

December - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Catherine Russell as the head of the UN children's agency UNICEF.
  - Russell will succeed Henrietta Fore.
- ❖ Max Verstappen has won his first "Formula One (F1) world title", leaving behind Lewis Hamilton, at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.
  - Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian racing driver.

## NATIONAL

### Chairmanship of Council of RATS SCO



- ❖ India assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) for 1 year.
- ❖ The National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India, in association with Data Security Council of India, as a Knowledge Partner, organized a 2-day Seminar on 'Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment'.
- ❖ This was organized for the delegates from SCO member States.

### Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.
- ❖ This creates an easily accessible pathway between Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the banks of the Ganga River.

- ❖ PM had laid the foundation stone for the project on March 8, 2019.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World Talent Ranking report 2021**

- ❖ The International Institute for Management Development World Competitive Centre published its “World Talent Ranking Report”.
- ❖ In the report, Europe has dominated the ranking in 2021.
- ❖ Global top 10 countries are from this region.
- ❖ Switzerland has retained its top spot.
- ❖ India has been ranked at 56th position.



### **Undersea cable in Pacific**

- ❖ The Western Allies namely, the United States, Australia and Japan have announced to jointly fund the construction of an undersea cable in the Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ The undersea cable in the Pacific will be used to boost internet access in three small Pacific countries since the Western allies seek to counter increasing Chinese influence in this region.
- ❖ This Allies will develop the cable for providing faster internet to Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia.



### **Israeli PM's first official visit to UAE**



- ❖ Prime Minister Naftali Bennett started the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ This diplomatic outreach has come at the time when world powers are negotiating with Iran on the 2015 nuclear deal, which is opposed by Israel.

- ❖ The nuclear deal is also abandoned in 2018 by former U.S. President Donald Trump.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### OSCAR 1



#### OSCAR, the 1<sup>st</sup> Amateur Radio Satellite:

**OSCAR:** *Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio*

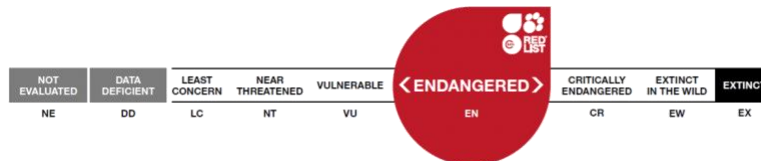
Project OSCAR started in 1960 and was responsible for the construction of the first Amateur Radio Satellite OSCAR-1, that was successfully launched from Vandenberg AFB in California, on December 12, 1961, barely four years after the launch of Russia's first Sputnik. OSCAR-1 orbited the earth for 22 days, transmitting the "HI" greeting in Morse Code from above.



- ❖ OSCAR 1 is the first amateur radio satellite launched by Project OSCAR.
- ❖ OSCAR stands for "Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio".
- ❖ It was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc in California.
- ❖ The satellite is a rectangular box, measuring 30 x 25 x 12 cm and having a weight of 10 kg.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Update of IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



- ❖ The number of species at risk of extinction in the Red List of IUCN has exceeded 40,000 for the first time.
- ❖ As per an update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the destruction of wetlands is causing the decline of dragonflies across the world.



- ❖ Their decline is due to the widespread loss of swamps, marshes, and free-flowing rivers where they breed in.
- ❖ The decline is mostly driven by the expansion of unsustainable agriculture and urbanisation worldwide.
- ❖ It now includes 142,577 species, out of which 40,084 are threatened with extinction.

## STATES

### DigiDhan Awards

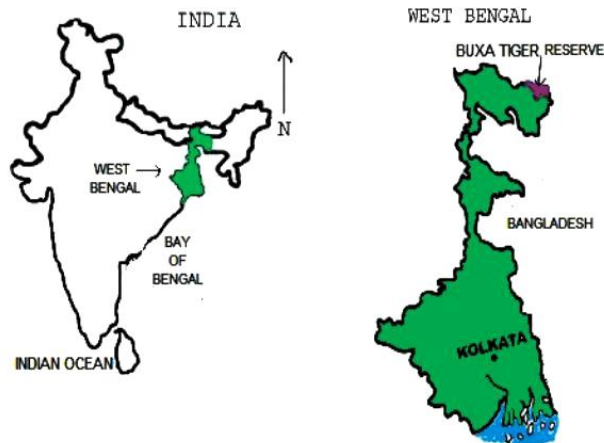


- ❖ Karnataka Bank has been conferred with two DigiDhan awards instituted by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ The award recognized banks for achieving the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

### Bengal Tiger in Buxa Tiger reserve

- ❖ A camera trap set up at Buxa Tiger Reserve in Alipurduar district of West Bengal has captured sight of the Royal Bengal Tiger.
- ❖ The sighting of the Bengal Tiger is significant because no tiger had been photographed for more than 23 years, in the Buxa Reserve.

- ❖ The last known tiger was photographed in 1998.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Miss Universe 2021



- ❖ The 70th Miss Universe 2021 was held in Eilat, Israel.
- ❖ Harnaaz Sandhu made history as she was crowned Miss Universe 2021, 21 years after India last brought home the title.
- ❖ Ms Sandhu is 21-year-old and comes from Punjab.
- ❖ Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira finished second.
- ❖ South Africa's Lalela Mswane came third.
- ❖ Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe.

- ❖ They are Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.

### Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Orator award



- ❖ Azim Premji is this year's recipient of the 10th annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Orator,
- ❖ It was jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the U.S. based Vellore CMC Foundation.
- ❖ Azim Premji is the founder chairman of Wipro Limited and founder of Azim Premji Foundation.
- ❖ The award is presented to Mr. Premji in recognition of his contributions to society.
- ❖ Established in 2001, the Foundation has
  - contributed immensely towards education,
  - runs Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, and
  - also supports several not-for-profit organizations with financial grants.

### Ramanujan Prize 2021



- ❖ The Indian Mathematician Neena Gupta has received the 2021 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries.



- ❖ This is for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- ❖ Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata.
- ❖ She is the third woman to receive Ramanujan Prize.
- ❖ It was first awarded in 2005.
- ❖ It is administered by Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics jointly with Dept Science and Technology and International Mathematical Union.

## **SPORTS**

### **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships**



- ❖ Indian weightlifter Jhilli Dalabehera clinches gold at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held at Tashkent in Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Singh lifted a total of 322kg and also set a national record in snatch (147kg).
- ❖ Singh became the third Indian weightlifter to directly qualify for next year's Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Earlier, Achinta Sheuli (73kg) have also qualified for the CWG after winning gold.

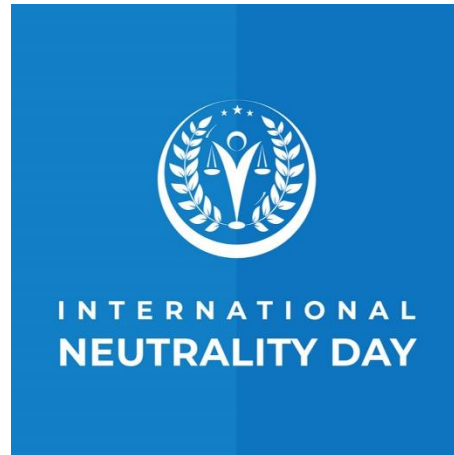
## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Neutrality - December 12**

- ❖ The day is observed each year to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations.
- ❖ It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017.



- ❖ First observed on December 12, 2017.



### **International Universal Health Coverage Day - December 12**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.
- ❖ This year theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day is “Leave No One’s Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all.”

