

December - 12

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The turtle population in Red Sea is turning female due to rise in sea temperature.
- ❖ The Global report 'The hidden costs of cybercrime' was generated by McAfee.
- ❖ World record-breakers Mondo Duplantis of Sweden and Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela have been named the male and female World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020.
- ❖ The Dandupur railway station situated on Lucknow-Varanasi rail section in Uttar Pradesh will be named Maa Barahi Devi Dham.
- ❖ Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation.
- ❖ After Sikkim, Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic.
- ❖ The Indian Railways is to use LiDAR technique to conduct ground survey for the Delhi Varanasi High Speed Rail corridor.
  - LiDAR is Light Detection and Ranging technique.
- ❖ The National Academy of Sciences of the USA has recently found that the microwave radiation is the major cause of the mysterious neurological illness called Havana syndrome.
  - The Havana syndrome started to infect the American diplomats and intelligence officials located in China, Cuba and other countries for more than four years now.
- ❖ Narinder Singh Kapany (94), called the 'father of fibre optics', recently passed at the USA.
  - He was the first to transmit images through fibre optics back in 1954.



## **NATIONAL**

### **Global understanding of India project**

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) recently launched the Global understanding of India project.
- ❖ Under the project, the ICCR will survey the text books that are taught in schools of other countries.
- ❖ This has been done under the Urban Landscape City Programme of UNESCO.

### **COVAXIN**

- ❖ Bharat Biotech applied for the emergency use authorisation to the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) for its indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine 'COVAXIN'.
- ❖ With this step, Bharat Biotech, based in Hyderabad, has become the third applicant of the vaccine after Pfizer and Serum Institute of India to apply for the approval of emergency use in India.
- ❖ COVAXIN has been indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech in joint collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ The Indian arm of Pfizer became the first applicant in India only after getting clearance in the United Kingdom and Bahrain.
- ❖ Serum Institute of India became the second firm to apply for the emergency approval.
- ❖ Serum Institute has applied for the approval of the COVIDSHIELD vaccine.
- ❖ It has been co-developed by Oxford University and pharma company AstraZeneca.

### **India Mobile Congress 2020**

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India are organizing the Indian Mobile Congress.
- ❖ It is being organized under the theme "Inclusive Innovation-Smart, Secure, Sustainable".

- ❖ It will mainly focus on Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Block Chain, Data Analytics and Smart Cities and Internet of Things.

### **Invest India**

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently declared “Invest India” as the winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award, 2020.
- ❖ The award ceremony took place at the headquarters of UNCTAD in Geneva.
- ❖ The award by United Nations recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the best practice investment promotion agencies of the world.
- ❖ Invest India was set up in 2009 under the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Department, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India.
- ❖ It is a National Investment promotion and facilitation agency of India which acts as the first point of reference for Indian investors.
- ❖ It is a non-profit venture.



### **Tharu Tribes**

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has recently launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic Tharu tribe across the world.
- ❖ They belong to the lowlands located in the Shivalik or the lower Himalayas.
- ❖ The Tharus live in both India and Nepal.
- ❖ In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **The World Economic Forum 2021 (WEF 2021)**

- ❖ It will be moved from Davos in Switzerland to Singapore due to COVID-19 concerns.
- ❖ It will be held in Asia for the first time.
- ❖ The WEF is an annual gathering of political and business leaders.
- ❖ Based in Geneva of Switzerland, it is an international NGO, founded in 1971.

### **UNESCO World Heritage cities list**

- ❖ Orchha and Gwalior, the historic Fort cities located in Madhya Pradesh of India have been included in the list.
- ❖ Orchha was the capital of Bundela Kingdom in the 16th century.
- ❖ The city of Gwalior was established in the 9th century.
- ❖ It was ruled by Rajvansh, Baghel Kachvaho, Tomar and Scindias.
- ❖ The World Heritage site tags are provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO.

### **Arms Marketing Report**

- ❖ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has released a report on arms market across the world.
- ❖ The U.S. arms industry accounted for 61% of sales by the world's "Top 25" manufacturers last year, ahead of China's 15.7%.
- ❖ China and the United States are the two biggest states in terms of global arms spending.
- ❖ For the first time, a company from the West Asia made it into the "Top 25".
- ❖ It is 'EDGE' of the United Arab Emirates.

### **Bangladesh and Bhutan**

- ❖ Bangladesh signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan.
- ❖ This is the first PTA Bangladesh has signed with any country in the world.



- ❖ In 1971, Bhutan was the first country in the world, followed by India as the second, to recognise Bangladesh as an independent country.

### **Mount Everest's new height**

- ❖ Nepal and China jointly announced the new height of Mt Everest
- ❖ It is 8848.86 metres, 0.86 cms more than the previous measurement.
- ❖ The old height was as per the measurement done by the Survey of India in 1954.

## **Mount Everest**

Updated official height: **8,848.86 metres**

❖ Co-announced by China and Nepal (they disagreed before)

❖ Everest is 50 to 60 million years old

❖ Still rises about half a metre per century

❖ Formed out of the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates

❖ The summit is a dome of snow, with space for 6 people standing

## **ECONOMY**

### **The State of Tax Justice 2020**

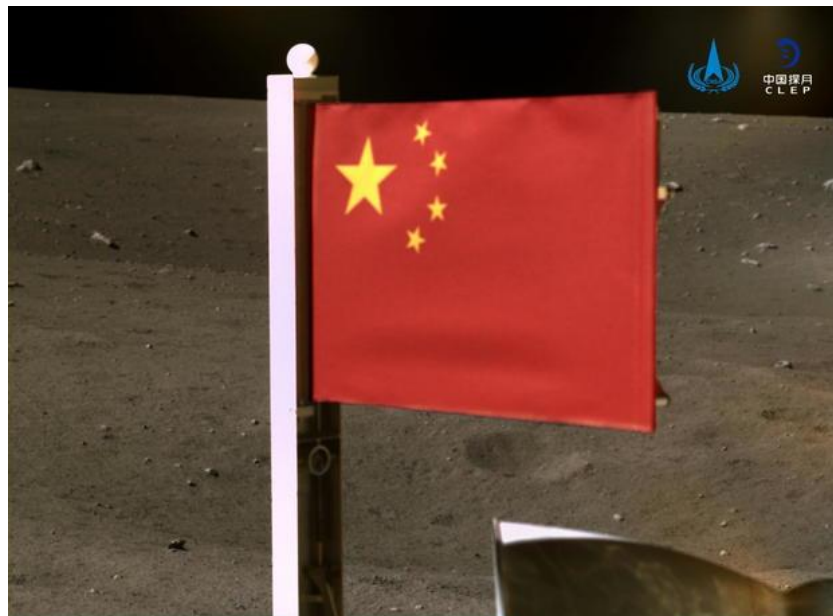
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind annual report by the Tax Justice Network.
- ❖ It reveals for how much tax each country in the world loses to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion.
- ❖ It was prepared under the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) project led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- ❖ It found countries are losing over \$427bn in tax each year.
- ❖ USA is topped this list
- ❖ It is followed by UK, Germany, France and Brazil

- ❖ India is losing 70000 crores in taxes to other countries.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Chang'e Mission

- ❖ China unfurls its flag on Moon during Chang'e-5 mission.
- ❖ China becomes 2nd nation to do so after the USA.
- ❖ The US had planted the first flag on the Moon during the Apollo mission in 1969.
- ❖ China's Chang'e-5 lunar vehicle finished collecting samples of lunar rocks and soil.
- ❖ It was the first lunar sample retrieval mission since the 1970s.
- ❖ It became the third spacecraft to successfully land on the Moon in the 21st century.
- ❖ The first human-made object to touch the Moon was the Soviet Union's Luna 2, on 1959.
- ❖ China is now the third nation in the world, after the United States and the Soviet Union, to collect lunar samples.





## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3**

- ❖ It was published recently by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ According to the report the Indian Western Ghats, a natural World Heritage, is facing conservation issues due to climate change, population pressure.
- ❖ Western Ghats is one of the world's eight hottest hot spots of biological diversity.

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

### **Global teacher prize, 2020.**

- ❖ Ranjitsinh Disale, a primary school teacher from Solapur of Maharashtra, has won this prize.
- ❖ It is awarded by the Varkey Foundation from the UK.
- ❖ It has been referred by journalists as the Nobel Prize for teaching.

