

December - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UNICEF has recently launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard.
 - The UNICEF is the designated COVAX procurement coordinator and procurement agent.
- ❖ The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment launched a mobile application “Swachhata Abhiyan”.
 - The application was developed to geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.
- ❖ The Odisha CM announced the construction of the largest hockey stadium of India in Rourkela.
 - The stadium is to host 2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup.
- ❖ The joint air force exercise between China and Pakistan named "Shaheen” (Eagle IX) was held at the Sindh province of Pakistan.

TAMIL NADU

Chinnamanna Narayanaswamy Naidu Award

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced this award
- ❖ It will be given to farmers for obtaining highest yield of paddy through the System of Rice Intensification method.
- ❖ It is named after the farmers’ leader late C Narayanasamy Naidu.
- ❖ He who strove for the rights of the farmers for many decades.
- ❖ Narayanasamy launched the Tamil Nadu Farmers Association in 1973.
- ❖ He passed away on December 21, 1984 at Kovilpatti.



Abdul Jabbar

- ❖ Abdul Jabbar was a Tamil radio broadcaster and cricket commentator in Tamil.
- ❖ He also served as a coach of Tamilnadu Cricket team.
- ❖ He recently passed away on December 22 at 81.



NATIONAL

100th year of Visva-Bharati university

- ❖ It is a public research central university and an Institution of National Importance located in Shant iniketan, West Bengal.
- ❖ It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore on December 23rd of 1921.
- ❖ Visva-Bharati was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951.

Lithium refinery

- ❖ The first Lithium refinery of India is to be set up in Gujarat.
- ❖ The lithium ore for the refinery is to be imported from Australia.
- ❖ Manikaran Power Limited is to invest Rs 1000 crores to set up the refinery.
- ❖ Manikaran is India's third largest power trading company.
- ❖ Lithium is a rare element and is not found in India.
- ❖ India gained access to the Bolivian Lithium reserves very recently.
- ❖ Bolivia has one-fourth of the world lithium reserves.

- ❖ China controls 51% of global lithium and 62% of cobalt.
- ❖ These two elements are the main components of lithium-ion batteries.
- ❖ The future demand of Lithium in India is driven by the electrification of transport and storage of renewable energy.

Primary Energy Mix

- ❖ The Government of India is to increase the share of Natural Gas in the primary energy mix of the country from 6.2% to 15% by 2030.
- ❖ In 2019, PM Modi announced “One Nation One Gas Grid”.
- ❖ Under this, India is to expand its Natural Gas Grid by adding 17,000 kilo metres of gas pipeline.

Most Helpful MP during Covid

- ❖ It was a survey by the New Delhi-based citizen engagement platform GovernEye Systems.
- ❖ It has surveyed the top leaders who extended maximum assistance to their constituents during the lockdown this year.
- ❖ The top three are BJP’s Ujjain MP Anil Firojiya, YSRCP’s Nellore MP Adala Prabhakara Reddy, and former Congress chief and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi.
- ❖ The top 10 MPs include:
 - 1) Anil Firojiya (BJP),
 - 2) Adala Prabhakara Reddy (YSRCP),
 - 3) Rahul Gandhi (INC),
 - 4) Mahua Moitra (TMC),
 - 5) L.S. Tejasvi Surya (BJP),
 - 6) Hemant Tukaram Godse (Shiv Sena),
 - 7) Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD),
 - 8) Shankar Lalwani (BJP),
 - 9) Dr. T. Sumathy (a) Thamizhachi Thangapandian (DMK) and
 - 10) Nitin Jairam Gadkari (BJP).

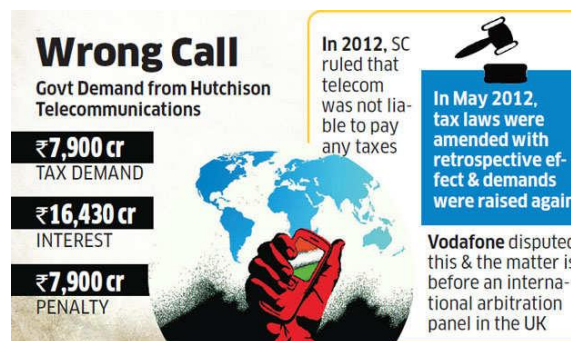
INTERNATIONAL

UN and Israel

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) condemned Israel the most during 2020.
- ❖ It was a report by the UN Watch, a Geneva-based non-governmental organisation.
- ❖ The UNGA adopted 17 resolutions against Israel this year compared with six for the rest of the world.
- ❖ There was one resolution each adopted for North Korea, Iran, Syria, Myanmar and two on Crimea.
- ❖ The UNGA resolutions are non-binding, but they carry symbolic importance in world affairs.
- ❖ Earlier this year, Israel suspended its ties with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Vodafone Case

- ❖ India challenged the Vodafone arbitration ruling in Singapore International Arbitration Centre.
- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration located at the Netherlands gave verdict in favour of British telecom Vodafone Group.
- ❖ The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was signed between India and the Netherlands in 1995.
- ❖ It was signed for promotion and protection of investment by companies of each country in the other's jurisdiction.
- ❖ Under this treaty, the companies present in each other's jurisdictions would be "at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment.



Wrong Call
Govt Demand from Hutchison Telecommunications

₹7,900 cr
TAX DEMAND
₹16,430 cr
INTEREST
₹7,900 cr
PENALTY

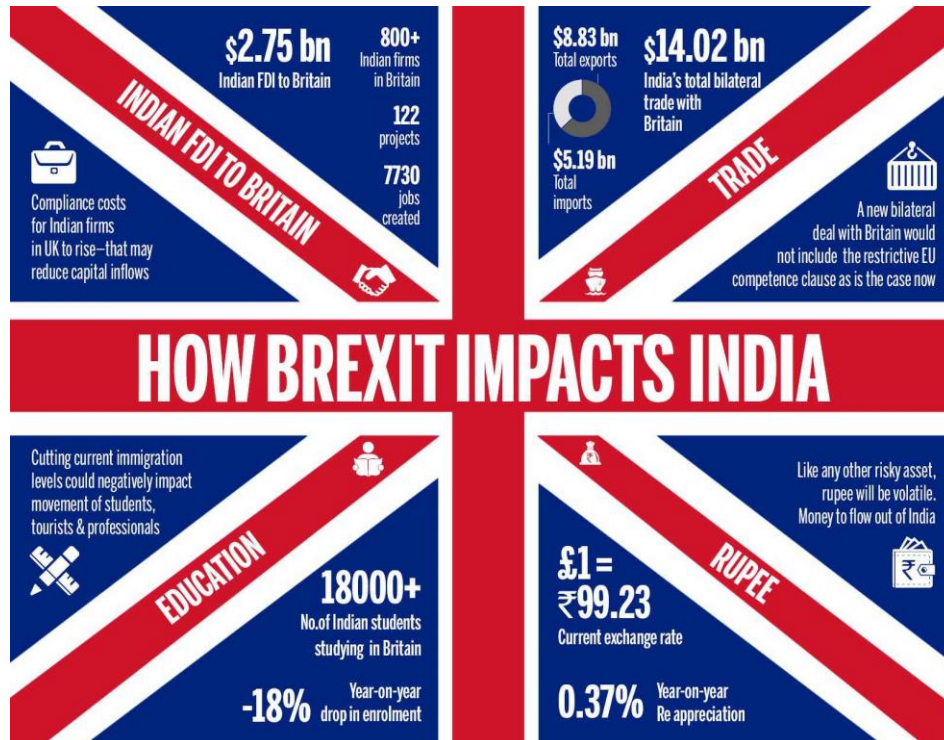
In 2012, SC ruled that telecom was not liable to pay any taxes

In May 2012, tax laws were amended with retrospective effect & demands were raised again

Vodafone disputed this & the matter is before an international arbitration panel in the UK

Impact of EU-UK Brexit Deal in India

- ❖ India is to emerge as the net-gainer from the Brexit deal recently signed between the European Union and United Kingdom.
- ❖ The gains for India will be mainly in the service sector.
- ❖ This is because the UK currencies are becoming cheaper.
- ❖ UK is India's 14th largest trade partner.
- ❖ India currently enjoys a trade surplus of 2 billion USD with the UK.



ECONOMY

World 6th Largest Economy

- ❖ It was an annual report published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- ❖ India is expected to become the world's 5th largest economy by 2025.
- ❖ India is to again overtake the United Kingdom.
- ❖ India had overtaken the United Kingdom in 2019 to become the 5th largest economy.
- ❖ But India was pushed back to sixth place in 2020.



- ❖ The rate of India's GDP growth fell to a more than the ten-year low of 4.2 per cent in 2019, down from 6.1 per cent in 2018.
- ❖ India is predicted to become the third-largest economy by 2030.
- ❖ China will overtake the US by 2028 to become the world's biggest economy.

