

May - 15

## TNPSC BITS

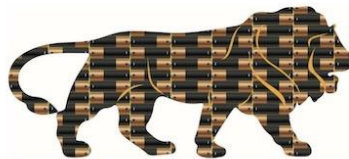
- ❖ The Manchester City football team of England crowned Premier League champions for the third time in four seasons.

## NATIONAL

### National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage

- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'.
- ❖ ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
- ❖ The National Programme on ACC Battery Storage aims for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC - To reduce India's dependence on import for ACC.

**NATIONAL PROGRAMME  
ON ADVANCE CHEMISTRY  
CELL (ACC)  
BATTERY STORAGE**



### Ivermectin

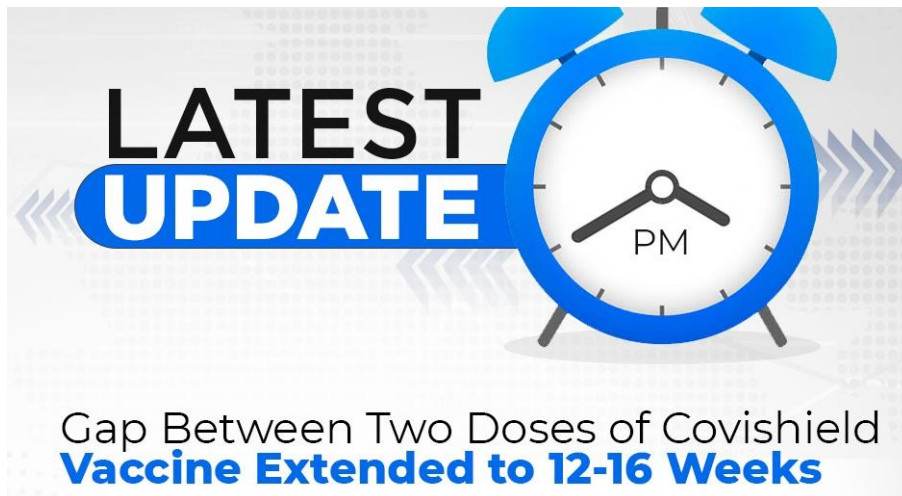
- ❖ Two Indian states have said they plan to dose their populations with the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin.
- ❖ This is to protect against severe COVID-19 infections as their hospitals are overrun with patients in critical condition.
- ❖ The move is made by Goa and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has recommended against the use of 'Ivermectin' drug for COVID-19 except within clinical trials.



- ❖ WHO warns against the drug as there is no sufficient data or meaningful evidences for its clinical efficacy in patients.
- ❖ Ivermectin is used for the treatment and eradication of two life-threatening illnesses - Onchocerciasis and filariasis.

### **Gap between the two doses - COVISHIELD**

- ❖ The Government of India recently increased the gap between the two doses of the COVISHIELD Vaccine.
- ❖ The gap was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.
- ❖ A Lancet study says that the protection (efficacy) against COVID-19 increased from 55.1% to 81.3% if the gap between the doses was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting**

- ❖ The first BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting was held virtually.
- ❖ It was hosted by India.
- ❖ India assumed BRICS Presidency in 2021.
- ❖ The member countries discussed about promoting social security agreements among BRICS Nations, participation of women in labour force, formalisation of labour markets.
- ❖ The members that participated in the meeting were BRICS countries and also members from International Labour Organisation and International Social Security Agency.

### **Pacific Football Fish**

- ❖ The Pacific Football Fish was recently washed ashore on California coast of USA.
- ❖ It is usually found in deep sea.
- ❖ Black in colour, it is usually addressed to as “Monster looking fish”.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Indian economy in the year 2022**

- ❖ The United Nations, in its mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), projected that the Indian economy would grow at 10.1% in the calendar year 2022.
- ❖ It was first released in January 2021.
- ❖ At a growth rate of 10.1% in 2022, India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world,
- ❖ The mid-year update said that India will register a -7.5% growth rate in calendar year 2021, after an estimated contraction of 6.8% in 2020.

### **Migration and Development Brief report**

- ❖ The World Bank recently released its “Migration and Development Brief” report.
- ❖ The report said that the remittance flows to the low-income and middle-income countries were 1.9% lower in 2020 as compared to that of 2019.
- ❖ It was 540 billion USD in 2020 and 548 billion USD in 2019.
- ❖ Remittance is a sum of money sent from one country to other country.
- ❖ It can be business payments or remittances paid to a family member, friends.



- ❖ They help the currency to hold its value against a foreign currency.
- ❖ The World Bank says that the remittances are the second largest resource inflow for developing countries after FDI.
- ❖ As the flow of remittances increases, the currency value of receiving country increases and the value of foreign currency depreciates.

#### **Note**

- ❖ India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- ❖ The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
- ❖ In 2019, India received 83.3 billion USD remittances.
- ❖ This fell by 0.2% in 2020.
- ❖ The remittance from UAE to India reduced by 17%.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Changsei 2C rocket**

- ❖ China recently launched Changsei 2C rocket from the Xichang satellite launch centre.
- ❖ It is a Yaogan satellite.
- ❖ This satellite has joined the previous seven groups in orbit that were launched after 2017.
- ❖ The satellite is to be used for electromagnetic environmental surveys and other related technical tests.

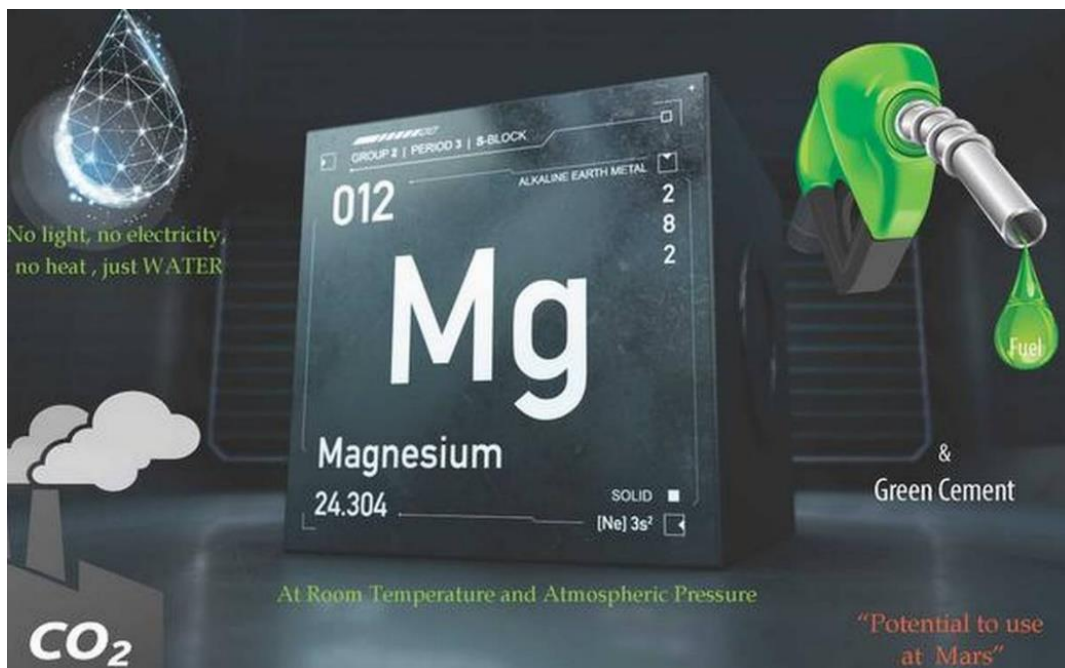
### **Yaogan satellite**

- ❖ It is a series of Chinese Reconnaissance satellites.
- ❖ Reconnaissance satellite is a spy satellite deployed for military or intelligence applications.
- ❖ However, Chinese claim that Yaogan satellites are launched for land survey, crop yield assessment, scientific experiment and disaster monitoring.

### **TIFR's Carbon dioxide Conversion Process**

- ❖ The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research scientists have found the cheapest carbon dioxide conversion process.

- ❖ This magnesium-assisted process mixes carbon dioxide, water and magnesium, at room temperature and pressure to get methane, methanol, formic acid and some hydrogen.
- ❖ Magnesium carbonate is the by product.
- ❖ It is used in the production of green cement and in the pharma industry.
- ❖ With this process, one can make methane on Mars.
- ❖ This is because,
  - Mars's atmosphere is almost entirely comprised of carbon dioxide.
  - Mars has water in the form of ice.
  - Its soil contains an abundance of magnesium.



## STATES

### **Maharashtra Mission Oxygen**

- ❖ The State Government of Maharashtra has recently launched the “Maharashtra Mission Oxygen”.
- ❖ Under the mission, the daily production of the state is to be increased to 3,000 tonnes.
- ❖ The State Government has allocated Rs 200 crores to the mission.
- ❖ It will provide special incentives to the private players who are willing to being oxygen generation units.

- ❖ A short-term goal of 2,300 metric tonnes per day is to be achieved in next six months.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **2021 World Food Prize**

- ❖ Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, has won the prestigious 2021 World Food Prize.
- ❖ She is a global nutrition expert of Indian descent.
- ❖ She received this award for her ground breaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems.
- ❖ World Food Prize is an award that aims to recognise achievements made in the field of food and agriculture.
- ❖ World Food Prize last year was also awarded to a person of Indian origin.
- ❖ In 2020, the World Food Prize was won by Dr. Rattan Lal who was born and brought up in India.
- ❖ He received the prize for his soil-centric approach to increase food production while conserving natural resources and tackling climate change.
- ❖ The World Food Prize was created by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986.
- ❖ At present, it is given by the World Food Prize Foundation.

