

May - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Every year, the Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated on April 30 in India to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.
  - Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched in April 2018.
- ❖ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has launched joint military exercises “DEFENDER-Europe 21” in Albania.
  - This has been launched with thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II in the Western Balkans.

## NATIONAL

### Helpline number for pregnant women

- ❖ The National Commission for Women recently launched the WhatsApp number for pregnant women.
- ❖ The helpline number is 9354954224.
- ❖ It is a “message only” helpline number.
- ❖ It will provide round the clock medical assistance to expectant mothers all over the country.
- ❖ National Commission for Women was established under the National Commission for Women Act in 1992.

### New technique in collecting COVID-19 samples

- ❖ Rakesh Mishra, Director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) said that they devised a new dry swab technique for collecting COVID-19 samples.
- ❖ The dry swab technique of COVID-19 sample collection involves taking a nasal swab and transporting it in the dry state unlike the process using the viral transport medium.
- ❖ Viral Transport Medium (VTM) is the potential for further spread of the virus.
- ❖ The dry swab technique is safe, fast, cheap, and more accurate.



### **Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions - Wipro**

- ❖ Wipro announced its commitment to achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.
- ❖ This is in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- ❖ It also set an intermediate target of a 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **India Russia 2+2 ministerial dialogue**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin recently agreed to establish “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue”.
- ❖ The “2+2 Ministerial” dialogue is held between the defence ministers and foreign ministers.
- ❖ India holds similar dialogues with US, Australia and Japan.
- ❖ Russia is the first non-QUAD member with which India is to hold the dialogue.
- ❖ In 2021, President Vladimir Putin is to visit India to hold the India-Russia bilateral summit.
- ❖ The summit is alternatively held in India and Russia.
- ❖ Currently, Russia is the largest Defence Supplier of India.

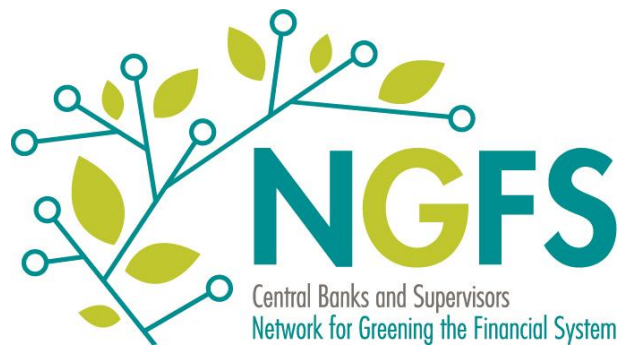
### **Global Electric Vehicle Outlook**

- ❖ The International Energy Agency recently released the Global Electric Vehicle Outlook.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - Three million new electric cars were registered in 2020.
  - This was 41% higher than those registered in 2019.
  - South Korea has the largest number of hydrogen car distribution in the world.
  - Around 30% of new vehicle sales in 2030 will be Electric in India.

## ECONOMY

### Network for Greening the Financial System

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).
- ❖ By joining the system, RBI is to learn from and contribute to the Global Climate risk management in the financial sector.
- ❖ Ultimately, the apex bank will work with its global partners to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.
- ❖ There are 83 central banks associated with the Greening the Financial System.
- ❖ Of these 75 are members and 13 are observers.
- ❖ The main objective of the system is to increase and accelerate green finance.
- ❖ It aims to help the members design policies and climate risk resilience in financial sector.



### World's Oldest Water at Canada

- ❖ Barbara Sherwood Lollar, the geochemist had spent much of her career wandering around some of the deepest mines in the world, finding and extracting water that was millions of years old.
- ❖ The research, published in Nature Communications, states that the Canadian mine water extracted by her in 2009, to be 1.6 billion years old.
- ❖ This is the oldest to be found on our planet.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Michael Collins passes away

- ❖ The American astronaut, Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, has passed away.
- ❖ He died at the age of 90.
- ❖ During the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
- ❖ He stayed alone in the command module for twenty-one hours till his colleagues returned.
- ❖ The Autobiography written by Michael was “Carrying the Fire”.



### Soli Jehangir Sorabjee passes away

- ❖ Soli Jehangir Sorabjee, a veteran lawyer, former Attorney General of India passed away recently.
- ❖ He served as Attorney-General for India from 1989 to 1990, and again from 1998 to 2004.
- ❖ He was a Padma Vibhushan recipient (2002).
- ❖ He passed away at the age of 91.



### **Order of Rising Sun award**

- ❖ The Japanese Government recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.
- ❖ The award is presented to those who have made distinguished achievements in promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in international relations, advancements in their field and conservation of environment.
- ❖ It is the third highest award presented by the Japanese Government.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Maharashtra and Gujarat Day - May 01**



- ❖ May 1 is celebrated as ‘Maharashtra Day’ and ‘Gujarat Day’.

- ❖ In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The legislation came into effect on May 1, 1960.
- ❖ The state of Bombay formerly comprised of speakers of different languages such as Marathi, Gujarati, Konkani, and Kutchi.
- ❖ During the mid-1950s, a movement known as the Samyukta Maharashtra Andolan started demanding a separate Marathi-speaking state.
- ❖ While Mahagujarat Movement aimed at the formation of a state for Gujarati-speaking people.
- ❖ The movements ended with the creation of the Bombay Reorganization Act.

### **International Labour Day – May 01**

- ❖ May Day is also called International Workers' Day or Labour Day.
- ❖ The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.
- ❖ On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities of USA were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.
- ❖ In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, 1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force (International Workers' Day).
- ❖ The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party, started by Singaravelu Chettiar, in Madras in 1923.
- ❖ It was initiated from the Labour Union Movement.

