

December - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Chief Executive of Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla is one among the six people to be awarded with Asians of the Year.
  - The title is being provided by the Straits Times, a Singapore daily.
- ❖ China recently declared victory in its 8 years drive to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ❖ The Government of India recently renamed the second campus of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in Kerala after the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue M S Golwalkar.
- ❖ The construction work of the Agra Metro Project was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Jehan Daruvala created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix in Bahrain.
- ❖ HCL Technologies' Roshni Nadar Malhotra has topped as the richest women in the country in the global rich list prepared by Hurun.
  - She was followed by Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.
- ❖ Japan is to host seven-team Club FIFA World Cup in 2021.

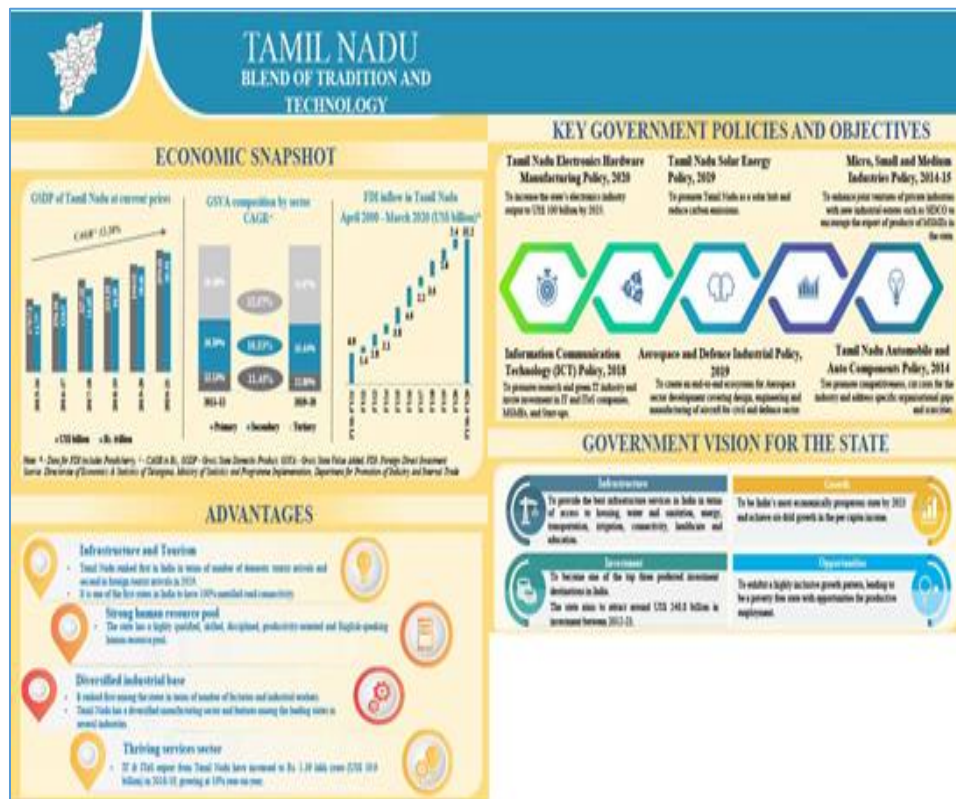
## TAMIL NADU

### State of the States report

- ❖ For the third time in a row, Tamil Nadu, under the AIADMK government, has emerged as the “Best Performing Big State (Overall)”
- ❖ It topped in the “India Today-MDRA State of the States study 2020”.
- ❖ It was conducted by Marketing and Development Research Associates (MDRA), a Delhi-based premier research agency.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh and Punjab came second and third respectively.
- ❖ In the ‘COVID-19 Management’ category, among the big states, Tamil Nadu came second after Assam.
- ❖ In the small states, Goa has been the best performing state overall for three years in a row.

## Tamil Nadu's Performance

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is India's second-largest economy after Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is sixth most populous state in India.
- ❖ It has the third highest GDP per capita in the country.
- ❖ It is the most urbanised and industrialised state in the country.
- ❖ The malnutrition in the Tamilnadu State is among the lowest in the country.
- ❖ For the third consecutive year, Tamil Nadu registered a higher economic growth rate than the national average.
- ❖ At 8.03 per cent, it was double the all-India average of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.
- ❖ The state's per capita income based on Net State Domestic Product in the same year was Rs 1,53,853.
- ❖ It is taking Tamilnadu from 12th place in the previous year to sixth position now.
- ❖ During 2018-19, the figure was ₹1,42,941 with the State standing at 12th rank.



## NATIONAL

### Pfizer India

- ❖ Pfizer India has become the first pharma company to approach the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) to seek an emergency use authorization of its vaccine for COVID-19 in India.
- ❖ Already UK and Bahrain have given their permission for Pfizer's vaccine BNT162b2.
- ❖ This vaccine requires the extremely low temperature for storing at minus 70 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India (SII) seeks emergency use authorization for the Oxford - Astra Zeneca vaccine COVID-19 vaccine candidate 'Covishield'.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India (SII) is the World's largest vaccine manufacturer.

### 9<sup>th</sup> International Sand art festival

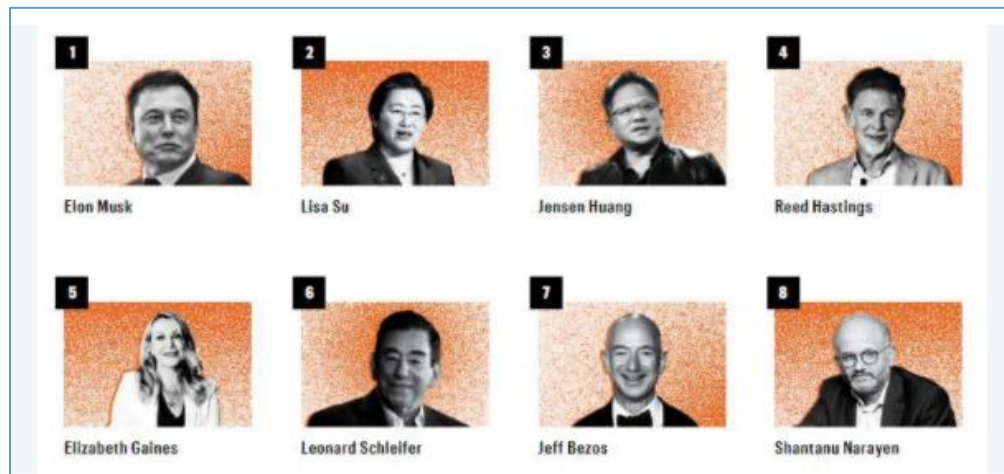
- ❖ The ninth edition of the International Sand Art Festival has begun at the Chandrabhaga Beach of Konark in Odisha's Puri district.
- ❖ Sudarsan Pattnaik, world-renowned sand artist and Padmashree Awardee, has been appointed as Chief Curator of the festival.
- ❖ Odisha is the only state in the country that provides a national and international platform for this art form.
- ❖ This year, the main themes of the sculptures are 'Environment' and 'Covid-19'.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year

- ❖ It was topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk for the second time.
- ❖ Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named at 8th and 9th place respectively.
- ❖ It was published annually by the Fortune magazine.



### TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix

- ❖ It is an annual listing that measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 countries.
- ❖ It was first published in 2014.
- ❖ In the 2020 listing, India is ranked 77th position, a spot better than last year.
- ❖ Denmark topped the list.
- ❖ It was followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand.
- ❖ It is released by TRACE International.
- ❖ It is an anti-bribery standard setting organization.



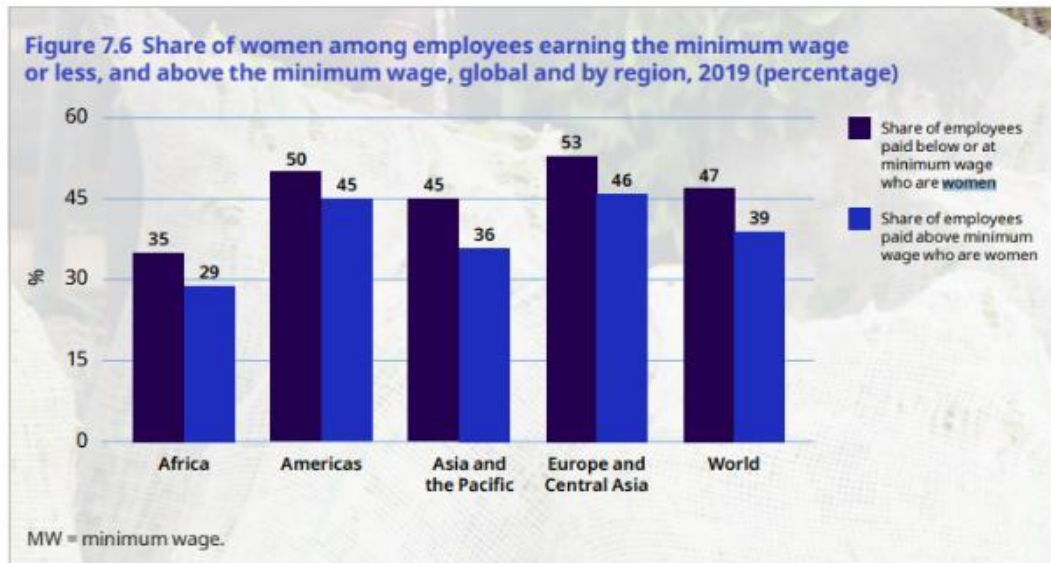
### **COVAX initiative**

- ❖ It is a joint initiative of WHO, GAVI alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to ensure equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ Till now, almost 189 countries have joined the COVAX facility.
- ❖ The United States is not a part of the COVAX initiative.
- ❖ The goal is to get at least 2 billion doses by the end of 2021.
- ❖ The World Health Organization is hoping to have at least half a billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the first quarter of 2021 through the COVAX facility.

### **Global Wage Report 2020-21**

- ❖ It was recently released report by the International Labour Organisation.
- ❖ The average wage in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly in the first 6 months of 2020 due to the pandemic.
- ❖ Low-paid workers, disproportionately women, were the most affected by loss of working hours.
- ❖ It found that the Bangladesh's workers were more productive in past decade.
- ❖ But Bangladesh witnessed the largest decrease among the Asia Pacific nations.

- ❖ It was followed by Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.



Source: *ILO Global Wage Report 2020-21*

## ECONOMY

### LAF to RRB

- ❖ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to Regional Rural Banks (RRB) to make liquidity management more efficient.
- ❖ At present, RRBs are not permitted to access the liquidity windows of the RBI
- ❖ The LAF was introduced in RBI in 1998 based on the recommendations of Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms.
- ❖ It is a monetary policy tool that enables banks to resolve temporary cash shortages through repurchase agreements or repos.
- ❖ RBI uses four tools to control the flow of liquidity in the country. They are
  - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR),
  - Liquidity Adjustment Facilities (includes repo rate and reverse repo rate),
  - Statutory Liquidity Ratio and
  - Open Market Operations.
- ❖ The two main components of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility are Repo rate and Reverse Repo Rate.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### HL-2M Tokamak reactor

- ❖ It is China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental device.
- ❖ China has successfully powered up this reactor for the first time.
- ❖ This nuclear fusion reactor is called as its "artificial sun".



## ENVIRONMENT

### Giant African Snail Invasion


- ❖ It is one of the worst invasive species declared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ India has higher genetic variety of the snail than those in native African continent.
- ❖ Its population is mainly found in Kerala of India.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Mahaparinirvan Diwas – December 06**

- ❖ On December 6, India observed Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- ❖ It marks the death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- ❖ Parinirvan is one of the major principles and goals of Buddhism.
- ❖ Ambedkar passed away just a few days after completing his last work, The Buddha and His Dhamma.



## FATHER OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

**B.R. Ambedkar**, jurist, economist, politician and social reformer, died on Dec 6, 1956

Was the principal architect of the Constitution of India

**Served as Independent India's first law minister**

**Campaigned against untouchability & discrimination of Dalits, women, and labour**

His surname was originally Ambavadekar, deriving from his native village of 'Ambavade'

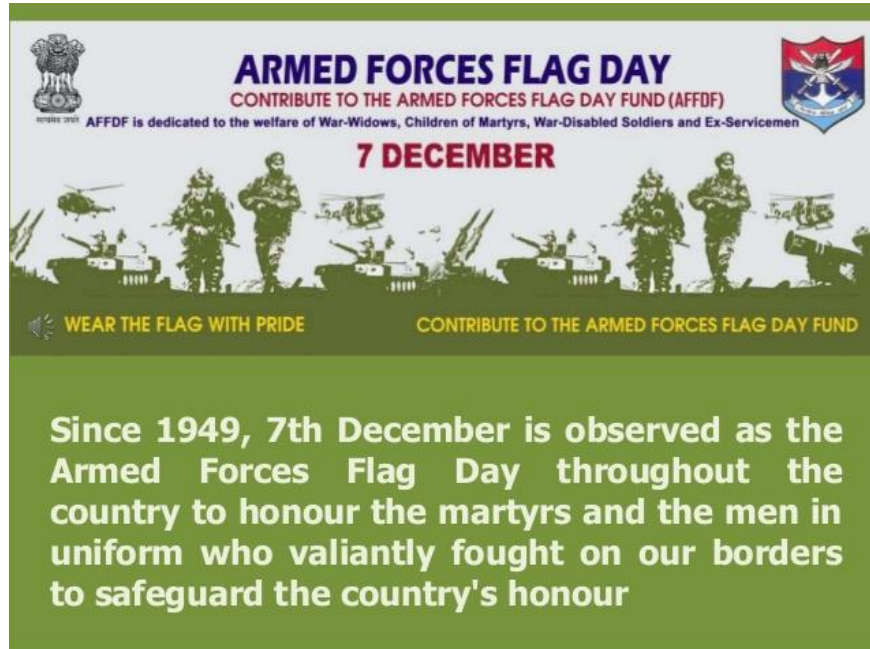
**1956, converted to Buddhism, initiating mass conversions of Dalits**

*"The cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence."*



### **Armed Forces Flag Day – December 07**

- ❖ It has been observed in India since 7th December 1949.
- ❖ The day is dedicated towards collection of funds from the people.
- ❖ The month of the December is to be celebrated as “Gaurav Maah”.
- ❖ In 1949, the Baldev Singh Committee established the Flag Day Fund.



### **International Civil Aviation Day – December 07**

- ❖ In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day as part of ICAO's 50th-anniversary activities.
- ❖ The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ From now until 2023, the theme will be: “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.

