



Current Affairs Supplement

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CONTENT

National.....3

International.....11

Defence.....15

Appointments or Resign/Retired.....16

Honours/ Awards.....27

Sports.....33

Obituaries.....40

Important Days with theme.....42

National

GoI Has Launched “Operation Ganga” To Rescue Indian Citizens From War Prolonged Ukraine

The Government of India (GoI) has launched ‘**Operation Ganga**’ to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine, due to Ukraine’s war against Russia. The GoI has planned to help nearly 15,000 Indians to reach India with the help of **Air India** flights.

- There were nearly 20,000 Indians of which 5,000 Indians had already reached India before the commencement of the war.

To The Border Nations:

i. With the help of International Committee of Red Cross (**ICRC**) in Geneva, the GoI have guided the Indian citizens towards the border of Ukraine.

ii. Due to the closing of Ukrainian airspace, the Indian evacuation flights are operating out of Romanian capital Bucharest and Hungarian capital Budapest.

- Indian teams have also been placed in Krakowiec as well as Shehyni-Medyka land border points in Poland, VysneNemecke in the Slovak Republic.

iii. India is evacuating stranded Indians from Ukraine through its land border crossings with Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

iv. Boeing 787 plane is the airline under operation, better known as Dreamliner, from countries including Romania and Hungary.

Assignment To The Ministries:

The Prime Minister of India has decided to send 4 Union Ministers to Poland and Romania to oversee the evacuation.

i. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas – Hardeep Singh Puri

ii. Minister for Law and Justice – Kiren Rijju

iii. Civil Aviation Minister – Jyotiraditya Scindia

iv. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation – General V K Singh

- The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) also announced a Twitter handle ‘OpGanga Helpline’ to assist Indian evacuation.

About Ukraine:

President – Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Capital & Currency – Kyiv & Ukrainian hryvnia

FSSAI To Start ‘Health Star Rating System’ for Packaged F

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) is set to introduce a new star rating system, the “**Health Star Rating System**”, for packaged foods. Under this, the packaged foods will display the number of stars on the Front Of Pack Label (FOPL), which indicates how healthy or unhealthy they are



depending upon the amount of salt, sugar, and fat they have.

- The Health Star Rating rates the overall nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from ½ a star to 5 stars. 5 Star means the food is healthy & the least (½) star means the food is unhealthy.
- The Health Star rating system is one of five types of labels that were considered, including Nutriscore, Warning Label, Multiple Traffic Lights (MTL) and Monochrome GDA.
- This regulation is based on the report from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Ahmedabad & Dexter Consultancy Pvt. Limited which conducted a study on the impact of front-of-the-pack labelling for packaged and processed foods in India.
- This system will be similar to the one that is being used by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for assessing the energy efficiency in electrical devices.

Rahul Gandhi Released Autobiography of TN CM MK Stalin “UngalilOruvan – 1”

Rahul Gandhi, Member of Parliament (MP) of Indian National Congress (INC) released the book titled “UngalilOruvan -1” – One Among You, the **first volume** of the autobiography of **MK Stalin**, Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN) and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), at the event held in Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



- The book is published by **Poompohar Pathippagam**.
- The book pertains to the first 23 years of Stalin’s life (till he was arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in 1976).
- Duraimurugan, Water Resource Minister of Tamil Nadu received the first copy of the Book.

RIL Opens India’s 1st-of-a-kind Largest Global Destination ‘Jio World Centre’ in Mumbai

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) opened **Jio World Centre**, ‘**first of its kind**’ India’s largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, Maharashtra. The centre was envisioned by **Nita Ambani**, Director of Reliance Industries and Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation.

- The Jio World Convention Centre at Jio World Centre, India’s largest Convention Centre has ‘hybrid and digital experiences’ enabled by the 5G network.
- RIL also dedicated Dhirubhai Ambani Square and lotus inspired ‘**Fountain of Joy**’ to the city of Mumbai at the Jio World Convention Centre.

Dudhala village in Gujarat will become the first completely solarized village by a Foundation

Goldi Solar, EPC services provider & Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) jointly laid the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of Dudhala in Gujarat.

- Once the project gets complete, it will become the first village to be completely powered with solar panels by a foundation.



Key points:

- i. The collaboration will set up a 450 KW solar rooftop project that will be used to supply power around 350 houses and public areas such as anganwadis, gram panchayat and other areas.
- ii. The project is undertaken under **Shri Govindbhai Dholakia's Mentorship**.
- iii. The SRKKF is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Shree Ramkrishna Exports, a diamond company. The foundation is providing free wi-fi services, healthcare, medical infrastructure and service to Dudhala.

Related information:

Kerala's **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** is the first airport in the world that would be running fully on solar power. The airport officially commissioned a 12 MW solar project in 2015.

About Goldi Solar:

Founder & Managing Director- Ishver Dholakiya

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

The Chief Minister Of TN Inaugurated India's Largest Floating solar power project At Thoothukudi

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



Aim:

It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to **reduce carbon footprint**.

- i. The floating power plant has the capacity to produce 42 million units of electricity per annum.
- ii. The solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International.
- iii. It is the SPIC's part of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) progress, to produce renewable energy.

Note: TN Chief Minister **MK Stalin** also laid the foundation stone for India's first international furniture park spread over 1,156 acres at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.

About The Floating Power Plant:

- i. SPIC worked with France-based floating solar power specialists and global leader Ceil & Terre for the constructions and designs.
- ii. The 48-acre floating solar power plant has been set up on a large water reservoir that spans 62-acres. The solar arrays are placed on floating structures on a water body.

India's First 100 % Women-Owned Industrial Park Inaugurated in Hyderabad

India's first 100 percent women-owned 'FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) Industrial Park (FIP)' in Hyderabad, Telangana powered by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI Ladies Organisation**



(FLO) in partnership with Telangana government was inaugurated with the commencement of operations by 25 women-owned and operated units represent 16 diverse Green Category Industries at the Park.

- It is the flagship project at a national level with participation open to Chapter Members, and the national members of FLO.
- **Objective** – To propagate and encourage sustainable development and growth

About FIP:

i.FIP in Hyderabad, Telangana is around **50 acres** and was established by FLO in association with Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) with an investment of **Rs.250 crore**. The FIP began operations with 25 Green Projects in Hyderabad.

ii.The FIP **includes** amenities from the electronic sector to packaging, medical services, wellness, engineering and food processing to demonstrate the power of women entrepreneurs.

- The park will also offer a home environment for women entrepreneurs including **crèches** and **playschools**.

Bihar's Bodh Gaya to get India's Largest Buddha Statue in Sleeping Posture

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being constructed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The 100 feet long and 30 feet high statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sleeping posture. The statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission.



- The sculptors from Kolkata are building the statue with fibreglass.
- The construction of the statue was started in 2019 and it will be open for devotees from February 2023.

Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.

“Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times”, a Biography of late Soli Sorabjee

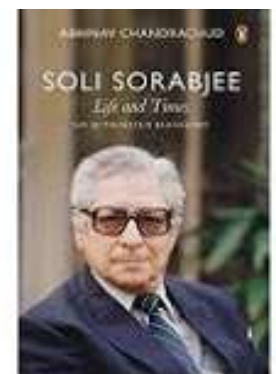
In the Occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee, the Penguin Random House India (PRHI) has announced that a biography, titled “**Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times**” authored by advocate and legal scholar **AbhinavChandrachud** will be released in April 2022.

About Soli Sorabjee:

He was the former Attorney General (AG) of India and served two times for the years 1989-90 and then from 1998- 2004.

Key points:

i.The book highlights the personal details of life of Soli Sorabjee, his family background.



ii. It also marks his journey in becoming a practitioner of law to a United Nations Human Rights rapporteur and defending the fundamental right to free speech and expression in the Supreme Court.

Popular Books of the author:

- “Republic of Rhetoric: Free Speech and the Constitution of India” (2017)
- “Supreme Whispers: Conversations with Judges of the Supreme Court of India 1980-1989” (2018).
- “Republic of Religion: The Rise and Fall of Colonial Secularism in India” 2020

Skoch State of Governance Ranking in 2021: Andhra Pradesh Retains Top Rank for the 2nd Consecutive Year

The **SKOCH Group**, a delhi-based think tank released the **SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021**, in New Delhi ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district and municipal level.

- **Andhra Pradesh** has retained its top position for the **2nd consecutive year** and secured **1st** in **star state** category whereas **Telangana** has showed good improvement by securing **6th** position and entered into **performer state** category.
- The SKOCH State of Governance report also maps the shifting interests of different state governments and provides valuable insights into governance trends and opportunities.
- **In 2021**, focus has been shifted towards Agriculture, Ease of Doing Business, Finance & Revenue, Power & Energy, Social Justice & Security, Urban Development and Water.

Top five states (Star states):

2020 (previous year rank)	State	2021 (current year rank)
1	Andhra pradesh	1
3	West Bengal	2
8	Odisha	3

Gita Piramal Authored Biography of Rahul Bajaj Titled “Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life”

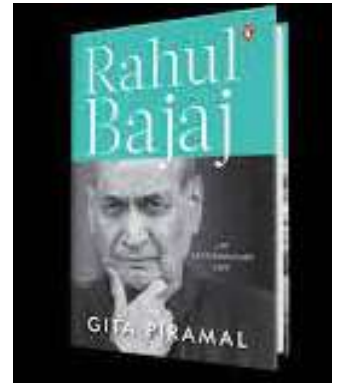
The first authorized biography titled “**Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life**”, authored by **Gita Piramal** and published by India Portfolio, Imprint of Penguin Random House India (PRHI) will be launched on 21 March 2022.

About the book:

- i. The book is based on the life of the late iconic industrialist Rahul Bajaj.
- ii. It highlights his life's journey, struggle and challenges in becoming one of the most well regarded business personalities in the world

About Rahul Bajaj:

- i. Rahul Bajaj, born on June 10, 1938.
- ii. Rahul Bajaj was the chairman emeritus of the Bajaj Group and a former member of Parliament. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan.
- iii. He is also a former chairman and member of the International Business Council, World Economic Forum.
- iv. He is a former member of the South Asia advisory board of Harvard Business School and a former member of the International Advisory Council of the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC.



Popular books of Gita Piramal:

- “Business Maharajas”
- “Business Legends”.

Toyota Mirai: Union Minister NitinGadkari launches India's 1st Green Hydrogen-based FCEV in New Delhi

On March 16, 2022, the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) powered by Hydrogen, Toyota Mirai, was launched in India by the Union Minister NitinGadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in New Delhi, Delhi. It runs on fully hydrogen generated electricity.

- This launch is a pilot project taking place in Delhi by **Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM)** and **International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** to study and evaluate this FCEV on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- This is also a **first of its kind project in India** aiming to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem by raising awareness about the utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.

About Toyota Mirai:

Powered by a hydrogen fuel cell battery pack, it is capable of providing a range **up to 650 km** in a single charge, with a refuelling time of five minutes. The powertrain breaks the hydrogen into water and oxygen to generate energy from it. In Japanese, the word ‘Mirai’ means **‘future’**.

- Toyota Mirai was launched in 2014 and was one of the world's first hydrogen fuel EV.

- Now, this new launch in India is second generation (introduced globally in 2020), with a **30%** increase in range, better handling and sharper styling. Its iteration will be built in **TKM's plant in Karnataka**.

Key Points:

i.The **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** will be supplying Hydrogen for this vehicle.

ii.The launch of the EV, and adoption of green hydrogen technology will cater to India's initiative of becoming 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047 as it will promote clean energy, affordable energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

- FCEV is one of the best Zero Emission solutions.
- It is completely environment friendly with no tailpipe emissions other than water.

iii.Green Hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass.

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida visited India to attend 14th India-Japan annual summit 2022 in New Delhi

i.The Prime Minister (PM) of Japan, Fumio Kishida, was on a two-day visit to India to attend 14th India-Japan annual summit 2022 on March 19-20,2022 in New Delhi, Delhi.

He was invited by the Indian PM Narendra Modi.

ii.This was Fumio Kishida's first visit to the country since he took charge of the office last year, and also his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



iii.The last India-Japan annual summit took place in 2018 in Tokyo.

iv.PM Narendra Modi gifted Fumio Kishida a 'Krishna Pankhi', a sandalwood artifact by master artisans in Churu in Rajasthan with intricate work with its windows depicting different poses of Lord Krishna, representing love, compassion and tenderness.

v.Both sides finalized 7 loans from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) JICA Loans worth **Rs 20400 crores** for projects in connectivity, water supply and sewerage, horticulture, healthcare, and biodiversity conservation in various Indian States.

About Japan:

Currency– Japanese Yen

Capital– Tokyo

Dalai Lama & Archbishop Desmond Tutu Authored Children's Book ' The Little Book of Joy'

A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners **Dalai Lama** (14th Dalai Lama(Tenzin Gyatso)) & **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, titled "The Little Book of Joy " will be released in September 2022. It will be published by Random House Children's Book.

i.In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World", which became a bestseller & sold more than 1 million copies and translated into more than 40 languages.

About the book:

- i. The illustrations provided by artist Rafael López and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text.
- ii. This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.

About 14th Dalai Lama:

The 14th and current Dalai Lama's name is Tenzin Gyatso. He lives as a refugee in Himachal Pradesh, India. He got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. He was born on 6 July 1935, Taktser, Tibet (now People's Republic of China).

Other prominent awards–

- Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize
- International Freedom Conductor Award
- Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership

About Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

He was born in South Africa and known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. He got Nobel Peace Prize in 1984

Other Prominent awards:

- Gandhi Peace Prize
- Sydney Peace Prize

Surat in Gujarat gets the India's First 'Steel Road'

The Diamond City of India, **Surat** in Gujarat became India's first city to get a road that is made out of steel waste (1st ever 'steel slag' road) at Hazira, Surat .

- The road was constructed by **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** with **CSIR India** (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & **CRRI** (Central Road Research Institute) New Delhi along with the support of **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog**.
- The project will be constructed under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign.

**What is steel slag?**

- i. Steel slag is a type of waste from the Iron & Steel Industry but it has shown potential for use as a raw mix component up to 5-10% in the construction products.
- ii. The Ministry of Steel has also constituted a Task Force for promotion and utilization of Iron and Steel Slag.

International

SWISS to Become World's First Airlines to Use Solar Aviation fuel

Swiss International Air Lines AG (**SWISS or Swiss Air Lines**), a part of the Lufthansa Group, has signed a new strategic collaboration with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, Synhelion SA (**Synhelion**) to use their solar aviation fuel.



- **SWISS** is set to become the **world's first airline** to use Solar Aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel).

Solar Fuel Facility:

Synhelion is set to build the world's first facility to industrially produce solar fuel in Jülich, Germany. The plant will become operational from 2022 onwards.

SWISS will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.

Solar Aviation fuel:

i. SWISS and the Lufthansa Group have concluded a strategic collaboration with Synhelion, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) spinoff, to bring solar aviation fuel to market.

ii. Synhelion has developed a key technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources.

About Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS):

SWISS is Switzerland's largest airline which is operating one of Europe's youngest and most fuel-efficient aircraft fleets.

Chairman– Reto Francioni

CEO– Dieter Vranckx

It operates a global flight network from **Zurich** and **Geneva** (Switzerland).

Canada Becomes 1st Country to Approve the use of Covifenz, world 1st Plant-Based COVID-19 Vaccine

Health Canada, the department of the government of Canada responsible for national health policy, has approved the use of Covifenz, the world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine for adults aged 18 to 64.

Canada has become the first country to approve the use of the plant-based COVID-19 vaccine.

- Covifenz was jointly developed by Medicigo Inc., a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris, situated in Quebec City, and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
- Covifenz is 71% effective at preventing COVID-19 (before the emergence of the Omicron variant). It was 75% effective against the delta variant and nearly 89% effective against the gamma variant (Brazil).

16th Edition of The Wealth Report 2022: India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally; US Tops

According to **Knight Frank's** 16th edition of **The Wealth Report 2022**, the number of ultra-high-net-

worth-individuals (**UHNWIs**) globally increased by **9.3 percent** in 2021 to 6,10,569, from 5,58,828 in 2020. India ranked 3rd in billionaire population globally. United States (US) Tops with most billionaire.

- In India, the number of UHNWIs (net assets with US\$ 30m or more) has grown by 11% year-on-year (YoY) in 2021, the highest percentage growth in Asia – Pacific (APAC).
- **Objective of World Wealth Report 2022** – To provide an annual assessment of how wealth creation is shaping investment markets, and to highlight opportunities and risks.

The Wealth Report 2022:

i.India – India ranked **3rd in billionaire population globally** in 2021 with equity markets and digital adoption as the key factors driving the growth in India.

ii.Globally – Every region across the world saw an increase in the number of UHNWIs between 2020 and 2021 – Americas (+12.2%), Russia & CIS (+11.2%), Australasia (+9.8%), Middle East (+8.8%), Latin America (+7.6%), Europe (+7.4%) and Asia (+7.2%) – except for Africa, where the UHNWI population declined by 0.8%.

V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022: India Ranked 93rd & Sweden Tops

According to the Swedish based **V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute** report titled, '**Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature**', India has been ranked among the top ten autocratic countries in the world and has been ranked **93rd** on the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) out of 179 countries

Rankings:

Top 5 LDI Countries – Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand

Most autocratic countries – Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Venezuela are among the most autocratic in the world.

India's report:

i.India is one of the **top ten 'autocratisers'** in the world, which indicates that India is autocratic rather than a democracy that it can more suitably be indicated as electoral autocracy.

- India is in the bottom **40% to 50%** of countries on V-Dem's Liberal Democracy Index (LDI).
- In Democracy report 2020, the institute classified India as an electoral autocracy.

ii.It has slipped further down in the Electoral Democracy Index, to **100**, and even lower in the Deliberative Component Index, at **102**.

iii.In South Asia, India is **ranked below** Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117) in the LDI.



Deloitte's Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Reliance Retail Ranked 56th & Walmart Inc Tops the List

According to the global consulting firm Deloitte's report titled "Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges", **Reliance Retail Limited (RRL)**, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) has

ranked **56th** on the list of **Top 250** global retailers.

Walmart Inc., an American multinational retail corporation, tops the list, followed by Amazon, Inc., Costco Wholesale Corporation, Schwarz Group, and The Home Depot, Inc.

- Reliance Retail was the second-fastest-growing retailer, posting a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) growth in retail revenue of 49.4% in FY2015- FY2020.

About Reliance Retail Limited(RRL):

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, is the holding company of Reliance Retail Limited(RRL).

Incepted in 2006

UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136 out of 146; Finland Tops

As per the **10th** United Nations' World Happiness Report 2022, **India's** rank has been improved by 3 spots to **136** out of 146 countries from 139 in 2021 with a score of 3.777.

- For the 5th year in a row, **Finland** continues to occupy the top spot being the happiest country in the world.
- **Afghanistan** was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana.



World Happiness Report 2022:

Rank	Country	Average Life Evaluation Score	
136	India	3.777	
Top 3	1	Finland	7.821
	2	Denmark	7.636
	3	Iceland	7.557
Bottom 3	144	Zimbabwe	2.995
	145	Lebanon	2.955

	146	Afghanistan	2.404
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The top 5 rankings were occupied by Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The US and UK were ranked 16th and 17th respectively. France improved to 20th rank, which is its highest ranking yet.

About United Nations (UN)

Headquarters – New York, USA

Establishment – 1945

Secretary-General – AntónioGuterres

Delhi Becomes Most Polluted Capital in World : 2021 World Air Quality Report

The 2021 World Air Quality Report released by the Swiss organization IQAir reveals that the National Capital Territory (NCT) of **Delhi**, India, is **the most polluted capital in the world** for the **fourth consecutive year** in 2021.



- The report finds that only 3% of cities and no single country met the latest **World Health Organization's (WHO) Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5** annual air quality guidelines. The new guideline was released in September 2021 and cut the existing annual PM2.5 guideline value from 10 µg/m³ to 5 µg/m³.
- India was placed 5th in the Most Polluted countries in the world whereas Bangladesh was placed in 1st followed by Chad and Pakistan.
- No country met the latest WHO air quality guideline for PM2.5 in 2021.

Key Facts of the Report:

i. According to the report, data from publicly accessible air quality monitoring stations increased in 2021. Significant increases were seen in India, New Zealand, and Canada, in particular.

ii. In the Central and South Asia region, including India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, around 50 cities were ranked in terms of **PM2.5** levels on the list of the **“World's Most Polluted Cities” in 2021**.

- It revealed that the region together housed for 46 of the top 50 polluted cities, in which Bhiwadi, Alwar district (Rajasthan) topped the list of the ‘world’s most polluted cities’ in 2021; Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) – second; and Hotan, China – came third.
- The only two cities that met updated WHO PM2.5 guideline were Zhezqazghan and Chu (Kazakhstan).

Defence

3rd edition of India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Ex Dharma Guardian-2022' conducted at Belagavi, Karnataka

The 3rd Edition of the annual joint military exercise, 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022', between India and Japan is being conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka) from February 27, 2022 to March 10, 2022.

- This 12-day long exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.
- Special emphasis are laid on enhancing tactical skills to fight global terrorism, enhancing inter-operability between the forces, and to promote Army to Army relations.



Key Points:

- The exercise includes house interventions drills, raid on terrorist hideouts in semi urban terrain, combat first aid, unarmed combat & close quarter combat firing where both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats.
- The joint field training exercises, joint combat discussions and joint demonstrations will culminate with a two day validation exercise scheduled on March 8-9, 2022.

9th Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise 'SLINEX-21' begins in Visakhapatnam, AP

The 9th edition of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise, 'SLINEX-21', a Bilateral Maritime Exercise is being held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) from March 7-10, 2022 between Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN). SLINEX is conducting in two phases, the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7-8, and Sea Phase on March 9-10 in the Bay of Bengal.



- It aims at enhancing inter-operability, improving mutual understanding and exchanging best practices for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- The 8th edition of SLINEX-20 was conducted off Trincomalee, a port city of Sri Lanka in October 2020.

Key Points:

- The Harbour Phase includes professional, cultural, sporting and social exchanges.
- The Sea Phase include surface and anti-air weapon firing exercises, seamanship evolutions, aviation operations, including cross deck flying, advanced tactical manoeuvres and special forces operations at sea.
- The military exercise between India and Sri Lanka is **Mitra Shakti**.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

MadhabiPuriBuch Becomes 1st Women To Be Appointed as SEBI Chairman; Succeeds Ajay Tyag

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **MadhabiPuriBuch** as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman for an initial period of **three years** from **1st March 2022**. She will be the **1st woman** to head the SEBI, securities market regulator and she is also the **1st person** from the private sector to head SEBI and also 1st non-IAS to be appointed as the SEBI chairman.



- She will be the 10th chair of the board.
- She succeeds Ajay Tyagi, who served as a chairman for 5 years. His tenure ends on 28th February 2022.
- Her tenure as a whole-time member of SEBI ended in October 2021.

About MadhabiPuriBuch:

- MadhabiPuriBuch has handled key portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management.
- She joined ICICI Bank in 1989 and served as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) at ICICI Securities Limited and also as executive director on the board of ICICI Bank.
- She has also worked in corporate finance, branding, treasury and loans, before moving to ICICI Securities and as a consultant to the New Development Bank, set up by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Establishment – 12th April 1992 (In accordance with SEBI Act, 1992)

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra.

UpGrad ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as Its Brand Ambassador

India's online higher education company, UpGrad, ropes in legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan as its Brand Ambassador. He will support upGrad's brand value through endorsements and promotions of services to emphasize the importance of LifeLongLearning for progressive career growth.

Key Points:

- Startup India Learning Program is a free online Entrepreneurship program by Startup India, a GOI initiative. Invest India in collaboration with UpGrad has developed this program. The aim is to help entrepreneurs get their ideas and ventures to the next level through structured learning.
- It has recently unveiled its marketing campaign **#AssNahinAssetBano** (don't be an ass, be an



asset) focusing the annual appraisal period in a corporate world.

Jet Airways appoints Sanjiv Kapoor as CEO

The new holders of Jet Airways (India) Limited, the **Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC)**, appointed **Sanjiv Kapoor** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the airline, effective from April 4, 2022.

- Jet Airways, which ceased its operation on April 17, 2019 has now planned to resume the operation of flights in the first quarter of the financial year 2022-2023.

About Sanjiv Kapoor:

i. He is currently serving as the President of Oberoi Hotels & Resorts since June 1, 2021.

ii. He was the Chief Operating Officer of SpiceJet during November 2013 – October 2015, when the airline was facing high oil prices and a financial crunch.

iii. He was the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer at Vistara during March 2016- December 2019 and won 'Best Airline in India' in 2019.

Recent Appointments in Jet Airways:

i. Accountable Manager: Captain PP Singh, former Squadron Leader at Indian Air Force (IAF) and Executive of Nepal Airlines Corporation.

ii. Chief Financial Officer (CFO): Vipula Gunatileka, former CEO of Sri Lankan Airlines

Chief Justice DN Patel of Delhi HC appointed as TDSAT Chairperson

The Central Govt. has appointed Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

- 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.

About Chief Justice DN Patel:

i. 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.

ii. Prior to Delhi HC, he served as Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court and also served as Judge of Jharkhand High Court and Gujarat High Court.

About Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT):

- Created in accordance with the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI), 1997 (Amended in 2000)** authorized by TRAI.

Objective: To adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector.

Powers and Jurisdiction: TDSAT has jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT and Airport tariff matters under the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended in 2000), the Information Technology Act, 2008 and the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 respectively.

- **Present Chairperson of TDSAT:** Justice Shiva Kirti Singh
- **Establishment:** 2000
- **HQ:** New Delhi, Delhi (NCT)

Yoon Suk-yeol became the new president of South Korea

The leader of People Power Party (conservative party), **Yoon Suk-yeol** won the presidential election 2022 of South Korea. He succeeded Moon Jae-in, previous President of South Korea.



- He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022.

Highlights:

- Yoon Suk-yeol is a South Korean politician, former public prosecutor and lawyer. He served as Prosecutor General of South Korea in 2019-2021 under the tenure of President Moon Jae-in.
- As a member of the conservative People Power Party in South Korea, he defeated Democratic Party's nominee Lee Jae-myung in the presidential election 2022.

Former Finance & Revenue Secretary AB Pandey appointed as NFRA Chairperson

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, former Finance & Revenue secretary of India, Ministry of Finance, as new Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment for a **period of three years** from the date of assumption of charge or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- The ACC has also appointed **2 full-time members** for NFRA,

- Praveen Kumar Tiwari, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official.
- Smita Jhingran, Principal Director General at Central Board of Direct Taxes, an Indian Revenue Service officer.

About Ajay Bhushan Pandey:

- He was the Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India from March 2020 – February 2021.

ii. He was the Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India from November 2018 – February 2021.

iii. Prior to becoming the Finance & Revenue Secretary of India, he was acting as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) from September 2015 – October 2019..

About the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):

An **independent regulatory body** set up by the Government of India as envisaged under the provisions of **Section 132, Companies Act, 2013** to oversee the quality of accounting and auditing standards in India.

- **Establishment** – 01st October, 2018

Justice Vipin Sanghi named Acting Chief Justice of Delhi HC

The President of India has appointed Justice Vipin Sanghi, the senior-most Judge of the Delhi High Court (HC) as its Acting Chief Justice according to Article 223 of the Constitution of India. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) issued a notification about his appointment on March 11, 2022.



- The incumbent Chief Justice of Delhi HC, Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel retires on his 62nd birthday i.e. March 12, 2022.
- Justice Vipin Sanghi will perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court with effect from March 13, 2022.
- He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on May 29, 2006 and was confirmed as a Permanent Judge on February 11, 2008.

Note: **Article 223** of the Indian Constitution: “**Appointment of Acting Chief Justice**”

- When the office of Chief Justice of a **High Court** is vacant or when any such Chief Justice is, by reason of absence or otherwise, unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of the office shall be performed by such one of the other Judges of the Court as the President may appoint for the purpose.

About Appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts:

i. The Chief Justices of High Courts, other than the High Court of Delhi are appointed by the **President of India**, as provided under **Article 217** of the Constitution, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the State.

ii. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi is appointed by the President of India, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Ex-judge A K Sikri became chairperson of High Powered Committee on Chardham project



Justice AK Sikri, former judge of the Supreme Court (SC) was appointed as the Chairman of the high-powered committee which constituted to consider the cumulative and independent impact of the **Char DhamMahamargVikasPariyojana** (Char Dham Highway Development Project). He succeeded Professor Ravi Chopra who resigned recently from this post.

Key points:

- i. The committee will evaluate the impact of various highway development projects of Char Dham on the entire Himalayan valley region.
- ii. Prior to this appointment, Justice Sikri served as the head of the “**Oversight Committee**” to oversee the implementation of the Char Dham project.
- iii. The project included construction of 900 km roads to provide all weather connectivity to four holy towns located in Uttarakhand-Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.
 - In 2021, the SC allowed widening of the three highways — Rishikesh to Mana, Rishikesh to Gangotri, and Tanakpur to Pithoragarh in the Double Line-Paved Shoulder (DL-PS) format with a width of 10 metre under the ongoing project.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Appointed as Chairman of Air India

The board of Air India has appointed Natarajan Chandrasekaran (N Chandrasekaran), Chairman of the Board of Tata Sons Private Limited (Tata Sons), as the Chairman of Air India.



- Tata Group which took over the airline on 27th January 2022 is yet to announce a reconstituted board of directors.
- At present, 3 executive directors who were appointed by the government when Air India was under the control of the Government of India are still serving on the board of Air India.

About N Chandrasekaran:

- i. N Chandrasekaran joined the Board of Tata Sons in October 2016 and was appointed Chairman in January 2017.
- ii. He also chairs the Boards of other operating companies of TATA Group including Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- iii. He has also served as the CEO of TCS from 2009 to 2017.
- iv. He served as the chairman of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) from 2012 to 2013.

Air India CEO & MD:

Tata Sons is yet to appoint the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) for Air India.

- In February 2022, Air India has appointed Ilker Ayci, former Chairman of Turkish Airlines as the CEO & MD of Air India. He was set to assume his responsibilities on or before 1st April 2022

- On 1st March 2022, IlkerAyci declined Tata Sons' offer to be CEO & MD of Air India.

About Air India:

Air India was founded by JehangirRatanjiDadabhoy(JRD) Tata and was nationalised in 1953.

Chairman– N Chandrasekaran

T Raja Kumar Became 1st Singaporean To Be Appointed as President of the FATF

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) appointed T. Raja Kumar of Singapore as the President. He was appointed for the term of 2 years, which starts from 1 July 2022 to 2024. He succeeded Dr Marcus Player of Germany. The decision regarding his appointment was taken during the FATF Plenary meeting that was held from March 1 to 4, 2022.

- This is the first time Singapore is taking charge of the FATF presidency.

About T. Raja Kumar:

i. T. Raja Kumar is a Singaporean administrator who serves as a senior advisor (international) at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

ii. He also served as the co-chairman of the National Interagency Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism, Singapore's FATF mission since 2015.

- Singapore became a member of the FATF in **1992**

iii. In July 2018 he became a member of the steering group, which advises the FATF president.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

The FATF is an intergovernmental organisation established by the **G7** (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States and European Union) to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

Founded- 1989

Headquarters- Paris, France

Bhagwant Mann takes oath as CM of Punjab

The Leader of AamAadmi Party (AAP), **Bhagwant Singh Mann**, was sworn in as the Punjab Chief Minister (CM). The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Punjab Governor **BanwarilalPurohit** to Bhagwant Mann.

- The swearing-in ceremony took place at KhatkarKalan, the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in ShaheedBhagat Singh (SBS) Nagar district, Punjab.

Highlights:

i. The oath taking ceremony was attended by Delhi CM and AAP national convener ArvindKejriwal, deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and others.

ii. The AAP in Punjab won 92 seats out of 117 seats in the Punjab Assembly elections 2022.



About Bhagwant Singh Mann:

- i. Bhagwant Singh Mann was a former actor, comedian and satirist.
- ii. He is a former Member of Parliament (MP) in Lok Sabha and represented Sangrur constituency, Punjab.

Katalin Novak becomes Hungary's first-ever female president

The Hungarian National Assembly (Hungarian parliament) has elected the ruling **Fidesz** Party lawmaker, Katalin Novak, as Republic of Hungary's first-ever female President. By winning the election, she has become Hungary's youngest ever head of state, at the age of 44.

- i. She received 137 votes (a 2/3rd majority) against her opposition rival, Peter Rona, an economist, who received 52 votes.
- ii. She will replace her predecessor, Janos Ader, who has been holding the presidency since 2012 and was also a co-founder of the Fidesz Party.
- iii. Novak will hold the Presidency for a tenure of **five years**, during which she has the power to temporarily block laws and call referendums.
- iv. Earlier, she served as the Vice President of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz party and also as a Minister for Family Affairs.



About Hungary:

It is a European Country and is also a member of the European Union (EU), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Schengen Convention.

N Biren Singh sworn in as Manipur CM for Second Term

On March 21, 2022, Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh, sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur for the second consecutive term. The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor **La Ganesan** at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal, Manipur. He is the 12th CM of Manipur (Excluding Repetition).

- N Biren Singh was elected from the **Heingang seat** for the record fifth time, in the recently concluded 12th Manipur assembly elections. BJP won 32 seats in the 60-member house.

Rajesh Gopinathan Re-appointed as MD & CEO of TCS for 5 years

Rajesh Gopinathan has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a global leader in information technology (IT) services and a subsidiary of the Tata Group, for **5 years**, from 21st February 2022 to 20th February 2027.

- TCS has also reappointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Executive Director from 21st February 2022, to 19th May 2024, as per the retirement age policy of the company.

NATO Extends Jens Stoltenberg's term as Secretary-General until 2023

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) extended the term of its Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg by one year until 30 September, 2023.

Highlight:

- i. After the NATO summit in Brussels, Belgium the United States of America (USA) President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders decided to extend the tenure of Jens Stoltenberg.
- ii. Jens Stoltenberg, a former Prime Minister of Norway, took the office of Secretary General in October 2014. In September 2021, his term was set to end.

What is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

It is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty, also called the Washington Treaty in 1949, by the US, Canada, and other Western European nations to provide collective security against the **Soviet Union**.

- In 2020, North Macedonia joined NATO.
- India is **not** a member of NATO.

Members- 30 states (as of 2022).

Founded- 4 April 1949

Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium.

Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as 12th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and son of an ex-serviceman took oath as 12th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for his second consecutive term in Dehradun's Parade Ground administered by the Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh.



About the Swearing ceremony

- i. Along with him, eight cabinet ministers were also administered the oath.
- ii. The Cabinet ministers are Satpal Maharaj, Dhan Singh Rawat, Rekha Arya, Ganesh Joshi, Subodh Uniyal along with the three new faces including Chandan Ramdas, Premchand Agarwal and Saurabh Bahuguna.

About Pushkar Singh Dhami

- i. Pushkar Singh Dhami was born on 16 September 1975 in Kanalichhina village in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- ii. Pushkar Singh Dhami became the 12th chief minister of the hill state at a young age of 46 years belonging to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- iii. He has to get re-elected from any of the constituencies of Uttarakhand within a period of six months post which he ceases to be a Minister (Article 164(4) of Indian Constitution).

Yogi Adityanath Takes Oath as Uttar Pradesh CM

Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the second term in office.

Governor of UP, Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Yogi Adityanath along with 52 ministers in the ceremony organized at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers in the new government.
- The gallery will depict the contributions of the revolutionaries in the freedom struggle of India and provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947.

Highlights:

- i.** Many prominent leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM of Bihar Nitish Kumar, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and others were present in the oath ceremony.
- ii.** The Yogi Adityanath-led BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government created history with its second tenure as no other CM has been able to repeat a government in the state in 37 years.
 - He has become the first such BJP leader to become the CM for the second consecutive term.
- iii.** The party secured more than 250 seats out of 403 in the state assembly elections 2022, and become the first party in over three decades to form a government for a second consecutive time in the state.
- iv.** Only five CMs, including Adityanath, have won a second consecutive term in UP ever. The four CMs before him to do so were Sampurnananda in 1957, Chandrabhanu Gupta in 1962, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna in 1974 and Narayan Dutt Tiwari in 1985.

About Yogi Adityanath:

- i.** Yogi Adityanath or Ajay Singh Bisht was born on 5th June 1972 in Pauri Garhwal. He has been serving as 21st CM of UP (Excluding Repetition)
- ii.** He is a Hindu monk and politician. For the first time he was appointed as the CM of UP in 2017 and served for 5 years (2017-2022).
- iii.** He has also been the Member of Parliament (MP) from the Gorakhpur constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- iv.** Of the 21 CMs Only 3 CMs (Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati) have completed a full five-year term.

ILO Elects Gilbert Hougbo as its 11th Director-General

The International Labour Organization (ILO) elected **Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo** from Togo as its next Director-General (DG). He will take office on 1st October 2022 for five years.

- Gilbert F. Hougbo will become the 11th DG of ILO and the First African to hold the post of DG.
- He will succeed **Guy Ryder** from the United Kingdom (UK), who has held the office since 2012.



Key points:

- i.** He was elected by the ILO's Governing Body, which consists of representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ii.** The ILO's Governing Body is composed of 56 titular members (28 Governments, 14 Employers and 14 Workers) and 66 deputy members (28 Governments, 19 Employers and 19 Workers).

About Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo:

i. Gilbert F. Hounbo was born in 1961. He is a Togolese politician and diplomat. He was the former Prime Minister of Togo who served from 2008 to 2012.

- Previously he worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

ii. He became Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnership at the ILO in 2013.

iii. Hounbo is the current President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

Headquarters-Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General– Guy Ryder (March 2022)

Founded-1919

Members- 187 Member Countries

Pramod Sawant Takes Oath As Goa's CM For 2nd Consecutive Term

Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, for a second consecutive term (2022-2027) at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao, Goa.

- The Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Pramod Sawant.
- The other eight Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) also took oath as Cabinet Ministers in the swearing in ceremony.
- In the second tenure the government will focus on employment generation, tourism and restarting mining activities in Goa.



Highlights:

i. Eight MLAs including Vishwajit Rane, Mauvin Godinho, Nilesh Cabral, Ravi Naik, Subhash Shirodkar, Govind Gaude, Rohan Khaunte and Atanasio Monserrate took the oath as Ministers.

ii. In state Assembly elections 2022, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party in Goa by winning 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.

iii. Other prominent leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Haryana CM, M L Khattar and Karnataka CM, Basavaraj Bommai were also present in the ceremony.

iv. This would be the second time that Goa's chief minister will be sworn in outside the Raj Bhavan premises.

About Pramod Sawant:

i. Pramod Pandurang Sawant was born in 1973 in Goa. He is a politician and an Ayurveda Medical practitioner by profession.

ii. He represents the Sanquelim constituency in the Goa Legislative Assembly and is a member of the BJP.

iii. In 2019, he was elected by the Legislative assembly and took oath as the **13th CM of Goa**, since after the demise of Manohar Parrikar (Previous CM) the CM seat became vacant.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Re-elected as President of BAI

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister (CM) of Assam was re-elected as the



President of the Badminton Association of India(**BAI**) for a period of **4 years** from **2022 to 2026** during the General Body Meeting held Guwahati, Assam.

He has been serving as the President of BAI since 2017 and he is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia and a member of the Executive Council of Badminton World Federation(**BWF**).

- Former junior national coach **Sanjay Mishra** was elected as the **new general secretary** and **Arun Hanumandas Lakhani**, President of Maharashtra Badminton Association was elected as the new **treasurer**.
- Incumbent General Secretary Ajay Kumar Singhanian will be one of the Vice Presidents of the new council.

Honours/ Awards

IISER's Prof Deepak Dhar became the first Indian selected for Boltzmann Medal

The renowned Indian physicist and Emeritus Professor at the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, Prof Deepak Dhar will be conferred the prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022 for contribution in the field of statistical physics.



- He became the **first Indian** to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. He will share the medal with **John J Hopfield** of Princeton University.
- The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference in August 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

Highlights:

i. The Boltzmann Medal (or Boltzmann Award) is named after the physicist **Ludwig Boltzmann** and awarded to physicists for contributing new results in statistical mechanics and it was instituted in 1975.

- **First award-** Kenneth G. Wilson (Cornell University) in 1975.

ii. The Boltzmann Medal is given every **three years** by the C3 Commission on Statistical Physics of the **International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)**.

iii. **John J Hopfield** is an American scientist, who is known for his invention of an associative neural network in 1982

About Prof Deepak Dhar:

i. He is known for his research on statistical physics and stochastic processes.

ii. He is an elected fellow of – the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the National Academy of Sciences and also The World Academy of Sciences.

Award- 'Shanti SwarupBhatnagar Prize' (1991) by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

IFR Asia Awards 2021: Axis Bank bags Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House

Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, was adjudged as the Asian Bank of The Year 2021 and India Bond House at the IFR Asia Awards 2021. The awards are organised by IFR Asia, a Hong Kong based provider of capital markets intelligence.

Axis bank has been honoured with the Asian Bank of The Year 2021 for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.

- The Asian Bank of The Year award acknowledges the bank's performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.

Other Awardees:

Morgan Stanley has been honoured with the Bank of the year award at the IFR Asia Award 2021 and the

JSW Group has been awarded with the Issuer of the year award.

Key Points:

i. Axis Bank was the only local house to serve as a global coordinator for the record Rs. 183 billion (Bn) Paytm Initial Public Offering (IPO), and was also the global coordinator for Macrotech Developers' Rs. 25 Bn IPO.

ii. Axis Bank's performance in DCM was encapsulated by its market share in India, which at 17.1% was double that of its nearest challenger.

About Axis Bank:

MD & CEO– Amitabh Chaudhry

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline– BadhtikanaamZindagi

2022 EE British Academy Film Awards: Will Smith won Best Actor for King Richard; The Power Of The Dog won Best Film

The winners of the 75th edition of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)'s annual film awards – 2022 EE British Academy Film Awards (BAFA) were announced on 13th March 2022 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the United Kingdom (UK).



- The award ceremony was broadcasted on the **BBC** (British Broadcasting Corporation) in the UK and across the globe.
- The award ceremony was hosted by Australian actress, Rebel Wilson

Highlights:

i. American Actor **Will Smith** won the BAFTA under the Leading Actor category for his role in King Richard, an American biographical sports drama film, directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green.

ii. **The Power Of The Dog**, a New Zealand-led Western psychological drama film, written and directed by Jane Campion has won 2 awards, **Best Film** and **Best Director**.

About the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA):

BAFTA is a world-leading, Britain's oldest independent art charity.

Incepted in 1947

President– HRH Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge

Headquarters– London, The United Kingdom (UK)

Miss World 2021: Poland's Karolina Bielawska won 70th Edition of Miss World

Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the 70th edition of the Miss World (Miss World 2021) pageant that was held in Coca-Cola Music Hall, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

She was crowned Miss World 2021 by 69th Miss World (Miss World 2019),

Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.



- She is the **2nd woman** from **Poland** to win the Miss World Title. **AnetaKreglicka**, Miss World 1989, was the first.

Indian-American Shree Saini who represented the United States of America(USA) in the pageant, is the 1st runner up at the Miss World 2021 followed by Olivia Yace of Côte d'Ivoire, 2nd runner up.

About Karolina Bielawska:

i.KarolinaBielawska, a student of Master's degree in Journalism, is also a Model and Social Influencer, and the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Krok do Zivota (Step into Life), which supports children in orphanages.

ii.She launched her foundation Krok do Zivota as her Beauty with a Purpose project.

Miss World – India:

i.ReitaFaria Powel, Miss World 1966, was the **first Indian** to win the Miss World pageant.

ii.FollowingReitaFaris, AishwaryaRai won the title in 1994, Diana Hayden in 1997, YuktaMookhey in 1999, Priyanka Chopra in 2000, and ManushiChhillar in 2017.

About Miss World:

i.Miss World, an annual beauty pageant, is one of the World's largest and longest-running international beauty pageants. It was launched in 1951.

ii.The Miss World Organization owns and manages the annual Miss World Finals

Diebedo Francis Kere become First African to win Pritzker Prize 2022

An architect Diebedo Francis Kere from Burkina Faso ,West Africa became the first African to win the 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022. It's a most prestigious honour in the field of architecture.

- In 2021, French architecture duo Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal won the **50th Pritzker Architecture Prize**.

Note- BalkrishnaDoshi is the first Indian winner of the 2018 Pritzker Prize.

About Diebedo Francis Kere:

He is a 56 years old architect born in Burkina Faso. He is a dual citizen of two countries- Burkina Faso and Germany.

i.Diebedo Francis Kere, known for his pioneering and sustainable designs of schools, health facilities, housing, civic buildings, and public spaces across Africa.

ii.In 2017, he became the first African architect to design the Serpentine Pavilion in Hyde Park, London, United Kingdom (UK). It is a prestigious assignment awarded each year to a prominent architect.

iii.He was also one of the architects behind Geneva's International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.



About Pritzker Architecture Prize:

It is granted annually and is often referred to as “architecture’s Nobel”.

First awarded- 1979

Sponsored by– Hyatt Foundation

2022 Sportstar Aces Awards: Neeraj Chopra & Mirabai Chanu honoured with ‘Sportstar of the Year award

Indian Olympian **Neeraj Chopra**, who won the gold medal (Javelin) at Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics was awarded the **Sportstar of the Year (Male) award** at the **2022 Sportstar Aces Awards** held at the TajMahal Hotel in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- Neeraj Chopra has also won the **Sportsman Of The Year (Track And Field)**.
- Mirabai Chanu who won the silver medal (Weightlifting), at Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics was honoured with the **Sportstar of the Year (Female) award** at the event.

Sportstar & The Hindu group released coffee-table book, ‘Road to 1000’

During the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards ceremony, the Sportstar & The Hindu released the 520-page coffee table book ‘Road to 1000’, a special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket’s journey.

American Mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan got the Abel Prize for 2022

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the **Abel prize for 2022** to American Mathematician **Dennis Parnell Sullivan**. The award was given “For his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.”

Note-

i. The Abel Prize is also known as the International Prize of Mathematics.

ii. In 2007, Indian American Srinivasa **S. R. Varadhan** was awarded with the Abel Prize.

- He was awarded for this contribution in probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations.

What is Topology?

Topology is a field of mathematics, which was born in the nineteenth century and it deals with properties of surfaces that do not change when they are deformed.

About Abel Prize:

i. The prize is named after Norway’s greatest mathematician, **Niels Henrik Abel**.

- It is the highest honor given in the field of Mathematics. Abel Prize is a top honour in mathematics, being similar to the Nobel prize for the sciences in being awarded for major contribution to a field of math.

- ii.**It was established by the **Norwegian Parliament** in 2002, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Niels Henrik Abel birth.
- iii.**The Prize is awarded by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.
- iv.**The award prize money was increased from 6 million NOK (Norwegian Kroner) to 7.5 million NOK in 2019.

94th Academy Awards- Oscars 2022: Jane Campion, Will Smith & Jessica Chastain won the top awards; Dune won 6 awards

The winners of the **94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022)** were announced at the ceremony held at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, United States of America(USA) on **27th March 2022**.

- The 94th Academy Awards honours and recognises the movies released in 2021.
- The nominees of the 94th Academy Awards were announced by Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan in February 2022.



Highlights:

- i.****Dune** directed by Denis Villeneuve leads the awards total with 6 wins. The film which was nominated under 10 categories, has bagged **6 awards** for Cinematography; Film Editing; Music (Original Score); Production Design; Sound and Visual Effects.
- ii.****Will Smith** has won the **Best Actor In A Leading Role** for his performance in “King Richard” and **Jessica Chastain** has won the **Best Actress In A Leading Role** for her role in “The Eyes Of Tammy Faye”.
- iii.****Jane Campion** has won the Best Director award at Oscars 2022 for her film, “Power of the Dog”. She is the 3rd Female director to win the Best Director Oscar.

Duff & Phelps Report: Cricketer Virat Kohli ranked India’s Most Valued Celebrity 2021

According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 (**7th Edition**) titled “**Digital Acceleration 2.0.**” released by Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll), Indian Cricketer **Virat Kohli** was ranked as **India’s most valued celebrity** for the **5th** consecutive time in 2021. The brand value of Virat Kohli has dropped from USD 237.7 million in 2020 to USD 185.7 million in 2021.

Top 3 Persons:

Rank	Name	Brand Value(In Millions)
1	Virat Kohli	USD 185.7

2	Ranveer Singh	USD 158.3
3	Akshay Kumar	USD 139.6

Alia Bhatt has ranked 4th with a brand value of USD 68.1 million and has become the most valued female celebrity. She is the youngest celebrity among the top 10 and she is the most valued brand amongst female Bollywood actors.

About Kroll:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Jacob Silverman

Headquarter – New York, United States(US)

Sports

Tennis: Daniil Medvedev The New ATP World No.1, Overthrowing Novak Djokovic

The Russian born tennis player **Daniil Medvedev** (8615 points), has ranked the new ATP World number 1 in the Mexican Open ATP Feb, 2022. He overthrew the Serbian player **Novak Djokovic** (8465 points – current rank 2), who held the top spot in men's tennis for a record 361 total weeks. Medvedev is the first player outside the 'Big Four', Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to hold the top spot in 18 years, three weeks and six days.

i. Last year Medvedev won his first Grand Slam title at **US Open** Sep, 2021



Sadia Tariq wins gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022

Indian Wushu player, **Sadia Tariq** won a **gold medal** in the Junior Tournament at **Moscow Wushu Stars**

Championship 2022. The Wushu Stars Championship is being held in Moscow, Russia from 22 to 28 February 2022.

- Total 38 players from India participated in the championship (23 junior and 15 senior participants).

Highlights:

i. Sadia Tariq is 15 year old player hails from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.

ii. In 2021, she secured the two Gold medals in the 20th Junior National Wushu championship held at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar and 19th Junior National Wushu championship at Haryana.

About International Wushu Federation (IWUF):

Established- October 3rd, 1990,

President- GOU Zhongwen

Headquarters- Beijing, China

BCCI Announces RuPay as official partner for Tata IPL 2022

On 3rd March 2022 the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s Indian Premier League (**IPL**) **Governing Council** announced National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**)'s flagship product **RuPay** as an official partner for the **Tata IPL 2022**. This will be a multi-year partnership.

- RuPay offers tech-led, innovative, and customised offerings to people across India, being accepted in India and internationally.
- Tata IPL 2022 will be co-presented by Dream11 and co-powered by Tata and CRED. Swiggy, Prystin Care, Zepto, Livspace, L'Oreal and Spinny have been signed-on as associate sponsors.

About RuPay:

RuPay is a first-of-its-kind Global Card payment network from India that is accepted at Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Point of Sale (POS) devices, and e-commerce websites which provides an exceptional self-reliant card payments network with innovative features.

Tata IPL 2022

- i. The 15th edition of Tata IPL 2022 will start on **26th March 2022**.
- ii. A total of 70 league matches will be played across four international venues in Mumbai and Pune. The venue for the playoff matches will be decided later.

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director (MD) & CEO – Dilip Asbe

FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2021: Chelsea won the Championship for the 1st Time

Chelsea Football Club (**Chelsea FC**) of United Kingdom (UK) won the **2021 FIFA Club World Cup**, an international club football tournament hosted by United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). Chelsea FC defeated Brazilian club Palmeiras in the finals. This is Chelsea FC's first FIFA Club World Cup title.



The 18th edition of the Club World Cup took place at 2 venues in Abu Dhabi, UAE and was held from 3rd to 12th February 2022. The event was presented by Alibaba Cloud.

- Award Winners: Thiago Silva (Brazil) won the Adidas Golden Ball Award; Eduardo Pereira Rodrigues (Commonly Known as Dudu) (Brazil) won the Adidas Silver Ball Award; Danilo (Palmeiras) won the Adidas Bronze Ball Award; Thiago Silva won the Alibaba Cloud Award; Chelsea FC won the FIFA Fair Play Award
- The Club World Cup, introduced in 2000, is an annual FIFA (International Federation of Association Football – French: Fédération Internationale de Football Association) competition to officially determine the world champions at the club level.

Badminton: India's Lakshya Sen Won Silver in Men's Singles at German Open 2022

Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen (20) grabbed silver after losing to Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand by 18-21, 15-21, in the men's singles final at the **Yonex Gainward German Open 2022** which was held at the Westenergie Sporthalle in Mülheim, Germany, on March 8-13, 2022. This year marks the 69th edition of the tournament.

- The total prize money of the event was **USD 180,000**.
- German Open is an annual badminton tournament classified as BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour Super 300 event.

- The tournament was organized by the German Badminton Association with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

Key Points:

i. Lakshya Sen claimed his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January 2022.

ii. Now as per the latest BWF world rankings, Lakshya Sen rose a place to **11th** from 12th in the men's singles chart while Pusarla Venkata (PV) Sindhu is static at the **7th** spot among women's singles

- India's Kidambi Srikanth dropped to 12th spot.
- B Sai Praneeth also dropped a place to be in the 19th position.

Winners of Yonex Gainward German Open 2022:

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's singles	Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)	Lakshya Sen (India)
Women's singles	He Bingjiao (China)	Chen Yufei (China)

Cricket: Overview Of Sri Lanka Tour Of India – 2022

Sri Lankan cricket team toured India for 3 Twenty20 Internationals (T20I) and 2 Test Internationals (including 1 pink ball test match) from 24 February 2022 to 16 March 2022. Under Rohit Sharma captaincy team India **Whitewashed** Sri Lanka in both the formats with the lead of **3-0** in T20I series and **2-0** in tests series.

Player of The Series:

T20I

- **Shreyas Iyer** adjudged as the Player of the Series for his consecutive Half-Centuries in all the 3 T20I, scoring 204 overall runs.

Test

- **Rishabh Pant** was adjudged as the Test Player of the Series. Scoring 185 runs in 3 innings.

Records By Indian Cricket Team:

i. India maintained their undefeated record in home day/night pink-ball Test matches.

ii. Bengaluru, M Chinnaswamy Stadium hosted the pink-ball Test for the first time ever.

iii. India equalled the Afghanistan and Romania world record of 12 consecutive T20I wins in a row.

American Golfer Tiger Woods Inducted Into World Golf Hall of Fame 2022

American born golfer, **Eldrick Tont “Tiger” Woods** has been inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame 2022 which located in United States. He has won **82** all-time Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) TOUR, also Tiger Woods is tied with Sam Snead for the most wins in PGA TOUR history. Woods has also won 18 Major (PRO) championships. Woods accomplished the “Tiger Slam” in 2000-’01, he also is a two-time winner of THE PLAYERS Championship (2001, 2013) and became the first two-time winner of the FedExCup (2007, 2009). He has also won 7 consecutive PGA TOUR wins (2006-2007).



i. Susie Maxwell Berning, Tim Finchem, the late Marion Hollins and Tiger Woods were the inductees of World Golf Hall of Fame 2022.

Pankaj Advani Bags Asian Billiards Championship 2022 for 8th time in Doha

The Arjuna & Padma awardee cueist, **Pankaj Advani** won his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha, Qatar.

- This is the 40th international title and 8th Asian crown won by Pankaj Advani.

Highlights:

- Pankaj Advani defeated compatriot **India’s Dhruv Sitwala** by six frames.
- Earlier, he also defeated Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final of the championship.



About Pankaj Advani:

- Pankaj Arjan Advani is an Indian billiards and former professional snooker player.. He has won 16 billiards world titles and the World Team Billiards Championship once.
- He is known by his nicknames- ‘The Prince of India’, ‘The Golden Boy’ and ‘The Prince of Pune’.

Awards-

- Arjuna Award for Billiards and Snooker
- Padma Bhushan (2018)
- Padma Shri (2009)
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award

Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc wins F1 season-opening Bahrain GP

Ferrari’s driver Charles Leclerc (Monaco) won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 of Formula one (F1) held at Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain. **Carlos Sainz** (Spain) driving Ferrari finished second by one-two.

i. While **Lewis Hamilton** (Great Britain) driving Mercedes secured third podium, The fourth podium was

secured by **George Russell** (Britain) representing Mercedes.

ii. **Kevin Magnussen** (Danish) finished fifth representing the Haas team. World champion **Max Verstappen** (Belgian-Dutch) was forced out with an electrical issue two laps before the end.

iii. The F1 championships are organised by **Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)**.

About Bahrain Grand Prix:

i. The Bahrain Grand Prix is also called the **Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix** is a Formula One motor racing event in Bahrain.

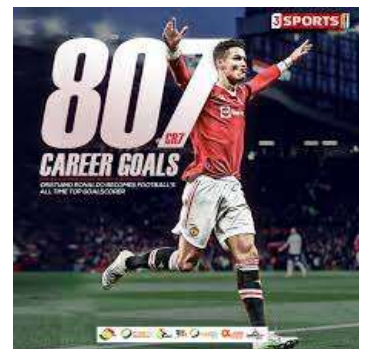
ii. The first race took place at the Bahrain International Circuit on **4 April 2004**. It was the **first Formula One Grand Prix** to be held in the **Middle East**, and was given the award for the “Best Organised Grand Prix” by International Automobile Federation (FIA)

Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes All-time Leading Scorer with 807 Goals

Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo has become the all-time leading scorer (professional football) with 807 goals, after scoring 3 goals against Tottenham Hotspur during the English Premier League 2022.

Previously the record was held by Austro-Czech Josef Bican who scored 805 goals from 1931 to 1955.

- Cristiano Ronaldo scored the 807 goals while playing for Lisbon (5), Manchester United (136), Real Madrid (450), Juventus (101) and the Portuguese national team (115).
- Brazilian strikers Pele and Romário de Souza Faria each have scored more than a 1000 goals during their careers, but the statistics include goals in amateur, unofficial and friendly matches.



Australian Tennis Player Ashleigh Barty retires from Tennis

Australian professional Tennis player and Cricketer **Ashleigh Barty**, announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 25.

i. Ash Barty was the one who **won singles** major championships **on three different surfaces** — on clay at the **2019 French Open**, on grass at **Wimbledon 2021** and on the hard courts of **Melbourne Park in 2022**.

ii. Becoming the first Australian player in 44 years to triumph at the nation’s Grand Slam tournament.

iii. During her 21-month sabbatical from tennis as a teen, Barty played cricket with the Brisbane Heat of the Women’s Big Bash League, playing a \$50,000 ITF event in Eastbourne — winning three qualifying matches and three more in the main draw.

iv. Later, she was ranked No. 88; by the end of 2017, Barty was an established member of the top 20.

v. Barty was the only other woman who has walked away from the sport while atop the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) rankings: **Justine Henin** was No. 1 when she retired in May 2008.

Byju's Named a Sponsor of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Byju's India's leading education technology provider headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has become the **official sponsor** of (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**. Through this partnership, BYJU will leverage its rights to the FIFA World Cup 2022 marks, emblem and assets, and run unique promotions to connect with football fans across the world.

- FIFA also has a sponsorship agreement with Singapore based Crypto.com for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022
- The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will take place from 21 November to 18 December 2022 in Qatar. Qatar will be hosting the first ever FIFA World Cup in the Middle East.
- This is only the second time the competition to be held on Asian soil, after the 2002 edition co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.
- With this, BYJU'S became the first EdTech brand to sponsor the prestigious FIFA event globally & became the 1st Indian firm to sponsor FIFA.

Badminton: P V Sindhu Secures Gold In Swiss Open Badminton 2022 in Basel

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, 2016 Rio Olympic Silver medalist, secured **Gold** medal in women's singles YONEX Swiss Open 2022 (Swiss Open Super 300) badminton tournament at Basel, Switzerland, which was held from 22 March 2022 – 27 March 2022. Sindhu defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan by (21-16), (21-8).



- Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar of India won silver medal. He lost his match against Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the men's singles final.

i. Sindhu ranks 7 in Women's Singles Badminton World Federation (**BWF**) World rankings.

ii. Sindhu wins her second Super 300 title of 2022,

- Swiss Open Super 300 – 2022 March
- Syed Modi International – 2022 January

Indian's At YONEX Swiss Open – 2022:

A total of 11 singles players and 13 doubles teams represented India at the Swiss Open 2022.

India Medals At Swiss Open – 2022

Men's Singles – **Gold**
Men's Singles – **Silver**

Jonatan CHRISTIE (Indonesia)
Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar
(India)

Women's Singles – Gold	Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (India)
Women's Singles – Silver	Busanan Ongbamrunphan (Thailand)

India Bagged 2 Medals at WTT Contender Doha 2022, Qatar

India has won 2 medals (**1 Bronze and 1 Silver**) at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022 championship, held at the Lusail Sports Arena in Doha, Qatar from 18th March to 24th March 2022.



- India's Mixed Doubles pair, **Manika Batra** and **Gnanasekaran Sathiyan** have won the **Silver** medal at the WTT Contender Doha 2022 under the Mixed doubles category and **Achanta Sharath Kamal** (world Rank 41) won the **Bronze** medal in Men's Singles Event at the Tournament.

Note:

World Table Tennis (WTT) is an organization created by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). WTT's inaugural tournament was held in November 2020 in Macao, China.

Key Points:

- According to the ITTF world Ranking (2022), Manika Batra and Gnanasekaran Sathiyan are ranked 7th in the Mixed Doubles Pair ranking.
- In the Mixed Doubles Individuals (2022) ranking Manika Batra is ranked 15th followed by Gnanasekaran Sathiyan (ranked 16th).

Autistic Teen Jiya Rai Becomes World's Youngest & Fastest Female Swimmer to Swim Across Palk Strait

Mumbai based Autistic teen **Jiya Rai** (13 years old), daughter of an Indian Navy officer, became the **world's youngest and fastest female swimmer** to swim across the Palk Strait. She swam across the Palk Strait (29 kilometres) connecting Sri Lanka and India, in **13 hours and 10 minutes**. She started her swimming on 20th March 2020 at Talaimannar, Sri Lanka and finished at Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu (India).

The event was conducted and guided by the Para-Swimming Federation of India (PSFI).

- She is the youngest girl with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to swim in open waters
- She is a recipient of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, the highest honour given to Indian Citizens below 18 years of age.

Note: The record was previously held by Bhula Chowdhary who swam in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004.

Obituaries

Australian Cricket's Legendary Spinner Shane Warne Passed Away At The Age Of 52

Shane Keith Warne, the legendary Australian spinner has passed away at the age of 52 in KohSamui, Thailand. He was born in Ferntree Gully, Victoria, Australia. He had also contributed towards the victory of the ICC World Cup for the Australian Cricket team in the years – 1995/96 (Wills World Cup) and 1999 (ICC World Cup).

i. To honour Shane Warne the Australian Cricket Board decided to rename the Great Southern Stand as “Shane Warne stand” in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Achievements Of Shane Warne:

i. Warne was named one of the Five Cricketers of the **Century by Wisden Cricketers** (stands 4) ‘Almanack in 2000.

- Sir Donald Bradman stands first in Wisden Five Cricketers of the Century.

ii. He captained **Rajasthan Royals** and led them to win the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) title in 2008.

iii. He is the overall leading wicket-taker in Ashes (195 wickets).

iv. He is the Second Highest International wicket taker of all time (Test – 708, ODI – 293)

v. He was the First cricketer to take 700 international test wickets in 2006, later he was overtaken by Muttiah Muralitharan with **800 wickets**.

Autobiographies:

No Spin (co author- Mark Nicholas)

Shane Warne's Century: My Top 100 Test Cricketers

Shane Warne: My Illustrated Career

Warne (co-author- Richard Hobson)

Shane Warne: My Autobiography

Shane Warne: My Own Story



Former Army Chief General Sunith Francis Rodrigues passed away

The former **Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Sunith Francis Rodrigues**, aged 88, passed away in Goa on March 4, 2022. The Military Thinker and a Strategist has held some of the prestigious posts in Military and Public Offices of India. He was born in Mumbai, Maharashtra in 1933.

General Sunith Francis Rodrigues' Timeline:

Military Offices:

i. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army on 28



December 1952 and retired as General (COAS) on 30 June 1993, spanning 40 years of service in the Indian Army.

- The **15th Chief of the Army Staff** (India) from 1 July 1990 – 30 June 1993.
- The **32nd Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** from 1 August 1991 – 30 June 1993.

ii. He played a vital role along with the Indian force during the Sino-Indian War – 1962, Indo-Pakistan War – 1965, Indo-Pakistan War – 1971.

iii. He was honoured with Military Awards like **ParamVishishtSeva Medal** (PVSM), **VishishtSeva Medal** (VSM), **25th Anniversary of Independence Medal** and various such awards.

iv. He was also influential in inducting women into the Indian Army in 1991, initiating an important step towards empowering women to serve their country.

Public Offices:

i. He was the **26th Governor of Punjab** and **13th Administrator of Chandigarh** holding the offices from 16 November 2004 – 22 January 2010. He was appointed by the then President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Former Chief Justice of India R.C. Lahoti passed away

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI), **Ramesh Chandra Lahoti (35th CJI)** passed away at the age of 81 years in New Delhi.

About Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti:

i. Ramesh Chandra Lahoti was born on 1st November 1940 in Guna, Madhya Pradesh (MP). ii. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 1988 and later became a permanent judge in 1989.

iii. He was appointed as the 35th CJI on 1st June 2004 & retired on 1st November, 2005.

iv. He was a former independent director on the Board of directors of the Press Trust of India..

v. He was appointed as an arbitrator by the Government of India in the ₹20,000 crore high-profile tax dispute case with Vodafone telecom company.

Books authored by Ramesh Chandra Lahoti:

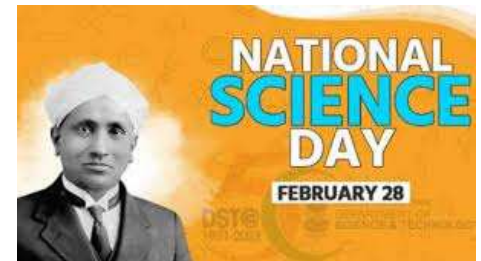
- “Preamble: The Spirit and Backbone of the Constitution of India”
- “Canons of Judicial Ethics”



Important Days with theme

National Science Day 2022 – February 28

The National Science Day (NSD) is annually observed across India on 28th February to commemorate the day (28th February 1928) on which Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman) discovered the Raman effect.



- He won the Nobel Prize in Physics (1930) for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him, 'The Raman effect'.

The National Science Week is celebrated from 22nd to 28th February 2022.

- The theme of NSD 2022 is “Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future”.

World Wildlife Day (WWD) 2022 – March 3

The United Nations (UN)'s World Wildlife Day (WWD) is annually observed across the globe on 3rd March to celebrate and create awareness about the importance of wild fauna and flora.

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in collaboration with other relevant UN organizations, facilitates the implementation of World Wildlife Day.



- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2022 is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.
- The first World Wildlife Day was observed on 3rd March 2014.

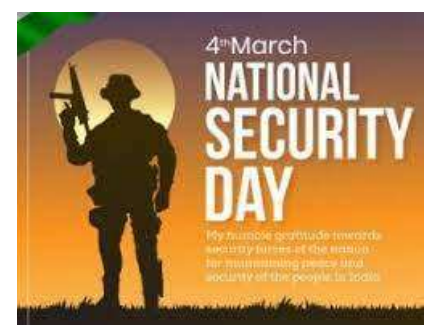
National Security Day 2022 – March 4

National Security Day (NSD), also known as Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas, is annually observed across India on 4th March to pay tribute and show gratitude to the national security forces of India, which includes the military, para-military, commandos, police officials, guards and those who maintain the peace and security of India.

About National Security Council (NSC):

i. A six-member National Security Council (NSC) headed by the prime minister was set up by former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee in November 1998.

ii. The council consists of senior officials like the chiefs of the intelligence agencies, the heads of the three



armed forces, and other senior secretaries to the government

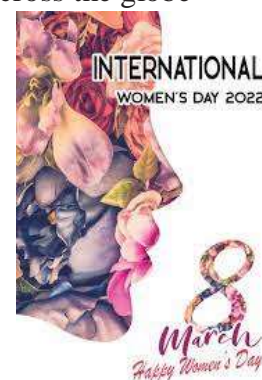
National Security Advisor (NSA):

- i. Brajesh Mishra was the first National Security Advisor.
- ii. Ajit Kumar Doval is serving as the 5th and current National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister of India.
- iii. He is the Chairman of the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) of the NSC.

International Women's Day 2022 – March 8

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Women's Day (IWD)** is annually observed across the globe on **8th March** to recognise women's achievements regardless of divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

- The theme of International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 is **“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”**. The theme calls for climate action for women by women.



i. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MoWCD**)

celebrated **International Women's Day Week** from **1st to 8th March 2022** as an 'Iconic Week' as a part of 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav'.

ii. On the eve of International Women's Day, **MoWCD**, Ministry of Education (**MoE**) and United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) partnered and launched the landmark 'Back to School' campaign – **“KanyaShikshaPraveshUtsav”** to bring back out of school adolescent girls in India to the formal education and/or skilling system.

UN's First-ever Annual International Day of Women Judges – 10th March 2022

The United Nations (UN) celebrates the first-ever annual observance of the International Day of Women Judges on 10th March 2022.

Starting from 2022 the 10th March will be annually celebrated across the globe as International Day of Women Judges to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary.

- The day also celebrates the progress that has been made and raises awareness about the challenges ahead.

Observance in India:

The Supreme Court of India commemorated the first-ever International Day of Women Judges with special programmes organised by the Supreme Court Registry.

All the women judges of the constitutional courts and all the women judicial officers from across India were invited to participate in the programme.

International Day of Mathematics 2022 – March 14

The International Day of Mathematics (**IDM**) is annually observed across the



globe on **14th March** to celebrate mathematics and connect maths with all sorts of subjects, fields, and ideas.

In several countries, March 14 (**3/14**) is celebrated as **Pi Day** to celebrate the mathematical constant π (**pi**), which is also known by the Greek letter tau.

- The date March 14 is written as 3/14 in some countries.
- The value of the mathematical constants, pi, is approximately **3.14**.

The theme for the 2022 IDM by IDM314.org is “**Mathematics Unites**”.The theme was proposed by YuliyaNesterova, a graduate student from the University of Ottawa in Canada.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director-General– Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters– Paris, France

World Consumer Rights day 2022 – March 15

World Consumer Rights Day is annually observed across the globe on 15th March to create awareness about consumer rights and needs. The day offers a platform to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected.

- The day highlights the importance of consumer rights in protecting consumers against market abuses and social injustices.

World Consumer Rights Day is annually coordinated by **Consumers**

International, a membership organization for consumer groups around the world.



- The **theme** of World Consumer Rights Day 2022 is “**Fair Digital Finance**”, which addresses the issues faced by consumers in digital finance.

International Day of Happiness 2022 – March 20

The United Nations(UN)’s **International Day of Happiness** is annually observed across the globe on **20th March** to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.

The day recognises that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal.



- As per United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), the theme of International Day of Happiness 2022 is “**Build Back Happier**”.
- According to happinesday.org, the official campaign of the International Day of Happiness is “**Happiness For All, Ukraine**”.

Background:

- i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/66/281 on 28th June 2012 and proclaimed the 20th March of every year as the International Day of Happiness.
- ii. The **first-ever** International Day of Happiness was observed on **20th March 2013**.

World Water Day 2022 – March 22

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Water Day** is annually observed across the globe on **22nd March** to celebrate water and focus on the importance of freshwater.

The day also aims to create awareness of the 2.2 billion people who are living without access to safe water.

- The observance of World Water Day is led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



The theme of World Water Day 2022 is **“Groundwater: Making the invisible visible”**.

Background:

In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/47/193 and proclaimed the 22nd March of every year as World Water Day.

The **first-ever** World Water Day was observed on **22nd March 1993**.

About UN-Water:

UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater related matters, including sanitation.

It was formalized in 2003 by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Chair of UN-Water– Gilbert F. Hounbo

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

World Meteorological Day 2022 – March 23

The United Nations (UN)'s World Meteorological Day is annually observed across the globe on **23rd March** to create awareness about the environmental condition of our planet. The day also aims to spread awareness about the role of people and their behaviour in protecting the Earth's atmosphere.

- World Meteorological Day is an initiative of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, a specialised agency of the UN.

The theme of World Meteorological Day 2022 is **“Early Warning and Early Action”**.

- The 2022 World Meteorological Day focus on the vital importance of hydrometeorological and climate information for disaster risk reduction.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

WMO is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere.



President– Gerhard Adrian

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Shaheed Diwas 2022 – March 23

Shaheed Diwas, also known as **Martyr’s Day**, is annually observed in India on **23rd March** to pay tribute to **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev** who were hanged to death in 1931 in the Central Jail at Lahore (now in Pakistan). The day also aims to remember all the freedom fighters who fought to protect our country and lost their lives in the line of duty to the nation.

- Shaheed Diwas 2022 is being organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (**NYKS**) by focussing on the theme ‘**Tribute to Revolutionaries**’.

Note: January 30, the day on which Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated is also observed as Shaheed Diwas.

Earth Hour 2022 – March 26

Earth Hour is annually observed across the globe on the **last Saturday of March** by turning off the lights between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm (Local Time) as a symbolic gesture towards the commitment to preserve the Earth and to support actions against Climate Change.

- **Earth Hour** is annually organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature(**WWF**).

26th March 2022(Earth Hour 2022) marks the observance of the **15th Earth Hour**.

- Earth Hour 2021 was observed on 27th March 2021.
- Earth Hour 2023 will be observed on 25 March 2023.

The theme of Earth Hour 2022 is “**Shape Our Future**”.

About World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF):

President & CEO– Carter Roberts

Headquarters– Gland, Switzerland

Established in 1961