

December - 19

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The French president Emmanuel macron has recently announced a referendum to add the fight against climate change to the French constitution.
- ❖ Sandra Lindsay became the first person in the United States to receive the covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ India is to establish a regional climate centre in the Himalayan mountain region.
  - The centre will provide weather related services to India and also to its neighbours.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released a book “The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force”.
  - It is a book on 2001 Parliament Attack.

## NATIONAL

### Overseas Citizens of India

- ❖ Recently, the High Court of Karnataka held that the Students under the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) category are to be considered as “citizens of India” for admission to professional courses.
- ❖ Government of India launched the ‘Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme’ by making amendments to Citizenship Act of 1955 in 2005.
- ❖ On 09 January 2015, the Government of India discontinued the PIO card and merged it with OCI card.

### Brand India Mission

- ❖ The Government of India is to launch this Mission to promote quality of products that are manufactured in the country.
- ❖ This mission is being piloted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The main aim of the mission is to increase the local production.
- ❖ The mission is to initially focus on tyre and Rubber Industry ecosystem.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Human Development Report 2020**

- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme recently released this report.
- ❖ In 2020, the theme is Human Development and Anthropocene.
- ❖ It provides HDI ranks for 2019.
- ❖ This year report presents an adjustment to the index for "planetary pressures".
- ❖ It means adjusting the standard HDI by a country's level of carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint, each on a per capita basis.
- ❖ India slipped to 131st rank among 189 countries.
- ❖ Norway, Ireland and Switzerland occupied the top 3 ranks in the report.
- ❖ Hong Kong is placed fourth while Iceland and Germany secured the fifth and the sixth rank on the global ranking.
- ❖ The report ranks China at the 85 position and Pakistan at 154.

### **India's performance**

- ❖ Human development index of India was 0.640.
- ❖ Life expectancy of Indians at birth in 2019 was 69.7 years.
- ❖ India's gross national income per capita fell to USD 6,681 in 2019 from USD 6,829 in 2018 on purchasing power parity (PPP) basis.
- ❖ In 2019, India ranked fifth for installed solar capacity.
- ❖ India's HDI value for 2019 is 0.645.
- ❖ In 2018 India ranked at 130.
- ❖ It is in the medium human development category.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2019, India's HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3 percent.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2019, India's life expectancy at birth increased by 11.8 years, mean years of schooling increased by 3.5 years, and expected years of schooling increased by 4.5 years.
- ❖ India's GNI per capita increased by about 273.9 percent between 1990 and 2019.
- ❖ Solar capacity in India increased from 2.6 gigawatts in March 2014 to 30 gigawatts in July 2019.

### **About HDI**

- ❖ It was first launched in 1990 by the Indian Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Pakistani economist Mahboob Ul Haq.



- ❖ It is measured average achievement across three dimensions of human Development.
- ❖ It is including life expectancy, education and per capita income.

## Miles to go

Though India improved its absolute value of the Human Development Index (0.645 in 2019 from 0.642 the previous year), it dropped a place in the overall ranking

Country	HDI rank (2019)	Change from 2018
Russia	52	-3
Sri Lanka	72	1
Brazil	84	0
China	85	2
South Africa	114	1
<b>India</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-2</b>
Bangladesh	133	1
Nepal	142	1
Pakistan	154	0

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### HGC019 Vaccine

- ❖ It was developed by the Pune based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals.
- ❖ It is the first indigenously produced mRNA vaccine of the country.
- ❖ It was developed in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation of the US.
- ❖ The clinical trials of this vaccine were recently approved by Drug Controller General of India.
- ❖ This vaccine uses the same platform as that used by COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna.
- ❖ This vaccine is stable at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

### GECAM mission

- ❖ The Chinese Space Agency has launched two satellites for detecting gravitational waves.
- ❖ The two satellites form a part of Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor (GECAM) mission.

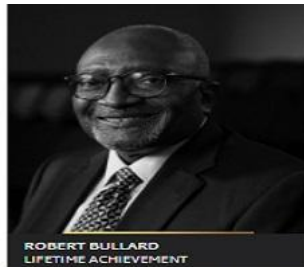
## ENVIRONMENT

### 2020 Champions of the Earth award

- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced six laureates for this award.
- ❖ It is the UN's highest environmental honour since 2005.
- ❖ The six awardees are
  - Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji
  - Dr. Fabian Leendertz (Germany)
  - Mindy Lubber (USA)
  - Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)
  - Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
  - Robert D. Bullard (USA).
- ❖ Robert was also awarded the Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement award for his commitment and service to environmental justice.
- ❖ The awards are part of UNEP's #ForNature campaign to rally momentum for the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Kunming of China in May 2021, and catalyse climate action all the way to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow of Scotland in November 2021.



CEO of Ceres working with hundreds of companies to develop and implement corporate action for environmental sustainability.



The "Father of Environmental Justice" with over four decades of action advocating for racial equality and fair environmental and urban planning.



Indigenous rights activist and environmental activist, leads the Waorani people of Pastaza in Ecuador.





## Young Champions of the Earth prize 2020

- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) named seven young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and activists from across the globe.
- ❖ It is awarded every year to seven entrepreneurs under the age of 30 with bold ideas for sustainable environmental change.
- ❖ From India, Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar) has been recognised in this prize.
- ❖ He has pioneered a portable machine which burns agricultural waste without releasing harmful greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere turning it into charcoal and fertilizer.

Winners	Region
<b>Nzambi Matee (Kenya, 29)</b>	Africa
<b>Xiaoyuan Ren (China, 29)</b>	Asia and the Pacific
<b>Vidyut Mohan (India, 29)</b>	Asia and the Pacific
<b>Lefteris Arapakis from Greece, 26 years old</b>	Europe
<b>Max Hidalgo Quinto (Peru, 30)</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Niria Alicia Garcia (USA, 28)</b>	North America
<b>Fatemah Alzelzela from Kuwait, 24 years old</b>	West Asia

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### The Presidential Years

- ❖ It is an upcoming book authored by the late former President of India Pranab Mukherjee.
- ❖ This memoir is the fourth volume of the memoirs.
- ❖ The third volume of former President's autobiography titled "The Coalition Years — 1996-2012" was published in the year 2017.

