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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



April 2022



Where only education matters...



# Table of CONTENTS



**April - 2022**

S.No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1.	Important News of the month	03
2.	National News	07
3.	International News	28
4.	Sports News	40
5.	Important Appointments	44
6.	List of Important Days	49
7.	Current Affairs Quiz - 1	52
8.	Current Affairs Quiz - 2	55
9.	Answer and Explanation	
	- Current Affairs Quiz - 1	59
	- Current Affairs Quiz - 2	62



## **IndAus ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) Signed Between India and Australia**

India and Australia signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA), hailing it as a watershed moment and one of the biggest economic doors there is to open in the world. It will provide zero-duty access to 96 per cent of India's exports to Australia, including shipments from key sectors like engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel, and leather.



### **Key Points :**

- ◆ According to a government estimate, the agreement will increase bilateral trade in products and services to \$45-50 billion over the next five years, up from roughly \$27 billion, and create over one million employees in India.
- ◆ Around 85% of Australia's exports, including coal, sheep meat, and wool, will have zero duty access to the Indian market, while Australian wines, almonds, lentils, and select fruits would have lower duty access.
- ◆ Under the deal, zero-duty access for Indian goods will be expanded to 100% over the next five years.
- ◆ It is India's first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a large developed country in more than a decade. India inked an FTA with the UAE in February and is actively negotiating FTAs with Israel, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.
- ◆ In a virtual ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan signed the deal.

- ◆ Indian STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) graduates will be awarded extended post-study work visas under the deal. Australia will also establish a programme to provide visas to young Indians who wish to spend their vacations working in the country.

#### Highlights of the Trade Agreement:

- ◆ The pact will increase bilateral trade to \$45-50 billion in five years and create over one million jobs in India.
- ◆ Many labour-intensive Indian exports currently face a tariff disadvantage of 4-5 percent compared to competitors — those with FTAs with Australia — such as China, Thailand, and Vietnam. Officials claim that removing this barrier would greatly boost merchandise shipments.
- ◆ In FY2021, bilateral goods and services trade between India and Australia was \$27.5 billion. In FY2022, merchandise exports to Australia grew at a quicker rate than exports to any other country.
- ◆ Exports of Indian goods and services to Australia are predicted to hit \$20 billion in FY2027 and \$35 billion in FY2035, up from around \$10.5 billion in FY2021.

### Sri Lanka Economic Crisis- Explained

**S**ri Lanka, an island nation of 22 million, is facing an economic and political crisis, with protesters taking to the streets in defiance of curfews and government ministers stepping down en masse.

Driving the discontent is the worst economic downturn since the South Asian country gained independence in 1948, with crippling inflation sending the cost of basic goods skyrocketing.

Anger, which has been simmering for weeks, boiled over last Thursday, turning protests violent -- and throwing the government into disorder. Here's what you need to know.



#### What caused the economic crisis?

- ◆ Experts say the crisis has been years in the making, driven by a little bad luck and a lot of government mismanagement.
- ◆ Over the past decade, the Sri Lankan government has borrowed vast sums of money from foreign lenders to fund public services, said Murtaza Jafferjee, chair of Colombo-based think tank Advocata Institute.



- ◆ This borrowing spree has coincided with a series of hammer blows to the Sri Lankan economy, from both natural disasters - such as heavy monsoons -- to man-made catastrophes, including a government ban on chemical fertilizers that decimated farmers' harvests.
- ◆ These problems were compounded in 2018, when the President's dismissal of the Prime Minister sparked a constitutional crisis; the following year, when hundreds of people at churches and luxury hotels were killed in the 2019 Easter bombings; and from 2020 onwards with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ But the move backfired, instead hitting government revenue. That prompted rating agencies to downgrade Sri Lanka to near default levels, meaning the country lost access to overseas markets.
- ◆ Sri Lanka then had to fall back on its foreign exchange reserves to pay off government debt, shrinking its reserves from \$6.9 billion in 2018 to \$2.2 billion this year. This impacted imports of fuel and other essentials, which sent prices soaring.
- ◆ Topping all that, the government in March floated the Sri Lankan rupee -- meaning its price was determined based on the demand and supply of foreign exchange markets.
- ◆ That move appeared aimed at devaluing the currency to qualify for a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and encourage remittances.

However, the plunging of the rupee against the US dollar only made things worse for ordinary Sri Lankans.

### **Oscars 2022: 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards 2022 Announced**

The 94th Academy Awards returned to the Dolby Theater in Hollywood as the top films from the last year were honoured by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The show was hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes, the first time the award ceremony has had multiple hosts since Anne Hathaway and James Franco co-hosted the 83rd instalment in 2011.



#### **Key points:**

- ◆ The 94th Academy Awards are honouring the films released between January 1 and December 31, 2021. The nominations were announced on February 8, by actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan.

- ◆ Netflix's *The Power of the Dog* leads the race with 12 nominations followed by sci-fi epic *Dune*, with 10 nods. Indian documentary *Writing With Fire* is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).
- ◆ Awards will be presented across 23 categories, which are determined based on voting by members of the Academy.
- ◆ This time, there are two new categories- Oscars Fan Favorite Award and Oscars Cheer Moment, which will be decided by fan voting, which was done online between February 14 and March 3, 2022.

### Check out the full list of winners

- ◆ Best Actor in a Leading Role: Will Smith, "*King Richard*"
- ◆ Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain (*The Eyes of Tammy Faye*)
- ◆ Best Picture: *CODA*
- ◆ Best International Feature Film: *Drive My Car*
- ◆ Documentary Short Subject: *The Queen of Basketball*
- ◆ Best Directing: Jane Campion (*The Power of the Dog*)
- ◆ Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Ariana DeBose (*West Side Story*)
- ◆ Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Troy Kotsur (*CODA*)
- ◆ Best Makeup & Hairstyling: *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*
- ◆ Best Cinematography: *Dune*
- ◆ Best Original Score: Hans Zimmer (*Dune*)
- ◆ Best Visual Effects: *Dune*
- ◆ Best Animated Feature Film: *Encanto*
- ◆ Best Animated Short Film: *The Windshield Wiper*
- ◆ Best Costume Design: *Cruella*
- ◆ Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Branagh (*Belfast*)
- ◆ Best Adapted Screenplay: Sian Heder (*Coda*)
- ◆ Best Live Action Short Film: *The Long Goodbye*
- ◆ Best Sound: *Dune*
- ◆ Best Documentary Feature: "*Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*"
- ◆ Best Original Song: "*No Time To Die*" from "*No Time to Die*," music and lyric by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell
- ◆ Best Production Design: *Dune*
- ◆ Best Film Editing: *Dune*



## Padma Awards 2022 Conferred by the President

The Union ministry of home affairs announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service). The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.



These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees. In Duo case, the Award is counted as one.

### Padma Vibhushan 2022

Ms Prabha Atre	Art
Shri Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education
General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service
Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs

### Padma Bhushan 2022

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs
Shri Victor Banerjee	Art
Ms. Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous)	Art

Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee  
 Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran  
 Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella\* (Duo)  
 Ms. Madhur Jaffery  
 Shri Devendra Jhajharia  
 Shri Rashid Khan  
 Shri Rajiv Mehrishi  
 Shri Satya Narayana Nadella  
 Shri Sundararajan Pichai  
 Shri Cyrus Poonawalla  
 Shri Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous)  
 Ms. Pratibha Ray  
 Swami Sachidanand  
 Shri Vashishth Tripathi

Public Affairs  
 Trade and Industry  
 Trade and Industry  
 Others-Culinary  
 Sports  
 Art  
 Civil Service  
 Trade and Industry  
 Trade and Industry  
 Trade and Industry  
 Science and Engineering  
 Literature and Education  
 Literature and Education  
 Literature and Education

Apart from these 103 people were awarded with Padma Shri Awards.

### India is on the rise with 222 % growth in open access solar installations: Mercom India Report

According to Mercom India Research's newly released report titled "Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q4 & Annual 2021," India has added 1.2 Giga Watts (GW) of new solar open access capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2021, marking a growth of 222 % during the year.

As of December 2021, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market was over 5 {GW}, whereas in the year 2020, India had an installed open access solar capacity of 383 Mega Watts (MW), which shows that there is a growth in the demand for open access solar installations. The top 3 states in installation of open access solar capacities of the CY 2021 are Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra respectively.

#### Key Facts :

- ◆ India added 298 MW of solar operations capacity in Q4 2021 and installations were 75 % more compared to 2020.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh had the maximum installations with 113 {MW} and accounted for 38 % of the total capacity additions in Q4 2021.

### Union MoS Jitendra Singh Releases India's Arctic Policy in Delhi

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh released India's Arctic policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' in New Delhi. India is one of 13 nations holding Observer status in the Arctic Council.

- ◆ It is available on the website of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) at <https://www.moes.gov.in>.



- ◆ Thirteen Non-arctic States have been approved as Observers to the Arctic Council. They are France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
- ◆ It is available on the website of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) at <https://www.moes.gov.in/>.
- ◆ Thirteen Non-arctic States have been approved as Observers to the Arctic Council. They are France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

#### Objective :

- ◆ To promote the agenda of strengthening national capabilities and competencies in science and environmental protection, maritime and economic cooperation with the Arctic region.
- ◆ To enhance understanding of the impact of climate change in the Arctic and deepen India's participation in climate, economic, and energy security related issues. It studies linkages between polar regions and the Himalayas.

#### About Arctic Council :

- ◆ Founded- 1996
- ◆ Headquarters- Tromso, Norway
- ◆ Council members (8)- eight Arctic states; Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the U.S
- ◆ Observer states (13)-France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

## 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue held in Jakarta, Indonesia

On 17th March 2022, the second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The 2nd IISD was co-chaired by Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser (NSA) of India and Mohammad Mahfud, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia.

- ◆ Both have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Security Dialogue between the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia and the National Security Council Secretariat of India.

#### IISD :

- ◆ The IISD is a forum that brings together the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia and the National Security Adviser of India to discuss and enhance cooperation between the two countries on political and security issues.

#### Key Points :

- ◆ At the 2nd IISD, Mohammad Mahfud and Ajit Doval discussed several shared priorities between both countries, which included a review of the current global and security issues, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and enhancing maritime, defence, and cyber security cooperation.
- ◆ They also recognised the importance of traditional friendly relationships and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia.

This IISD will support strengthening cooperation between both countries and will help to overcome the common challenges and identify opportunities for close collaboration in the field of political and security issues.

### **Defence Minister inaugurates DRDO's Flight Control System Integration complex in Bengaluru**

The Union Defence minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new Flight Control System (FCS) integration complex at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru Karnataka.

- ◆ The seven storey FCS Integration building was constructed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with the help of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in an area of \$1.3\$ lakh square feet with the record of 45 days in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ◆ It will be used as the research and development (R&D) activities to develop the avionics for fighter aircraft and FCS for the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

#### **What are Avionics?**

- ◆ A category of electronic systems and equipment specifically designed for use in aviation.

#### **Key Points :**

- ◆ The in-house developed hybrid technology used by DRDO for the construction of FCS Complex at the ADE.
- ◆ Hybrid technology consisted of conventional, pre-engineered and precast methodology

- ◆ The foundation stone for the project was laid on 22 November, 2021, and the construction began on 1 February, 2022.
- ◆ It was built as per the standard national building code, the technical support was provided by teams from IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras & IIT Roorkee.

### **Progressive Reduction of MMR in India: Kerala Outperforms India's Achievement in Reducing MMR**

The Registrar General of India has released a Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) for 2017-2019. India's MMR has reduced to 103 , a decrease of 10 points, when compared to the previous data of 113 in \$2016-2018\$, a decline of about \$8.8\%\$.

Since India is showing a persistent decline in MMR from 130 in 2014, 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, and 103 in 2017-19, it will soon achieve the below

- ◆ National Health Policy (NHP) target for MMR of 100/lakh live births by 2020.
- ◆ United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for MMR of 70/lakh live births by 2030.
- ◆ Kerala has recorded the lowest MMR of 30 lakh live births when compared to India's MMR of 103 , putting it far ahead of the nation.
- ◆ Three states such as Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have shown a remarkable decline of more than 15% in their MMR.
- ◆ Four states namely West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh have shown an increase in MMR.

## **HAL & Safran Signs to set up Helicopter Engines MRO Facility in Goa**

**H**industan Aeronautics Limited(HAL) and Safran Helicopter Engines(Safran) are set to establish a new facility of Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO), a Joint Venture of HAL and Safran at Sattari, North Goa, Goa.

### **HE-MRO Facility:**

- ◆ HE-MRO will be operational by the end of 2023 with a capacity to repair 50 engines a year and the full-capacity goal of 150 engines in upcoming years.
- ◆ The facility has an expansion capacity for other engines in the future.
- ◆ The world-class MRO Centre of HE-MRO will provide MRO services for Safran TM333 and HAL Shakti engines installed on HAL-built helicopters to increase the operational readiness of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ◆ This centre will play a major role in building customer satisfaction and supporting the Government of India's vision for aerospace MRO in India.

## **NMDC signs MoU with IIT Kharagpur for Drone-Based Mineral Exploration**

**I**ndia's largest iron ore manufacturer National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Drone-Based Mineral Exploration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur.

This partnership will produce spectral products, methodologies, and algorithms for mining exploration employing drones (UAVs), which will lead to the development of software spectral

tools for mineral excavation and mining technology capacity-building programmes.

### **Key Points:**

- ◆ NMDC has been exploring a wide range of minerals, including the minerals mentioned under the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC).
- ◆ With this collaboration, NMDC will become India's first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to perform Drone-based Geophysical Surveys and Hyperspectral Studies for Mineral Exploration, setting a new standard in the field of mineral exploration.
- ◆ NMDC is exploring for various minerals in Madhya Pradesh as well as diamonds in the Beloda - Belmundi block in Chhattisgarh. It is also the first CPSE in the Central Indian Diamond Province to use space geophysics, as well as the first to use online monitoring of data exploration on the BHUVAN platform.
- ◆ By launching a policy on drones, the Indian government has taken the first step in regulating and monitoring drone usage and operations in India, where they are now employed in agriculture, urban planning, forestry, mining, disaster management, surveillance, and transportation, among other industries.

## **Lok Sabha Speaker Addressed Valedictory Function of the 3rd National Youth Parliament Festival -2022**

**L**ok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the valedictory function of the 3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival(NYPF) -2022, held from 10th March to 11th March 2022, at the

Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi, Delhi. He also felicitated the 3 final winners at the National level of the 3rd NYPF.

The NYPF is organised to hear the voice of the youth, who will join various careers in the coming years, including public services. The 1st edition was held in 2019 and the 2nd edition was held in 2020. The theme of the 3rd NYPF is 'be the voice of New India and find solutions and contribute to Policy'

### **Indian Potash limited inked MoU with Israel Chemicals Ltd for MoP supply for 5 years**

**O**n March 21,2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Indian Potash limited (IPL), under Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL).

Under this, there will be supply of Muriate of Potash (MOP) from Israel to India for 5 years, 2022 to 2027, with a yearly quantity of 6 to 6.5 LMT (Lakh Metric Tonnes).

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) in Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi).

#### **About Indian Potash limited (IPL):**

- ◆ Board of Directors' Chairman-Sundeep Kumar Nayak
- ◆ Head Office-Chennai, Tamil Nadu

### **Union Cabinet Approves Continuation of National AIDS and STD Control Programme Till 2026**

**U**nion Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the continuation of National AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Control Programme (NACP) for 5 years from 1 April, 2021 to 31 March, 2026 with an outlay of Rs. \$15,471.94\$ crore by approving phase-V of the programme.

- ◆ he Phase-IV (Extension) of National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) was concluded on 31 March, 2021
- ◆ The NACP Phase-V will work towards the attainment of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 3.3 of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through a comprehensive package of prevention, detection and treatment services.

#### **About National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) :**

- ◆ It is a Central sector scheme which is completely funded by the Government of India.
- ◆ The national AIDS response was initiated by the Indian government in 1992 with the launch of the first phase of the NACP.

#### **Progress of NACP :**

- ◆ India recorded annual new HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infections declined in cases by 48 % against the global average of 31% (the baseline year of 2010).



- ◆ Annual AIDS-related deaths have declined by 82 % against the global average of 42% (the baseline year of 2010).
- ◆ HIV prevalence in India continues to be low with an adult HIV prevalence of 0.22 %.

### **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram a Music Instrument of Tamil Nadu gets GI tag**



The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument, hand crafted in Narasingapettai Village in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu(TN) got the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag under the category of musical instruments of class 15 from Geographical Indications Registry. On behalf of Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Limited, the application for receiving the GI tag for Narasingapettai Nagaswaram Dating back to the 13th century was filed by Tamil Nadu's Nodal Officer.

#### **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram instrument:**

- ◆ Narasingapettai Nagaswaram is a classical wind instrument. It has a length of 2.5 feet.
- ◆ A major portion of the 'Narasingapettai Nagaswaram' is made from the Water Resistance Tree aacha (Hardwickia binata).

Wood used to craft the Nagaswaram is atleast 100 year old.

- ◆ Reeds are made from the leaves of the locally grown plant called 'Naanal'.
- ◆ The instrument has a cylindrical body that flares out into a bell shape at the bottom. It is this form that provides the Nagaswaram with its characteristic volume and captivating tone.
- ◆ It is a double-reed wind instrument with a large flaring bell.
- ◆ The nagaswaram is being used by artists is called 'pari nagaswaram', which is longer than the 'thimiri'.
- ◆ The artisan of Narasinganpettai village inherited the skill of making the instruments from their forefathers, and are making them through a process requiring specialized skills.

### **Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming**

Kerala became the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices in select locations for better soil health. The Kerala Government in its Budget 2022-23, allocated ₹6 crore for introducing Carbon-neutral farming methods in the state.

In the first phase, the Agriculture Department will implement the carbon-neutral farming in 13 farms including in tribal areas and steps were also taken to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm.

In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.

### About Carbon-Neutral Farming :

- ◆ Carbon-neutral farming is the technique of decreasing carbon emissions and aid carbon storage in the soil, through techniques such as Integrated farming methods, Crop rotation, Fertigation, Precision Farming methods, Shifting how the soil is irrigated, and restricting the haphazard use of Fertiliser application.

### India's First 50KW Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project At NTPC Simhadri

India will launch its first 50 Kilowatt (KW) green hydrogen microgrid based energy storage project using electrolyser at National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Simhadri plant near Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Standalone Fuel-Cell based project produces hydrogen using electrolyser to Bloom Energy India Private Limited-Bengaluru at NTPC Simhadri.

The hydrogen would be produced using advanced 240 kW of solid oxide electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby floating solar project.

### Indian Army Engineers Build 1st-of-its-kind 3D Printed House for Jawans

Indian Army's Military Engineering Services (MES) has constructed 2 houses within 3 weeks using 3D Rapid Construction Technology, the 1st of its kind structures in India, in South-Western Air Command in Gandhinagar, Gujarat for Jawans. These efforts aim to provide the growing accommodation requirements of the Indian armed forces.

- ◆ The structures were constructed in collaboration with the Chennai based startup Tvasta.
- ◆ Each house possesses a built area of around 700 square feet.
- ◆ This is a part of the efforts towards widening the horizons of digitized construction.
- ◆ Recently, MES has constructed India's 1st 3D Printed sanitary blocks with a total built area of about 600 sq ft at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

### NITI Aayog Bestows the WTI Award 2021 on 75 Women Achievers

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has presented the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards to 75 women achievers through its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), fifth edition, on March 21, 2022

As the year 2022 marks the 75th year of India's independence, and India is also celebrating it through the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", the WTI was conferred on 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat' (literal meaning Strong and Capable India).

- ◆ The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India (GoI) initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support prospective as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assisting and guiding them through the process of starting, scaling up, and expanding their businesses.
- ◆ WTI Awards are being launched in partnership with the United Nations(UN), CISCO CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry(FICCI) and Grant Thornton Bharat.

## **India Secured One Silver and Ranked 9th in ISSF World Cup 2022 For Shotgun**

**I**ndian trio, Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Vivaan Kapoor wins Silver medal in Men's Trap Team event in International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup (8 March 2022 - 19 March 2022), for Shotgun in Nicosia, Cyprus. India secured 9th rank with 1 Silver medal in the overall medal standings.

As per National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), an 11-member shotgun contingent participated in the ISSF representing India.

Over 350 athletes participated from 50 countries in the ISSF World Cup 2022.

## **Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu Language**

**S**ahitya Akademi has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 in Urdu language to Urdu language poet Chandrabhan Khayal for his collection of poetry "Taza Hawa Ki Tabishen". Shri Chandrabhan will be presented with an engraved copper plate, shawl and an amount of one lakh rupees as a prize at the literary festival to be held in Delhi on March 11 this year. Along with this, the Akademi on Monday announced the Sahitya Akademi Award to Jagdish Prasad Mandal for his novel 'Pangu' in Maithili language. Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honor instituted in the year 1954. The award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters). Awards are given every year by the Akademi for literary works in 24 languages recognized by it, as well as for mutual literary translation in these languages.

Apart from the 22 languages included in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has also recognized English and Rajasthani as the

languages in which the program of the Academy can be implemented. The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second highest literary honor conferred by the Government of India after the Jnanpith Award.

## **'Jan Bhagidari Empowerment' Portal**

**T**he government under its digital mission launched the 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a one stop interactive and user friendly digital platform. It provides people with detailed information about the nature, location as well as the number of development works being done in their areas. The move comes amid concerns over slow speeds or bandwidth issues related to this portal. The Jan Bhagidari Empowerment Portal has become much faster after running on a separate server with high bandwidth to provide easy access to the general public, thereby improving the experience of using the portal. So far, about 70 thousand people have accessed the portal.

## **Dashboard launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAYG)**

**R**ecently Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin Dashboard was launched by the Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. This dashboard will help in closely monitoring the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin. It will be used by the stakeholders of PMAYG for monitoring and management of the scheme, which will lead to complete transparency in the implementation of the scheme.

To monitor the scheme, a link of the dashboard will be made available from the village sarpanches to the MPs of the constituencies. In order to achieve the objective of 'Housing for All' by the year 2022 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, on April 1, 2016, the erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY- G) was done.

The objective of the scheme is to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all rural homeless families and people living in kutcha and dilapidated houses by March 2022. Its beneficiaries include SC/ST, free bonded labor and non-SC/ST categories, widows or kin of defense personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen and retired members of paramilitary forces, persons with disabilities and minorities.

### **J&K Police Deploys Women Security Squads**

**R**ecently, Jammu and Kashmir Police has deployed two Women Safety Squad in Srinagar city. Each squad will consist of 5 women police officers or employees and both the squads will be led by Inspector Khalida Parveen. These squads were started to help women in times of crisis. Its main objective is to ensure the safety of girls especially in schools, colleges, universities, coaching centers and other such places. These squads would patrol the entire city including educational institutions during the day. The Srinagar Police has also launched a 24x7 supported women helpline number especially for issues related to the safety of women.

### **Oil discovered in Barmer, Rajasthan**

**V**edanta Limited Cairn Oil & Gas has discovered oil in Barmer district of Rajasthan. The company has informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons about the discovery. This oil was discovered by Cairn Oil & Gas in a block which was given to them under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

Block RJ-ONHP-2017/1 is located in Chohtan and Gudmalani Tehsil of Barmer District. The block covers an area of 542 square kilometers and was one of the company's 41 blocks that were allotted in the 2018 OALP-I round of bidding. Vedanta has 100% participating interest in this block.

This discovery is the third such discovery that the company has reported under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy. The name given to this discovery is 'Durga'.

Directorate General of Hydrocarbons - The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) is a regulatory body that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. DGH was created in the year 1993 by a resolution of the Government of India under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

### **Government of India will establish a National Digital University**

**I**n the Union Budget of 2022-23, emphasis has been given to implement the National Education Policy (NEP). To help this, a decision was announced to set up a National Digital University that would solve India's seat crunch in educational institutions.



The Government of India is planning to set up a digital university to provide world-class quality education and promote online learning in several Indian languages.

The government will also expand the 'One Class One TV Channel' program under PM e-Vidya Yojana (PM e-Vidya) to overcome the education loss caused due to closure of schools due to the pandemic.

The proposed digital university with enhanced education through television programs will help guide the nation through a pioneering, modern and practical blueprint.

#### **Conclusion :**

The government should help bridge the digital divide of the nation. Large educational institutions should also play their part in creating such a flexible and affordable education system in the country. SWAYAM, ePG-Pathshala, SWAYAM-Prabha, National Digital Library, eGyanKosh, and Virtual Labs are examples of existing resources that can be integrated into a digital university.

#### **NITI Aayog Releases 2nd Edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021; Gujarat Tops Overall Ranking**

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the 2nd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021. Gujarat has retained the top position in the overall ranking with its total share in exports accounting for 20.83 % as of 2020-2021 .

- ◆ The index was released by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog in the presence of Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog and BVR

Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

#### **Note:**

- ◆ The Economic Survey 2022 stated that India has already attained more than 75 % of its ambitious export target of USD 400 billion set for 2021-22.

#### **Overall ranking:**

- ◆ The top 10 performers are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ◆ Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Ladakh and Meghalaya were placed at the bottom of the index.

#### **AIM, NITI Aayog & GIZ Project Her & Now Collaborates to Aid Indian Women Entrepreneurs**

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has announced a collaboration with the Indo-German Development Cooperation Project "Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her & Now)", which is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

- ◆ It is jointly carried out by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH of Germany & the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), Government of India.
- ◆ The aim of this partnership is to help women become more active in the economy as

entrepreneurs, eliminating the gender-based obstacles that women entrepreneurs face all over India.

### **Western Naval command conducts exercise 'Prasthan'**

**T**he Western Naval Command on 23 March 2022, conducts offshore security exercise 'Prasthan' in B-193 platform of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai (located about 38 km west of Mumbai).

The bi-annual exercise aims to assess the readiness of the stakeholders involved in offshore defence to respond to contingencies in the Western Offshore Development Area (ODA) in a coordinated manner.

Prasthan exercise integrates all the marine stakeholders such as The Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Mumbai Port Trust, JawaharLal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department and the Marine Police.

The offshore exercise involves contingencies such as terrorist intrusion, bomb explosion, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, man overboard, major fire, oil spill and mass evacuation were exercised.

### **IIE signs MoU with MoRD to support Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**

**T**he Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Assam under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

- ♦ Objective- The MoU was signed to support the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) by promoting entrepreneurship.

#### **Signatories :**

- ♦ The MoU was signed between Dr. Lalit Sharma, Director of IIE, and Raghvendra Pratap Singh, Director of MoRD.

#### **Highlights :**

- ♦ IIE will act as a National Resource Organisation (NRO) for the SVEP and will provide support to the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) for the implementation.

#### **The NRO will perform the two task :**

- ♦ Implementation Role, which includes direct SVEP implementation in the blocks as implementing partners with the States.
- ♦ Programme Scale-Up Role, where IIE will be responsible for scaling up the scheme based on the blocks' experience with the SVEP and their prior experience with entrepreneurship development programmes.

### **Ministry Of Defence Bans Import Of 107 Strategically Important Sub-Systems**

**T**he Ministry of Defence (MoD) bans imports of 107 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/sub-systems with the aim to promote selfreliance in defence manufacturing and to minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

The proposed indigenisation is between December 2022 and December 2028.

The positive indigenisation continues with the list of 2,851 sub-systems notified earlier on December 27,2021 by MoD.

### Reason For the Import Ban :

- ◆ The idea of self-reliance in defence emerged due to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, as most of India's weapons and spares are Russian origin weapons.
- ◆ The list includes sub-systems that India imports from Russia for weapons and platforms, including T-90 and T-72 tanks, BMP-II infantry combat vehicles, warships and submarines, and anti-tank missiles.

### India & WHO Sign Pact to Set up Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat

Ministry of Ayush (MoA), Government of India signed an Host Country agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to set up the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- ◆ The onsite launch of the new WHO -GCTM will take place on April 21 , 2022.
- ◆ Jamnagar will serve as the hub, the new centre is being designed to engage and benefit all regions of the world.

### Objective :

- ◆ To support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine as part of their journey to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world.

### NTPC Commissions Additional Capacity at Ramagundam Floating Solar Project

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, has made commercially operational an

additional 42.5 MW of power generation capacity at Ramagundam floating solar project (largest floating solar plant in the country in a single location) in Telangana.

- ◆ With the successful commissioning of the 3rd part capacity of the Ramagundam project (100 MW capacity), the total capacity of the project has reached 80 MW.
- ◆ Previously NTPC had commissioned 17.5 MW (Part-I) and 20 MW (PartII) of the project.
- ◆ The total installed capacity of NTPC is 68,609.68 MW.

### INS Valsura Presented with President's Colour



The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, bestowed the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura with the prestigious President's Colour at the ceremony held at Jamnagar in Gujarat. The President's Colour is awarded to a military unit in honour of outstanding service to the country in both peace and war.

- ◆ "Nishan Adhikari" Lt. Arun Singh Sambyal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit, and a special postal cover was also released to commemorate the occasion. The President's Colour is received by an officer who is designated as "Nishan Adhikari."

- ◆ INS Valsura is entrusted with the responsibility of imparting training to officers and sailors of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and friendly foreign countries in electrical, electronics, weapon systems and information technology.

#### About INS Valsura :

- ◆ It was started as a torpedo school under the British and was commissioned by Maharani Gulab Kunverba Sahiba of Nawanagar (erstwhile Jamnagar) on December 15, 1942.
- ◆ During the peak of the Second World War, His Majesty's Indian Ship (HMIS) Valsura was created for the Royal Indian Navy.
- ◆ The establishment was built on Rozi Island in Jamnagar (Gujarat) which was donated by ruler of Nawanagar State Colonel Digvijay Singhji Jadeja Sahed Bahadur Jamsaheb for a token rent of Rs. 1 per annum.
- ◆ In 2018, a medium voltage laboratory was set up by Siemens, Germany, at INS Valsura in accordance with the Indian Navy's proposal of having an Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-II with electric propulsion.
- ◆ During the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, Valsura accomplished a remarkable 'Outreach' operation by reconstructing the devastated Moda village in Gujarat in record time.
- ◆ Some of the earlier recipients of the President's Colour in the Navy include Southern Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command, Western Naval Command, Eastern Fleet, Western Fleet, Submarine Arm, INS Shivaji and the Indian Naval Academy (INA).

#### Telecom Secretary Releases the TEC Report

K. Rajaraman, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, has released two reports namely:

- ◆ Rollout of Small Cells for 5G Networks by leveraging Street Furniture
- ◆ Internet of Things (IoT)/ Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Standards for Smart Cities
- ◆ The objective of the report is to achieve a timely, hassle-free rollout of 5G services and the development of a standardized ecosystem for Smart Cities in India.
- ◆ These reports have been prepared by the respective divisions of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), DoT, Government of India, with multi-stakeholders' consultation.

#### Key Points :

- ◆ Since introduction of 5G networks in India is in the pipeline, the need for small cells will be inevitable due to the introduction of higher spectrum bands. It necessitates denser network deployments to support larger traffic volumes per unit area.
- ◆ The report on Rollout of Small Cells for 5G Networks by leveraging Street Furniture will facilitate a standard approach for the proliferation of denser small cell infrastructure in India.
- ◆ The Technical Report on IoT/ICT standards for Smart Cities covers the national and international guidelines and standards related to the development of IoT/ICT-based smart infrastructure in various verticals of Smart Cities.



- ◆ The report also discusses the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) standards for IoT and smart cities, as well as the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for evaluating city smartness.

#### Note :

- ◆ The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is the technical arm of the DoT and it is responsible for standardization and related aspects of the telecom sector.

### UNESCO Includes Meghalaya's Natural Root Bridges On Tentative List Of World Heritage Sites

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) includes Meghalaya's "Living Root Bridges or Jingkieng Jri" on a tentative list of World heritage sites. At present there are about 100 living root bridges around 70 villages of Meghalaya's subtropical terrain region. Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.

#### Purpose Of The Root Bridge:

- ◆ Villagers of Meghalaya grow these living root bridges to cross the water bodies, they do it by training the Indian rubber fig tree (ficus elastica) on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10 to 15 years where the roots form the bridge.

### Highlights of Wings India 2022: Asia's Largest Event on Civil Aviation held in Hyderabad, Telangana

On March 24-27, 2022, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly organized Wings India 2022 on the theme 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry' at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Telangana is the host state of the event.

Wings India is a forum connecting buyers, sellers, investors, and other stakeholders for new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity.

The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport), has won two major awards for its customer-centric approach, smart innovations, and adoption of cutting-edge technology.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), under its R & D (Research & Development) initiative has signed an agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the joint, indigenous development of Air Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)

### India plans to start building 10 Nuclear Power Plant in 'Fleet Mode'

India is set to put in motion construction of 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years. The First Pour of Concrete (FPC) for a 700 MegaWatts (MW) Kaiga Atomic Power Plant, Karnataka units 5 & 6 are scheduled by 2023.

The centre had approved the construction of 10 indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MegaWatts (MW) each in June 2017 with a total cost of Rs \$1.05\$ Lakh crore.

Also by 2024, The FPC for Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Praiyonjan units \$3 \& 4\$ and the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects units 1 to 4 were planned to begin construction.

And the FPC for the Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project units \$1 \& 2\$ are expected by 2025 .

The FPC signals the beginning of construction of nuclear power reactors from the pre-project stage which includes excavation activities at the project site.

The Karnataka's Kaiga Atomic Power Plant units 5 & 6 and Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Praiyonjan units 3 & 4 were agreed to be built under Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model.

Currently, India operates 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MegaWatt (MW), among which one 700 MW reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat was connected to the grid in January 2021.

### **IAF & IOCL Launched an Initiative 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' to Speed Up IAF Convoy Movements**

**I**ndian Air Force (IAF) in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) started an initiative called 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' for the management of fuel supply chain and energy security for IAF.

- ◆ It was launched by the Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Air Staff at Headquarters Western Air Command, Subroto Park in New Delhi.
- ◆ HQ Western Air Command was earmarked as lead agency in the implementation and execution of this innovative concept of "Fuel on Move".

### **What is 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move':**

- ◆ The initiative of IAF will provide a paradigm shift to the logistics management of fuel.
- ◆ Earlier, under the existing system, the IAF procures fuel from various agencies and distributes it within the Air Force establishments.
- ◆ From this initiative, the IAF will be able to utilize the vast network of retail fuel distributors across India to refuel its vehicles on the move.
- ◆ The availability of Fleet Card will permit the convoy to refuel at any IOCL fuel stations. Therefore it will increase the pace of movement and reduce the lead time for readiness at operational locations.

### **MoD and GSL inks for the construction of eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard**

**O**n March 28,2022 , The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth Rs 473 crore with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the construction of eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard while meeting the objectives of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

- ◆ The contract was signed by Joint Secretary (Maritime & Systems), Shri Dinesh Kumar and the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Goa Shipyard Limited, Commodore Bharat Bhushan Nagpal (Retd) in New Delhi.
- ◆ The eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) will be indigenously designed and manufactured by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) under Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) Category.

- ◆ The Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) has the capability to operate in shallow waters and enhance the security apparatus along the coastline of India.

### **Union Jal Shakti Minister Launches Sujlam 2.0 Campaign for greywater management in New Delhi**

**O**n the Occasion World Water Day 2022, The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launches Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management in a virtual summit hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) in New Delhi.

The objective of the campaign is to manage greywater through people's participation by mobilising communities, institutions like panchayats, schools, anganwadi to undertake greywater management.

The Sujlam 2.0 Campaign saw a Joint Advisory signed by nine Ministries namely the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Panchayati Raj on how greywater management will be taken up at their level based on convergence model.

Greywater refers to domestic wastewater generated in households or office buildings from streams without fecal contamination, i.e., all streams except for the wastewater from toilets. Sources of greywater include sinks, showers, baths, washing machines or dishwashers.

### **Gol Sets an Ambitious Target of Creating 220 New Airports by 2025**

**J**yotiraditya Scindia, the Union Civil Aviation Minister, announced that the Government of India (GoI) planned to develop as many as 220 new airports by 2025, citing the aviation industry as a major component of India's economy. India has progressed in both domestic and international travel since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ◆ In the following years, cargo flights for perishable food items will be boosted by 30 %, with 133 new flights.
- ◆ The government also intends to build 33 new domestic cargo terminals, 15 new pilot training schools, more jobs, and a greater focus on the drone sector.

### **Home Minister Amit Shah Attended CRPF's 83rd Raising Day Parade in Jammu**

**A**mit Shah, Union Minister for Home Affairs attended the 83rd Raising Day parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) held at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) as Chief Guest.

- ◆ The 83rd CRPF Raising Day was observed on 27th July 2021.
- ◆ This is the first time that CRPF Raising Day celebrations is conducted outside Delhi.
- ◆ CRPF is the largest armed force in India which consists of 246 battalions and 3.25 lakh soldiers.

### **Rooftop solar program**

**R**ecently the Rooftop Solar Program Phase-II is being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. A target of 4000 MW Rooftop Solar (RTS) capacity addition has

been set under this program in the residential sector through Central Financial Assistance (CFA).

CFA has been limited to 20% for common facilities with maximum capacity of 500 kW for Resident Welfare Associations and Group Housing Societies. Rooftop solar is a photovoltaic system in which electricity-generating solar panels are mounted on the roof of a residential or commercial building or structure.

Rooftop mounted systems tend to be smaller than ground-mounted photovoltaic power stations with capacities in the megawatt range. Rooftop PV systems on residential buildings typically have capacities of around 5 to 20 kilowatts (kW) while those on commercial buildings reach 100 kW or more.

### **Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as Chief Minister for the second time in Uttarakhand**



**S**hri Pushkar Singh Dhami took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for the second time. Governor Gurmeet Singh administered him the oath of office and secrecy. Shri Dhami will be the 12th Chief Minister of the state. Eight cabinet ministers also took oath along with Mr. Dhami. The swearing-in ceremony was held at Parade Ground, Dehradun.

For the first time in the 22-year history of Uttarakhand, a political party has again assumed power. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 47 seats in the 70-member assembly. Congress 19 and Bahujan Samaj Party and independent candidates won two seats each.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Hemanta Biswa Sarma, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Jagat Prakash Nadda and party's state in-charge Prahlad Joshi and party general secretary Kailash Vijay Vargiya were present.

### **BRICS Vaccine Research & Development Center**

**R**ecently 'BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre' was launched by the Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. China's Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang presided over the launch ceremony. He urged the BRICS countries to focus on promoting fair distribution of vaccines and increasing cooperation among the BRICS countries.

The Research and Development Center will play an important role in streamlining vaccination resources and facilitating equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and will help in sharing experiences and collaboration between countries for mutual benefit.



India meets 65-70% of WHO's vaccine requirements as well as supplies vaccines to over 150 countries India is one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturing industries.

The center will help synergize the benefits of BRICS countries in vaccine development and research that will boost the BRICS countries' ability to control and prevent infectious diseases.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi Virtually Inaugurates Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata**



**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Biplobi Bharat Gallery in Kolkata on Martyrs' Day. He inaugurated the gallery through video conference at the Victoria Memorial Hall. On this occasion, the Prime Minister while remembering the great patriots said that every child would take inspiration from the sacrifices of Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

This gallery displays the contribution of the revolutionaries in the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to the British colonial rule. This aspect has often not been given due place in the mainstream glory of the freedom movement.

The aim of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events leading up to 1947 and to highlight the important role of the

revolutionaries. The Biplobi Bharat Gallery showcases the political and intellectual background that gave impetus to the revolutionary movement.

It shows the beginning of the revolutionary movement, the formation of important associations by the revolutionaries, the spread of the movement, the formation of the Indian National Army, the contribution of naval rebellion, etc.

### **A joint exercise called 'Suraksha Kavach 2' between Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division and Maharashtra Police**

**A** joint exercise named 'Suraksha Kavach 2' was conducted between the Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune. The Indian Army's Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF), Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police along with Dog Squads, Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army and Police took part in this exercise. The exercise was conducted with the objective of coordinating the procedures and exercises carried out by the Police and the Army to counter any terrorist attack in Pune. The exercise was conducted to improve the interactivity between the two organisations.

### **Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched Sujalam 2.0 campaign**

**T** he Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for gray water management in a virtual event organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, on the occasion of World

Water Day- 2022. Nine ministries—the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj—have formed a joint Signed the consultation under which gray water management will be started at their own level on the basis of coordination with the people directly involved in the program implementation. Launching the Sujalam 2.0 campaign, the Union Minister said that the theme of this year is 'Ground Water: Making the Invisible Visible'.

### **HDFC Ltd to merge with HDFC Bank by FY24**

The board of directors of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited at its meeting held has approved the amalgamation of HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited with HDFC Ltd, and HDFC Ltd with HDFC Bank.

Subsequently, HDFC will merge with its banking arm, resulting in all the group companies becoming direct subsidiaries of HDFC Bank. Besides the bank, HDFC is the holding company for HDFC Life, HDFC General Insurance, HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Credila and HDFC Venture Capital. This amalgamation deal valued at 40 billion.

Note- HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited are the wholly acquired subsidiaries of HDFC Bank Limited.

### **Axis Bank to Acquire CitiBank's India Consumer Business for 1.6 bn**

Citibank signed a deal with Axis Bank to sell its entire consumer bank business including credit cards, savings accounts, retail consumer accounts, consumer loans and wealth management for 1.6 billion. However the deal excludes Citibank's institutional client businesses in India.

- ◆ This is one of the biggest deals in the banking space since the acquisition of ING Vysya Bank by Kotak Mahindra Bank in 2014 for Rs 15,000 crore.

### **CMIE: Chhattisgarh tops states with lowest unemployment rate in country**

According to the latest data (5 April 2022) released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Chhattisgarh has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate of 0.6 percent in the country.

- ◆ The overall Unemployment rate in India has decreased to 7.6 percent (March 2022) from 8.10 percent in February 2022.
- ◆ As per the data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7 per cent.

#### **Reasons for Decline :**

- ◆ The Chhattisgarh government had adopted a new model of development on lines of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Gram Swaraj' envisaging inclusive development of the state and launched various schemes including Suraji Gaon Yojana, Narva-Garva-Ghurva-Bari programme, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana etc. for boosting the rural economy.

- ◆ The state government has also set up the 'Chhattisgarh Employment Mission' intending to create around 15 lakh new employment opportunities in the next five years.

### **Central Govt extends Rs 40 crore relief to Dalai Lama's Tibetan Committee upto 2025-26**

The Union government has extended the scheme to provide Rs 40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- ◆ An amount of Rs 8 crore to CTRC has been released for the year 2021-22.
- ◆ The Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy of 2014 is also reviewed in consultation with all the concerned stakeholders i.e. State/Central Departments.
- ◆ The information for the same was provided by Minister of State (MoS) Ajay Kumar Mishra, Ministry of Home (MHA) during a question Rajya Sabha.

#### **Reason behind this extension :**

- ◆ The scheme was extended following the Galwan incident in June 2020 where 20 soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Eastern Ladakh.

#### **Key Points :**

- ◆ In 2015, the Central government came out with a new policy for the Tibetan refugees and sanctioned a scheme of providing grant-

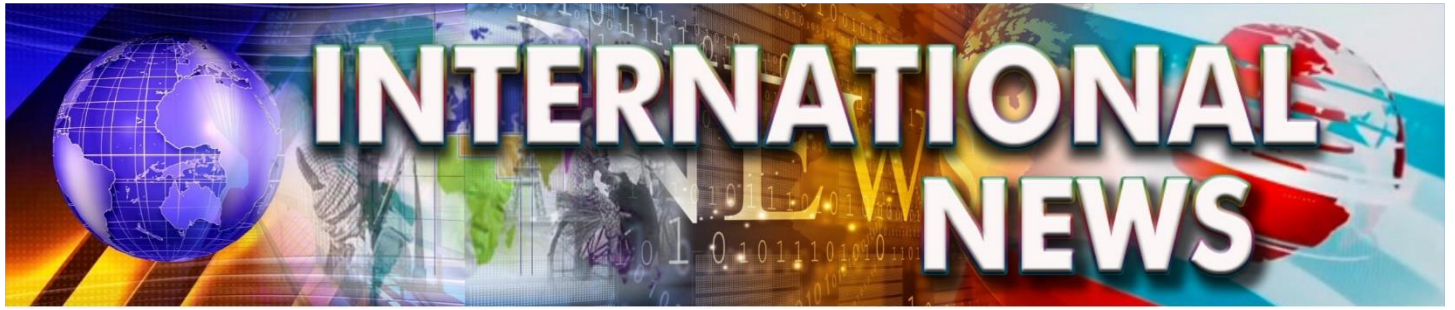
in-aid of Rs 40 crore to CTRC for five years to meet the administrative and social welfare activities expenses of 36 Tibetan settlement offices in different States.

- ◆ In this regard, an amount of Rs 40 crore (Rs 8 crore per annum) from 2016-17 to 2020-21 for this scheme has been fully released/reimbursed to the CTRC. It was further extended to 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ◆ More than one lakh Tibetan refugees are settled in India with major concentrations in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Arunachal Pradesh (AP), Uttarakhand, West Bengal (WB), and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

### **Asia's Largest Sewerage Treatment Plant At Okhla; Set To Play Major Role In Yamuna Cleaning Process**

The Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), with a capacity of 564 Million Litres Per Day (MLD), largest STP in Asia, which is set to function in Delhi from December 2022 will play a major role in Yamuna river cleaning process. Following the completion of this project the water quality of river Yamuna will be improved.

- ◆ This STP aims to remove contaminants from sewage to produce an effluent that is suitable for discharge to the surrounding environment or an intended reuse application
- ◆ According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the total sanction cost of the Okhla STP project is Rs 665.78 crore.



### **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.

### **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. Aneta Kreglicka, 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.

### **UNEP Joins One Health Alliance to Advance Humans, Ecosystem and Animals Health**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Executive Directorship of Inger Andersen, has signed the Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), formally the Quadripartite partnership at its annual executive meeting held on 18 March 2022 at Nairobi, Kenya.



### Key Highlights :

The UNEP will offer the expertise required to tackle the ecological dimension of human and animal health.

- ◆ The Quadripartite alliance will now focus on a One Health Joint Plan of Action, which includes six action tracks: They are
- ◆ Enhancing countries' capacity to strengthen health systems under a One Health approach.
- ◆ Reducing the risks from emerging or resurfacing zoonotic epidemics and pandemics.
- ◆ Controlling and eliminating endemic - zoonotic diseases, neglected tropical diseases and vector-borne diseases.
- ◆ Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks.
- ◆ Curbing the silent pandemic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- ◆ Better integrating the environment into the One Health approach.

### About One Health :

- ◆ The One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals, ecosystems and the wider environment.
- ◆ It mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems. iii. It also addresses the collective need for clean energy, water and air, safe and nutritious food, action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

### Japan launches hydrogen train



Japan has launched its first hydrogen-powered train. The unveiling is being seen as a step towards the country's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The hydrogen-powered train will be tested in March. The two-car train, called the "Hybari", costs more than US\$35 million, or more than 4 billion yen, and can accelerate to a top speed of 100 kilometers per hour at 140 km/h when hydrogen fueled. kilometers or 87 miles.

This train has been developed by East Japan Railway in collaboration with Hitachi and Toyota Motor Corporation. Japan plans to replace its diesel fleet with this hydrogen version of the trains and Japan will also consider exporting them. In 2030, commercial services are expected to begin.

Europe has been a leader in hydrogen-powered trains. Germany launched the world's first train in 2018, which was built by Alstom SA. Special fuel stations and new regional trains are being developed by Deutsche Bahn AG and Siemens AG, and will be tested in 2024.

To achieve net-zero energy, Japan has made hydrogen a major clean-energy source. Toyota is looking to increase production of its second-generation hydrogen-fueled Mirai cars tenfold, with more commercial vehicles and fuel-cell buses hitting the road.

### **Cold Response 2022 - Multinational Military exercise kicked off in Norway with NATO troops**

**C**old Response 2022, is planned to conduct a Multilateral Military exercise involving Army, Navy and Air Force from March 14 to April 1, 2022 by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at Norway.

The Cold Response exercise is a bi-annual exercise aimed to test how Norway would manage allied reinforcements on its soil, in line with Article 5 of NATO's charter which requires member states to come to the aid of another member state under attack.

It is a defensive exercise that would allow participation of around 30,000 troops, 220 aircraft and 50 vessels from 27 nations.

The exercise will be organised every two years, the naval, air and ground drills are held over vast swaths of Norway, including above the Arctic Circle.

Though the exercise was planned before the Russia-Ukraine war, it has become significant considering the rift between the west and Russia.

### **India-France agrees on roadmap on blue economy and ocean governance**

**I**ndia and France have recently agreed on the Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance. Both countries agreed on this roadmap with the aim of contributing to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation. They ensure that We want the oceans to remain a shared globally based on the rule of law.

External Affairs Minister S. The agreement was signed during Jaishankar's three-day visit to France. The roadmap covers maritime trade, maritime industry, marine technology, fisheries, scientific research, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, integrated coastal management and civil maritime issues. But cooperation between competent administration will be involved.

The two countries plan to hold an annual bilateral dialogue on blue economy and ocean governance to exchange views on their priorities, support ongoing and future cooperation, and share their best practices.

#### **India-France on Blue Economy :**

♦ India and France want to make the blue economy a driver of progress in their respective societies, in addition to respecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. He noted that fisheries is an important economic sector, playing a decisive role in food security and livelihood security, especially for the coastal population. According to him, the global demand for marine products has increased as a result of demographic, economic and social factors and is putting increasing pressure on

the global fish stocks. Both countries will give priority to the blue economy in the development of their economic exchanges.

### **France announces military withdrawal from Mali after nine years**

**F**rench President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France and its European allies will begin a military withdrawal from Mali after fighting a jihadist insurgency for more than nine years. France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 under the leadership of socialist President François Hollande.

This decision has been taken due to the breakdown of relations of France with the ruling junta government in the country. The center of this military operation will be shifted from Mali to Niger. In recent years, jihadists have taken advantage of the political turmoil, poverty and weakness of local authorities in the former French colony to occupy many areas.

Critics of French strategy in Mali have long accused policymakers in Paris of focusing military force at the expense of politics. The withdrawal applies to 2,400 French soldiers in Mali and a smaller European force of several hundred, which was created in 2020 to ease the burden on the French army.

### **Dennis Parnell Sullivan wins 2022 Abel Prize**

**A**merican mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan has won the Abel Prize 2022. The prize also includes prize money which is equivalent to 7 million NOK (Norwegian krone). He received this award for his contributions to topology, especially its geometric, algebraic and

dynamical aspects. Topology is a field of mathematics that considers two things of different forms to be identical if they can be distorted into each other. Topology is a new field of mathematics as it was born in the late 19th century. The King of Norway presents the Abel Prize and it is given annually to a person who has done remarkable work in the field of mathematics. The prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, a famous Norwegian mathematician.

### **Dibedo Francis Kere becomes the first African to win the Pritzker Prize 2022**

**T**he Hyatt Foundation, which sponsors the Pritzker Prize, has announced Diébédo Francis Kéré as the winner of the 2022 Pritzker Prize. It is the world's most important award for architecture. Born in Burkina Faso, Francis Kéré is the first African architect to be awarded the Pritzker Prize. His studio is located in Berlin, Germany.

### **Union Health Minister launched 'BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre'**

**U**nion Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched 'BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre'. China's Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang presided over the launch ceremony. He urged the BRICS countries to focus on promoting fair distribution of vaccines and enhance cooperation among the BRICS countries.

The panel also discussed various strategies to collaborate and deal with future pandemics. India meets 65-70% of WHO's vaccine requirements as well as supplies vaccines to over

150 countries and is one of the largest vaccine manufacturing industries in the world.

India will offer its vaccine manufacturing industry to develop vaccines for the BRICS countries as well as for the rest of the world.

The center will help synergize the benefits of BRICS countries in vaccine development and research that will boost the BRICS countries' ability to control and prevent infectious diseases. BRICS nations will also be able to provide timely assistance to other developing countries around the world.

**Objective of R&D Centre:** This Vaccine R&D Center will facilitate experience sharing and collaboration among countries for mutual benefit. It will also help accelerate the development of the vaccine. Thus, in the long run, this center will help in saving the livelihood and lives of the citizens of the BRICS countries as well as the world.

### **36th International Geological Congress to be held in New Delhi**

**T**he 36th International Geological Congress Conference will be held in New Delhi from March 20-22, 2022. The three-day conference will provide an exclusive platform for knowledge and experience sharing in the field of geology and professional networking. The 36th IGC is a joint effort of the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy and the science academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The IGC, also known as the Olympics of Geology, is held once every four years under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Congress

(IUGS), the scientific sponsor of the IGC. In this, information about the latest technologies in mining, mineral exploration and water management, mineral resources and environment will be given. The theme of the conference is Geosciences: Basic Science for a Sustainable Future.

### **The Council of Europe expelled Russia from the continent's foremost human rights body in Ukraine**

**T**he Council of Europe has expelled Russia from the continent's foremost human rights body in an unprecedented move in response to a military operation in Ukraine. The ministerial committee of this 47-nation organization has said that Russia's membership of the Council of Europe has ended today after 26 years. The decision comes after condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stressed today that Russia has left the organization regardless. In an interview Mr Lavrov accused NATO and EU countries of abusing their majority in the council. He said that NATO and the European Union have turned it into a tool of anti-Russian policy.

### **Gabriel Boric Font became the youngest President of Chile**

**G**abriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and 36th President of Chile. The 36-year-old is the youngest leader of the left wing to hold office in Chilean history. He will succeed Sebastián Piñera. Boric will hold the position for a period between 2022-2026. As a student representative, Boric became one of the leading figures of the 2011–2013 Chilean student



protests. Boric was twice elected to the Chamber of Deputies representing Magellan and the Antarctic District, first as an independent candidate in 2013 and then in 2017 as part of the Broad Front, a left-wing coalition that he supported with several other parties. made with.

### **Morgan Stanley slashes India's growth forecast for 2022-23 to 7.9 percent**

**R**ating agency Morgan Stanley has projected India's GDP growth rate at 7.9% for 2022-23 (FY23). This is 50 bps lower than its earlier estimate due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on oil prices. In addition, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation forecast to 6%, meanwhile, the current account deficit has widened to 3% of GDP. India is affected by three major channels - high prices for oil and other commodities; Trading and tight financial conditions affecting business/investment sentiment. Analysts at the brokerage also raised their inflation forecast to 6 per cent - the upper end of the tolerance band for the RBI - and flagged inflation risk due to ongoing events.

### **Adani Group Signs MoU For 2 Power Projects in Sri Lanka**

**A**dani Group of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka for two large power projects in the Northern Province.

- ◆ In 2021, the group bagged a strategic port terminal project in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

#### **Key Points :**

- ◆ The renewable power projects will be executed in two locations of Sri Lanka-

Mannar, north-western coast, and Pooneryn, south of Jaffna Peninsula.

- ◆ Project aims to generate a combined capacity of 500 MW, at a cost of 500 million.
- ◆ NTPC (Formerly National Thermal Power Corporation) of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) of Sri Lanka also agreed to set up a 100 MW solar power project in Sampur, Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Sri Lanka has a daily peak demand of over 2000 MW, and is currently experiencing a severe fuel and power shortage, resulting in right hour-long power cuts across the country that citizens' groups have been protesting.
- ◆ CEB also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's Adani
- ◆ Green Energy Ltd to develop a 500MW wind power project in Mannar but it was not announced

### **NATO, G7, EU leaders attend meeting in Belgium**

**T**he leaders of the G7, NATO and the European Union have gathered for the NATO summit in Brussels, Belgium. One-on-one emergency meetings were held on March 24 with the aim of planning a plan to increase pressure on President Vladimir Putin as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues. America is trying to pressure its allies to impose new sanctions on Russia.

The Russian economy is already crippled by sanctions. Western countries have united to confront Russia after launching an invasion of Ukraine. Whether or not this unity will survive

remains to be seen as the cost of war continues to hit the global economy.

The energy crisis has intensified due to the war. This is a hot topic in this meeting as the leaders of Portugal, Spain, Greece and Italy are expected to receive a favorable response. The NATO summit will also consider enhancing the security of the Eastern Front. The use of biological and chemical weapons by Russia will also be discussed at the NATO summit.

### **Announcement of 'Abel Prize' for the year 2022**

**T**he 'Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters' has recently announced the 'Abel Prize' for the year 2022. This year this award will be given to American mathematician 'Dennis Parnell Sullivan'. This award is being given to Dennis Sullivan for his significant contributions to the algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects of 'topology'.

Topology is a specialized area of mathematics, which usually originated in the nineteenth century, and is concerned with the properties of any type of surface that do not change when deformed.

Be aware that the Abel Prize was established on January 1, 2002. Its purpose is to honor outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics. The award carries an amount of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (US\$625,000).

It should be known that no Nobel Prize is given in the field of mathematics. The most prestigious award in mathematics is the Fields Medal, which is awarded every 4 years to mathematicians up to the age of 40.

### **North Korea tests Hwasong-17 missile**



**N**orth Korea has tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) named Hwasong-17. This missile is the largest ICBM ever developed. This missile can potentially deliver nuclear weapons to any place in America. This missile is being named "monster missile" by analysts.

In 2020, at a military parade held to mark the 75th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party, the missile was displayed to the public for the first time. In Pyongyang, in 2021, it was again displayed at a defense exhibition.

Hwasong-17 flew 1090 km. During the test of this missile, it also targeted a target placed in the Sea of Japan. The missile flew in the air for 67.5 minutes. In 2017, the first tested Hwasong-15 covered a distance of 950 km in 53 minutes. This missile is the world's largest liquid fueled ICBM. The diameter of this missile is between 2.4 to 2.5 meters. When fully refueled, it has a total mass of about 80,000 to 110,000 kg.

### **Stockholm Water Prize 2022**

**T**he Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has awarded the 'Stockholm Water Prize' for the year 2022 to scientist and

evaporation expert 'Wilfried Brutsaert', widely known as the Nobel Prize for Water.

- ◆ Professor Wilfried Brutsaert has been awarded this award for his 'unprecedented work in measuring environmental evaporation'. Wilfried Brutsaert has developed a method to measure evaporation and understand its role in Earth's energy balance, allowing more accurate predictions of how precipitation may develop.
- ◆ This method can help experts to understand how much water is currently available and how much will be available in future. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), an organization established to advocate for better water governance, has been awarding this award to individuals and organizations for 'extraordinary achievements in water' for the past 30 years.

### **Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela sworn in for a second term**

**T**he Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela, has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling Labor Party's landslide victory in the 2022 general election. He was administered the oath of office by President George Vella.

Abela was first sworn in as Prime Minister in January 2020 after former Labor Party leader and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat resigned. It was the first electoral test for Abela, a 44-year-old lawyer, since taking over the small Mediterranean island nation in January 2020 following a Labor Party vote.

- ◆ Labor secured a majority of nearly 40,000 votes over its Nationalist Party rivals - a huge difference in the small EU state which has just 355,000 registered voters.

### **India Secures Leadership in Council Standing Committee on Administration & Management of ITU; Aprajita Sharrma Appointed as the Vice-Chairperson**

**I**ndia has secured a leadership position in the Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations(UN) specialized agency for information and communication.

- ◆ Aprajita Sharma, an Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Financial Services (IP\&TAFS) officer was appointed as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at the ITU at Council meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland from 21st March to 31st March 2022.
- ◆ She will remain as vice-chairperson of the Council Standing Committee for the years 2023 and 2024 and its chairperson for the years 2025 and 2026.

#### **About Aprajita Sharrma :**

- ◆ At present, Aprajita Sharrma serves as the Deputy Director General (DDG), Budget and Public Enterprise Finance in the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.
- ◆ She has participated in several ITU activities and she is also the rapporteur for study group 2 at ITU development sector.
- ◆ She plays a major role in writing the final report along with ITU and member countries for the 2018-2021 period on ICTs and the environment, which deals with the e-waste management and role of frontier technologies in climate change mitigation

## 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards(2022): Jon Batiste and Olivia Rodrigo Wins Top Honours



The 64th Annual Grammy Awards(Grammy 2022) was held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was the 1st time a Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America(USA) The 64th GRAMMY Awards recognize recordings released between 1st September 2020 and 30th September 2021.

- ♦ The Grammy Awards, presented by the Recording Academy or National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, since 1957 honour musical artists, compositions and albums.

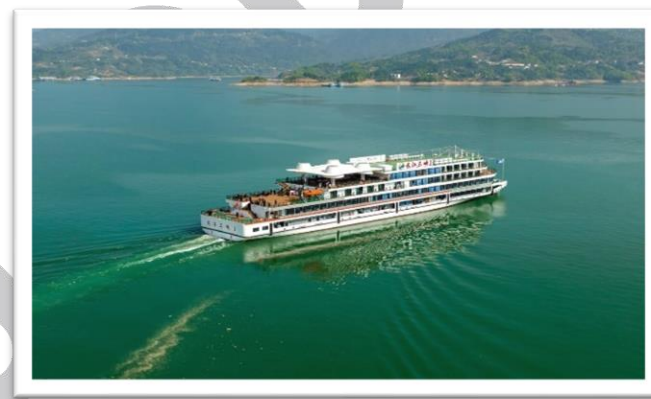
## Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic Re-elected for 2nd Term

Aleksandar Vucic re-elected as the President of Serbia for the second term by winning the presidential election 2022 in Serbia. He belong to the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS). He defeated his Opposition presidential candidate Zdravko Ponos, a retired army general, while his United for Victory alliance obtained 13.1 %.

## About Aleksandar Vucic :

- ♦ Aleksandar Vucic was born on 5 March 1970 in Belgrade, SR Serbia, SFR Yugoslavia.
- ♦ He is a politician by profession, serving as the president of Serbia since 2017 and as the president of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) since 2012.
- ♦ He served as the Prime Minister of Serbia in two terms, from 2014 to 2016 and from 2016 until 2017, as well as the deputy prime minister from 2012 until 2014.

## China Unveiled the World's Largest Electric Cruise Ship Worth USD 23.5 million



China unveiled the world's largest electric cruise ship "Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 which costs around United States Dollar (USD) 23.5 million. The ship made its maiden voyage in Yichang, Hubei, China.

- ♦ The ship aims to promote and expand China's marine electric vehicle market, and to build a 'low carbon future' by promoting "Zero emissions".
- ♦ Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 will be used for commercial purposes and for sightseeing trips in Yichang.



### Yangtze River Three Gorges 1:

- ◆ Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 was manufactured by Yangtze power company under China Three Gorges Corporation and the Hubei Yichang transportation group and supported by the Chinese government.
- ◆ The ship is equipped with Ningde Times batteries, with 15 independent battery packs adding up to around 7500 Kilowatt Hours (KWH) developed by world's No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars 'Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited (CATL)'.
- ◆ As the ship is 100 metres long and 16 metres wide, it can carry about 1,300 passengers.
- ◆ The ship can travel upto 100 kilometres on a single charge. And the power to operate the ship comes from the Three Gorges Dam, Yichang, China.

### Viktor Orban Wins a Fourth Consecutive Term as Hungary's Prime Minister

Viktor Orban was re-elected Prime Minister of Hungary for the fourth time in a row, in the General Election of 2022. His nationalist ruling Fidesz party has defeated the opposition, the United for Hungary party (a sixparty opposition bloc), led by Peter Marki-Zay.

- ◆ The victory in the General Election of 2022 will be Fidesz's fourth successive win since 2010.
- ◆ Viktor Orban led Fidesz party has won the general elections for the fifth term.
- ◆ According to the National Election Office of Hungary, Fidesz would have 135 seats in the 199-member parliament, a two-thirds majority, and the opposition alliance would have 56 seats with 35 % of the votes counted.

### India Contributes 500,000 to UN Women's Core Budget

India contributed USD 500,000 to the United Nation (UN) Women, an agency for gender equality and women empowerment, for their core budget.

It was handed over by India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti to Executive Director (ED) Dr Sima Bahous (UN Women Chief).

#### Highlights :

- ◆ With this contribution, India reaffirmed its support for gender equality and women empowerment and development.
- ◆ Earlier in 2021, India also contributed USD 300,000 to the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment.

#### Note :

- ◆ Gender Equality is the 5th Sustainable Development Goal(SDG)

### Pixxel launches India's 1st Private Commercial Imaging Satellite 'Shakuntala' By SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket

On April 1, 2022, Indian space-tech startup Pixxel's first satellite 'Shakuntala (TD-2)' hosting one of the highest resolution hyperspectral commercial cameras ever flown to space via the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket under its 'Transporter 4 mission'.

- ◆ It is a rideshare mission, which launch 40 small payloads around the world from pad 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, United States (US).
- ◆ Shakuntala is a part of Pixxel's 36-satellite planned constellation.

- ◆ 'Shakuntala' - incidentally the second satellite that Pixxel built, and is a part of the first three technology demonstration satellites in its constellation.

### **Pulitzer Prize awardee poet Richard Howard passed away**

**P**ulitzer Prize awardee American poet Richard Howard passed away at age of 92 in Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York, the United States of America(USA).

#### **About Richard Howard:**

- ◆ Richard Joseph Howard was born on 13 October 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio, United States (US). He was an American poet, literary critic, essayist, teacher, and translator.
- ◆ He won the Pulitzer prize in 1970 for "Untitled Subjects" and was a National Book Award Finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying".
- ◆ His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) in 1983. Popular books of Richard Howard- "Inner voices"
- ◆ "Two-part inventions"
- ◆ "Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World"

### **Global emissions can be halved by 2030 with Major Transitions in Energy Sector: IPCC report**

**I**n accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report released on April 4, 2022, titled 'Climate

Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change', global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector.

- ◆ There is a need for immediate mitigation actions to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius otherwise it will be beyond reach.
- ◆ The report released worldwide was approved by 195 governments of the IPCC through a virtual approval session that started on March 21. It is the third instalment of the IPCC's sixth assessment report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022.

#### **Highlights from Report :**

- ◆ The report cautioned that limiting warming to around 1.5 degree Celsius requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43 % by 2030 . Methane also needs to be reduced by about a third.
- ◆ The global temperature will stabilize when carbon dioxide emissions reach net zero.
- ◆ For 1.5 degree Celsius net zero carbon dioxide emissions to be achieved globally in the early 2050s;
- ◆ For 2 degree, it is to be achieved in the early 2070..
- ◆ In 2010-2019, the average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history.
- ◆ The steps to limit global warming include substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels (such as hydrogen).

- ◆ The implementation of effective policies, regulations, market instruments, infrastructure and technology can reduce 40-70% greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 , and also improve health and well-being.

### **Madagascar Enters Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**

**M**adagascar has become the 30th country to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which was launched by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

- ◆ Madagascar will now be able to collaborate with other CDRI members to promote resilient infrastructure and contribute to the worldwide creation of a safe, resilient, and sustainable future.

### **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) :**

- ◆ CDRI is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
- ◆ **Aim :** To promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

### **Ecuador-first country to give legal status to wild animals**

**T**he South American Country - Ecuador became the First country in the world to give legal rights to wild animals.

### **About Estrellita case :**

- ◆ Ana Beatriz Burbano Proaño, a librarian, Ecuador took Estrellita a month old Woolly Monkey from the wild to grow it as her pet, Proano took care of Estrellita for about 18 years until the authorities seized her in 2019, as owning wild animals is illegal in South American country Ecuador.
- ◆ The authorities relocated the monkey to a Zoo but it died within a month because of the separation from the owner. Following which Proaño, the owner of the monkey filed a habeas corpus asking the court to rule that the monkey's rights were violated.
- ◆ The Judgement came in favour of Estrellita, the court acknowledged that the rights of the woolly monkey had been violated by the government and also added that the animal's rights were also violated by the owner when she removed the monkey from her natural habitat at a young age.
- ◆ The Court has finally stated that animals are subject to rights protected by rights of nature.



### Swiss Open Badminton Title 2022: PV Sindhu won the Title



India's P.V. Sindhu has defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to win the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament. Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourthseeded Busanan 21-16, 21-8 at the St. Jakobshalle.

### Indian para athlete Dharambir won silver medal at 13th Faza International Para Athletics Championships

Indian para athlete Dharambir won a silver medal in the men's club throw F32/51 event, setting a new Asian record, at the ongoing 13th Faza International Para Athletics Championships in Dubai. India won three medals on the very first day of the championship. Devendra Singh won silver medal in F44 men's discus throw event,

while Jyoti Behera won bronze medal in 400m women's final T37/38/47 final. In the men's club throw final F32/51, Dharambir set a new Asian record in his second attempt by throwing the club a distance of 31.0-9 metres. Algeria's Walid Farha finished first with a throw of 37 decimal four-two meters.

### Max Verstappen wins 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix



Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit in Saudi Arabia. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari-Monaco) finished second and Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari-Spain) third. It was the second edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and the second round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Lewis Hamilton managed to get a point on the board after finishing 10th.



## La'eeb unveiled as official mascot for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022



**F**édération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has unveiled La'eeb as the official mascot for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 during the draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which took place in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

"La'eeb" - a super skilled player (in Arabic), is playful, adventurous and curious.

According to FIFA and the Tournament organising body, The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), the mascot represents donning the flowing Qatari National dress and trying to stop the football in air.

According to the Supreme Committee (SC), La'eeb comes from a parallel world where tournament mascots live. It is a world where ideas and creativity form the basis of characters that live in the minds of everyone.

Also La'eeb encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'

## Logo, Jersey, mascot and anthem were unveiled for the 2nd edition of KIUG 2021

**T**he Governor of Karnataka, Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem in the 2nd

edition of Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The below things were unveiled during the event:-

Logo and official mascot of the games - Veera, Khelo India App for live updates,

- ◆ The official anthem was sung by Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi, and
- ◆ The jersey for the 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games 2021
- ◆ The Khelo India University Games is a platform aimed at identifying talent for the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and for the Olympics. iii. The event saw the participation of 4500 athletes, representing 20 sports from across India and the event was hosted by Jain University, Karnataka.
- ◆ The KIUG 2021 is indeed the first sporting event to introduce Yogasana and Mallakhamb in the competition category, among 20 sporting disciplines.

## Tennis: Iga Natalia Swiatek Wins WTA Masters 1000 And Carlos Alcaraz Garfia of Spain wins ATP Masters 1000 in Miami Open 2022

**I**ga Natalia Swiatek of Poland wins Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Masters 1000 - Miami Open 2022, held in Miami Gardens, Florida, United States, from Mar 21 to Apr 3, 2022. Swiatek defeated Naomi Osaka of Japan in the Finals and also claimed WTA Women's World Number 1 ranking. She also received the prize money of 646,110 United States Dollar (USD).

- ◆ The Miami Open 2022 is played in Hard courts Stadium and it was presented by ITAU, one of the largest banks in the world.
- ◆ Swiatek also continues her 17 consecutive winning streak dating back to her championship win at the Qatar Total Energies Open in February 2022, where she defeated Anett Kontaveit of Estonia.

### **SAFF- U 18 Women's Championship title 2022 won by Indian women's team**

India has been declared the winner of the 3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur. The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was Lynda Kom who scored five goals in total.

### **Australia wins ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**



Australia beat England by 71 runs in the finals to claim their seventh Women's World Cup on April 03, 2022, at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand. Australia posted a

record of 356 on the board. In reply, Nat Sciver waged a lone battle and remained unbeaten on 148 but it was not enough as England was bowled out for 285 in 43.4 overs.

Alyssa Healy of Australia scored 170 runs in the match, the highest individual score made by any cricketer, male or female, in the World Cup Final. She was also the leading run-scorer in the tournament with 509 runs.

### **Meghalaya would be hosting 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022**

Meghalaya is geared up to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022, which will take place at the SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from April 18 to 25. This is the second time the Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament.

#### **Key Points:**

- ◆ During a press conference, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma stated that the tournament is one of the largest sports events that the state has hosted to date, among others.
- ◆ The State is expecting around 650 people to attend, with 450 of them being players and the rest being coaches and support personnel. He went on to say that the state is expecting a variety of officers from several states, including Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister.
- ◆ This tournament is being hosted in honour of the State's 50th anniversary of statehood, he said, adding that the cost of hosting the tournament is projected to be 1.5 crore rupees, with a total of 10 players from the State scheduled to compete.

## **Santosh Trophy: Indian Football Tournament**

**S**antosh Trophy is an Indian football tournament in which the states of the country along with some government institutions participate. This is held annually since 1941. Bengal was the first winner of the competition held in 1941. The trophy is named after the late Maharaja Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhary of Santosh, now in Bangladesh. Sir Manmatha had been the President of the Indian Football Association.

### **Types of trophies distributed to Winner & runner-ups:**

- ◆ Santosh Trophy is given to the winner of the tournament.
- ◆ The runners-up trophy is called Kamla Gupta Trophy, which was donated by the late Dr S.K. Gupta, former president of the Indian Football Association, in memory of his wife.
- ◆ The trophy given to the team finishing third is called the Sampangi Cup, which was presented by the Mysore Football Association (now KFSA) in 1952, in the memory of Sampangi who was a renowned footballer from Mysore.

### **Format of the tournament :**

- ◆ The format for the tournament has kept changing over the years. At present, the

teams are divided into eight groups, each of which has three or four teams.

- ◆ The eight winners from each group are then drawn along with four seeded teams, who do not have to go through the qualifying rounds, and these twelve teams are divided in groups of three each.
- ◆ This is the quarter-final stage and from there the semi-final and final.

### **Final appearances :**

- ◆ Bengal has won Santosh Trophy a record 32 times, followed by Punjab who has won it 8 times. Kerala placed at 3rd position with 6 trophies.

## **Thailand Open Boxing Tournament 2022 India Bags 10 Medal with 3 Gold**

The 15-member Indian boxing contingents ended their campaign at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 in Phuket with 10 medals, including three golds, four silvers, and three bronze. Gold medal winners earned USD 2000 while silver and bronze medallists took home USD 1000 and USD 500 respectively as the tournament witnessed thrilling competition with the participation of 130 top boxers including 74 males and 56 females, from Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa.



### **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw named for Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh**

**K**iran Mazumdar-Shaw, the executive chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in Scotland. She will be joining RSE's current fellowship of around 1,700 fellows who are recognised as being some of the greatest researchers and practitioners working in or with Scotland.

RSE is one of the world's oldest and most respected academic societies. Fellows are elected to join the RSE from across the fields of science, arts, education, business and public life in recognition of their impact in improving the world around them. The Biocon chief is among the 80 luminaries to be appointed to the RSE's Fellowship this year.

### **NATO Extends Jens Stoltenberg's term by a year**

**A**ccording to a NATO statement, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) extended Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg's tenure by a year until September 30, 2023.

#### **Key Points:**

- ◆ After a NATO conference in Brussels, US President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders decided to extend Stoltenberg's tenure.

- ◆ In October 2014, Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian prime minister, was named NATO Secretary-General. In September 2021, his term was set to end.

- ◆ I am honoured by #NATO Heads of State and Government's decision to extend my term as Secretary-General until September 30, 2023. "We remain united to keep our Alliance strong and our people safe as we face the greatest security crisis in a century," Stoltenberg tweeted.

### **Lt Gen. Vinod G. Khandare appointed as Adviser in Defence Ministry**

**L**ieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare (retired) has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence, providing strategic insights and advise on matters relevant to defence strategy to the Defence Secretary.

#### **Key Points:**

- ◆ According to defence sources, he will collaborate closely with the Secretary of Defense.
- ◆ The role's mandate would be to provide strategic inputs and advise on matters relating to defence strategy, readiness, and associated activities, such as the International Defense Corporation, maritime security, and defence space.



### About Lt. Gen. Khandare:

- ♦ Gen. Khandare retired from the Army at the end of January 2018.
- ♦ He worked as the Military Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office's National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from then till October 2021.
- ♦ He was the Director General of the Defence Intelligence Agency and the Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff for Intelligence from November 2015 until January 2018.
- ♦ He joined the 14 Garhwal Rifles in September 1979 and served in a variety of terrains and operational duties in Siachen, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, and the northeast area for over four decades.

### N Chandrasekaran named as Chairman of Air India



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

### Gilbert Hougbo named next Director-General of International Labour Organization

Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva. Hougbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post. His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. The current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, has held office since 2012.

### Shashi Sinha named as new Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India

The board of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India has elected IPG Mediabrands India CEO Shashi Sinha as the new chairman. He will take over from Punit Goenka, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years. Sinha, who also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India as its board member, has played a key role in the formation of BARC.

### Himanta Biswa Sarma re-elected as President of Badminton Association of India

The incumbent president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from 2022 to 2026. He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on March 25, 2022. He is also

the current Chief Minister of Assam. He was first elected as BAI chief in 2017. Apart from this, Sarma also serves as Vice President of Badminton Asia and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council.

### **Vishwas Patel Re-Elected as Chairman of Payments Council of India**

**V**ishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for the second time in 2022, previously he was elected as a Chairman of PCI in the year 2018. In 2013, he served as Co-Chairman of PCI. PCI is a payment ecosystem industry body and is a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). PCI aims to promote a cashless transaction society and vision to grow digital payment in India.

#### **About the Payments Council of India:**

- ◆ The Payments Council of India works to promote the growth of the Indian payment industry and promote a cashless economy in the country. It works with other important financial and banking Institutions and Organisations to turn India into a 'cashless society.
- ◆ This industry body for digital operators in the country is said to be in its final stages of submitting its independent application to become a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for digital payments, under the mandate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ◆ PCI functions in line with the Digital India Initiative and closely works with the financial regulators of the country.

### **Dr S Raju takes charge as DG of Geological Survey of India**



**D**r S Raju has taken over as the Director-General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) with effect from April 01, 2022. He succeeds R. S. Garkhal who superannuated on March 31, 2022. Prior to this, Dr Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ. Dr.S. Raju joined the Geological Survey of India in 1988. During the initial period of his career, he was instrumental in geological mapping of Bundelkhand Granitic Complex in Uttar Pradesh and also executed an investigation on gold mineralization and carried out a geo-environmental appraisal of Jhansi district of Bundelkhand Region, Uttar Pradesh. With his expertise, he has also supplemented in the geology of Tamil Nadu especially, establishing the metamorphic and techtono-magmatic history of the Satyamangalam Group of rocks.

### **Mahesh Verma named as chairperson of NABH**

**V**ice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University, Mahesh Verma has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals

and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI). This is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities. NABH is also a member of the board of the Asian Society for Quality in Healthcare (ASQua).

#### About the Dr Verma :

- ◆ Dr Verma is a recipient of Padma Shri as well as Dr. B. C. Roy award. He has also received the National Science and Technology award. He is currently the vice-chancellor of Delhi's Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, and Professor Emeritus at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. He is the president of the India chapter of the International Association for Disability and Oral Health and the Indian Academy of Restorative Dentistry. He is also the president-elect of the International Association of Dental Research, India Division, and the Indian Society of Dental Research.

#### Vikas Kumar Named as Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation



Vikas Kumar has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). He succeeds Mangu

Singh, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022. Singh was the managing director of DMRC since January 1, 2012, and his famed tenure ended. Kumar is the third managing director of the DMRC after E Sreedharan and Mangu Singh. He will hold the post for a term of five years.

#### About Vikas Kumar:

- ◆ Kumar, who was holding the position of the Director (Operations) in the DMRC, has over three decades of experience in rail based urban transportation projects. He has worked with the Indian Railways in various capacities before joining the DMRC in September 2004. He has been associated with the urban transporter for more than 17 years in key management positions. In the DMRC, Kumar has headed the operations wing of the organisation since 2007 in various leadership capacities, such as general manager (operations), executive director (operations) and director (operations). He has played a key role in ensuring the smooth commencement of metro services in Delhi-NCR.

#### PharmEasy appoints Amir Khan brand ambassador

PharmEasy, a consumer healthcare "super app," has unveiled its new campaign, which introduces Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador. API Holdings Limited is in charge of the PharmEasy brand. This partnership will aid in the development of the brand and raising consumer awareness of healthcare in India.

### Key Points:

- ◆ PharmEasy is dedicated to offering a hassle-free healthcare experience.
- ◆ Aamir will promote the PharmEasy brand in a variety of ways.
- ◆ The IPL campaign in 2022 will also include TV commercials starring Aamir Khan.
- ◆ Amir Khan will also emphasise how medicines, diagnostic tests, and healthcare goods are easily accessible to clients as the brand's face.

### **Arunabha Ghosh appointed by UN Chief to high level expert group on net-zero emissions commitments**

United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres appointed Arunabha Ghosh (India) to a High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities. Arunabha Ghosh is the CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a climate and energy think tank. He has been appointed to the Government of India's G20 Finance Track Advisory Group for India's G20 Presidency in 2023. In 2021, he was appointed as Co-Chair of the T20 Task Force on climate and energy for Indonesia's G20 2022.

The group was launched by Antonio Guterres on 31 March 2022. Dr Ghosh will be among three Asians (and the only South Asian) serving on the expert group. It will be chaired by former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. The 16-member

expert group comprises independent experts, drawn from different countries.

### Aim of the group:

- ◆ To develop stronger and clearer standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-state entities including businesses, investors, cities and regions and speed up their implementation.

### **Gol appoints Vinay Mohan Kwatra as new Foreign Secretary**

The Government of India has appointed IFS Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new Foreign Secretary of India. He is currently serving as India's envoy to Nepal, from March 2020. He will replace the current foreign secretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will superannuate on April 30, 2022.

Kwatra is a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, having more than 32 years of experience in foreign service. He has also worked in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office (PMO) from 2015 to 2017, as well as India's ambassador to France from August 2017 to February 2020.

### **RBI approves reappointment of Murli Natarajan as MD-CEO of DCB Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved an extension in the tenure of Murli M Natarajan as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years. His extended term will be applicable from April 29, 2022, to April 28, 2024. Natarajan is serving as MD & CEO of the bank since Ap





# List of Important Days National & International



## World Consumer Rights Day 2022 - March 15



**W**orld 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.

## 23 March: Martyr's Day

**E**very year 23 March is celebrated as Martyrs' Day. This day is celebrated in memory of the courage and valor of three great youth leaders Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivram Rajguru. During the Indian independence movement, these freedom fighters were sentenced to death on March 24, 1931 in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, but they were hanged on the evening of March 23, 1931. At the time of his death, Bhagat Singh was only 23 years old but his revolutionary ideas were very broad. It is noteworthy that the famous slogan of Indian movements 'Inquilab Zindabad' was first spoken by Bhagat Singh. Bhagat Singh believed that by suppressing a person his thoughts cannot be suppressed. Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907 in the village of Banga in the Lyallpur district of Punjab, which was then part of British India and is currently in Pakistan.

## 24 March: World Tuberculosis Day

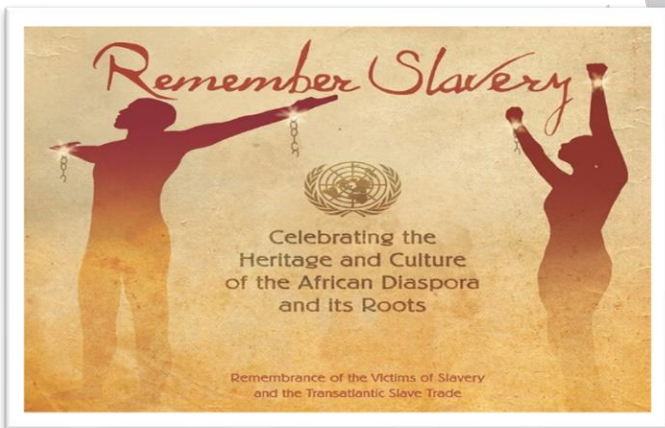
**W**orld Tuberculosis Day is celebrated across the world on 24 March every year. The primary purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the harm caused by tuberculosis / tuberculosis to health, society and economy and to accelerate the efforts being made to prevent this global epidemic.

It is worth mentioning that World Tuberculosis Day is celebrated every year on 24 March in the memory of Dr. Robert Koch, who discovered tuberculosis (TB) bacteria in the year 1882, on 24 March 1882, Dr. Robert Koch discovered TB bacteria. was discovered.

Tuberculosis is one of the deadliest communicable diseases in the world. TB or Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) which most commonly affects the lungs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, a total of 1.4 million people died due to tuberculosis (TB) worldwide in the year 2019 alone.

In this way, tuberculosis is one of the leading 10 causes of death worldwide. 'Invest to end TB. 'Save Lives' (Invest to End TB. Save Lives) is the theme of World Tuberculosis Day in the year 2022

### **March 25: International Day for Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery**



The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery is organized every year on 25 March in memory of the victims and victims of the brutal slavery system. The purpose of organizing this day is to raise awareness about the horrors of slavery and racism.

It is known that between the 16th and 19th centuries, about 20 million people were forcibly sent from Africa to North and South America and Europe. The result of this inhuman practice is that at present a large population of people of African descent reside in America.

The theme of International Day for Remembrance of Slavery Victims-2022 is "Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism". Despite the abolition of slavery and slavery, it continues in modern forms even today.

### **24 February: Central Excise Day**

Central Excise Day is celebrated across the country by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) every year on 24 February. This day is celebrated to contribute to the service of the Central Board of Excise and Customs towards the country. Through this day, respect is expressed towards the officers of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs for their services.

By this the officers are encouraged to discharge their service with honesty and integrity. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance. It's headquarter is located in New Delhi.

This board deals with the collection of Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods and Services Tax and IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax). The smuggling and administration related issues of Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods and Services Tax and IGST and Narcotics come under the ambit of CBIC. Earlier its name was Central Board of Excise and Customs.

## World Autism Awareness Day



The World Autism Awareness Day is observed internationally on 2 April every year, to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world. The 2021 World Autism Awareness Day observance will address these issues through a virtual event that will include moderated panel discussions with individuals on the autism spectrum who have themselves experienced the challenges and seen these new opportunities in the employment market. The theme of 2022 is 'Inclusion in the Workplace'

## International Day of Human Space Flight 2022

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Human Space Flight is annually observed across the globe on 12th April to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind.

- ◆ The day also marks the anniversary of the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen who made the first human space flight when he orbited the Earth in a Vostok 1 spacecraft.
- ◆ In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the world's first manmade satellite "Sputnik I" into orbit.
- ◆ The day also highlights the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving the sustainable development goals.

## International Day of Street Children 2022

International Day of Street Children (IDSC) is annually observed across the globe on 12th April to acknowledge the strength and resilience of millions of street children across the world.

- ◆ The day also recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children in the face of unimaginable hardships.
- ◆ The IDSC 2022 theme is the 4th Step in Consortium for Street Children (CSC)'s 4 Steps to Equality campaign.
- ◆ The theme of 2022 IDSC calls for them to enjoy proper recognition and support.



## Current Affairs Quiz - 1

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. What is the projected GDP growth rate of India in the calendar year 2022 as per Moody's?  
(a) 9.5% (b) 8.8%  
(c) 9.1% (d) 8.1%
2. Who has been ranked as the world's top most billionaire in 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List?  
(a) Jeff Bezos (b) Elon Musk  
(c) Bernard Arnault (d) Bill Gates
3. Name the winner of Miss World 2021 beauty pageant.  
(a) Milena Sadowska (b) Karolina Bielawska  
(c) Izabella Krzan (d) Rozalia Mancewicz
4. Which of the following state has developed "Dishaank app" to ensure easy access to land records?  
(a) Karnataka (b) Gujarat  
(c) Odisha (d) Kerala
5. According to Deloitte's report titled "Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges", Reliance Retail Limited, has ranked \_\_\_\_\_th on the list of Top 250 global retailers.  
(a) 34 (b) 56  
(c) 67 (d) 71
6. What is the global rank of Mukesh Ambani, who emerged as Richest Indian & Asian, in Hurun India's report titled "2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List"?  
(a) 7 (b) 8  
(c) 9 (d) 10



7. State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Mumbai (b) Delhi  
(c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad
8. Mahila Money and Transcorp Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) have launched Mahila Money Prepaid Card with which company?  
(a) American Express (b) Diners Club International Limited  
(c) Mastercard (d) VISA
9. The 'AutoFirst' application has been launched by which bank to offer fully automated auto loans?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank  
(c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) IndusInd Bank
10. Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) \_\_\_\_\_ recently.  
(a) Sujeet (b) Sarthak  
(c) Saksham (d) Sajag
11. Which city has topped the most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the UNEP?  
(a) Dhaka (b) Beijing  
(c) Cairo (d) Jakarta
12. President Ramnath Kovind presented President's Colour to INS Valsura. In which city is this INS Valsura based?  
(a) Gurugram (b) Jamnagar  
(c) Jamshedpur (d) Nagpur
13. The Ishan Manthan festival, to showcase culture, crafts and cuisines of North East India, has been organised in which city?  
(a) Chennai (b) New Delhi  
(c) Guwahati (d) Surat

14. What is the name of the web portal launched as a volunteer-driven initiative to bring together “inspiring” stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?  
(a) Modi Story (b) Modi Corner  
(c) Modi Life (d) Modi World
15. Which airport in India has been awarded with the ‘Covid champion’ award at Wings India 2022?  
(a) Surat International Airport (b) Cochin International Airport  
(c) Chennai International Airport (d) Goa International Airport
16. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has recently dedicated an Ink Manufacturing Unit “Varnika” in which place?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mysuru  
(c) Siliguri (d) Pune
17. Pramod Sawant has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Goa for second term after winning 20 seats in the 2022 state Assembly elections. What was the total number of seats in 2022 Goa Assembly Election?  
(a) 60 (b) 30  
(c) 50 (d) 40
18. The foundation stone to set up a Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of BRBNMPL has been laid at which place?  
(a) Kochi (b) Bhopal  
(c) Mysuru (d) Belagavi
19. The Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) has been developed by DRDO in partnership with which country?  
(a) Italy (b) United States  
(c) France (d) Israel
20. Which film has won the Best Picture award at the 94th Academy Awards?  
(a) CODA (b) Belfast  
(c) The Power of the Dog (d) King Richard

21. The first-ever road project, made out of waste steel has come up in which city of India?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Gurugram  
(c) Surat (d) Jamshedpur
22. Who among the following has been featured in the TIME100 Impact Awards 2022?  
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Kangana Ranaut  
(c) Anushka Sharma (d) Deepika Padukone
23. Balikatan 2022 is a military drill of the US army with which country?  
(a) Japan (b) Philippines  
(c) France (d) South Korea
24. Which state has become the top producer of vegetables in India in 2021–22 Crop Year (CY) (July–June)?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) West Bengal (d) Andhra Pradesh
25. Which bank has acquired Citibank's India consumer business for an amount of USD 1.6 billion (Rs 12,325 crore) in an all-cash deal?  
(a) Federal Bank (b) RBL Bank  
(c) Yes Bank (d) Axis Bank

### Current Affairs Quiz - 2

### SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1. The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on which day?  
(a) 18 March (b) 19 March  
(c) 17 March (d) 16 March
2. The World Sleep Day is held every year on the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox and is being marked on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.  
(a) March 22 (b) March 21  
(c) March 20 (d) March 18

3. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Manipur following the state Assembly elections 2022?
- (a) Govindas Konthoujam (b) Thongam Biswajit Singh  
(c) Govindas Konthoujam (d) N Biren Singh
4. When is the World Water Day observed by the United Nations?
- (a) March 20 (b) March 21  
(c) March 22 (d) March 23
5. Serdar Berdimuhamedow has been appointed as the President of which country?
- (a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Azerbaijan  
(c) Kazakhstan (d) Turkmenistan
6. What is the theme for the World Water Day 2022?
- (a) Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible  
(b) Valuing Water  
(c) Water and Climate Change  
(d) Leaving No One Behind
7. The World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on which day?
- (a) 20 March (b) 21 March  
(c) 19 March (d) 18 March
8. Which day of the year is observed as the World Down Syndrome Day?
- (a) 21 March (b) 20 March  
(c) 19 March (d) 18 March
9. The World Theatre Day is observed globally on which of these days?
- (a) 28 March (b) 26 March  
(c) 27 March (d) 25 March
10. PV Sindhu beat which player to lift women's singles title at the 2022 Swiss Open Badminton Tournament?
- (a) Pornpawee Chochuwong (b) Busanan Ongbamrungphan  
(c) Yeo Jia Min (d) Ratchanok Intanon



11. Who among the following year old R Pragyanand has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open Chess tournament?  
(a) 16 years old (b) 18 years old  
(c) 22 years old (d) 25 years
12. Which of these countries will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023?  
(a) China (b) Japan  
(c) Australia (d) India
13. Which team has won the 3rd edition of SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship?  
(a) Malaysia (b) Bangladesh  
(c) India (d) South Korea
14. Which player has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix?  
(a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton  
(c) Charles Leclerc (d) Carlos Sainz Jr
15. Robert Abela has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country recently?  
(a) Portugal (b) Maldives  
(c) Cyprus (d) Malta
16. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI)?  
(a) Gargi Bhattacharya (b) Pralay Mukherjee  
(c) H Rajaram (d) Dr. S Raju
17. Which day is commemorated as International Children's Book Day (ICBD)?  
(a) First Saturday of April (b) April 02  
(c) First Friday of April (d) April 01
18. Which day is marked as the World Autism Awareness Day every year?  
(a) 02 April (b) 31 March  
(c) 01 April (d) 30 March
19. Which state will host the second edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021?

- (a) Odisha
- (c) Uttarakhand

- (b) Karnataka
- (d) Assam

20. What is the theme of the World Autism Awareness Day in 2022?
- (a) Assistive Technologies, Active Participation
  - (b) Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World
  - (c) Inclusive Quality Education for All
  - (d) The transition of adulthood
21. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers?
- (a) Mahesh Verma
  - (b) Navin Agarwal
  - (c) V K Yadav
  - (d) Suneet Sharma
22. The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_.
- (a) 1st April
  - (b) 2nd April
  - (c) 3rd April
  - (d) 4th April
23. Which of the following team has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup?
- (a) Australia
  - (b) New Zealand
  - (c) England
  - (d) India
24. Who among the following has won the 2022 Miami Open tennis title?
- (a) Steffi Graf
  - (b) Martina Hingis
  - (c) Naomi Osaka
  - (d) Iga Swiatek
25. Recently, Vikas Kumar took charge as new Managing Director of \_\_\_\_.
- (a) Digital India Corporation
  - (b) Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation
  - (c) Chennai Metro Rail Corporation
  - (d) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation



# ANSWERS



## Current Affairs Quiz - 1

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- 1.(c) 9.1%  
**Exp** Rating agency Moody's has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to 9.1 percent in the Calendar Year 2022 (CY2022), due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy
- 2.(b) Elon Musk  
**Exp** SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk has bagged the top position on the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, with total net worth of \$205 billion.
- 3.(b) Karolina Bielawska  
**Exp** Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021. She was crowned by 2019 Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.
- 4.(a) Karnataka  
**Exp** The Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) unit of Karnataka's revenue department is ensuring easy availability of original land records through an app called Dishaank.
- 5.(b) 56  
**Exp** According to the global consulting firm Deloitte's report titled "Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges", Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited has ranked 56th on the list of Top 250 global retailers.
- 6.(c) 9  
**Exp** According to the report, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman & Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited has emerged as the Richest Indian and Richest Asian & ranked 9th globally.

**7.(d)** Hyderabad

**Exp** The State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad, Telangana which will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.

**8.(d)** VISA

**Exp** The digital payments networks Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) have launched Mahila Money Prepaid Card to help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions.

**9.(a)** HDFC Bank

**Exp** HDFC Bank has announced to launch 'AutoFirst' application that will offer fully automated auto loans.

**10.(c)** Saksham

**Exp** Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham.

**11.(c)** Cairo

**Exp** Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has been ranked as the most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

**12.(b)** Jamnagar

**Exp** President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura at Jamnagar in Gujarat.

**13.(b)** New Delhi

**Exp** Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called 'Ishan Manthan' at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi



**14.(a)** Modi Story

**Exp** The grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi 'Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni' inaugurated the web portal 'Modi Story'.

**15.(b)** Cochin International Airport

**Exp** The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. Wings India is Asia's largest event on civil aviation, including Commercial, General and Business Aviation.

**16.(b)** Mysuru

**Exp** Shaktikanta Das (Governor of RBI) has dedicated "Varnika", the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) to the nation in Mysuru.

**17.(d)** 40

**Exp** Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa on March 28, 2022 for the second straight five-year term. Pramod Sawant led the BJP in the recently concluded 2022 Goa Assembly elections and won 20 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly.

**18.(c)** Mysuru

**Exp** Shaktikanta Das (Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)) has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) in Mysuru.

**19.(d)** Israel

**Exp** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) against high-speed aerial targets at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. It has been developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel.

**20.(a)** CODA

**Exp** CODA has won the Best Picture award at the 94th Academy Awards.

**21.(c)** Surat

**Exp** India's first-of-its kind road made out of steel waste has come up in Surat city of Gujarat at the Hazira Industrial Area.

**22.(d)** Deepika Padukone

**Exp** Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been named as one of the awardees of the TIME100 Impact Awards 2022.

**23.(b)** Philippines

**Exp** The United States military and the military of Philippines kicked off the military drill 'Balikatan 2022'.

**24.(b)** Uttar Pradesh

**Exp** Uttar Pradesh has become the top producer of vegetables, getting back its first position by demoting West Bengal to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes in production in 2021–22 Crop Year (CY) (July–June), after two years since 2020.

**25.(d)** Axis Bank

**Exp** Citigroup has announced that Axis Bank will be acquiring Citibank's India consumer business for an amount of USD 1.6 billion in an all-cash deal.

### Current Affairs Quiz - 2

### SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

**1.(a)** 18 March

**Exp** The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on 18th of March to recognise the importance of recycling as a resource, not waste. Theme for 2022 is "recycling fraternity".

**2.(d)** March 18

**Exp** The World Sleep Day is held every year on the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox and is being marked on March 18, 2022.

**3.(d)** N Biren Singh

**Exp** Senior BJP leader N Biren Singh took oath as Chief Minister of Manipur for a second consecutive five-year term on March 21, 2022.

- 4.(c)** March 22  
**Exp** The World Water Day is a United Nations (UN) observance day held annually on March 22 to highlight the importance of freshwater.
- 5.(d)** Turkmenistan  
**Exp** Serdar Berdimuhamedow has been sworn in as the President of Turkmenistan.
- 6.(a)** Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible  
**Exp** World Water Day Theme 2022: "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".
- 7.(b)** 21 March  
**Exp** The World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.
- 8.(a)** 21 March  
**Exp** The World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed every year on 21 March to raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome.
- 9.(c)** 27 March  
**Exp** The World Theatre Day is celebrated all over the world on the 27 March since 1962 to promote the art form "theatre" across the world.
- 10.(b)** Busanan Ongbamrungphan  
**Exp** P.V. Sindhu has defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to win the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament.
- 11.(a)** 16-year-old  
**Exp** 16-year-old R Pragyanand has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament by defeating compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round. Indian youngster R Pragyanand scored 7 1/2/9 and was half a point ahead. R Pragyanand also registered four other victories, including a win over American Abhimanyu Mishra.
- 12.(d)** India  
**Exp** Organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India will be organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India. Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will involve 22 teams from 16 countries.

13.(c) India

**Exp** India have been declared as the winners of the 3rd edition of SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

14.(a) Max Verstappen

**Exp** Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

15.(d) Malta

**Exp** The Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela has been sworn in for second term after his ruling Labour Party won the 2022 general election in a landslide victory.

16.(d) Dr S Raju

**Exp** Dr. S Raju has taken over as the Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI) with effect from April 01, 2022.

17.(b) April 02

**Exp** The International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on 2nd April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

18.(a) 02 April

**Exp** The World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 02 April every year, to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world.

19.(b) Karnataka

**Exp** The KIUG 2021 will be held in Karnataka between April 24 and May 3, 2022. This will be the second edition of KIUG.

20.(c) Inclusive Quality Education for All

**Exp** The theme for 'World Autism Awareness Day 2022' is "Inclusive Quality Education for All". Access to education that was made easy for years, especially for autistic persons was disrupted after 2020 with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.



21.(a) Mahesh Verma

**Exp** Vice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University Mahesh Verma has been appointed as a new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

22.(d) 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Exp** The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated every year on 4<sup>th</sup> of April.

23.(a) Australia

**Exp** In cricket, Australia beat England by 71 runs in finals to claim their seventh Women's World Cup on April 03, 2022, at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.

24.(d) Iga Swiatek

**Exp** Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek defeated Naomi Osaka of Japan, 6-4, 6-0. in the final match to claim 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament.

25.(d) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

**Exp** Vikas Kumar is the new Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) from April 1, 2022.

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