

April – 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ishad mango variety which is a native of Ankola, Uttara Kannada is under threat of becoming rare fruit.
- ❖ Indian Army plans to construct underground tunnels for storage of ammunition along the border with China and Pakistan.
 - Public sector enterprise NHPC is the project partner.
- ❖ Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has created Iran Trade cells in five Indian cities to facilitate business transactions for Indian exporters dealing with Iran.
 - The chosen cities are Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Indore and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Scientists at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology have isolated an anti-microbial protein found in the milk of an egg-laying mammal called “Echidna”.
 - The protein promises to serve as an alternative to antibiotics used on livestock.
- ❖ United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) India and NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission has signed a Letter of Intent to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
 - The plan will be implemented through Atal Tinkering Lab which is established under Atal Innovation Mission.
- ❖ The United States has imposed sanctions on Pakistan as Pakistan refused to take back its citizen deportees and visa over-stayers from America.
- ❖ Papua New Guinea, a south-western pacific country got their One Day International (ODI) status and a place in International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup League 2 by beating Oman by 45 runs.

NATIONAL

Missile Deal

- ❖ Army has invoked emergency powers in a missile purchase deal.
- ❖ Defence ministry permitted purchases up to ₹300 crore on a priority basis.

- ❖ Weapons to be procured are
 - Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel.
 - Iгла-S Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia.

ECONOMY

Ombudsman Scheme

- ❖ The RBI has extended the coverage of Ombudsman Scheme.
- ❖ It has now included non-deposit taking NBFCs (Non-Banking Finance Company).
- ❖ NBFC with asset size of ₹100 crore or higher will get an ombudsman.
- ❖ This provides easy and speedy complaint redressal mechanism to customers.
- ❖ An officer of RBI not below the rank of general manager will be appointed as ombudsman.

e-way bill system

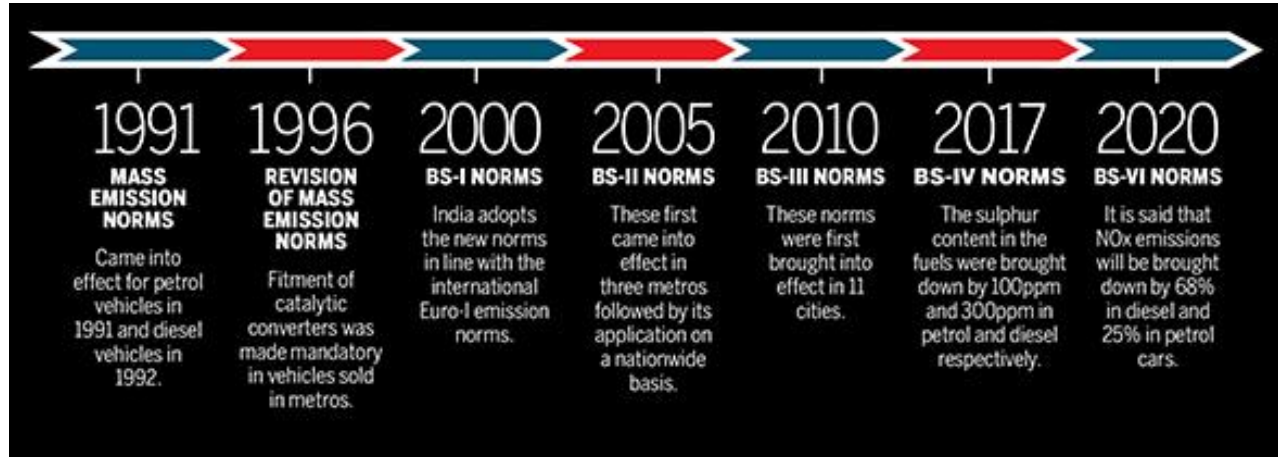
- ❖ e-way bill is an electronic way document required to be carried by a person in charge of the transporting the goods.
- ❖ It should be generated when goods of the value of more than Rs. 50,000 are shipped.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry of India has introduced changes in the e-way bill system.
- ❖ The e-way bill must be raised before the goods are shipped.
- ❖ It should include details of the goods, their consignor, recipient and transporter.
- ❖ Failure to produce an e-way bill can attract a penalty of Rs 10,000 or amount of tax sought to be evaded whichever is higher.

No Diesel Cars

- ❖ The country's largest vehicle manufacturer Maruti Suzuki has announced that it will stop manufacturing diesel vehicles.
- ❖ It is because of the new Bharath VI emission norms that will come into effect on April 1, 2020.
- ❖ Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by Government of India.



❖ History of Emission norms in India



BS VI

- ❖ The main difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur.
- ❖ The BS-VI fuel is estimated to bring around an 80 per cent reduction of sulphur, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm.
- ❖ The emission of NO_x (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to come down by nearly 70 per cent and 25 percent from Petrol cars.

ENVIRONMENT

Air Pollution

- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ It aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30%.
- ❖ It targets at least 102 cities by 2024.
- ❖ NCAP is planned as a 5-year action plan.
- ❖ 2019 is the first year of the plan.

SPORTS

Asian Wrestling

- ❖ The 2019 Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Xi'an, China.
- ❖ India stood at 8th rank in medal table.
- ❖ India won 16 medals in total.
- ❖ Medal split up: 1 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia won the lone gold medal in 65kg category.
- ❖ The tournament is organised by the Asian Associated Wrestling Committee (AAWC).
- ❖ The first tournament was held in Jalandhar in 1979.
- ❖ The women's tournament was first staged in 1996.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ayushman Bharat Diwas

- ❖ Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated across the country on April 30.
- ❖ This programme seeks to provide easily available and affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country.
- ❖ The Scheme aims to provide benefits cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year.

Universal Day of Culture

- ❖ Many countries around the world annually observe World Culture Day on April 15.
- ❖ This day was established to commemorate the adoption of the “Roerich Pact” in 1935.
- ❖ It is an inter-American treaty on the protection of artistic and scientific institutions and historic monuments.
- ❖ The day is named after the Russian artist and painter Nicholas Roerich.
- ❖ The organization World League of Culture initiated the first celebration of this day in 1998.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day

- ❖ The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day was observed across the world on 26 April.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in December 2016 to observe April 26 as the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.
- ❖ The day commemorates the explosion at the Ukraine's Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986.
- ❖ Nearly 8.4 million people in the three countries were exposed to the radiation.

International Dance Day

- ❖ International dance day is celebrated on April 29 of every year.
 - ❖ The day seeks to promote the art of dance around the world.
 - ❖ It marks the anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810).
 - ❖ He was the creator of modern ballet.
 - ❖ The day was the brainchild of the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
 - ❖ ITI is the main partner for performing arts of UNESCO.
 - ❖ The first celebration was held in 1982.
 - ❖ Every year a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated throughout the world on dance day.
 - ❖ The person is designated as Message Author of the year.
 - ❖ Indian dancer Chetna Jalan is the lone Indian message author.
 - ❖ She sent the global dance day message in 1986.
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