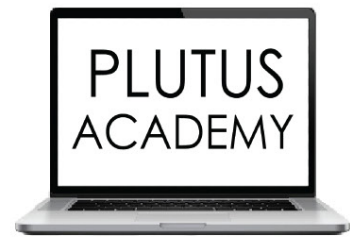


# PLUTUS ACADEMY



## **MONTHLY** **CURRENT** **AFFAIRS** **MARCH** **2022**



**Basement C59 Noida,  
Opp. Priyagold Building Gate,  
Sec. 2, Noida, UP**

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# PLUTUS ACADEMY

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**28/02/2022 to 06/03/2022**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH 2022

### National News

#### 1. CENTER TO SEND FOUR CABINET MINISTERS TO COORDINATE EVACUATION MISSION “OPERATION GANGA”



- The government of India has launched an evacuation mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension.
- Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations.
- Due to this many Indian nationals were left stranded in Ukraine. To help the Indian citizens come back to the country, the government of India decided to conduct a special evacuation mission named Operation Ganga.
- The government will bring back Indian nationals via flight.

## 2. BANGLADESH-INDIA CULTURAL MEET KICKS OFF IN RAJSHAHI



- The fifth Bangladesh- India Cultural meet kicked off on Saturday with a colorful civic reception being given to the visiting guests from India and dignitaries in Rajshahi.
- The function was presided over by the Mayor of Rajshahi city AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.
- Several prominent public figures like the agriculture minister Dr. Abdur Razzak, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami, Tripura State Minister Ramprasad Pal among others were present on the occasion.
- Friends of Bangladesh and Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) are jointly hosting the four-day event between Feb 25-28 to celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the golden jubilee of the liberation of Bangladesh and 50th year of Bangladesh India Friendship.

## 3. BHARTI AIRTEL TO BUY ADDITIONAL 4.7% STAKE IN INDUS TOWERS FROM VODAFONE





- Bharti Airtel has decided to acquire an additional 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group, the company announced.
- The two companies signed an agreement on the condition that Vodafone will use the proceeds to invest in Vodafone Idea (Vi) and the latter will clear its pending dues with Indus Towers.
- In addition, Airtel is also protected with a capped price, which is lower than the price for the block of Indus shares sold by Vodafone on February 24.
- This shall be value accretive to Airtel and protect its existing significant shareholding in Indus Towers.
- With the acquisition, Airtel's shareholding in Indus Towers will increase to 46.4 per cent.
- Vodafone holds a 28.1 per cent stake in the company at present and its shareholding will reduce to 21 per cent.

#### 4. EDUCATION MINISTRY LAUNCHES BHASHA CERTIFICATE SELFIE CAMPAIGN



- Ministry of Education has launched a Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- Using the app, people can learn 100 sentences of daily use in 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- Ministry of Education in a statement said that the initiative, under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages.
- To achieve this, a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.

#### 5. COCHIN AIRPORT TO BECOME POWER-POSITIVE WITH NEW SOLAR PLANT FROM MARCH 6

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is set to commission a 12 MWp solar power plant on March 6 near Payyanur in Kannur district of Kerala.
- With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport.
- In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy.



## 6. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHED THE “ICMR/DHR POLICY ON BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION



- For medical professionals, scientists, and technicians in medical, dental, and paramedical institutes, the Union health ministry has launched the ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- By promoting the Government of India’s Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives, it would assure multidisciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and establish an innovation-led ecosystem at medical institutes across the country.”
- “This Policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and develop an innovation led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country by promoting Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives,” said Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, speaking at the policy launch.
- This policy is in line with Prime Minister Harper’s motto of “Innovate, Patent, Produce, and Prosper.”



## Important Days

### 7. NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY:FEB 28



- Today is the National Science Day. The day is celebrated every year on 28th February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'.
- On this day, Indian Physicist Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- In 1986, Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day. The day is aimed at spreading the message of importance of science and its application in human life.
- This year the theme of the National Science Day is Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future. On the occasion, theme-based science communication activities are carried out all over the country.
- Sharing his thoughts in his Mann Ki Baat programme yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on this Science Day, has urged all the families to definitely start with small efforts to develop a scientific temperament in their children.

### 8. POLIO NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAY 27TH FEBRUARY

- In 2022, the Government of India has organised the Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) (also known as "Polio Ravivar") on February 27, 2022, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five.
- Over 15 crore children will be covered under the drive across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.
- The National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022 was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandavia on February 26, 2022.
- India was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries in 2012 and in 2013 the entire Southeast Asia Region was declared Polio free.
- The last case of wild poliovirus reported in India was on 13th January 2011.



#### 9. INDIA'S OVERALL RANKING ON IP PROTECTION IMPROVES



- India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 percent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index 2022.
- This index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- In July 2021, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce released a Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India.



- This review is a welcome development and offers a comprehensive and detailed study of the strengths and weaknesses of India's national IP environment.
- Rank 1- United States
- Rank 2- United Kingdom
- Rank 3- Germany
- Rank 4- Sweden
- Rank 5- France

**By Sameer Singhal**

## **International News**

### **1. UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT SIGNS FORMAL REQUEST TO JOIN EUROPEAN UNION**



- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that he has signed an official request for Ukraine to join the European Union.
- Zelenskyy has asked the European Union to allow Ukraine to gain membership immediately under a special procedure as it defends itself from invasion by Russian forces.

### **2. FIFA AND UEFA SUSPEND RUSSIA FROM ALL COMPETITIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

- FIFA and UEFA have suspended Russian national teams and clubs from all international soccer competitions until further notice.
- The suspension, which comes after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will likely leave the Russian team out of the upcoming World Cup in Qatar.

- FIFA oversees soccer worldwide while UEFA, one of six continental organizations, governs the sport in Europe.
- UEFA also announced it ended its partnership with Gazprom, a Russian majority state-owned energy company that is one of UEFA's main sponsors.
- “The decision is effective immediately and covers all existing agreements including the UEFA



### 3. INDIA BIDS TO HOST 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD AFTER FIDE CANCELS EVENTS IN RUSSIA



- India bids to host the 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad later this year after the event was moved out of Russia's capital Moscow.
- It was supposed to take place in Russia which got canceled due to war.
- All India Chess Federation Secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan disclosed this to ANI.



- If India gets the approval to host the 44th Chess Olympiad then it would be the second major world event to be held in the country after the World Championship match in 2013 between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen in Chennai.
- The Chess Olympiad 2022 was supposed to take place from July 26th July to 8th August.
- The International Chess Federation FIDE took the Chess Olympiad and all other official competitions away from Russia.

## National News

### 4. SMRITI IRANI LAUNCHES NEW MOTTO OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS



- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani today launched the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, NCPCR on its 17th foundation day at Red Fort, New Delhi.
- On the occasion, Mrs. Irani interacted with children from different states and answered their questions.
- Mrs. Irani said that these children are the future of the country and new India will definitely be made by them.
- Mrs. Irani visited the exhibition based on freedom fighters' stories organised by Border Security Forces, BSF in collaboration with NCPCR and remembered their sacrifices.
- She said that her ministry will expand this exhibition in all states.

### 5. DELHI CABINET APPROVED INDIA'S FIRST' E-WASTE ECO-PARK

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved setting up India's first of its kind electronic-waste eco-park. It has also agreed to devise 'Delhi Film Policy 2022', as a thrust to promote tourism.
- The electronic waste eco-friendly park is to be built on 20 acres of land in Delhi. Nearly, 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste are thrown by Delhi every year.
- This eco-park will recycle, refurbish and dismantle e-waste in a scientific and safe way.

- This eco-park will act as an Integrated Facility, by engaging in dismantling, segregating, refurbishing, material-wise storage, testing and plastic recycling.
- It will also have precious metal extraction facilities, especially from Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) through high-end technologies.
- The Delhi Film Policy 2022 is to promote tourism in Delhi, making the National Capital- a Brand. It will also make it a hub for modern film-making, meeting European Standards.



## Appointment News

### 6. SAMIRAN GUPTA TO HEAD PUBLIC POLICY FOR TWITTER IN INDIA





- Samiran Gupta will lead microblogging platform Twitter's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia.
- Prior to joining Twitter, Gupta was the head of stakeholder engagement in South Asia for ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).
- Gupta was associated with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organisation. He served there for seven years.
- He was also briefly the firm's head of stakeholder engagement for the South Asia market.
- The news of the appointment comes almost a year after the former Public Policy Director for India and South Asia Mahima Kaul resigned.

## Sports News

### 7. POOJA JATYAN WINS SILVER AT PARA ARCHERY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; MINISTERS LAUD HISTORIC FEAT



- Para-archer, Pooja Jatyan has scripted history as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE.
- She lost to Italy's Patrilli Vincenza in the final to be content with the silver medal. India ended its campaign with two silver medals, a first for the country.
- India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship.
- The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamyand Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI LAUNCHES 'STREE MANORAKSHA PROJECT'



- Women and Child Development Minister has assured that One Stop Centre will not be closed in the country.
- She said, the government is continuously working for the empowerment of women.
- While launching the Stree Manoraksha Project for capacity building of One Stop Centre, the Minister today said, this project has been designed to end the cycle of violence against women.
- She stressed that process of empowerment must be started from childhood.
- She added that Stree Manoraksha Project is a life skill to provide help to women who are facing atrocities.

### 2. CCI TO HOLD 7TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS OF COMPETITION LAW ON 4TH MARCH





- Competition Commission of India will hold the 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on 4th March in virtual mode.
- CCI has been organizing the conference every year since 2016. Neelkanth Mishra, who is a Member of, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister will deliver the keynote address in the inaugural session.
- The Plenary at this year's conference is on the topic 'Reforms and Deepening of Markets'.
- The Conference is an endeavour to develop and sustain interest in the Economics of Competition Law and create a critical mass of antitrust economists.

### 3. GOVT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS 2022



- Government has invited applications for National Startup Awards 2022 across 17 sectors and 7 special categories. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has launched the third edition of the National Startup Awards.
- In line with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Awards will acknowledge startups and enablers who have been instrumental in revolutionising the development story of India.
- The 17 sectors include Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Construction, Drinking Water, Education and Skill Development, Energy, Enterprise Technology, Environment, and FinTech.
- A cash prize of 15 lakh rupees each will be awarded to one winning incubator and one winning accelerator.
- The applications for the National Startup Awards 2022 are open till 15th March.
- A cash prize of 5 lakh rupees will be awarded to each winning startup.

### 4. PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND INAUGURATES 'AROGYA VANAM' AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

- President Ram Nath Kovind today inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind.
- The Arogya Vanam has been developed in a 6.6 acre area and it has 215 types of medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Bel, Arand, Arjun, Ashwagandha and Harsingar.

- Aroma Garden, Lotus Pond, Water Channels, Yog Manch and a ViewPoint are also part of Arogya Vanam.



## 5. NOW CHENNAI'S STREET ANIMALS GET AN AMBULANCE OF THEIR OWN



- India's first ambulance for street animals has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "Four Paw". Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth launched the ambulance.
- The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
- Apart from the veterinarian, the animal ambulance will also include a para veterinary-worker-cum-driver. The ambulance will include a treatment table, two fans, an inverter, a fridge, and drawers for sterile products and bandages.



## Important Days

### 6. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WEEK BEGINS



- The Women and Child Development Ministry will celebrate the International Women's Day week from today as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- As a part of the week-long celebration, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women's safety and empowerment.
- It will mark an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equity and women's empowerment but also to critically reflect on accomplishments and strive for a greater momentum towards gender equality.
- It will kick off tomorrow in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development to raise awareness on safety and security of women.
- On this day, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights will also celebrate its Foundation Day.
- The focus of this event will be children, wherein an exhibition by children will be on display and children will be taken on guided tour of the Red Fort.
- The Ministry will launch the Street Manoraksha Project in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
- On 3rd March 2022, the theme for the celebration is 'Women of Tomorrow'

## Sports News

### 7. ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2022 TO BEGIN FROM 4TH MARCH IN NEW ZEALAND



- The 12th ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is all set to begin from Friday, 4th March in New Zealand.
- The opening match will be played between the hosts and the West Indies at the Bay Oval in Tauranga.
- Eight countries will battle it out in 31 matches over 31 days at six cities of the island nation.
- The cities of Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Wellington will be hosting the matches across six different venues.
- The Teams participating are Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and West Indies.

### 8. SAURABH CHAUDHARY CLINCHES INDIA'S FIRST GOLD AT ISSF WORLD CUP IN CAIRO

- Saurabh Chaudhary clinched India's first gold medal at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt on Tuesday.
- The 19-year-old Indian defeated Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6 in the gold medal match of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event.
- Russian Artem Chernousov grabbed a bronze medal.
- India's Shreya Agrawal narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals of the World Cup's 10m air rifle event. Shreya shot a total of 629.3, which was 0.1 less than eighth semi-finalist Eszter Meszaros of Hungary.





## 9. US, EU, UK AGREE TO REMOVE SELECTED RUSSIAN BANKS FROM SWIFT



- The United States, European Union and United Kingdom on Saturday agreed to block “selected” Russian banks from the SWIFT global financial messaging system and to impose “restrictive measures” on its central bank in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine.
- SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications and is an independent enterprise, which is based in Belgium.
- SWIFT serves as an internal communication mechanism between around 11,000 banks and financial institutions for more than 200 countries and territories.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## Appointment News

### 1. MADHABI PURI BUCH TAKES CHARGE AS FIRST WOMAN CHAIRPERSON OF SEBI



- Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch on Wednesday took charge as the first woman Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She succeeds Mr. Ajay Tyagi, whose five year term ended on 28th February 2022.
- With over three decades of experience, Ms. Buch has served as SEBI's Whole Time Member, handling departments related to regulation, surveillance, investment management besides investor assistance and education.
- The 57 year old has also served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Securities Limited and has worked with the New Development Bank in Shanghai and as the Head of a Private Equity Firm's Singapore office.
- A graduate in Mathematics from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi, Ms. Buch also holds a MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad. She has been given a three-year tenure as SEBI Chief.

### 2. AKSHAYE WIDHANI NAMED CEO OF YASH RAJ FILMS

- Film production and distribution company Yash Raj Films (YRF) has named Akshaye Widhani as chief executive officer.
- Widhani was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios.
- He used to head corporate and business development activities for YRF, including finance, business extensions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, co-productions.
- Widhani joined YRF 17 years ago, has been responsible for setting up and running several business verticals for the company.
- His first stint was as studio manager, in charge of setting up operations for YRF Studios in 2005.
- Yash Raj Films is one of India's biggest film production houses.



- Aditya Chopra is the Chairman and MD of Yash Raj Films. Yash Raj Films was founded by Yash Raj Chopra, in the year 1970.



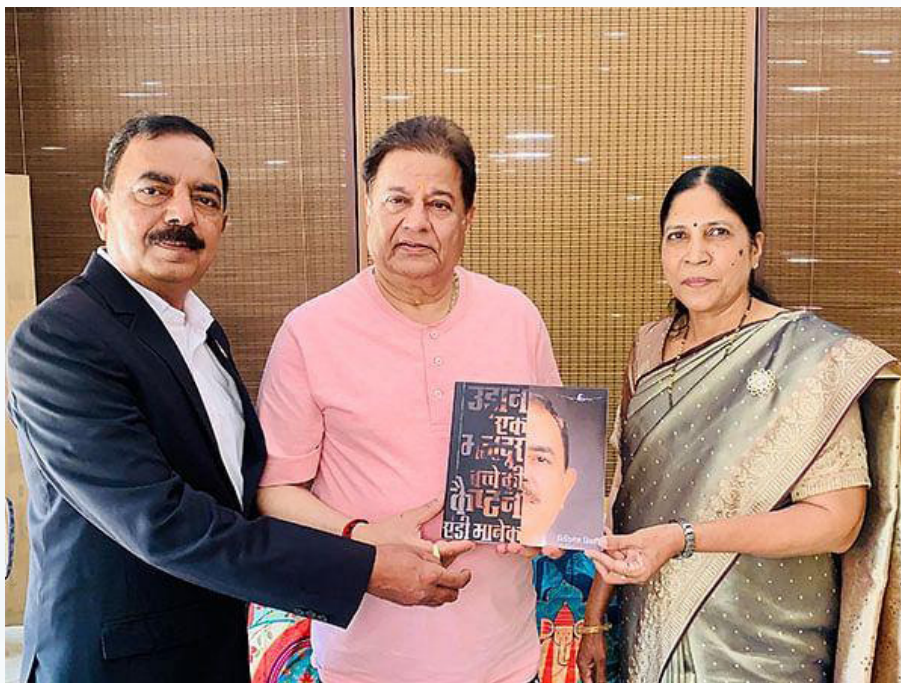
### 3. ASHNEER GROVER RESIGNS AS BHARATPE MD



- Ashneer Grover, who had lost an arbitration that he filed against BharatPe, on March 1 resigned from the fintech firm as managing director of the company.
- Grover had filed an arbitration with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre challenging BharatPe's decision to conduct a governance review.
- Ashneer Grover, who owns a 9.5% stake worth Rs 1915 crore in BharatPe, will continue as the single largest individual shareholder of the company.
- BharatPe became the 19th Indian startup to become a unicorn in 2021

## Books and Authors

### 4. ANUP JALOTA RELEASED BOOK “UDAAN EK MAJDOOR BACHHE KI” AUTHORED BY MITHILESH TIWARI



- Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota has released the book “Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki” by Captain AD Manek in a glittering program organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai. The author of this book is Mithilesh Tiwari.
- This book is about the life journey of Captain AD Manek, how he traveled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph.

### 5. ‘RAFA: MY STORY’ IS THE NEW BOOK LAUNCHED BY JOHN CARLIN AND RAFAEL NADAL.





- It is Rafal's autobiography of his international tennis career, in which he remembers his early years and tells about the things that gave him the strength to reach this position in international tennis.
- With honesty and intelligence, Rafa brings to the readers, his phenomenal and extraordinary journey in which he never lost sight of his target, as he values it above all others.
- For him his family is extremely important.
- He tells in his book the secrets of his brilliant game and shares his own inspirational story that played a key role in his success.

## Important Days

### 6. WORLD WILDLIFE DAY IS BEING OBSERVED TODAY



- Today is World day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.
- On 20th December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3rd of March - the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973, as the World Wildlife Day.
- World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration"

## 7. WORLD HEARING DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 3RD MARCH BY WHO



- World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year by World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course.
- In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss.
- The World Hearing Day 2022 with the theme “To hear for life, listen with care” will focus on the importance and means of hearing loss prevention through safe listening.

## International News

## 8. NASA LAUNCHES LATEST GENERATION SATELLITE TO TRACK HAZARDOUS WEATHER

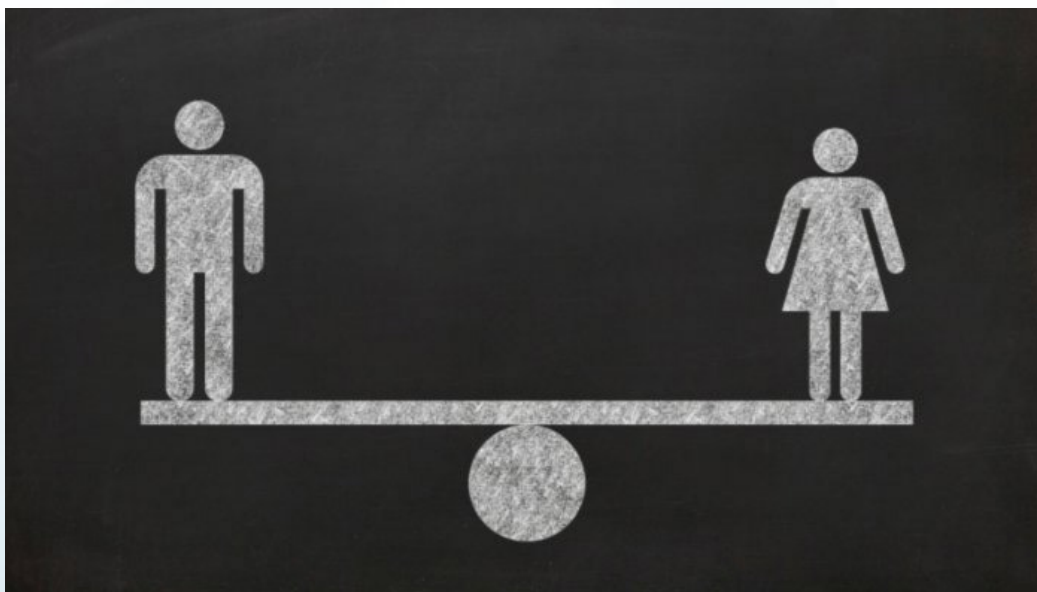




- US space agency, NASA, successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
- The satellite is named as GOES-T. Once the satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to GOES-18.
- GOES-T will be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.

## National News

### 9. NITI AAYOG DEVELOPING NATIONAL GENDER INDEX



- NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index.
- The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.
- It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.
- The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.

### 10. 148 AIRCRAFT TO DISPLAY IAF POWER AT VAYU SHAKTI IN POKHRAN RAJASTHAN

- Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in this exercise.
- Rafale aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise. Exercise Vayu Shakti is organised by Indian Air Force once in every three years.
- The last Vayu Shakti Exercise took place in 2019.



By Sameer Singhal

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**National News**

### **1. UJJAIN SETS GUINNESS RECORD BY LIGHTING OVER 11.7 LAKH OIL LAMPS ON MAHASHIVRATRI**

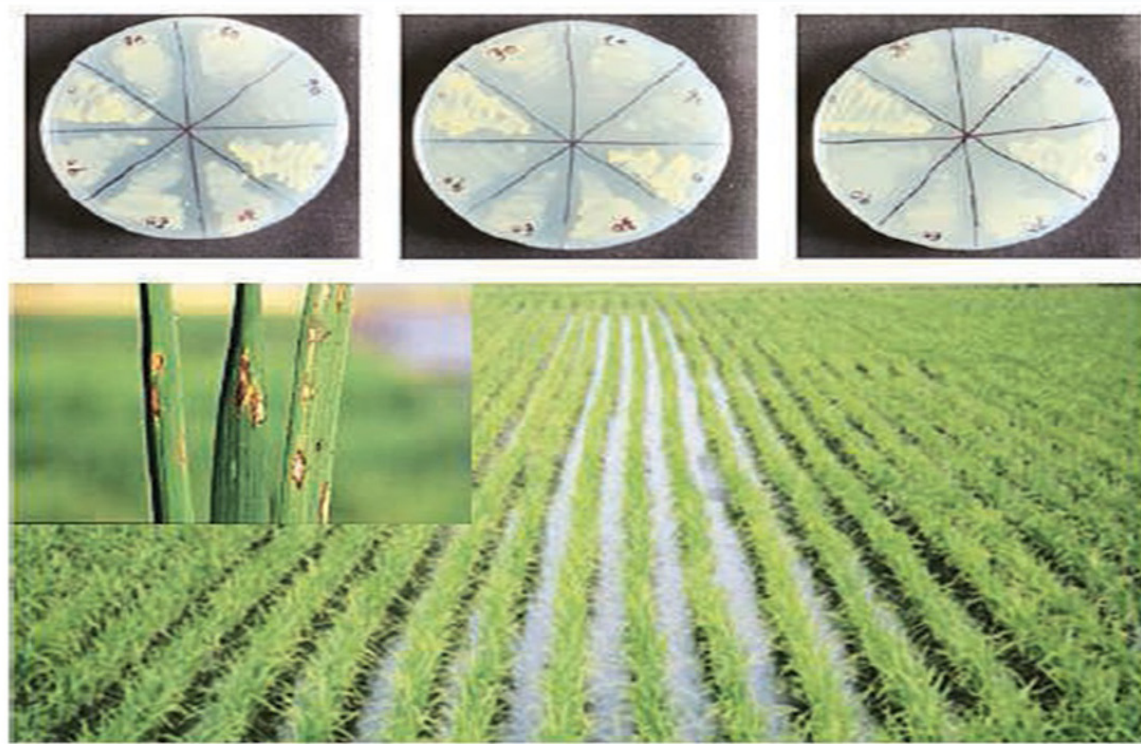


- Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes.
- The diyas were lighted as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava' on the occasion of Mahashivratri.



- With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 03 November 2021. Ujjain is also known as the 'Land of Mahakal'.
- The certificate was received by Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- It was a zero-waste programme. The clay from the lamps will be used to prepare idols, while the oil left in the lamps will be offered to gaushalas.
- The plastic used for the I-cards will be used to make chairs and other items for public gardens.

## 2. BIODEGRADABLE NANOPARTICLE DEVELOPED BY IIT KANPUR



- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have created a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based insecticides to protect crops from bacterial and fungal illnesses.
- Abhay Karandikar, who is the director of IIT Kanpur said that because farmers suffer a variety of issues, IIT Kanpur has worked tirelessly to improve the farming environment as a whole.
- Nanoparticles would reduce the risk of crop infection while also increasing agricultural productivity.
- IIT Kanpur has devised a number of ways to increase agricultural output and address many of the issues that plague Indian agriculture.
- In December 2021, the institute released Bhu Parikshak, a soil testing equipment that can detect soil health in 90 seconds.
- It was created to address the issue of time spent having soil health examined in labs.
- In most cases, farmers must wait days for lab results.

### 3. TATA MOTORS LAUNCHES 'ANUBHAV', SHOWROOM ON WHEELS TO TAP RURAL MARKETS



- Tata Motors has launched a mobile showroom (showroom on wheels) named 'Anubhav', to target rural customers by increasing their reach in rural areas and providing them with a doorstep car buying experience.
- Tata Motors will deploy a total of 103 mobile showrooms across the country, to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.
- These mobile showrooms will be operated by dealerships under Tata Motors' supervision and guidance.
- All the dealerships will define monthly routes for these vans on which they will ply and cover the targeted village or tehsil.
- A total of 103 mobile showrooms are being deployed across the country to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.
- These mobile showrooms will help existing dealerships offer a doorstep sales experience to customers and assist them with information about Tata Motors' products.
- These products include a new forever range of cars and SUVs, accessories, avail finance schemes, book a test drive and evaluate existing cars for exchange.

### 4. AFSPA EXTENDED IN ASSAM FOR 6 MORE MONTHS WITH EFFECT FROM FEB 28

- The Assam government has extended the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months.
- The notification came into effect from February 28. Initially, it was the Assam Disturbed Area Act of 1955 during the agitation by Nagas in undivided Assam.
- This Act gave freehand to some extent to the Army that was repealed with the incorporation of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958.
- AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the government.
- AFSPA, which gives sweeping powers to the security forces to maintain public order in 'disturbed areas', has been a contentious issue in the north-east states.



- Civil society members and activists have claimed that AFSPA gives security personnel a free hand to carry out excesses.



#### **5. ADANI GREEN ENERGY'S SUBSIDIARY RECEIVES LOA TO SET UP 150 MW SOLAR POWER PROJECT**



- Adani Green Energy Ltd stated that its subsidiary Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited has obtained a letter of award (LOA) to build a 150-megawatt solar power plant. For a period of 25 years, the fixed rate for this project capacity is \$2.34/kWh.
- According to a statement issued by the Adani Group company said in a stock exchange filing, Adani

Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited, a Wholly-owned Subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited, participated in a Tender which was issued by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited for the acquisition of 250 MW Solar Power from ground-mounted grid-connected solar PV power plants and has received the Letter of Award for setting up a 150 MW Solar Power Project.

- Adani Green presently has a totally renewable energy project portfolio of 20.434 MWac capacity, with 5.410 MWac of operational projects.
- According to the firm, 11,591 MWac projects are now under construction, with 3.433 MWac projects nearing completion.

## Sports News

### 6. ISSF WORLD CUP: SHRI NIVETHA, ESHA, RUCHITA WIN GOLD IN WOMEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL



- India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver.
- Andrea Katharina Heckner, Sandra Reitz and Carina Wimmer of Germany settled for the silver medal.
- Germany and Italy are joint seconds on the table with one gold, two silver and one bronze medal each. A total of 17 countries have won medals so far.



## 7. STRANDJA MEMORIAL BOXING TOURNAMENT: NIKHAT ZAREEN & NITU WINS GOLD FOR INDIA



- Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) has won gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.
- Nikhat bagged her second gold medal at Europe's oldest international boxing tournament with a 4-1 win in the women's 52kg final. She had previously won the Strandja Memorial title in 2019.

### Important Days

## 8. NATIONAL SAFETY DAY 2022 04TH MARCH



- The National Safety Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on the 4th of March to commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India.
- The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. The year 2022 marks 51st NSD.
- Every year, this day is celebrated with a different theme.
- This year, the National Safety Council of India announced the theme to be 'Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture'.
- The first National Safety Day was observed in 1972.

## Index and Ranks

### 9. SDG INDEX 2021: INDIA RANKS 120TH POSITION



- India has been ranked at 120th position in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021. In this Index, countries are ranked by a score out of 100. India has a score of 60.07.
- Last year India's rank was 117.
- The Index measures the country's total progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Index has been topped by Finland.
- 1- Finland;
- 2- Sweden;
- 3- Denmark;
- 4- Germany;
- 5- Belgium
- These 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By Sameer Singhal



## Appointment News

### 1. SANJIV KAPOOR APPOINTED CEO OF JET AIRWAYS



- Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways.
- Prior to this, Kapoor was the president of Oberoi Hotels and has also worked as a chief operating officer at SpiceJet and chief strategy and commercial officer at Vistara.
- He has worked as the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer of Vistara Airlines for three years, and Chief Operating Officer of SpiceJet for two years.
- The Jalan Kalrock Consortium is the new promoter of Jet Airways.

## National News

### 2. GEHLOT GOVERNMENT IN ACTION MODE TO SAVE CAMELS, NEW CONSERVATION POLICY ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET

- Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23.
- According to the government figures, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan and in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh since 2012.
- There were about 2.5 lakh camels left when counted last in 2019.
- Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan and their number is continuously decreasing.
- The Rajasthan government had declared the camel as the state animal in 2014.
- About 85 per cent of the country's camels are found in Rajasthan followed by Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

- World Camel Day is observed every year on 22 June to recognize the importance of camels to the livelihood of a large population.



### 3. DST PARTNERS WITH INTEL INDIA TO BOOST AI READINESS



- ‘Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators’, a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C).
- The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST’s INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.



#### 4. 'SAGAR PARIKRAMA' FROM MARCH 5 TO SHOWCASE MARINE FISHERIES SECTOR WEALTH



- Union Minister Parshottam Rupala will inaugurate the 'Sagar Parikrama', organised by The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board along with Department of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India, Gujarat Maritime Board and fishermen representatives on 5th Feb 2022.
- The Parikrama, starting from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava', is an endeavour to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.
- It will be organised in other districts of Gujarat and other State/UTs in subsequent phases.

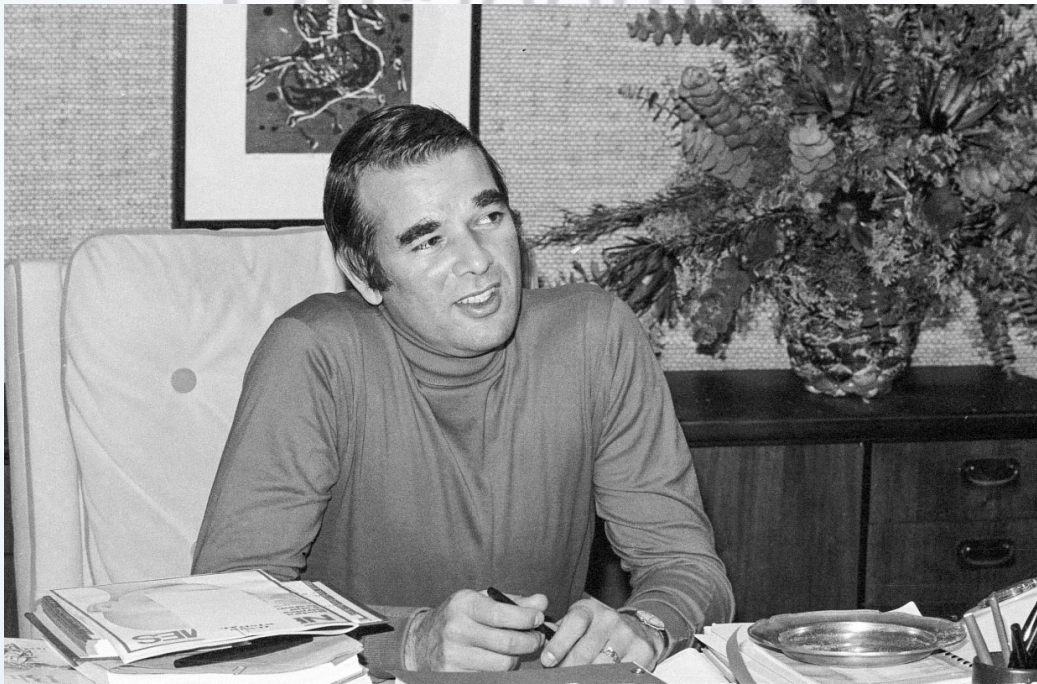
### Obituary News

#### 5. LEGENDARY AUSTRALIAN SPINNER, SHANE WARNE PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne has passed away at the age of 52.
- Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests.
- His career spanned over 15 years from 1992 to 2007.
- He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in 1999.
- He is regarded as one of the greatest-ever bowlers in the history of the sport as he was an integral part of the dominant Australian sides in the 1990s and early 2000s.



**6. ALAN LADD JR., OSCAR-WINNING PRODUCER BEHIND 'STAR WARS' AND 'BRAVEHEART,' DIES AT 84**



- The Oscar-winning producer, Former Executive at Twentieth Century Fox, who greenlit 'Star Wars' and 'Braveheart', Alan Ladd Junior has passed away at the age of 84 years.
- He was affectionately known as "Laddie". He won the Academy Award (Oscar award) for Best Picture 'Braveheart' directed by Mel Gibson in 1995.
- He was one of the founders of the Ladd Company, established in 1979.



## 7. FORMER PUNJAB GOV AND EX-ARMY CHIEF GEN SF RODRIGUES DIES AT 88



- General S F Rodrigues, who had served as Chief of the Indian Army from 1990 to 1993 passes away at the age of 88 years. General Sunith Francis Rodrigues was also the Governor of Punjab from 2004 to 2010.
- He had served two terms on the National Security Advisory Board.
- Since his retirement, he has been engaged in social and literary pursuits and has also delivered numerous talks on strategic issues.
- The nation and the Indian Army will always be indebted to his invaluable contribution and service to the nation.

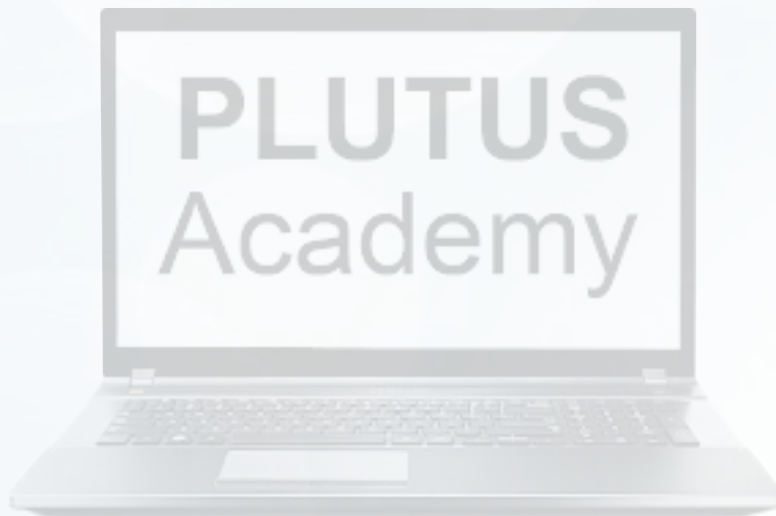
### Banking News

## 8. RBI CANCELS LICENSE OF SARJERAODADA NAIK SHIRALA SAHAKARI BANK

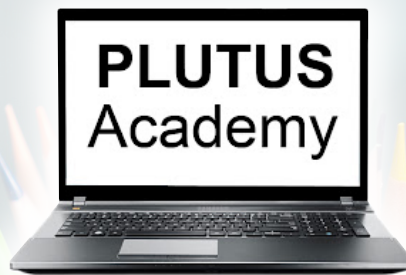


- Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- With the cancellation of the license, Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank Ltd has ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business hours on 2 March.
- The bank is not complying with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

**By Sameer Singhal**







# PLUTUS ACADEMY

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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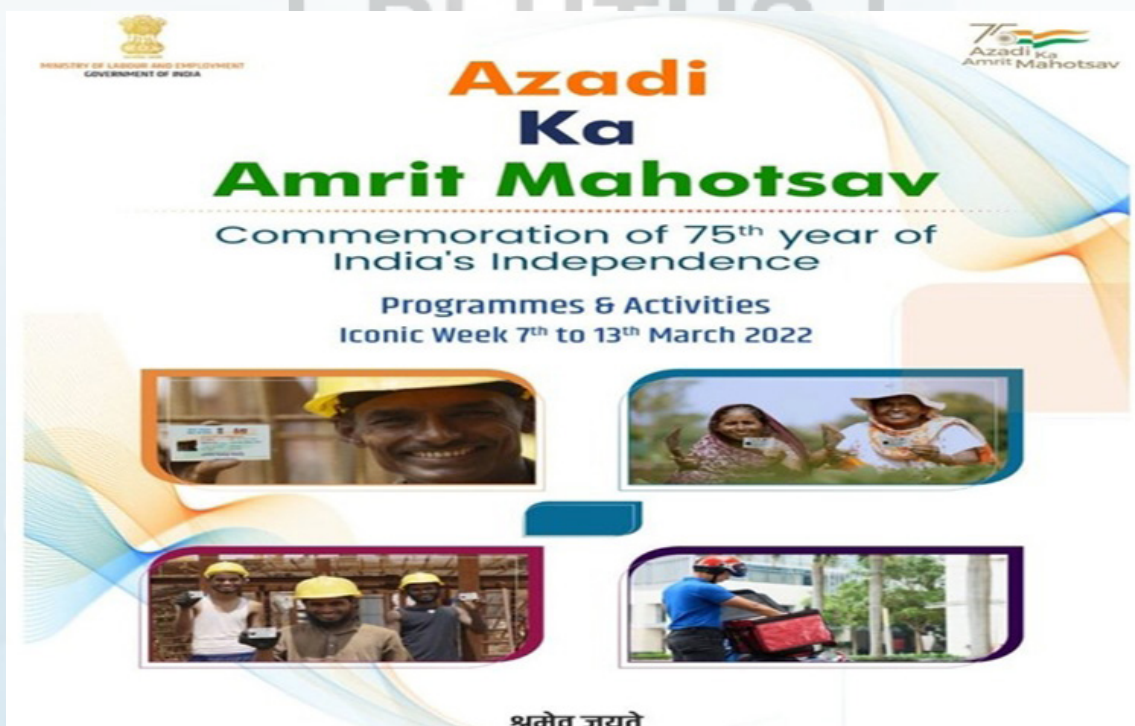


# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH 2022

### National News

**LABOR MINISTRY TO CELEBRATE ICONIC WEEK AS PART OF AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV FROM TODAY**



- Labour Ministry is organising several initiatives and events for its Iconic week which will be celebrated from today.
- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that it will help build a movement that will further accelerate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India 2.0, an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Ministry has planned multiple initiatives to uphold the spirit of a progressive India this week.
- Every division of the Ministry has planned multiple initiatives to uphold the mission of the Ministry and contribute to the Vision of India 2.0.
- These activities include celebrating 25 crore registrations under e-SHRAM, launching of e-SHRAM on UMANG app, the launch of Donate-a-Pension scheme.



## **2. NINTH EDITION OF SRI LANKA-INDIA NAVAL EXERCISE SLINEX TO BEGIN TODAY IN VISAKHAPATNAM**



- The ninth edition of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX will begin today in Visakhapatnam.
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases-the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7 and 8, followed by the sea phase on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal.
- Sri Lankan Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette.
- Other participants from the Indian Navy include INS Jyoti, a Fleet support tanker, Advanced Light Helicopter(ALH), Seaking and Chetak Helicopters and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Trincomalee in October 2020.
- SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- The Harbour Phase would include professional, cultural, sporting and social exchanges.

## **3. COUNTRY'S FIRST INDIGENOUS FLYING TRAINER HANSA-NG SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES SEA LEVEL TRIALS**

- The country's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March.
- The aircraft was flown to Puducherry covering 140 nautical miles in one and half hours at a cruising speed of 155 km per hour on 19th February.
- AIR Correspondent reports, The objectives of sea level trials were to evaluate handling qualities, climb and cruise performance, balked landing, structural performance power plant and other systems performance.

- CSIR-NAL sources said that all the objectives of the sea level trials are met and aircraft has been ferried back to Bangalore yesterday after completing 18 hours flying at Puducherry.



#### **4. INDIGENOUS ANTI-COLLISION SYSTEM 'KAVACH' TO AVOID RAIL ACCIDENTS SUCCESSFULLY TESTED BY INDIAN RAILWAYS**



- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that 'Kavach' System, the anti-collision test conducted by the Indian Railways to check the indigenous developed system to avoid rail accidents is successful.



- He held an on-site inspection today near Secunderabad.
- The indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, Kavach, was designed to help the Railways achieve - zero accidents.
- 'Kavach' automatically stopped the train before 380 metres of other Locomotive at the front.
- The test involved two trains - one with the railway minister on board and the other with the Chairman of the Railway Board - hurtle towards each other at full speed.
- Both the trains stopped 380 metres apart. The Kavach will be the world's cheapest automatic train collision protection system.

## 5. PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT



- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has inaugurated Pune Metro Rail Project on March 06, 2022, and also interacted with differently-abled, visually impaired students present inside the metro coach, during his 10-minute ride in the Pune Metro.
- Pune Metro Rail Project has been built at a total cost of INR 11,420 Crore. It has a total length of 33.2 km and 30 stations.
- Pune Metro is the first metro project in the country to have Aluminum body coaches, indigenously manufactured under the Make in India policy of GoI.

## 6. INDIAN NAVY SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATES ACCURACY OF BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE FROM STEALTH DESTROYER INS CHENNAI

- Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land-attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai yesterday.
- The missile hit its intended target with pinpoint accuracy after traversing an extended range trajectory and performing complex manoeuvres.
- This achievement establishes the Indian Navy's ability to strike even deeper and influence land operations further away from sea, when and where required.
- Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built and highlight the cutting-edge of Indian missile and ship-building prowess.



## 8. DEFENSE EXPO, 2022 POSTPONED AS PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS

The poster for DEFEXPO 22 India features the Ministry of Defence logo at the top left and the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav logo at the top right. The main title reads "ASIA'S LARGEST EXHIBITION ON LAND, NAVAL AND HOMELAND SECURITY SYSTEMS DEFENCE EXPO 2022". Below this, it lists "1000+ Exhibitors", "125+ Foreign Exhibitors", and "72 Countries". A brown box contains the text "Still counting! Stay tuned as we reveal many more details." The location and dates are given as "Gandhinagar, Gujarat" and "10-14 March, 2022". The bottom of the poster shows a collage of military equipment: a naval ship, a helicopter, and a tank. Social media handles for @SpokespersonMoD, @DefenceMinIndia, and the Ministry of Defence Government of India are listed at the very bottom.

- Defence Expo, 2022 scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar has been postponed due to logistics problems being experienced by the participants.
- It was scheduled to be held from 10th to 14th of this month. The new dates will be communicated in due course.



## Important Days

### 9. CISF CELEBRATES ITS 53RD RAISING DAY



- Home minister Amit Shah lauded the role of CISF personnel during the coronavirus pandemic, for risking their lives and taking care of fellow Indians who were returning from abroad.
- Mr Shah said in the service of the nation, many CISF personnel have lost their lives.
- Mr Shah said, CISF personnel are taking care of returning citizens from Ukraine under Operation Ganga too.
- Speaking at the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Ghaziabad, Mr Shah said 2.5 trillion dollars worth of economy would not have been possible without the service of CISF.
- He urged CISF to prepare a roadmap of the next five years as there will be huge expansion in the private sector and India will become a 5 trillion dollar economy.
- Saying multi-skilled CISF is the only industrial security force in the world, the Home Minister said it provides security to very sensitive installations, ports, nuclear plants and airports.
- Mr Shah also applauded the role of CISF in tree plantation drives.
- The Home Minister also awarded President's police medals for meritorious service.

## Sports News

### 10. MITHALI RAJ BECOMES FIRST WOMAN CRICKETER TO APPEAR AT SIX CRICKET WORLD CUPS'

- Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj has become the first woman to appear in six World Cups.
- She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.

- The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.



By Sameer Singhal

## National News

### 1. INDIA GLOBAL FORUM ANNUAL SUMMIT HELD IN BENGALURU



- India Global Forum's (IGF) annual summit is being organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



- The summit will bring together eminent faces of tech-driven disruption and those who have joined the unicorn club along with Union ministers, policymakers, and global business leaders.
- The previous editions were hosted in Dubai and the UK and addressed by esteemed speakers like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the PM of the UK Boris Johnson amongst other leaders from Governments and industry across the globe.

## **2. RIL OPENS INDIA'S BIGGEST BUSINESS AND CULTURAL HUB IN MUMBAI**



- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has announced the opening of the Jio World Centre, which will be India's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination.
- The Centre, which covers 18.5 acres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and was envisioned by Nita Ambani, Director Reliance Industries and Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, and it is set to become a historical business, commerce, and culture destination, which will provide the people of India with a world-class landmark.
- The Jio World Centre will open in phases over the course of this and next year, beginning with the dedication of Dhirubhai Ambani Square and the musical Fountain of Joy to Mumbai and the Jio World Convention Centre.
- The Jio World Centre is a first-of-its-kind destination in India, with a cultural centre, a musical fountain, premium shops, a curated selection of cafés and fine dining restaurants, serviced apartments and offices, and a state-of-the-art convention facility.

## **3. MINISTRY OF LABOUR LAUNCHES 'DONATE-A-PENSION' INITIATIVE**

- Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 'Donate-a-Pension' campaign under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) scheme, on March 07, 2022, from his residence and donated the same to his gardener.
- Under the new initiative, citizens can contribute to the pension fund of their immediate support staff

such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc, by donating the premium amount.

- The 'Donate-a-Pension' program is part of various initiatives to be launched in the 'Iconic Week' celebrations by the Labour Ministry from March 7 to 13, 2022.
- It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc.



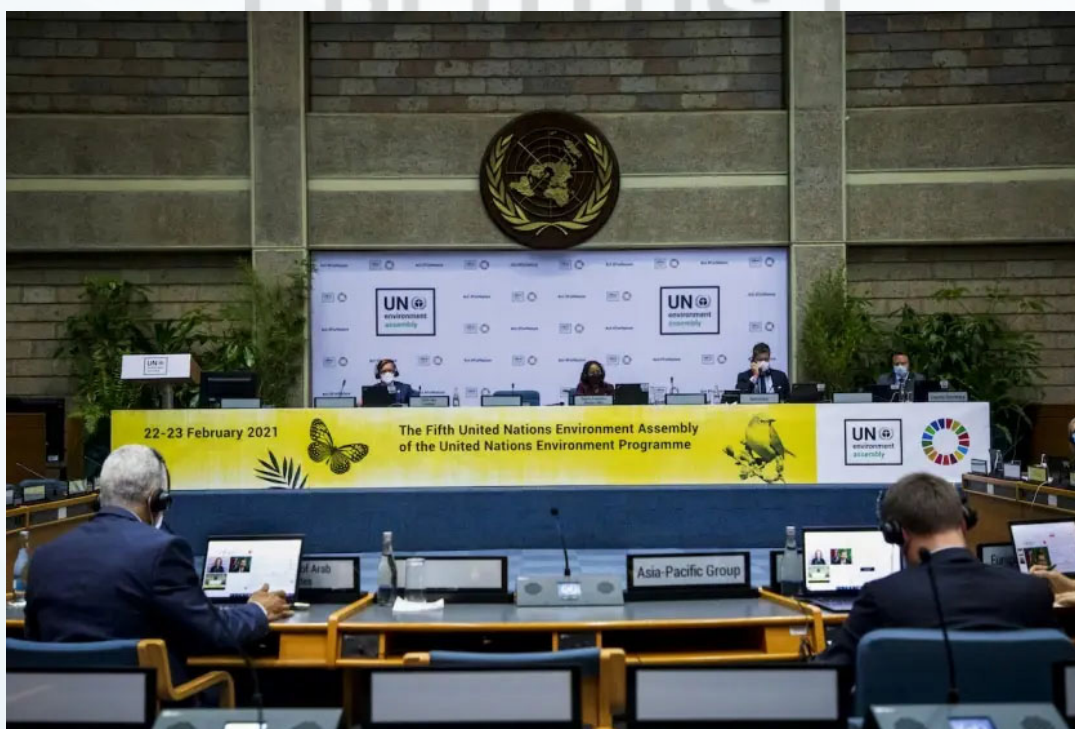
#### **4. PAYTM TO OFFER DIGITAL TICKETING SERVICES BY PARTNERING WITH IRCTC**





- Paytm, a digital payments company, announced that it has expanded its partnership with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide consumers with digital ticketing services via Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.
- Passengers will be able to scan QR codes generated on the screens to purchase unreserved train ride tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets, and recharge smart cards.
- This is the first time Indian Railways has made it possible for customers to pay for tickets services online using UPI on ATMs, promoting cashless commuting.
- The ATVMs that have been installed at railway stations are touch-screen ticketing kiosks that will allow travellers to pay digitally without the use of smart cards.
- Passengers will now be able to scan QR codes that would be generated on the screens that can be used to purchase unreserved train ride tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets, and recharge smart cards.

## 5. HYBRID FORM UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY HELD IN IN NAIROBI, KENYA



- The United Nations Environment Assembly was hosted by the UN Environment Programme.
- It brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member countries, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most serious environmental concerns.
- The aim of UNEA-5 was "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," emphasising the importance of nature in our lives as well as in social, economic, and environmental sustainability.
- Its goal was to give nations the impetus they needed to build on and catalyse global environmental initiatives to safeguard and restore the natural world on which our economy and societies rely.

## 6. MICROSOFT WILL SET UP INDIA'S LARGEST DATA CENTER REGION IN HYDERABAD



- Tech giant, Microsoft has announced to set up its fourth data centre in India in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Hyderabad Data centre will be one of the largest data centres in India and will be operational by 2025.
- Microsoft already has a data centre in three Indian regions across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai.
- The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft's cloud services from both the private enterprises as well as the government sector.
- To set up the data centre, Microsoft has signed a definitive agreement with the Telangana state government with a total investment of Rs 15,000 crore.
- In terms of Microsoft's own expansion plans the company stated that they are expanding their Hyderabad campus and the total campus is now spread over a 2.5 mn Sq.ft area with 18,000 full-time employees.

## 7. STUDY IN INDIA MEET 2022 INAUGURATED IN DHAKA





- The two-day-long Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.
- Education Minister of Bangladesh said the educational exchange between the two countries will further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.
- She said that students of today have the responsibility to find solutions for the common issues like poverty that are faced by the countries of South Asia.
- A large number of students from various educational institutions took part in the event.
- They explored the opportunity for studying abroad provided by some of the best colleges and universities in India.
- A total of 19 educational institutions from India are taking part in the Education Fair in Dhaka.
- The Study in India meet will be organised in Chittagong on March 7 for the benefit of Bangladeshi students.

## 8. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 8TH MARCH



- International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally on March 8 every year.
- The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
- The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.
- The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is "gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. GERMANY TO HOST VIRTUAL MEETING OF G7 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS TO DISCUSS RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT ON FOOD SECURITY



- The German government has stated that it will hold a virtual meeting of G7 agriculture ministers to explore the implications of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on global food security.
- The meeting, according to Cem Özdemir, Germany's Minister of Agriculture and Food, will also focus on ways to stabilise food markets.
- According to the government, Germany will hold a virtual meeting of G7 agricultural ministers to address the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on global food security and how to best stabilise food markets.
- Food security in Germany and the European Union is assured, but bigger shortages are likely in some countries outside the EU, particularly where scarcity already exists due to concerns such as drought.
- Price increases for agricultural items cannot be ruled out in developed countries."
- This year, Germany is the rotating president of the Group of Seven advanced economies.

### 2. FLIPKART ENTERS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH GOOGLE CLOUD TO IMPROVE INNOVATION

- Flipkart and Google Cloud have formed a multi-year strategic agreement to assist Flipkart accelerate its innovation and cloud strategy.
- Flipkart's next phase of expansion will be aided by this alliance, which will help it achieve its goal of enrolling India's next 200 million buyers and lakhs of vendors.
- The deal value was kept opaque by the companies.
- Flipkart will be able to provide robust app access and performance even during peak purchasing

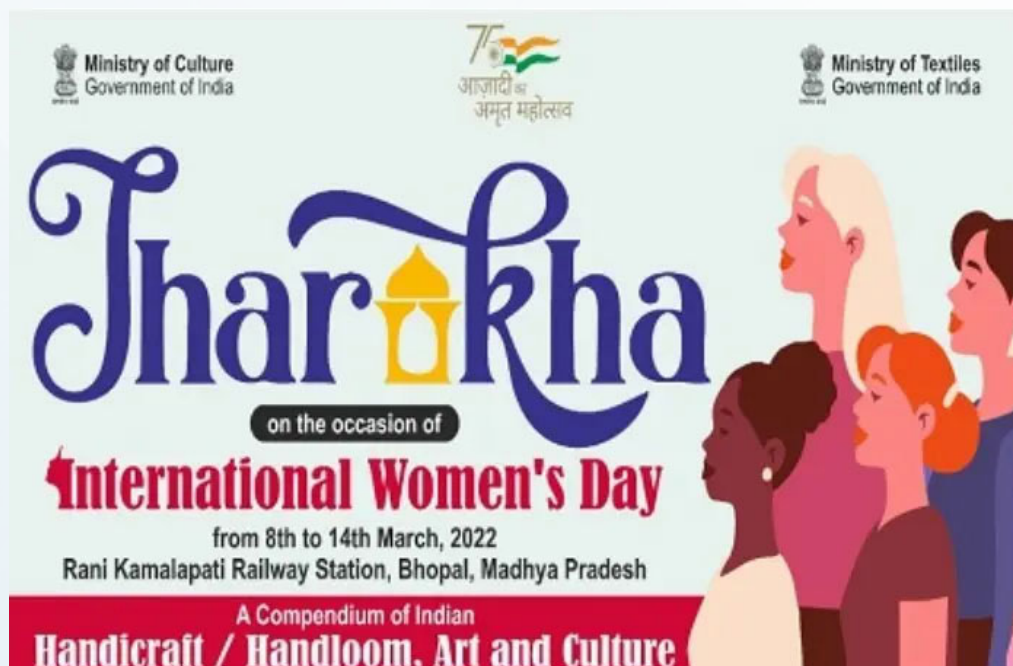


seasons with increased traffic by leveraging Google Cloud's secure and scalable global infrastructure and powerful networking technologies.

- Flipkart will also use Google Cloud to accelerate the creation of new products, boosting its expansion into India's Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.
- Flipkart will use Google Cloud's superior data analytics and machine learning capabilities to improve the efficiency of its data platform.

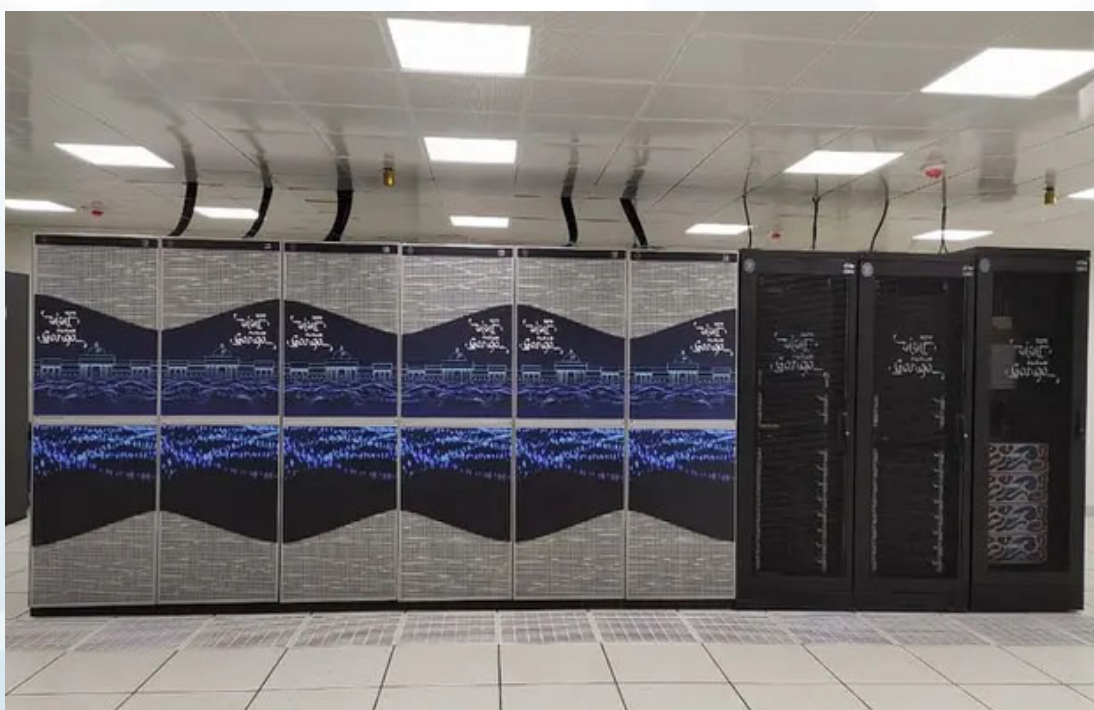


### 3. MINISTRY OF CULTURE ORGANIZE PAN-INDIA PROGRAMME “JHAROKHA-COMPENDIUM OF INDIAN HANDICRAFT/HANDLOOM, ART AND CULTURE”



- Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organizing a programme called “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture” to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture.
- To begin with, the first event under this celebration has been organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station, on March 08, 2022, which also marks International Women’s Day.
- Jharokha is a PAN India programme that will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav .
- The event in Bhopal will celebrate womanhood and the contribution of women in the field of art, craft and culture.
- Kamlapati Railway Station is named after the brave and fearless Queen Kamlapati of the Gond kingdom of Madhya Pradesh.

#### 4. C-DAC INSTALLED “PARAM GANGA” SUPERCOMPUTER AT IIT ROORKEE



- The Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has designed and installed a supercomputer named “PARAM Ganga”, at IIT Roorkee, under Phase II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- PARAM Ganga has a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- NSM is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The mission is implemented by the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The NSM Mission aims to build and deploy 24 facilities with cumulative compute power of more than 64 Petaflops.
- Till date 11 systems have been deployed by C-DAC at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative computing power of more than 20 Petaflops.



## International News

### 5. IRAN SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRE SECOND MILITARY SATELLITE NOOR-2

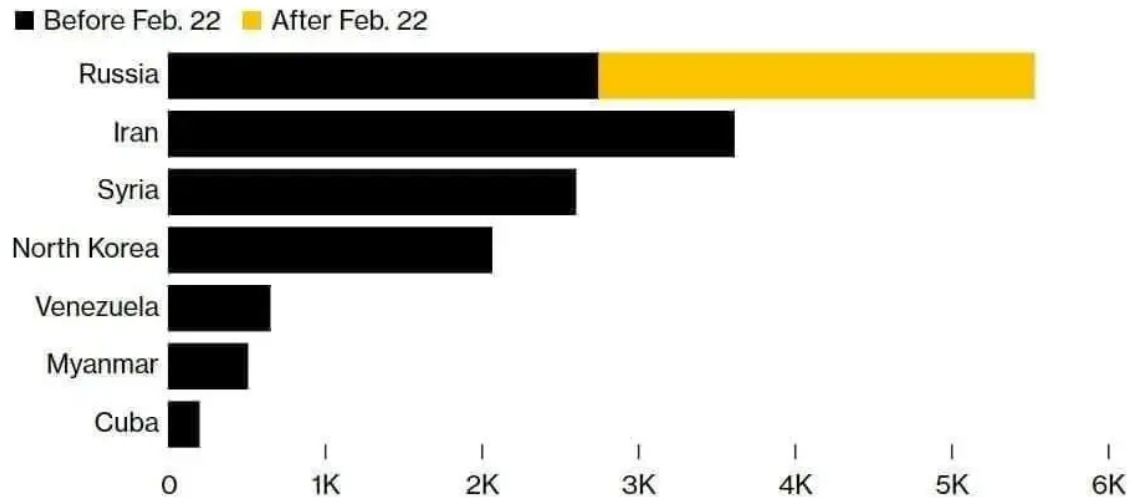


- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth.
- This is the second military satellite launched by the Islamic Republic.
- The first military satellite, Noor, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Noor means light in the Persian language.
- Putting the second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about the country's nuclear and missile programs.
- The three-stage Qased, or "Messenger", the carrier launched the Noor 2, from the Shahroud spaceport.

### 6. RUSSIA BECOMES WORLD'S MOST SANCTIONED COUNTRY

- Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion on Ukraine, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site Castellum.AI.
- Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since February 22, 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530.
- The country already had 2,754 sanctions in place before February 22.
- Countries across the world are putting sanctions on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of a number of sanctions.
- Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country, facing 3,616 sanctions against it over the last decade, while Syria and North Korea have 2,608 and 2,077 sanctions, respectively.

## Russia Is Now The World's Most Sanctioned Country



Source: Castellum.AI

## 7. T RAJA KUMAR NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE



- T Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency.
- His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on July 1. During the FATF plenary, he was chosen to succeed Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
- Mr Raja's nomination marks the first time Singapore has assumed the president of the organisation, according to a joint news release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on March 7.



- Mr Raja is a senior advisor at MHA and has been the leader of Singapore's FATF mission since January 1, 2015. Since July 2018, he has also been a member of the steering group, which advises the FATF president.
- The FATF is an intergovernmental organisation set up by the G7 in 1989 to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

## **8. PAKISTAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PLACED IN FATF GREY LIST, SAYS REPORT**



- The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), retained Pakistan in the grey list and asked the country to work on money laundering investigations and prosecutions.
- FATF also added the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to its grey watchlist.
- The decision has been taken after the conclusion of the four-day FATF Plenary from March 1-4, 2022. The event took place in hybrid mode from Paris, France.
- Pakistan has been on the grey list of FATF since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering and terror financing. It was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019 but it fails to comply with the FATF mandates.

## **9. DELHI HC CHIEF JUSTICE DN PATEL NEXT TDSAT CHAIRPERSON**

- The Central Government has appointed Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
- He was appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on June 7, 2019, and is now given the Chair of TDSAT, days before his retirement on March 12, 2022.
- Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification regarding the approval of his appointment by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), stating that he will serve the Chair for a period of

4 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

- The conditions of his service will be governed by the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## **National News**

### **1. SIKKIM: ALL NON-WORKING MOTHERS TO GET RS 20,000 EACH**



- Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement 'Aama Yojana, a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state.
- Aama Yojna scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Government will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually.
- The scheme covers only those whose names are enrolled in the electoral roll of the state and a sum of Rs. 100 crores have been allocated for it in the budget.
- Bahini Scheme is to reduce the dropout rate of girl students due to the lack of accessibility/availability of Sanitary Napkins & also to ensure menstrual health and hygiene.
- Under this scheme, over 18,000 girl students who study in class 9 and above are provided with free sanitary napkins in the state.

### **2. CHHATTISGARH GOVT LAUNCHES 'KAUSHALYA MATRITVA YOJANA'**

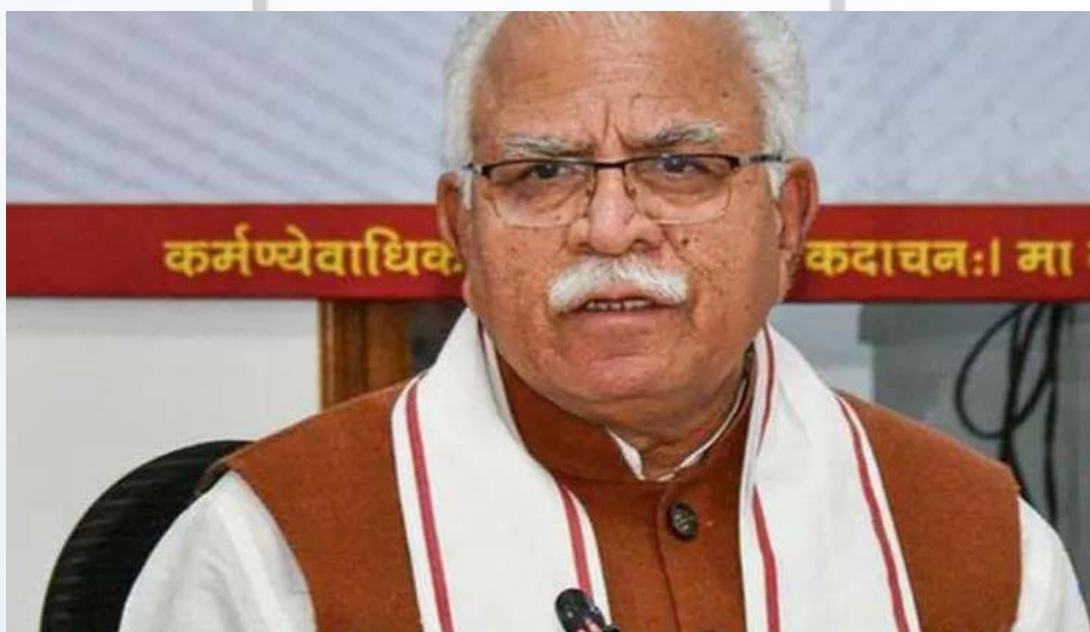
- In a state-level women's conference held at BTI Ground in Raipur, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel introduced the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' by handing out Rs 5000 checks to five beneficiaries for safe motherhood.



- On the birth of a second daughter, women recipients are eligible for a lump payment aid of Rs. 5,000 under this scheme. The programme will assist in the parenting and education of girls.
- At the state level women's conference, the Chief Minister honoured Anganwadi employees who have done outstanding work in Anganwadi services, as well as self-help groups that have helped women become financially independent by utilising the Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh.
- Similarly, he recognised officers who have excelled in the field of women's protection as part of the 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihaan Yojna.'
- On the occasion, he also released the Kanya Vivah Yojana Coffee Table Book, the Sakhi One Stop Centre Telephone Directory, and booklets for women empowerment programmes.



### 3. HARYANA ANNOUNCED MATRUSHAKTI UDYAMITA SCHEME



- Haryana government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme to provide support to women entrepreneurs, on International Women's Day.
- Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.
- Subsequently, the interest subvention of 7% will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.

#### 4. BODH GAYA TO HAVE INDIA'S LARGEST RECLINING STATUE OF LORD BUDDHA



- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.
- Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019.
- It is being made with fiberglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata.
- Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage center for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.
- The idol of this posture of Lord Buddha is in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar where he attained his Mahaparinirvana.
- The giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023.

### Sports News

#### 5. INDIAN GM S L NARAYANAN WINS CATTOLICA INTERNATIONAL OPEN CHESS TOURNEY

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, S L Narayanan was declared the winner in the Grand Scacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy. Meanwhile, his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second.
- Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds.
- But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score.
- The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the 41st Grandmaster from India.





## Important Days

### 6. NO SMOKING DAY 2022: 9TH MARCH



- No Smoking Day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world.
- This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9th March.
- The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- The main reason to observe this day is to spread awareness and educate people about the adverse impacts of tobacco on their health through cigarettes and other means.
- No Smoking Day was first observed in the year 1984 in the Republic of Ireland on Ash Wednesday.

## Appointment News

### 7. LUPIN NAMED MARY KOM AS BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR HIS SHAKTI INITIATIVE



- Global pharma major Lupin Limited (Lupin) has announced that it has signed on six-time world boxing champion, Mary Kom as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign.
- The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of heart diseases among women.
- With Mary Kom anchoring the campaign, to drive the much-needed awareness on the issue and encourage women to sign up for early screening checks and take corrective measures to avoid the future risk of heart diseases.

By Sameer Singhal

## National News

### 1. ISSF WC 2022: INDIA TOP MEDAL TALLY WITH 4 GOLD, 2 SILVER, ONE BRONZE IN CAIRO

- India have taken first place in the medal standing in International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo.
- The Indian team finished on the top of the medals tally with a total of seven medals comprising of four gold, two silver and one bronze.



- Norway, who won six medals- three gold, one silver and two bronze claimed second spot on the medals tally. France were third, with three golds out of the 20 on offer.
- Indian shooters won two medals on the final day of the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo, Egypt on Monday.
- In the last event of the tournament, Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala won the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team gold medal match against Thailand by defeating them 17-7.
- Earlier in the day, the Indian trio of Gurpreet Singh, Anish Bhanwala and Bhavesh Shekhawat lost the gold medal match of the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team competition to Germany 7-17.

## **2. NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION: CABINET CLEARS AGENCY TO MONETISE GOVT LAND**



- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the setting up of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetise surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other agencies linked to the Government.
- To be fully owned by the Center, under the administrative jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry, NLMC will have an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5,000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.
- “With monetisation of non-core assets, the Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetising unused and under-used assets.
- CPSEs currently have a large amount of surplus, idle, and underutilised non-core assets in the form of land and buildings.
- The monetization of excess land and side assets is critical for CPSEs experiencing strategic disinvestment so that their value can be unleashed. Monetization of the assets will be taken care of and carried out by NLMC.
- This will also allow for the productive use of underutilised assets, resulting in private sector investments, new economic activity, a boost to the local economy, and the generation of financial resources for economic and social infrastructure.
- On behalf of CPSEs and other government organisations, NLMC will have the technical expertise to competently manage and monetize land holdings.

### 3. K'TAKA GOVT LAUNCHES WOMEN @ WORK PROGRAM



- The government of Karnataka has launched 'Women@Work' program to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.
- The program aims to focus on the efforts of corporate programs on attracting a female workforce.
- It has been developed by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.
- It will act as an enabler for women to actively participate and join the workforce through industry upskilling.
- All efforts are being made to provide 5,000 jobs for women as part of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission and added that the government is keen to actualise this mission in the coming days.

### 4. GOVT APPOINTS SBI MANAGING DIRECTOR ASHWINI BHATIA AS SEBI MEMBER





- The cabinet has appointed Ashwani Bhatia, managing director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI), as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- According to some sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also approved Ashwani Bhatia's appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI for three years from the date of his assumption of the command.
- According to the sources, with Ashwani Bhatia's appointment as a Whole-time member, the Securities and Exchange Board of India now only needs to appoint one Whole time member.
- In August 2020, Ashwani Bhatia, who will be retiring in May 2022, that is this year, was promoted to the post of managing director of State Bank of India.

## 5. UNION MINISTER RK SINGH LAUNCHES VIRTUAL SMART GRID KNOWLEDGE CENTER AND INNOVATION PARK



- Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh on Tuesday launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) and Innovation Park virtually as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme.
- Minister of State for Power Krishan Pal Gurjar was also present on the occasion.
- The SGKC has been established by POWERGRID for demonstration and advancement of frontier smart grid technologies.
- SGKC aims to be one of the leading Centers of Excellence globally to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and research in smart grid technologies and create capacities in the power distribution sector.
- The Virtual SGKC that was launched today enables a digital footprint of the physical setup of SGKC, the need for which was felt during COVID-19 pandemic.

## 6. SPORTS MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR TO INAUGURATE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL



- The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) has been organised jointly by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on March 10 and 11, 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.
- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the valedictory function on March 11.
- The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in the coming years, including public services.
- The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.

## 7. KOREA'S NEW PRESIDENT YOON SUK-YEOL





- Yoon Suk-yeol has been declared as the winner of the 2022 South Korean presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country.
- He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022, for a fixed term of five years. Yoon Suk-yeol will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.
- With more than 98 per cent of the ballots counted, Yoon had 48.6 per cent of the votes against his rival Lee Jae-Myung's 47.8 per cent.
- Yoon is to take office in May and serve a single five-year term as leader of the world's 10th-largest economy.

## **8. ANDHRA PRADESH RETAINS TOP RANK IN SKOCH STATE OF GOVERNANCE RANKING IN 2021**



- Andhra Pradesh has retained its number one spot in the SKOCH State of Governance rankings for the second consecutive year.
- According to a release, the State retained the first rank for the second consecutive year.
- In 2020 too, Andhra Pradesh bagged top rank in governance. Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019, according to Skoch.
- The second rank was bagged by West Bengal and Odisha was ranked 3, Gujarat was ranked 4 and Maharashtra was ranked 5. Neighbouring Telangana was ranked 6.

## **9. S SREESANTH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ALL FORMS OF FIRST-CLASS CRICKET**

- India pacer S Sreesanth has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively.
- He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.
- The temperamental pacer was also popular for his exuberant celebrations after taking wickets but his life and career went downhill after the spot-fixing scandal.



#### 10. STALIN OPENS FLOATING SOLAR PARK IN TUTICORIN



- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M K Stalin has inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant constructed at a cost of Rs 150.4 crores.
- The floating plant is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy.



- It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to reduce carbon footprint.
- The floating power plant has the capacity to produce 42 million units of electricity per annum.
- The solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. SPIC worked with France-based floating solar power specialists and global leader Ceil & Terre for the constructions and designs.

## 11. WORLD KIDNEY DAY 2022



- World Kidney day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year. This year, it is being observed on March 10.
- World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is “Kidney Health for All”

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. IIT ROORKEE AND BIS TIE UP TO COOPERATE IN STANDARDISATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and IIT Roorkee signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a ‘BIS Standardization Chair Professor’ at IIT Roorkee.
- This would be the first time BIS created a Standardization Chair in an Institute for activities related to standardisation and conformity assessment.
- It will aid in the establishment of standards on crucial areas such as IIT’s BlockChain applications for e-governance.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is proud to announce its collaboration with the illustrious IIT Kanpur in the development of standards.
- It will aid in the establishment of standards on crucial areas such as IIT’s BlockChain applications for e-governance.

- Bureau of Indian Standards Director-General: Pramod Kumar Tiwari.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Headquarters: Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi.



## 2. DEBASISH PANDA APPOINTED AS IRDAI CHAIRPERSON



- Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He is a former financial services secretary.
- The post of Chairman of IRDAI was lying vacant since May 2021 when Subhash Chandra Khuntia completed his term.
- Panda, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, retired as financial services secretary in January this year after a two-year stint.



- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Panda's appointment as chairperson of the insurance regulator initially for a period of three years from the assumption of charge.
- The appointment of IRDAI chairman comes nearly 9 months after the vacancy was created following Subhash Chandra Khuntia completing his term in May last year.

### 3. RBI DIRECTS PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK TO STOP ONBOARDING OF NEW CUSTOMERS



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop the onboarding of new customers with immediate effect.
- The bank has also been directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system.
- The RBI took the decision in exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- RBI has advised Paytm Payments Bank to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system.
- Once the audit is over, RBI will review the reports of IT auditors and based on the reports grant or review its permission for onboarding of new customers.

### 4. FIRST DRONE SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN MADHYA PRADESH'S GWALIOR

- With the aim to create an ecosystem for drone operations in the country, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia along with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister said that drone technology opens huge technology opportunities for youngsters.
- He further stated that this drone school is the first drone school in the state and will prove to open employment opportunities in this industry as drones can be used for various purposes.
- The first drone fair in the country was organized last year in the month of December in Gwalior city of Madhya Pradesh that witnessed the biggest congregation of drone manufacturers, service providers, drone enthusiasts and user communities, especially students, farmers and common man of the city. During the event, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that five Drone Schools will be

opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh including Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna.

- The inauguration of the first drone school in Gwalior is a step towards making advancements in the use of drone technology in Madhya Pradesh.



#### **5. SIX INDIAN AIRPORTS NAMED THE ACI WORLD'S ASQ AWARDS 2021**



- From India, six airports have found a place among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region', by the Airports Council International (ACI), in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021.
- The airports have been adjudged among the Asia Pacific region in different categories based on annual passenger traffic.
- The ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards takes into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities to recognize airport excellence in customer experience.



## 6. SC APPOINTS EX-JUDGE SIKRI AS CHAR DHAM PROJECT PANEL HEAD



- The Supreme Court of India has named Justice (retd) AK Sikri as Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project.
- The previous Chairperson Professor Ravi Chopra had resigned from his post in February 2022, after being appointed as the chairperson of the HPC on August 8, 2019.
- A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant accepted the resignation of Professor Ravi Chopra as chairperson of the committee after he wrote a letter in January wishing to relinquish his post.
- The HPC would look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Chardham project as well as the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley.
- On December 14, last year, the top court had allowed double lane widening of the strategic Chardham highway project in Uttarakhand, observing that the country's security concerns may change over time and the recent past has thrown serious national security challenges.

## 7. INDIA'S FIRST 100% WOMEN-OWNED INDUSTRIAL PARK BEGINS OPERATIONS IN HYDERABAD

- India's first fully owned by women industrial park opened its doors in Hyderabad.
- The park, that is promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organization – FLO in collaboration with the State government, consists of 25 units which represent 16 different sectors of green category, and all of them are owned and controlled completely by women.
- This FLO industrial park exemplifies the power and self-reliance of women in the business, from electronics to packaging, medical devices, wellness, engineering, and food processing.
- The FLO members has contributed a substantial amount of money for the construction of the park, while the government has provided the roads, electricity, water, sewerage, and sub-station.

## 8. TIGER WOODS INDUCTED INTO WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME

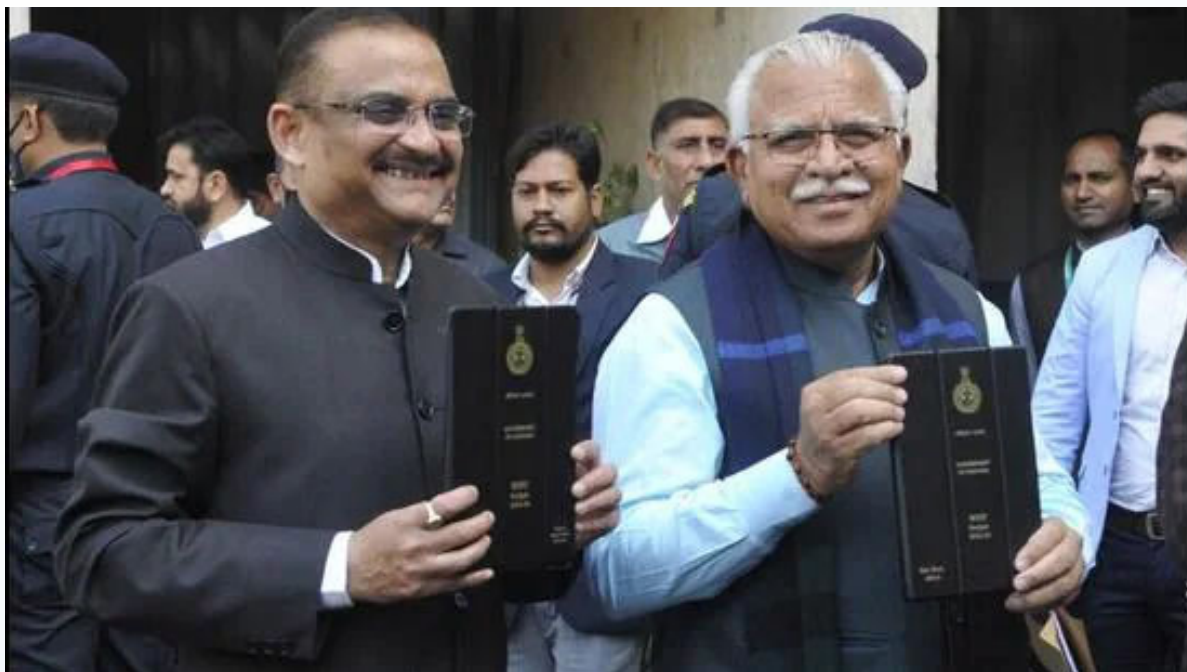


- Famous Golfer, Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.
- The 46-year-old Woods entered the storied hall as part of the Class of 2022 along with retired PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, U.S. Women's Open champion Susie Maxwell Berning and Marion Hollins, a U.S. Women's Amateur champion and golf course architect who was recognised posthumously.
- During his career, Woods has broken many golfing records, establishing himself as arguably the greatest golfer of all time.
- He has won 15 majors, surpassed only by Jack Nicklaus' 18, as well as a joint-record 82 wins on the PGA Tour.

## 9. HARYANA CM ANNOUNCES SUSHMA SWARAJ AWARD FOR WOMEN

- Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, while presenting the state budget, has announced a 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres.
- The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry an award money of Rs 5 lakh along with a commendation.
- Sushma Swaraj was a lawyer of the Supreme Court as well as an Indian politician.
- She was a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, served as India's Minister of External Affairs during the first Narendra Modi government (2014–2019).
- After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to occupy this position.





**By Sameer Singhal**





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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH 2022

### National News

#### GOVT APPOINTS EX-FINANCE SECRETARY AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY AS NFRA CHIEF



- Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been appointed as the chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of 3 years.
- Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last year.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former revenue secretary ABP Pandey as the chairperson of NFRA for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

## **2. FIRST EVER GI-TAGGED KASHMIR CARPETS FLAGGED OFF TO GERMANY**



- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet, to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets.
- The main objective of this QR Code attached to the GI tag is to help in reviving the sheen and glory of the Kashmiri carpet industry.
- The QR code will contain relevant information of the artisans, manufacturer, weaver, district, raw material used etc.
- Since the QR code label cannot be copied or misused, it will discourage the counterfeit production of carpets.
- Meanwhile, the first-ever consignment of GI-tagged hand-knotted carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi on March 11, 2022.
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## **3. INDIAN RAILWAYS' EARNINGS TO ENHANCE! FIRST GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINAL COMMISSIONED IN ASANSOL DIVISION**

- The Asansol Division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand, in accordance with the Prime Minister's vision Gati Shakti and the Ministry of Railways' policy regarding the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal or also known as GCT, informed the Ministry of Railways.
- Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, V K Tripathi, said at the GCT's commissioning that the Maithan Power Project was commenced in the year 2009, and power generation began in the year 2011.
- The coal needed for the power plant was delivered via road, which is estimated to yield 120 inbound coal rakes every month.
- Somewhere between two to four outward rakes of Fly Ash are expected to be handled from the siding area.
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#### 4. PM MODI DEDICATES BUILDING OF RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY TO NATION



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation a new campus building complex of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad village near Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- PM also addressed the first convocation of RRU Gandhinagar as a Chief Guest.
- The University, which is an Institution of National Importance, commenced its operations from 1st October 2020.
- RRU offers academic programs from diploma to doctorate level in various areas of policing and internal security such as police science and management, criminal law and justice, cyberpsychology, information technology, artificial intelligence and cyber security, crime investigation, strategic languages, internal defence and strategies, physical education and sports, coastal and maritime security.
- Currently, 822 students from 18 States are enrolled in these programs.
- Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) was set up to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice and correctional administration.

## 5. TAMILNADU PETROPRODUCTS BECOMES THE WORLD'S FIRST LAB MANUFACTURER ACCREDITED WITH THE BIS CERTIFICATION



- TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.) is the world's first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company to be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- TPL's 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country.
- TPL's position as the market leader and the only authorised seller of the chemical in India will be bolstered by the certification.
- LAB can be used to make biodegradable detergent, making it a more sustainable option than conventional detergent formulations.

## 6. EX STUDENT PROTEST LEADER BECOMES CHILE'S YOUNGEST PRESIDENT

- Left-leaning former student leader Gabriel Boric vowed to improve the lives of all Chileans and attack deep inequality that has sparked massive protests, hours after being inaugurated Friday as the youngest president in the country's history.
- At 36, Boric was only 4 years old when democracy returned to the South American nation following a 17-year military dictatorship that both bloodied and set the groundwork for modern Chile.
- As a student representative, Boric became one of the leading figures of the 2011–2013 Chilean student protests.
- Boric was twice elected to the Chamber of Deputies representing the Magallanes and Antarctic district, first as an independent candidate in 2013 and then in 2017 as part of the Broad Front, a left-wing coalition he created with several other parties.
- Chile Capital: Santiago
- Chile Currency: Chilean peso.





## Important Days

### 7. WORLD ROTARACT DAY: 13TH OF MARCH



- World Rotaract Day is celebrated on the 13th of March every year to acknowledge the services provided by the rotaractors across the world.
- The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is “Rotary Making a Difference”. World Rotaract Week will be held from 11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022.
- Rotary Club is the community service organization for young men and women.
- They take part in international service projects, in a global effort to bring peace and international understanding to the world.
- Rotaract means rotary in action.
- Rotary is an organization of business and professional people who unite worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

## 8. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MATHEMATICS: 14 MARCH



- International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed globally on the 14th of March every year.
- It is also known as the Pi Day because the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development.
- This is a relatively new event that was created just a couple of years back.
- The theme for 2022 IDM is “Mathematics Unites!”.

By Sameer Singhal

### National News

#### 1. RANJIT RATH APPOINTED MD OF OIL INDIA LTD



- Ranjit Rath has been named as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL).
- He will replace current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra, who will superannuate on June 30, 2022.
- Presently Rath is the chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL).
- Oil India Limited is the Indian-government owned second-largest crude oil and natural gas producing company, under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



## 2. GOVT LAUNCHES 'INDIA WATER PITCH-PILOT-SCALE START-UP CHALLENGE,' TO EMPOWER NEW BUSINESSES



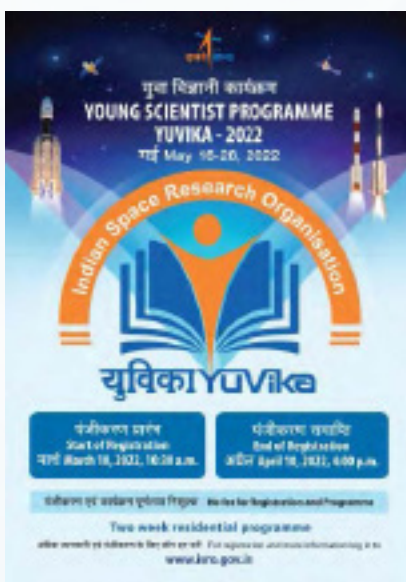
- Under the Ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'India WaterPitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge.'
- This comes after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's ceremonial launch of AMRUT 2.0 on October 1, 2021, stakeholder discussions in Lucknow (during MoHUA's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities), and Cabinet approval of the Mission on October 12, 2021.
- Technology Sub-mission to engage startups as 'Technology Partners' has been approved by Cabinet under AMRUT 2.0, in keeping with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- The Mission's goal is to help startups in the water/used-water sector thrive via innovation and design, resulting in long-term economic growth and job creation.
- The Ministry will select 100 start-ups to get Rs.20 lakhs in cash and mentorship as part of this project.

## 3. COUNTRY'S FIRST MEDICAL CITY TO COME UP IN PUNE RURAL

- PUNE Deputy chief minister and finance minister Ajit Pawar during his budget speech on Friday declared that the country's first medical city will be set up in the Pune district's rural area.
- Named 'Indrayani Medicity', it will not only provide medical education and research facilities, but also all kinds of specialty treatment under one roof.
- Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.
- The Medicity will have about 24 separate hospital buildings, each housing one department. The Medicity will not only benefit Pune but will also be useful for people from neighbouring districts who come to the city for better treatment.
- There will be medical education and research institutes, and treatment will be provided at affordable rates to citizens.



#### 4. ISRO LAUNCHES 'YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAMME' FOR CLASS 11 STUDENTS; REGISTRATIONS BEGIN



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organizing a special programme for school children called “YUva Vigyani Karyakram” (YUVIKA) or “Young Scientist Programme”.
- Aimed at creating awareness about emerging trends in science and technology, this programme is expected to encourage more students to pursue research and a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- The ISRO Young Scientist Programme is a residential programme and will span over two weeks during the summer vacations from May 16, 2022, to May 28, 2022.
- This program includes invited talks, experience sharing by eminent scientists, experimental demonstrations, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- A total of 150 class 9 students across the country will be selected for the programme.



## 5. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES 11TH KHEL MAHAKUMBH IN AHMEDABAD



- The 11th edition of the Khel Mahakumbh was started on Saturday at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- PM Modi claimed that he appointed Khel Mahakumbh as Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2010.
- Khel Mahakumbh, which began in Gujarat in 2010 with 16 sports and 13 lakh participants, now includes 36 general sports and 26 para-sports.
- The 11th Khel Mahakumbh has received over 45 lakh registrations.
- Due to COVID-19, we were not able to organize Khel Mahakumbh.
- Started in 2010 with 16 sports & 13 lakh participants, Khel Mahakumbh increased to 36 general sports & 26 para-sports in 2019.”

## Sports News

### 6. SHREYAS IYER AND AMELIA KERR NAMED ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2022



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India's star all-format batter Shreyas Iyer and White Ferns all-rounder Amelia Kerr were voted ICC Players of the Month for February 2022.
- Fans can continue to vote every month for their favourite male and female cricketers across all formats of international cricket as part of the ICC Player of the Month initiative.
- In terms of Microsoft's own expansion plans the company stated that they are expanding their Hyderabad campus and the total campus is now spread over a 2.5 mn Sq.ft area with 18,000 full-time employees.

### 7. FIFA WORLD CUP 2022: QATAR FIFA WORLD CUP



- FIFA's aim is to regulate and grow football worldwide.



- The organization has been swiftly evolving since 2016, into a body that can better serve our game for the benefit of everyone on the planet.
- The new FIFA is modernizing football in every manner possible to make it more global, accessible, and inclusive.
- Not just on a few continents, but around the globe.
- As part of our goal to make football truly global, we will help expand football worldwide so that at least 50 national teams and 50 clubs from all continents can compete at a high level.

## **8. LIVQUIK BECOMES THE FIRST FINTECH TO ACHIEVE RBI'S PPI INTEROPERABILITY GUIDELINES**



- LivQuik, a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuer, announced that it has achieved full interoperability for its Prepaid Payment Instruments, as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- According to the firm, it is also the first PPI issuer to achieve full interoperability.
- PPI issuers must enable full-KYC wallet interoperability by March 31, 2022, according to RBI rules.

## **9. N CHANDRASEKARAN NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF AIR INDIA**



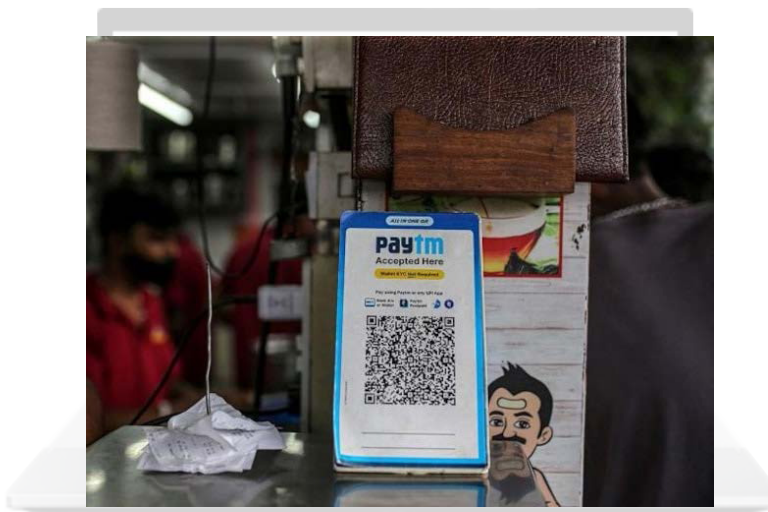
- The chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chairman of Air India. In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years.
- Tata Sons will soon announce a new MD and CEO for Air India to replace Ilker Ayci who was to take charge next month but resigned in the wake of controversies regarding his appointment.

- Chandrasekaran also serves as the non-executive chairman of several other Tata Group companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Tata Consumer Products.
- He was reappointed Tata Sons' executive chairman last month for another five years.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## **National News**

### **1. FULLY COMPLIANT WITH RBI DATA LOCALISATION DIRECTIONS: PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK**



- The RBI has stopped Paytm Payments Bank from accepting new customers because it broke the laws by allowing data to transit to servers in other countries and failing to properly authenticate its consumers.
- According to a report, annual inspections by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) discovered that the company's servers were sharing information with China-based organisations that indirectly held an interest in Paytm Payments Bank.

### **2. PUNJAB CM SWEARING-IN**

- Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Punjab at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh in the presence of Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Aam Aadmi Party romped home winning 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine.
- Chanting 'Jo Bole So Nihal' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', Bhagwant Mann thanked the people who attended the swearing-in ceremony.
- Mann ended his speech with 'Inquilab Zindabad' (long live the revolution).
- Besides newly-elected AAP MLAs, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other senior party leaders were also present at the ceremony.
- Among other leaders present at the ceremony are Deputy CM of Delhi Manish Sisodia and Delhi



environment minister Gopal Rai.

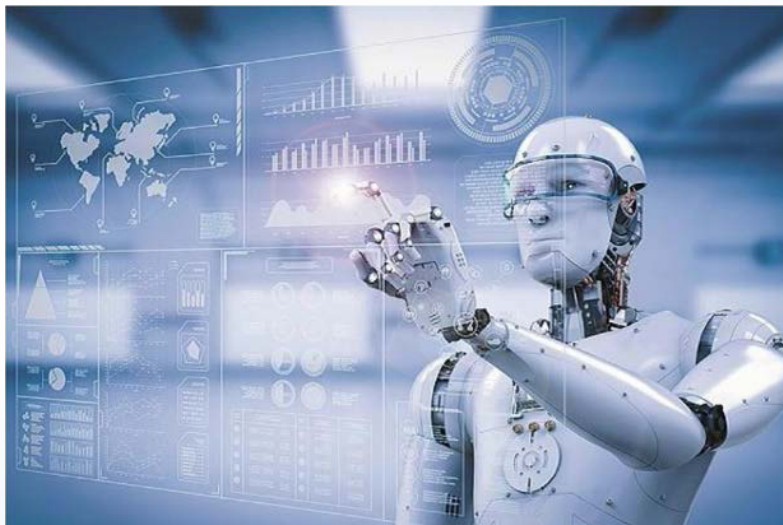


### 3. MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED BECOMES LARGEST COAL PRODUCING COMPANY IN INDIA



- The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has announced that it has become the country's largest coal producer.
- In the financial year 2021-22, the company reported it produced 157 million tonnes of coal.
- The business also generated 7.62 lakh tonnes of dry fuel on March 12.
- In a statement, the corporation stated that it was the largest production in a single day during the current fiscal year.
- OP Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the firm, complimented all officials, workers, contracted company employees, and other stakeholders for their contributions in making MCL the country's biggest coal producer.
- In his congratulatory message to the employees, the CMD stated, "MCL has to play a bigger role in maintaining energy security for the nation."

#### 4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY PARK COMES UP IN BENGALURU



- The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs.
- 230 crore from the State and Central governments.
- ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) along with AI Foundry is going to launch a \$100 million venture fund to support AI and robotics innovations in India.
- The fund will be backed by the government, private companies, and VCs.
- The lab has technical teams working in collaboration with multiple labs at IISc.
- It will also work with other technical institutes and bodies, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT Jodhpur, the University of Aalto in Finland, Indian Council of Medical Research and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

#### 5. INDIA'S FIRST 'WORLD PEACE CENTER' WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN GURUGRAM



- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.



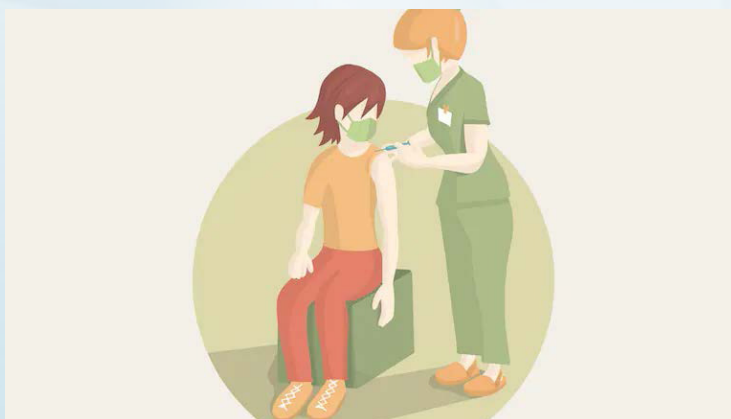
- For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway.
- 'World Peace Center' will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.
- The Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti had got the plot by depositing the entire amount in the Government treasury, on which the construction work of about 25000 square feet will be completed in two years.
- He expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattarji.

## **6. INDIA'S MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE DIPS BY 10 POINTS; KERALA, MAHARASHTRA MARK SHARPEST DECLINE**

- Kerala has yet again emerged on top when it comes to maternal and child health, with the State recording the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.
- According to the latest data, India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19.
- The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Kerala has dropped from 42 to 30. Kerala has achieved the UN Sustainable Development Goals of MMR in the year 2020 itself.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100000 live births.



## **7. NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY 2022:16TH MARCH**



- In India, the National Vaccination Day (also known as National Immunisation Day (IMD)) is observed on 16 March every year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- The day was first observed in the year 1995.

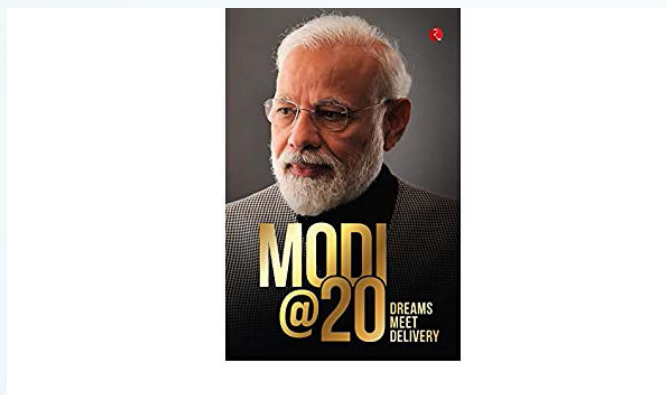
- In 2022, the National Immunization Day is important since the Government of India has started the COVID-19 vaccination for children between 15 to 18 years of age and booster dose for senior citizens.
- The theme for National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day 2022 is “Vaccines Work for all”.
- It was in 1995 that India started the Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a process through which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against foreign harm causing agents.

## **8. SRI LANKA RECEIVES A US\$1 BILLION LINE OF CREDIT FROM INDIA TO ASSIST PAY FOR CRUCIAL IMPORTS**



- The Indian government has issued a USD 1 billion line of credit (LoC) for Sri Lanka to aid in the import of food, necessary products, and medication.
- On March 15, 2022, Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa will visit India to finalize the agreement.
- Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a serious economic crisis.
- India is extending the Line of Credit as part of its efforts to aid its neighboring country in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating its negative impact on its development aspirations.

## **9. A BOOK TITLED ‘MODI@20: DREAMS MEET DELIVERY’**



- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced to release a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery.



- It is set to hit stands in April 2022. The book is a compilation of pieces written by intellectuals & experts and has been edited & compiled by BlueKraft Digital Foundation.
- The book captures the political life of PM Modi's past 20 years, ranging from his tenure as Gujarat CM to Prime Minister of India and has been compiled by eminent intellectuals and personalities from industry and politics.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## **National News**

### **1. ISRO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS GROUND TEST OF SOLID BOOSTER STAGE FOR SSLV**



- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully completed the ground test of the solid fuel-based booster stage (SS1) of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota at Andhra Pradesh.
- It completes the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle.
- The vehicle is now ready for its first development flight, which is scheduled for May 2022.
- Other stages of SSLV like SS2 & SS3 have successfully undergone necessary ground tests and are ready for integration.
- At present, the launch of small satellites has been dependent on 'piggy-bank' rides with big satellite launches on the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) of ISRO, which has completed around 50 successful launches

### **2. MOTOR VESSEL RAM PRASAD BISMIL BECOMES LONGEST VESSEL EVER TO SAIL ON BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER**

- The MV Ram Prasad Bismil has become the longest vessel ever to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra.
- The 90 meters long and 26 meters wide flotilla, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters, achieved the feat on March 15, 2022, when it successfully completed the pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia, to Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The cargo vessel was flagged off from the Haldia Dock in Kolkata along with two barges (DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam) by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (PSW), Sarbananda Sonowal on February 16, 2022, and docked at Pandu port in Guwahati on March 15, 2022.

- Carrying 1793 metric tonnes of steel rods, the vessel covered the distance from Haldia to Pandu through Bangladesh on the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR).



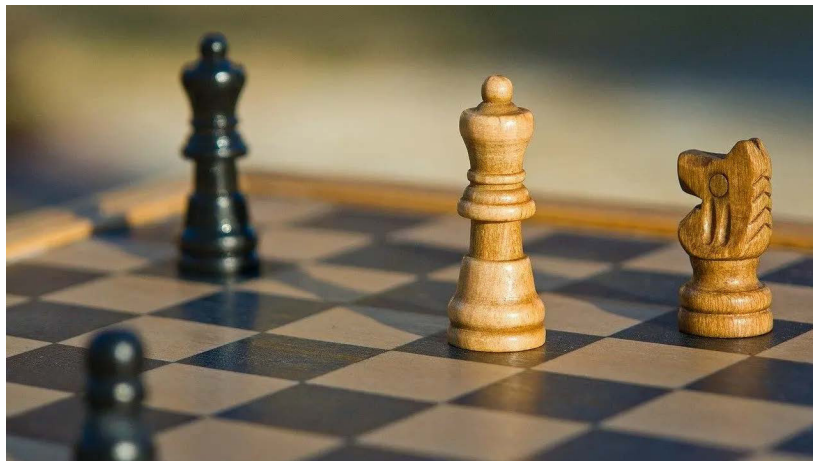
### 3. SHUBMAN GILL AND RUTURAJ GAIKWAD AS BRAND AMBASSADORS OF MY11 CIRCLE



- Online skill gaming company Games24x7 has brought Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad on board as the new face for My11 Circle.
- Both the cricketers will feature in the fantasy platform's multimedia campaigns across TV, digital and social media platforms.
- Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad performance on field resonates with My 11 Circle's performance off-field where the brand has carved a spot for itself in fantasy sports within a short span of time, Bhavin Pandya, co-founder and CEO, Games24x7, said.



#### 4. INDIA TO HOST 44TH WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022 AT CHENNAI



- India has been picked as the host nation for the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022.
- The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai, from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.
- This is the first time that India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- The event was originally scheduled to be held in Russia, but FIDE pulled out from there following the Ukraine invasion.
- The venue will be the Four Points by Sheraton Mahabalipuram Resort & Convention Center, 60 kilometres south of central Chennai.
- It is located in Mamallapuram, one of the famous tourist sites in India and a UNESCO World Heritage Site of seventh- and eighth-century Hindu monuments.

#### Important Days

#### 5. UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES MARCH 15 INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

- The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia every year, starting from 2022.
- The resolution, adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly, was introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on March 15, 2022.
- It marks the day when a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 worshippers and wounding 40 others in the terror attack.
- The main objective of International Day to Combat Islamophobia will be curtailing systematic hate speech and discrimination against Muslims; respect for religious symbols and practices; along with the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief



## **6. DELHI GOVT LAUNCHES 'MY EV' PORTAL FOR PURCHASING, REGISTERING E-AUTOS; BUYERS TO GET ADDITIONAL RELIEF**



- The Delhi government launched an online portal “My EV” for the purchase and registration of electric autos in the city.
- The government will also provide a 5 percent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, an official statement said, adding Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility.
- CESL has empanelled six Financial Institutions (FIs) – Mahindra Finance, Akasa Finance, Mannapuram Finance, RevFin, and Prest Loans to provide loans to EVs at attractive terms.
- The Interest subvention on the purchase of EVs is in addition to the applicable purchase incentive of INR 30,000 and scrapping incentives of up to INR 7,500 under the Delhi EV Policy.
- The consumer will be able to avail of up to INR 25,000 additional benefits.



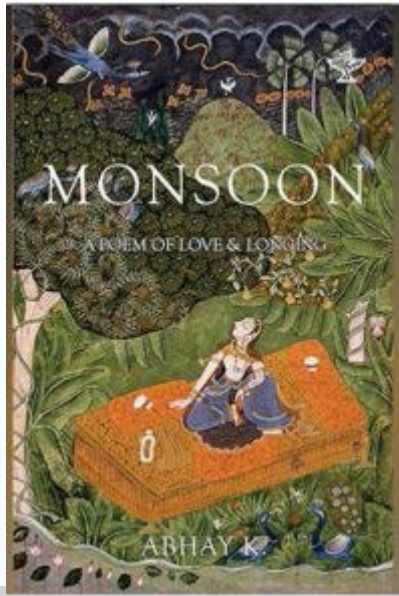
## **7. INDIA GETS FIRST DIGITAL WATER DATA BANK TO AGGREGATE WATER RESOURCES UNDER A PLATFORM**



- With the escalating water crisis in the world along with changing global temperature, an innovative initiative has taken place in India that is aimed at managing the current state of affairs.
- India's first-ever digital water databank 'AQUARIUM' was inaugurated in Bengaluru by the IT Minister for Karnataka Dr CN Ashwath Narayan.
- The initiative has been undertaken by AquaKraft Ventures, a company that expertise in sustainable initiatives to provide drinking water and sanitation to all.
- Digital Water Data Bank can be understood as a curated list of 'Water Data' from all institutions and sources that will further aid in tackling some common development challenges.
- The digital water data bank also provides insights and evidence from research and analytics thereby providing fundamental reliable information for tackling water pollution.

## **8. SAHITYA AKADEMI PUBLISHES BOOK-LENGTH POEM 'MONSOON' BY INDIAN POET-DIPLOMAT ABHAY K**

- Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters has published a book-length poem 'Monsoon' by Indian
- poet-diplomat Abhay K.
- Monsoon is a poem of 150 stanzas of 4 lines each that commence its journey in Madagascar and follows the path of the monsoon invoking the rich flora and fauna, languages, cuisine, music, monuments, landscapes, traditions, myths and legends of the places through which monsoon travels and acts as a messenger to carry the poet's message from Madagascar to his beloved in Srinagar in the Himalayas.
- Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954. Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was its first President.



**By Sameer Singhal**



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH 2022

### National News

#### **TCS RE-APPOINTS RAJESH GOPINATHAN AS MD AND CEO FOR FIVE YEARS**



- The board of IT major, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced the re-appointment of Rajesh Gopinathan as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company for five years.
- His second term will begin from February 21, 2022, to February 20, 2027. Rajesh Gopinathan was first appointed as the CEO and MD of TCS in 2017.
- Under his leadership, the company has strengthened its position with the revenues increasing from \$17.6 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2017, to \$22.2 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2021.
- Tata Consultancy Services Founded: 1 April 1968.
- Tata Consultancy Services Headquarters: Mumbai.

## 2. RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATES NEW FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM INTEGRATION FACILITY TO DEVELOP AVIONICS FOR AMCA



- Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, inaugurated a seven-story Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a DRDO laboratory in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Pilots of combat aircraft will also receive simulator training at the complex. It is one of the most essential components of the complex, according to Shri Rajnath Singh.
- The state-of-the-art complex was built in a record-breaking 45 days using in-house hybrid technology that included traditional, pre-engineered, and precast methods.
- The technique was developed by DRDO in collaboration with M/s Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee teams examined the design and provided technical help.
- This FCS facility would help ADE, Bengaluru, with its research and development operations for developing avionics for fighter aircraft and FCS for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.
- According to the Raksha Mantri, it is a one-of-a-kind initiative not just in India but also in the world, and it embodies the New India's new vigour.

## 3. 36TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI IN 2020

- On a virtual platform, the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) will be placed here on March 20-22, 2022, with the topic Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future.
- The 36th International Geophysical Congress is a collaboration between the Ministries of Mines and Earth Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- The event would provide a one-of-a-kind forum for Geoscience knowledge and experience sharing, as well as professional networking.
- It would provide firsthand knowledge of cutting-edge mining, mineral exploration, and water, mineral resource, and environmental management technologies.
- India, along with its regional allies, submitted a candidacy to host the 36th International Geological Congress in India in 2020 at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane in 2012. The bid was won by India.
- On the occasion of the 36th IGC, three commemorative Postage Stamps will be issued, as well as a First Day Cover.

- India held the 22nd session of the IGC, which was the first IGC on Asian land, 58 years ago.



#### 4. 'GREEN TRIANGLE' NAMED AFTER MAHATMA GANDHI INAUGURATED IN MADAGASCAR'S CAPITAL



- Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' has been unveiled in Madagascar to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Ambassador of India to Madagascar, Abhay Kumar celebrated the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by inaugurating a Green Triangle, along with Mayor of Antananarivo Naina Andriantsitohaina.
- The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.
- The naming of this park as Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle is an apt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.
- While addressing the ceremony, the Ambassador of India said that the Government of India has launched an initiative: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India.
- The event was attended by members of local government, diplomatic corps, heads of international organisations, and members of the Indian Diaspora in Madagascar.



## 5. NCRTC UNVEILS COACHES OF INDIA'S FIRST RAPID RAIL FOR DELHI-MEERUT CORRIDOR



- The coaches for the Delhi-Meerut Rapid Rail Corridor were launched by the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- In the following months, deliveries of these semi-high-speed aerodynamic trainsets with dispersed power will begin.
- A total of 210 cars will be delivered from the Savli manufacturing factory for the first Regional Rapid Transit System corridor.
- It consists of trainsets providing regional transit services on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut line as well as local transit services in Meerut. In the present year, the NCRTC will start the trial runs on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor's Priority Section.
- The RRTS is a first-of-its-kind system in which trains running at 180 kmph will run every 5–10 minutes and cover the distance between Delhi and Meerut in 55 minutes with 14 stops.
- The entire 82-kilometre Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS route, which will have 25 stations in total, is now under construction, with two depots at Duhai and Modipuram and one stabling yard at Jungpura.

## 6. SBI TO SET UP INNOVATION, INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION CENTER

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation, and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad, Telangana which will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.
- This Centre will be the bank's in-house capability to enhance its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.
- It will help the bank to develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills for the introduction of new products and services.
- It will act as a central body to govern and drive fin-tech partnerships and implement change across the bank.



## 7. FLIPKART HEALTH+ NAMES FORMER APOLLO HEALTH EXEC PRASHANT JHAVERI AS CEO



- Flipkart Health+ announced the appointment of Prashant Jhaveri as its new CEO.
- He will be in charge of Flipkart's entry into India's fast-growing healthcare sector.
- Jhaveri was the CEO of Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited and MediBuddy before joining Flipkart Health+.
- Earlier in his career, he worked with Medi Assist Group as the chief business officer.
- With the right technology solutions and customer value propositions, there is a huge opportunity to provide healthcare to the most remote corners of India.
- In November 2021, Flipkart Health+ was created to create an end-to-end digital healthcare platform to address the concerns of inexpensive and high-quality healthcare.
- We are thrilled to welcome Prashant Jhaveri to the Flipkart Health+ team as it embarks on its adventure.

## 8. MISS WORLD 2021 IS KAROLINA BIELAWSKA FROM POLAND



- Karolina Bielawska from Poland who has been crowned Miss World 2021 at the 70th edition of the pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- She beat USA, Indonesia, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Cote d'Ivoire to clinch the coveted title.
- Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica crowned her successor at the finale.
- The 70th edition of the Miss World international beauty pageant was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh performed 'The Prayer' during the 70th Miss World pageant to express solidarity with Ukraine amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

## Important Days

## 9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS 2022

- International Day of happiness is observed every year around the world on March 20.
- The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013, but the resolution for the same was passed on July 12, 2012.
- The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness.
- The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind.
- Keeping cool and calm in every possible situation is the key to happiness and satisfaction.
- Staying wise in tough situations lead to wiser steps and success.



## **10. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS: SIGNIFICANCE OF MARCH 21 AND THEME FOR 2022**



- The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21.
- The main aim of the day is to raise awareness of the significance of all types of forests.
- The day is to celebrate to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.
- The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption.”

**By Sameer Singhal**

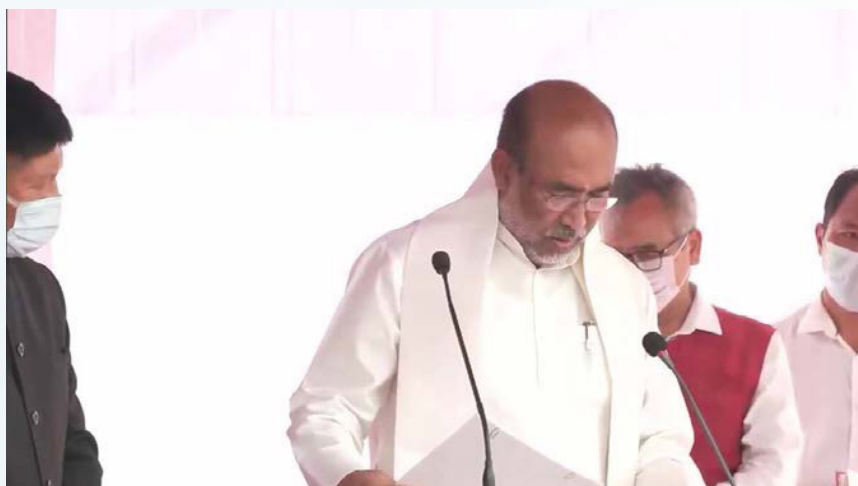
## National News

### 1. INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN SEYCHELLES FOR 9TH EDITION OF EXERCISE LAMITYE



- The 9th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) was held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles.
- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- Exercise LAMITIYE is a biennial training event, been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- The objective of this joint training exercise is to build and promote bilateral military relations, sharing experiences gained during various operations; exchanging skills and good practices between both armies.

### 2. MANIPUR: N BIREN SINGH SWORN IN AS CHIEF MINISTER



- N Biren Singh was sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term on Monday.
- The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal.
- In the recently held Assembly polls, the BJP won an absolute majority by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House.

- Moreover, the Janata Dal (United), the NPF, the newly formed Kuki People's Alliance (KPA) and two Independent MLAs have extended their unconditional support to the saffron party.
- The JD(U) won six seats, NPF won five and the KPA won two seats.

### 3. INDIAN ECONOMIST JAYATI GHOSH APPOINTED IN UN ADVISORY BOARD ON MULTILATERALISM



- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.
- The 12-member high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism will be co-chaired by former Liberian president and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish prime minister Stefan Lofven.
- The new advisory board will be asked to build on the ideas in Our Common Agenda including the centrality of women and girls, and the need to take into account the interests of young people and future generations to make concrete suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues.

### 4. NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR (TRACK AND FIELD) AWARD AT SPORTSTAR ACES 2022



- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award



at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards.

- Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award.
- The Aces Awards celebrate the spirit of excellence in sport and hope to inspire our athletes and sportspersons to continue to strive to break new records and reach new pinnacles of glory.
- Lovlina Borgohain (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports),
- Avani Lekhara (Parathlete of the Year, Female),
- Pramod Bhagat (Special Recognition award),
- Savita (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and Rupinder Pal Singh (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports).

#### **5. UPI LITE ANNOUNCED FOR OFFLINE TRANSACTIONS: HERE'S HOW IT WILL WORK, AMOUNT LIMIT, ETC**



- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) designed the "UPI Lite – On-Device wallet" ("UPI Lite") functionality for UPI users for small value transactions.
- About 75% of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below Rs 100 transaction value.
- Further, 50% of the total UPI transactions are having a transaction value of up to Rs 200/-. To easily process such small value transactions, NPCI has launched this facility of "UPI Lite".
- UPI Lite will process transactions in near offline mode i.e. debit offline and credit online, and at a later point, UPI Lite will process transactions in complete offline mode i.e. debit and credit both offline.
- The upper limit of a UPI Lite payment transaction shall be Rs. 200.
- The total limit of UPI Lite balance for an "On-device wallet" shall be Rs. 2,000 at any point of time.

## 6. CRPF CELEBRATES 83RD RAISING DAY



- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has celebrated its 83rd Raising Day with zeal and ceremonial fervor on 19 March 2022.
- The 83rd Raising Day parade was organized at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.
- This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah took the salute at the parade and also presented the Gallantry medals and trophies for exceptional achievements in different categories to CRPF personnel.
- The CRPF came into existence on July 27, 1939, as Crown Representative's Police. It was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on December 28, 1949, upon the enactment of the CRPF Act .
- On March 19, 1950, the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented Presidential colours to the CRPF for its commendable services, following which CRPF started celebrating the day as their Raising Day.

## 7. FORMULA ONE: FERRARI'S CHARLES LECLERC WINS SEASON-OPENING BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX



- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 at the Bahrain International Circuit, a motor racing circuit in the west of Bahrain.

- Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain) came second while Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came third.
- This was the first Formula One race of 2022.

## 8. PANKAJ ADVANI BAGS ASIAN BILLIARDS TITLE FOR 8TH TIME



- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has defeated Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022. It was held in Doha, Qatar.
- Overall this is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown. Earlier, Advani had held off the stiff challenge of Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final.
- He managed a 5-4 win after his opponent fought back strongly to level the match at four frames each.

## 9. JAY SHAH'S TERM AS ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL PRESIDENT EXTENDED BY ONE YEAR



- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has unanimously extended the tenure of its incumbent President Jay Shah for a period of one year. The decision was taken during the annual general meeting of ACC on March 19, 2022.
- Jay Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2019.
- Shah was first appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021, replacing Nazmul Hassan, the President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).
- Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) president Shammi Silva and the nomination was backed unanimously by all the members of the ACC.



## National News

### 1. UTTARAKHAND: PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI TO TAKE OATH AS CM



- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pushkar Singh Dhami will take oath as the Uttarakhand chief minister on Wednesday for a second consecutive term, despite losing his seat in the Khatima constituency.
- Uttarakhand governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh is set to administer the oath to Dhami at the parade ground in Dehradun.
- The BJP contested the Assembly elections under Dhami's leadership and secured a comfortable majority in the 70-member House, winning 47 seats.
- Dhami, who lost from the Khatima constituency in the Uttarakhand, led the party's poll effort as Chief Minister during the assembly polls held last month.

### 2. PHONEPE ACQUIRES GIGINDIA, TOP NETWORK FOR FREELANCE MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS

- PhonePe, a digital payments and financial services company, has acquired GigIndia, a network for independent micro-entrepreneurs based in Pune.
- PhonePe will be able to integrate 1.5 million entrepreneurs and over 100 businesses as customers, in addition to its own employees, as a result of the acquisition.
- PhonePe will use GigIndia's network of freelancing microentrepreneurs to assist corporations and businesses in expanding their customer bases and distribution channels.
- PhonePe's key services are payments and financial services, and the Walmart-owned company has a 47 percent share of monthly Unified Payments Interface (UPI) volumes.
- UPI is the platform's primary client acquisition channel, allowing it to cross-sell revenue-generating items such as mutual funds, gold, and insurance to customers while also facilitating bill payments.



### **3. DIÉBÉDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ, THE FIRST AFRICAN TO WIN ARCHITECTURE'S HIGHEST HONOR**



- Born in the village of Gando in West Africa's Burkina Faso and then getting into Technische Universität Berlin, one of Europe's renowned educational institutions, to winning the 2022 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, the profession's highest honor — architect Diébédo Francis Kéré has traveled far and long.
- The 57-year-old is the first architect from Africa to win the prestigious award, in its over four-decade history.
- Established by the Hyatt Foundation in 1979, the Pritzker architecture prize is bestowed on architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of talent, vision, and commitment.
- In 2021, the award went to French architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal.

#### 4. EX-MALIAN PRIME MINISTER DIES IN BAMAKO HOSPITAL



- Mali's former Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga, arrested over corruption allegations last year, has died of an undisclosed illness in hospital.
- One of his lawyers told the Reuters news agency that the 68-year-old died at a clinic in the capital, Bamako, on Monday morning.
- He had been detained since August 2021 after the country was taken over by a military junta.
- He was appointed Keita's prime minister in 2017 but resigned in April 2019 over a massacre that left 160 people dead.

#### 5. HDFC BANK TO GIVE A DIGITAL PUSH TO SMALL BUSINESS LOANS



- HDFC Bank has announced to launch the "SmartHub Vyapar programme" & 'AutoFirst' app the following two initiatives/application to give a digital push to small business loans.
- The financial institution has onboarded over 2.7 million retailers and is buying 100 thousand retailers each month. HDFC Bank has plans to onboard 20 million retailers in three years.
- More than half of the newly onboarded retailers solely function by means of the app platform.
- The financial institution now clocks not less than ₹1,000 crores in service provider loans each month and is wanting to triple the run fee.
- HDFC Bank can even launch a utility 'AutoFirst' that may provide totally automated auto loans.
- The SmartHub Vyapar programme for retailers will probably be launched quickly.
- It is an app that bundles all cost platforms – playing cards, UPI, QR code, faucet pay and SMS-based



funds.

## 6. INDIA PLACED 51ST IN GLOBAL HOUSE PRICE INDEX Q4 2021

- India has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at 51st position in the 'Global House Price Index Q4 2021' released by property consultant Knight Frank. India was placed at 56th position in Q4 of 2020.
- India witnessed 2.1 percent annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-December quarter of the 2021 against Q4 of 2020.
- Turkey saw the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 percent in Q4 2021.
- New Zealand (22.6 per cent), Czech Republic (22.1 per cent), Slovakia (22.1 per cent) and Australia (21.8 per cent) are among top 5 countries respectively in the latest research report.
- Knight Frank's Global House Price Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories using official statistics.

Rank	Country/Territory	Nominal Price Growth
1	Turkey	59.6%
2	New Zealand	22.6%
3	Czech Republic	22.1%
4	Slovakia	22.1%
5	Australia	21.8%
6	Netherlands	20.3%
7	United States	18.8%
8	South Korea	18.4%
9	Jersey	18.4%
10	Estonia	17.3%
51	India	2.1%
52	Indonesia	1.5%
53	Cyprus	1.2%
54	Malaysia	-0.7%
55	Malta	-3.1%
56	Morocco	-6.3%

Source: Knight Frank Research

## Important Days

### 7. WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2022



- World Meteorological Day is celebrated globally on March 23rd every year.
- The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and it concentrates on the behaviour of Earth's atmosphere.

- The day also helps people be aware of their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere.
- World Meteorological Day is a significant day as it focuses on the global acknowledgement of different issues of planet earth.
- World Meteorological Day is celebrated with a different motto every year.
- This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of Early Warning and Early Action.
- The roots of the organization emerged from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO) and was inspected by Vienna International Meteorological Congress 1873.

## **8. FIFTH OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL ICGS 'SAKSHAM' ENTERS IN SERVICE FOR INDIA**



- Defense Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham.
- The fifth in the series of 105-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa.
- The first four of the five ICGS which have already been commissioned in 2020 are ICGS Sachet (1st); ICGS Sujeet (2nd); ICGS Sarthak (3rd); and ICGS Sajag (4th) in 2021.
- The Indigenous Offshore Patrol Vessel Project was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2016 under which five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were planned to be launched.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. NAGALAND BECOMES FIRST PAPERLESS ASSEMBLY BY IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION PROGRAMME



- Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.
- The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session.
- NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner.

### 2. CLASSICAL WIND MUSIC INSTRUMENT NARASINGANPETTAI NADASWARAM GETS GI TAG

- Geographical Indication tag has been awarded to the Narasinganpettai Nadaswaram under the category of musical instruments of class 15.
- Narasinghapettai nadaswaram is a classical wind music instrument that is traditionally made in a village near Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.
- On behalf of Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Limited, the application for receiving the GI tag was filed by Tamil Nadu's Nodal Officer for GI Registration of Products.
- The nadaswaram that is being used by artists nowadays is named pari nadaswaram and that is longer than the thimiri.
- This musical instrument has a body that is cylindrical in shape and takes the shape of a bell at the bottom.





### 3. KUWAITI BECOMES HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH, TEMPERATURE REACHES 53.2 DEGREES CELSIUS



- It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.
- Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth.
- The extremes of climate change present existential perils all over the world. But the record heat waves that roast Kuwait each season have grown so severe that people increasingly find it unbearable.
- By the end of the century, scientists say being outside in Kuwait City could be life-threatening - not only to birds. A recent study also linked 67 percent of heat-related deaths in the capital to climate change.
- Environmental consultant Samia Alduaij said that, the country is severely under threat.
- Racing to burnish their climate credentials and diversify their economies, Saudi Arabia pitches futuristic car-free cities and Dubai plans to ban plastic and multiply the emirate's green parks.

#### 4. ASH BARTY BOMBSHELL AS WORLD NO.1, AUS OPEN CHAMP RETIRES FROM TENNIS AGED 25



- Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years.
- She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in 2022.
- Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.
- Barty is retiring after winning three major singles titles on three different surfaces – the 2019 French Open, the 2021 Wimbledon and, back in January, the Australian Open.

#### 5. MARCH 24TH IS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH

- United Nations has recognised March 24 to be observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year.
- The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.
- This day is observed on 24th March every year to pay tribute to “Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero” as he was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- He was actively engaged in criticizing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in December 2010, to say no to all forms of violence, injustice and oppression against humanity.



## 6. KERALA TO INTRODUCE CARBON-NEUTRAL FARMING METHODS



- Kerala is set to become the first state in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations, for which the government has set aside Rs 6 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.
- In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm.
- In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.
- The Agriculture Department was involved in a process of adopting new farming methods in phases, which would reduce carbon emissions and help the carbon to be stored in the soil.
- The government had already initiated discussions with experts in this regard.

## 7. IIT MADRAS ESTABLISHES AQUAMAP, AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICY CENTRE



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras builds a new interdisciplinary water management and policy centre known as 'AquaMAP' to address India's water issues.
- The centre will build scalable models employing novel technology to provide smart solutions for water concerns.
- As proof of concept, these models will be installed in various areas across the country.



- Parasuram Balasubramanian, CEO, Theme Work Analytics, and Mr. Krishnan Narayanan, President, itihaasa Research and Digital, both IIT Madras alumni, have supported this project by contributing a seed grant of Rs 3 crore for two years and also assisting in the development of the five-year plan.
- AquaMAP's Principal Investigator is Professor Ligy Philip. She will be aided by a group of 20 faculty members working on water-related topics from a variety of departments, including chemistry, civil engineering, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, management, humanities, and social sciences.
- Aqua Map is governed by a board of directors directed by the director of IIT Madras and an advisory board made up of experts in the fields of water technology, management, and policy.

## **8. DEVENDRA JHAJHARIA BECOMES FIRST PARA-ATHLETE TO RECEIVE PADMA BHUSHAN, AVANI LEKHARA ALSO RECEIVES PADMA SHRI AWARD**



- Devendra Jhajharia became the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan award.
- He has won many Paralympic medals, including gold at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens and 2016 Rio Games, and a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Avani Lekhara (para-shooter) was also awarded the Padma Shri award in the Sports category.
- She is the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals in the same Games, as well as the first Indian woman to earn Paralympic gold.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is marked on 25 March every year to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- The Day is observed with ceremonies and activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations offices around the world.
- 2022 Theme: “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”.

### 2. ANDHRA PRADESH: INDIAN PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY’S THREE-DAY CONFERENCE BEGINS



- The 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) has been organized in Visakhapatnam from today to the 26th of March.
- Experts from various parts of India and a few from abroad are participating in the three-day conference held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada.
- The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam.
- The theme is chosen for ANCIPS – 2022 ‘Bridging minds ... Connecting generations’ was very appropriate in view of the growing generation gap and its impact on society.
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### 3. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINED AND MISSING STAFF MEMBERS



- The United Nations observes the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on 25 March every year.
- This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members has taken on even greater importance in recent years, as attacks against the United Nations intensify.
- This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.

### 4. IIT MADRAS, TCS TO LAUNCH M. TECH COURSE IN INDUSTRIAL AI



- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to offer a web-based, user-friendly programme on “Industrial AI,” aimed at upskilling employees and incorporating AI applications to industrial concerns.
- IIT M will provide the 18-month programme, which was developed in collaboration with TCS, in a wholly online live teaching method via virtual classrooms. TCS students will make up the program’s initial cohort.
- This programme, established in conjunction with TCS, will offer strong theoretical courses and labs covering significant issues in data science and AI.”
- Theoretical courses will address essential mathematical approaches needed to comprehend data science algorithms, time series analysis, multivariate data analysis, machine learning, deep learning, and reinforcement learning.”

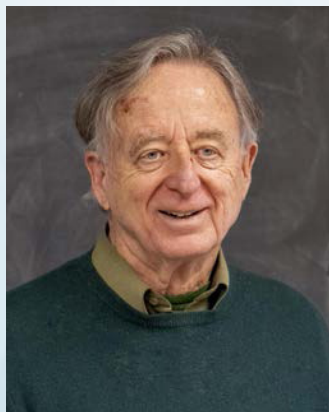


## 5. J&K: LG MANOJ SINHA ADDRESSES GULF COUNTRIES INVESTMENT SUMMIT IN SRINAGAR



- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a 36-member delegation from the Gulf countries is presently in Srinagar to strengthen ties and look at the investment opportunities in the region.
- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Gulf Countries Investment Summit in Srinagar today and highlighted the scope to make the paradise on earth as the most beautiful investment destination in the world.
- Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a dinner for the entrepreneurs and CEOs from Gulf countries yesterday who are on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to explore business opportunities in the union territory.
- As part of the four-day programme, Sinha along with the Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce and other government officials will be showcasing investment opportunities with a focus on entrepreneurship, tourism and the hospitality sector.

## 6. ABEL PRIZE FOR 2022 GOES TO AMERICAN MATHEMATICIAN DENNIS P. SULLIVAN



- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the Abel Prize for the year 2022 to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan.
- The citation mentions that the award has been given, “For his groundbreaking contributions to topology

in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.”

- Topology is a field of mathematics which was born in the nineteenth century and has to do with properties of surfaces that do not change when they are deformed.
- Topologically, a circle and a square are the same; similarly, surfaces of a doughnut and a coffee mug with one handle are topologically equivalent, however, the surface of a sphere and a coffee mug are not equivalent.

## **7. DBS BANK INDIA LAUNCHES GREEN DEPOSITS PROGRAMME ENABLING INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS**



- DBS Bank India has announced the launch of its Green Deposit Programme for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally-friendly projects or avenues.
- DBS Bank is one of the few banks globally to integrate Sustainable Development Goals by offering lending & trade credit solutions to sustainable and environmentally-friendly green sectors and now offering a Green Deposit product.
- Green Deposits will fund green industries and initiatives such as; green building sustainable water initiatives that include wastewater management, renewable energy and clean transportation.
- The Green Deposits proposition combines all the benefits of a regular fixed deposit with a commitment from DBS to support green and sustainable loans disbursed by the bank.

## **8. PM MODI INAUGURATES BIPLOBI BHARAT GALLERY AT KOLKATA'S VICTORIA MEMORIAL**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas.
- The inauguration was done virtually via video conferencing.
- The purpose of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947 and highlight the important role played by the revolutionaries.
- The newly built gallery depicts the contribution of the revolutionaries towards the freedom struggle of India and provides a holistic view of the events that led to 1947, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- The gallery displays the contribution of the revolutionaries in the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to British colonial rule.
- This aspect has often not been given its due place in the mainstream narrative of the freedom movement.

## **9. ICICI BANK PARTNERS WITH CHENNAI SUPER KINGS FOR LAUNCH OF A CREDIT CARD**

- ICICI Bank announced that it has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of India's most successful cricket teams, to introduce a co-branded credit card.
- The card, dubbed the 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card,' has been expressly developed with a range of exclusive perks for the iconic team's millions of cricket fans.
- The new card is part of a limited-edition line of co-branded credit cards offered by the Bank to allow sports fans to interact with their favourite teams while also taking advantage of credit card features.
- The new card is another addition to an exclusive set of co-branded credit cards offered by the Bank to enable sports enthusiasts to connect with their favourite teams as well as avail benefits of a credit card.
- ICICI Bank and Manchester United, a professional football club in England, launched a co-branded credit card four years ago.



**By Sameer Singhal**

## **National News**

### **1. YOGI ADITYANATH TAKE OATH AS UP CHIEF MINISTER FOR 2ND TERM**

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as Uttar Pradesh chief minister for the second term in a grand ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana



stadium in Lucknow.

- The Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government created history with its comeback as no other CM has been able to repeat a government in the state in 37 years. The Congress had returned to power with a majority in the state 37 years ago.
- After this, chief minister Yogi Adityanath has not just made history by completing five successful years of governance but by also returning to power with a thumping majority.



## **2. FINMAPP OBTAINS LICENSE FROM PFRDA AND IRDAI TO SELL NPS, INSURANCE**



- Financial services firm FinMapp announced on Wednesday that it has received a license from the Pension Funds Regulation and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- She has also obtained a certificate of registration from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) recognizing her as a registered agent.
- “The IRDAI & PFRDA certificate is an important turning point in our journey.
- This will help us strengthen our financial services and validate our existence as a true seller of NPS and insurance products.
- Our goal is to create a diverse, robust, full-service platform for all digital financial products.
- This certificate will bring us closer to our vision of becoming the next generation financial advisor and a single marketplace for all financial products,” said Kumar Binit, Founder and CEO of FinMapp.

### 3. RBI APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF PRALAY MONDAL AS CSB BANK'S INTERIM MD AND CEO



- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal as the interim Managing Director and CEO of CSB Bank. Presently he is the Managing Director at CSB Bank.
- The post of MD and CEO at CSB Bank was lying vacant after its full-time MD and CEO, C V R Rajendran announces early retirement on health grounds (w.e.f March 31, 2022).
- RBI has approved the appointment of Pralay for three months from April 1, or till the appointment of a regular Managing Director and CEO of CSB Bank, whichever is earlier.

### 4. STEPHEN E. WILHITE, THE LEAD CREATOR OF THE GIF FILE FORMAT, DEAD AT 74 FROM COVID-19

- Stephen Wilhite, the creator of the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) format passed away at the age of 74 years due to Covid-19 related issues.
- Wilhite devised the Graphics Interchange Format, or GIF, in 1987 while working at Compuserve.
- The Oxford American Dictionary named GIF the word of the year in 2012. He was honoured with a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013.



## 5. MARUTI SUZUKI APPOINTS HISASHI TAKEUCHI AS NEW MD & CEO



- Kenichi Ayukawa appointed as Executive Vice-Chairman till September
- In a leadership change, country's largest passenger vehicles maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) on Thursday said its board has approved the appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of three years with effect from April 1 till March 31, 2025.
- Prior to his joining as Joint Managing Director (Commercial) in MSIL in April last year, he was working as Managing Officer, Executive General Manager- Asia Automobile Marketing/ India Automobile Department at SMC.

## 6. MARIO MARCEL WINS THE GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



- Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022. Banco Central de Chile is the name of the central bank of Chile.
- When Mario Marcel was named governor of the Central Bank of Chile (BCCCh) in October 2016, he took over the leadership of an institution that had secured a reputation as one of the most independent and well-run central banks in Latin America.
- Marcel took steps to further improve the institution.
- He changed its internal management structure, reducing the number of monetary policy meetings from 12 to eight.



## 7. MALAYSIA TO HOST 4 NATIONS FOR BERSAMA SHIELD MILITARY DRILLS



- Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise.
- The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) – a series of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements established in 1971. Bersama means together in Malay.
- The exercise will involve sea and air drills, mostly in international waters but also in part of Malaysia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.
- The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA).
- The FPDA is the oldest defense arrangement in the region and includes counter-piracy operations as well as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

## 8. EXERCISE SURAKSHA KAVACH 2- JOINT SECURITY EXERCISE BY INDIAN ARMY AND MAHARASHTRA POLICE



- Indian Army's "Agnibaaz Division" organized a joint exercise "Suraksha Kavach 2" with Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.
- The exercise aimed to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.

- The exercise involved the participation of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of the Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police along with Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads, and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.
- The exercise aimed to harmonize the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police to counter-terrorism.

## **9. FIRST WILDLIFE BOND ISSUED BY WORLD BANK TO SAVE AFRICA’S BLACK RHINO**



- The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) to support of South Africa’s efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino.
- Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as “Rhino Bond”.
- It is a five-year \$150 million Sustainable Development Bond. It includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- The bond will contribute to protecting and increasing black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa namely the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR).

**By Sameer Singhal**



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH 2022

### National News

#### **CENTRE EXTENDS FREE FOODGRAIN DISTRIBUTION UNDER PM GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA TILL SEPTEMBER 2022**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till September 2022. Under the PMGKAY, free foodgrain is provided to those in need.
- The PMGKAY was launched by the Centre in March 2020 after the Covid pandemic breakout.
- Under the scheme, free foodgrain is provided to citizens in need through the public distribution system.
- All ration card holders and those identified by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme can avail benefits of the scheme.

## 2. OSCARS 2022: 94TH ACADEMY AWARDS



- The 94th Academy Awards were held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and were hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes.
- Will Smith won the first Oscar of his career for his performance in King Richard. Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for The Eyes of Tammy Faye. Best Supporting actress was won by Ariana DeBose for West Side Story.
- This time, there are two new categories- Oscars Fan Favorite Award and Oscars Cheer Moment, which will be decided by fan voting
- Best Actor in a Leading Role: Will Smith, “King Richard”
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- Best Picture: CODA
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car

## 3. OCTOBER 5 TO BE DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY

- The Gangetic dolphin is an indicator species, whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem, for the Ganga ecosystem and is extremely vulnerable to changes in water quality and flow.
- It is categorised as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.
- A WWF-India and the Uttar Pradesh forest department assessment in 2012 and 2015 recorded 1,272 dolphins in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Betwa, Son, Sharda, Geruwa, Gahagra, Gandak and Rapti.
- The Union environment ministry has designated October 5 as the National Dolphin Day, to be celebrated annually starting this year. The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) on Friday according to a statement by the environment ministry.

- Due to multiple threats, including pollution, water diversion, habitat fragmentation, and bycatch, the Ganges river dolphin is seriously threatened. Several major infrastructure projects within its region will impose a real risk for catastrophic population decline in the future,” states the US based National Marine Mammal Foundation.
- The government through the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) and Jal Shakti ministry has started a programme of interlink rivers. NWDA has identified 30 such linking projects. The government has prepared detailed project reports for the Ken-Betwa link, the Daman Ganga-Pinjal link, and the Par-Tapi-Narmada link.



#### 4. BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHATA IN FULL SWING AT RED FORT



- The festival is helping improve the livelihoods of artisans across the country in a culturally and economically sustainable manner by showcasing a variety of authentic arts, crafts and textiles from across the nation. The cultural immersion and celebration extravaganza at the iconic monument is a fusion of rich and varied Indian handicraft tradition, by skilled artisans offering only the finest quality of 'Made in India' articles.
- Some of the rich arts, crafts and textiles that is being showcased at the Red Fort Festival includes:
- Gujarat: Ajrakh, Patan Patola, Mashru, Bandhani and Bhujodi handlooms;
- West Bengal: Ikat sarees from Telangana; Tangail & Jamdani weaves;
- Andhra Pradesh: Mangalagiri and Uppada Pattu designs as well as its Etikoppaka and Kondapalli toys;
- Kashmir : Sozni Embroidery and paper mache
- Weaves From Nagaland and Assam: Chizami and Saneki;
- Odisha: Fabrics such as Kotpad, Bandha, Maheshwari, Chanderi as well its Dhokra and tribal jewellery



and Pattachitra art.

- Madhya Pradesh: Bagh Prints, Chanderi and Bhil Pithora and Gond Tribal art Paintings;
- Jharkhand: Tussar Silk;
- Maharashtra: Paithani, Karvath Kati Prints, EcoKaari items and its infamous Warli Folk Art;
- Rajasthan: Pichwai & Phad Paintings and Dabu, Lehariya, Dastkar Ranthambhore and Shibori Prints as well as Patwa Jewellery, leather craft and Shyamota Black Pottery;
- Bihar: Madhubani art; Embroidaries include Sujani.

## 5. EARTH HOUR – MARCH 26, 2022



- Earth Hour was created to actively involve each of us in the fight against climate change, and started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Earth Hour is now a worldwide event, encouraging everyone to turn off non-essential electric lights for an hour between 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the last Saturday of March.
- Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on March 26, 2022. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on 'Shape Our Future'.
- The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour

## 6. PM TO PARTICIPATE IN 'GRIH PRAVESHAM' OF MORE THAN 5 LAKH BENEFICIARIES OF PMAY-G IN MADHYA PRADESH ON 29TH MARCH

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in 'Grih Pravesham' of about 5.21 Lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin in Madhya Pradesh on 29th March at 12:30 PM via video conferencing
- It has been a constant endeavour of the Prime Minister to provide a pucca house with all basic amenities to every needy family of the country. This marks yet another step in this direction.

- The function will also witness traditional celebrations with conch, lamp, flowers and rangoli being organised in new houses across Madhya Pradesh.
- The implementation of the PMAY-G in Madhya Pradesh is witnessing many unique and innovative steps like training thousands of masons including women masons, using fly ash bricks, empowering women self-help groups (SHGs) by providing them with loans for centring material and using technology for better execution and monitoring of projects.
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMRHS) ‘Prime Minister’s Rural Housing Scheme’), previously Indira Awas Yojana is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India.
- A similar scheme for urban poor was launched in 2015 as Housing for All by 2022. Indira Awas Yojana was launched in 1985 by Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, as one of the major flagship programs of the Ministry of Rural Development to construct houses for BPL population in the villages.



Academy  
National News

By Sameer Singhal

## 1. GUJARAT GETS INDIA’S FIRST “STEEL ROAD”



- Under the first such project as part of a research, a road made with steel waste has come up in the city of Surat in Gujarat at the Hazira industrial area.
- Nineteen million tonnes of steel waste produced by different plants around the country each year that usually go to landfills may soon be find a use - to make roads that not only utilise an unused resource but also be more durable.
- The project also taps the Government of India’s Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign.

- It is sponsored by the Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) with help from the Ministry of Steel and Policy Commission and the NITI Aayog. With the success of its first pilot project, the Government of India is planning to use the steel waste in the construction of highways to make the roads stronger in the future.

## **2. PRAMOD SAWANT TAKES OATH AS GOA CM FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM**



- The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.
- Sawant, who had taken over the reins after the death of former defence minister and Goa CM Manohar Parrikar in 2019, formed the government with the support of three independent MLAs and the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP).
- Mr Sawant was administered the oath by Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near Panaji. Mr Sawant took the oath in Konkani language and his ceremony marked the second time that a Goa Chief Minister was sworn in outside the Raj Bhavan.

## **3. MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS THE 2022 SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX, FERRARI BAGS OTHER TWO POSITIONS**

- The Dutchman again managed to prove himself at the street circuit of Jeddah this season. Due to a drone attack that happened on the first day near the track, the drivers were really holding onto their nerves. Thankfully, with the God's grace, everything went well and now, we have a clear winner.
- To begin with, it was the Redbull's Max Verstappen who won the 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix followed by Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. from Scuderia Ferrari. The competition between Max and Charles was intense. However, it was the 47th lap when the former guy managed to get past the Ferrari driver.





#### 4. PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS PRESIDENT'S COLOUR TO INS VALSURA



- In recognition of the services rendered by the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura, the President of India on Friday presented the President's Color to the Unit.
- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.
- It is also known as 'Nishaan' which is an emblem that will be worn by all unit officers on the left-hand sleeve of their uniform..
- To this day, the President's Colours is very significant, if the unit lose their colours, it is a disgrace for that unit and, if the unit captured the enemy's colours then it is a great honour for that unit.

## 5. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRE INDIAN ARMY “MRSAM” MISSILE



- India successfully test-fired the Army version of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) from a defence facility off the Odisha coast on Sunday demonstrating the system's high killing efficiency.
- The network-centric and most advanced sleek missile has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with public and private sector enterprises.
- With a strike range of nearly 100 km, the 4.5-meter long supersonic quick reaction missile weighs around 2.7 tonnes and can carry a payload of 60 kg.
- Travelling at a speed of Mach 2, it can achieve high degrees of maneuverability at the terminal phase.
- The air version of the MRSAM system has already been handed over to Indian Air Force (IAF).

## 6. YAMUNOTSAV



- Yamunotsav is the annual Swachha event commemorating World Environment Day.
- This is when we unite with artists, students, environmentalists, media, civil society organizations, corporates and the rest of Delhi, and pledge to reclaim our environment.
- The event spreads environmental consciousness using music, art and unconventional innovative ideas.



As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) today organized Yamunotsav in association with a group of NGOs at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a “pledge to keep it clean”.

- The current target is the cleaning of the Yamuna River and ensuring that the 3 big sewage treatment plants (STP) that are being constructed are finished by December 2022.
- This will prevent all dirty water from the drains from falling into the River Yamuna.
- The funding of the sewerage infrastructure construction for River Yamuna amounts to Rs. 2300 crore is being funded by the NMCG.

## 7. PV SINDHU- WINNER OF SWISS OPEN 2022



- The 2022 Swiss Open (officially known as the Yonex Swiss Open 2022 for sponsorship reasons) was a badminton tournament that took place in St. Jakobshalle at Basel, Switzerland from 22 to 27 March, with a total prize pool of \$180,000.
- Indian women's world No 7 defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in straight games in the final at her favourite venue. HS Prannoy failed in a bid for an Indian double, losing the men's final.
- The 2022 Swiss Open was the sixth tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the Swiss Open championships which has been held since 1955.
- It was organized by the Swiss Badminton with sanction from the Badminton World Federation. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- It was founded in 1934 as the International Badminton Federation (IBF) with nine member nations (Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales).
- In 1981 the IBF merged with the World Badminton Federation, and on 24 September 2006, at the Extraordinary General Meeting in Madrid, the name of the organization was changed to Badminton World Federation (BWF).

## 8. DETERMINATION OF MINORITY IN INDIA

- The Supreme Court on Monday granted four weeks to the Centre to respond to a plea, which has sought directions for framing of guidelines for identification of minorities at the state level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 states.
- The Union government has told the Supreme Court (SC) that state governments can now grant minority status to any religious or linguistic community, including Hindus.
- The SC had sought the Union government's response in a plea that sought directions for framing of



guidelines identifying minorities at the state level.

- The expression “minorities” appears in some Articles of the Constitution, but is not defined anywhere.
- The plea contended that Hindus are in a ‘minority’ in six states and three Union Territories of India but were allegedly not able to avail themselves of the benefits of schemes meant for minorities.
- In the TMA Pai case, the SC had said that for the purposes of Article 30 that deals with the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions, religious and linguistic minorities have to be considered state-wise
- Under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the Centre had in 1993 notified five communities — Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians — as minorities.



By Sameer Singhal

## National News

### 1. A BOOK TITLED ‘SPOORTHY PRADATHA SRI SOMAYYA’ AUTHORED BY K SYAM PRASAD



- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, released a book titled ‘Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya’ authored by Syam Prasad.
- The book is based on the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a social worker from Andhra Pradesh.

- He inspired youth to dedicate their lives to social welfare.
- Somepalli Somaiah was born in 1927 in the “Parlamili” village of Prakasham district.
- He dedicated his life to reform and the betterment of society for 50 years.
- He participated in the Satyagraha of 1948 and was against the ban on RSS (Rashtriya Seva Sangh) and was jailed for the same.

## **2. PIYUSH GOYAL INAUGURATES INDIAN JEWELLERY EXPOSITION CENTRE BUILDING IN DUBAI**



- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX) building in Dubai, UAE, during his visit to Dubai to participate in the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020.
- During the launch of IJEX, the minister called upon the export members of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) to go for a USD 100 billion export target annually from the current USD 35 billion.
- IJEX will be a one-stop destination for the world to source Indian jewellery in Dubai and the platform will enable GJEPC members to display goods and book orders throughout the year.
- From India, 15 states and nine central ministries are participating in Dubai Expo, which will end on March 31, 2022.

## **3. PRIME MINISTERS' MUSEUM IN CAPITAL READY TO OPEN DOORS**

- A museum of all former Prime Ministers, Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya (the Museum of Prime Ministers), has been built at Teen Murti Estate, in Delhi.
- The Rs. 270 crore project will be inaugurated on April 14, 2022, at the Teen Murti Bhavan complex which was the residence of ex-PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Museum will showcase the life, times and contribution of all 14 Prime Ministers of India so far, except for the collections and works on Jawaharlal Nehru, who has a separate Nehru Memorial Museum, which was also his residence.
- The PMs Museum project was approved in 2018, and the deadline for its completion was October 2020 but faced delays due to pandemic-related lockdowns, as well as civil works and content-curation issues.



#### 4. HIMANTA BISWA SARMA RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF BADMINTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



- The incumbent president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from 2022 to 2026.
- He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on March 25, 2022.
- He is also the current Chief Minister of Assam. He was first elected as BAI chief in 2017.
- Apart from this, Sarma also serves as Vice President of Badminton Asia and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council.
- Badminton Association of India is the governing body of badminton in India.
- BAI is an association registered under the Society's act.
- It was formed in 1934 and has been holding national-level tournaments in India since 1936.

#### 5. UDAY KOTAK TO STEP DOWN AS THE CHAIRMAN OF IL&FS

- Uday Kotak has announced to step down as the Chairman of the board of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), after his term ends on April 2, 2022.
- CS Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Crisis-hit Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) has resolved nearly 55% of the group's outstanding debt over the last three-and-a-half years, managing director C.S. Rajan said on Tuesday.
- Among others, the company sold its iconic headquarters at Bandra Kurla Complex for ₹1,080 crore to



reduce debt.



## 6. SHASHI SINHA IS NEW CHAIRMAN OF BARC INDIA



- The board of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India has elected IPG Mediabrands India CEO Shashi Sinha as the new chairman.
- He will take over from Punit Goenka, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years.
- Sinha, who also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India as its board member, has played a key role in the formation of BARC.
- The Broadcast Audience Research Council India is a joint industry body founded by organisations that represent Indian broadcasters, advertisers, and advertising and media agencies.
- It is the world's largest television measurement science industry body.

## 7. GILBERT HOUNGBO NAMED NEXT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

- Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva.
- Hougbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post.
- His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022.

- The current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, has held office since 2012.



## 8. PVR & INOX LEISURE ANNOUNCED MERGER COMBINED ENTITY TO BE CALLED PVR INOX LTD



- Multiplex companies INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Ltd have announced the merger of their two companies.
- Inox will have a 16.66% stake in the new firm and PVR will have a 10.62% stake.
- After the formalities of the merger, the company will be known as PVR Inox Limited.
- Ajay Bijli will be Managing Director of PVR Inox Limited, Sanjeev Kumar will be executive director and Pavan Kumar Jain will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. MAIDEN EDITION OF INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM MARITIME EXERCISE HELD

- The first edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in Goa and in the Arabian Sea.
- The objective of the exercise was to enhance the interoperability of the navies of member nations in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- The exercise is seen as a significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond

collectively to natural disasters in the region and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.

- The navies from 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS, participated in the exercise.
- The Harbour Phase of IMEX – 22 was held at Marmugao port, Goa on March 26 and 27 while the Sea Phase took place in the Arabian Sea from March 28 to 30, 2022.



## 2. INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY: MARCH



- The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31 to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.
- The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.
- The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009.
- As a reaction to the lack of LGBT recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.
- The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31, 2009.



### 3. BELGIAN FOOTBALLER MIGUEL VAN DAMME DIES AGED 28



- Veteran Belgian footballer, Miguel Van Damme has passed away aged 28 after a long battle with leukaemia.
- Van Damme was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016 and was undergoing treatment for cancer for over five years.
- During his eight-year professional career, Van Damme played for Cercle Brugge and made 40 appearances for the team.

### 4. IAF UNVEILS NEW INITIATIVE FOR REFUELLING ITS CONVOYS



- The Indian Air Force has unveiled a new initiative with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Under it, IAF's convoys will be refuelled at fuel stations of the state-run energy major.
- As per the Defence Ministry, 'Fleet Card-Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the Indian Air Force.
- Under the existing system, the Indian Air Force procures fuel from various agencies and then distributes it within the Air Force establishment.
- With the advent of the Fleet Cards, the IAF will be able to utilise the vast network of retail fuel distributors across the country to refuel its vehicles on the move.
- The availability of Fleet Card will permit the convoy to refuel at any IOCL fuel station, thus increasing the pace of movement and reducing the lead time for readiness at operational locations across the nation.

### 5. NITI AAYOG AND FAO LAUNCH BOOK TITLED INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS 2030

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Narendra Singh Tomar has released a book titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems".

- An event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Indian Agriculture towards 2030 captures the outcomes of the deliberative process of national dialogue by NITI Aayog and the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and facilitated by FAO since 2019.



## 6. CANADA QUALIFY FOR FIFA WORLD CUP FINALS FOR FIRST TIME IN 36 YEARS



- Canada has qualified for the Qatar 2022 football World Cup for the first time in 36 years, after thoroughly beating Jamaica 4-0 in Toronto.
- The North American nation booked their place at the finals for the first time since Mexico in 1986.
- Canada is top of the CONCACAF qualifying group and has now secured its place at a World Cup finals tournament for the first time since 1986.
- Canada becomes the 20th team to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup which will feature 32 nations vying for the ultimate prize in Qatar from November 21 to December 18.
- The remaining 12 teams will be decided in the coming days before the draw on April 1 to determine the eight groups.

## 7. DR RENU SINGH JOINS AS DIRECTOR, FRI



- Dr Renu Singh has been appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) as the next director of the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun.
- She will be the institute's second woman director.
- Singh joined as FRI director after AS Rawat, director-general, ICFRE, handed over his additional charge of director FRI to her.
- Dr Renu Singh has an extensive experience in Forest Policy, Forest Management and Research Issues.
- She has a special interest in gender and development, climate change adaptation and mitigation issues in the forestry sector.
- She has participated in and represented various biodiversity, forest and climate change-related issues in international conventions like United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

## 8. PM NARENDRA MODI TO VIRTUALLY ATTEND BIMSTEC SUMMIT



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the 5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit through virtual mode.
- The Summit was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC.
- At the conclusion of the Summit, Thailand took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC.



- The year 2022 marks the 25th year of the establishment of BIMSTEC.
- BIMSTEC is an international organization of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations.
- These are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- The Leadership is rotated in alphabetical order of country names. The permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**By Sameer Singhal**

