debit cards.
- ❖ KFC is a leading state-owned financial institution.
- ❖ These cards will be branded by public sector banks and cards will be issued in Rupay and platinum formats.
- ❖ It is for the first time in the country that a state government financial institution is issuing debit cards.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### **TIME magazine's list**

- ❖ Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad has featured in TIME magazine's annual list of 100 "emerging leaders who are shaping the future".
- ❖ The list names as "2021 TIME100 Next".
- ❖ It also has five Indian-origin personalities:
  - Twitter's top lawyer Vijaya Gadde,
  - U.K.'s Finance Minister Rishi Sunak,
  - Instacart founder & CEO Apoorva Mehta,
  - Doctor & Executive Director of nonprofit Get Us PPE Shikha Gupta and
  - Founder of nonprofit Upsolve, Rohan Pavuluri.

