

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2, 2021

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - took the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi on March 1, the first day of the second phase of immunisation.**
- ✓ The PM, who is 70, was administered the indigenous Bharat Biotech-manufactured Covaxin.
- ✓ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and home minister Amit Shah also took the first dose of Covaxin on the day.
- ✓ While Naidu took the vaccine in Chennai, Shah did so at Medanta Hospital.
- ✓ Union ministers S Jaishankar and Jitendra Singh also took the first dose at AIIMS.
- ✓ Sister P Niveda from Puducherry alongwith Rosamma Anil from Kerala administered the vaccine to the Prime Minister
- ✓ The Prime Minister was kept under observation for 30 minutes after vaccination.
- ✓ He will get the second dose after 28 days.

OVER 1 LAKH 60+ GET JOB		
Vaccination On March 1	1st Dose	2nd Dose
Healthcare Workers	25,656	1,01,587
Frontline Workers	1,52,349	—
45 to 59 years with co-morbidities	18,850	—
Over 60 years	1,28,630	—
Total	3,25,485	1,01,587

➤ Home minister Amit Shah, V-P Venkaiah Naidu, CMs Naveen Patnaik of Odisha, Nitish Kumar of Bihar, foreign minister S Jaishankar and NCP chief Sharad Pawar among those to have taken shot

➤ In Karnataka, 97-year-old man first to get dose

PM Narendra Modi receives his vaccine in Delhi



- ✓ 25 lakh potential beneficiaries were registered on the Co-WIN portal on the first day of the second phase of vaccination.

- ✓ Over 1.28 lakh recipients who received the first dose were people above 60 years of age, whereas 18,850 were those between 45 to 60 years with co-morbidities.
- ✓ A total of 4.27 lakh vaccine doses were administered on the day.
- ✓ Of the total 4.27 lakh doses, over 76% received the first dose, including health and frontline workers, apart from general beneficiaries, whereas 24% were second doses given to healthcare workers who had already got their first shot 4-6 weeks ago.
- ✓ So far, over 1.47 crore vaccine doses have been administered across the country.
- ✓ On March 1, the vaccination drive— which was initially rolled out on January 16 for health and frontline workers— was extended to those above 60 years and those between 45 to 60 with co-morbidities.

➤ **The Centre – to receive the second highest amount worth ₹77,146 crore from the bids in the Telecom Spectrum auction on March 1, the opening day of the auction**

- ✓ Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea participated in the auction
- ✓ The financially-stretched telecom firms have been mainly buying spectrum to make up for the expiry of some of their mobile holdings
- ✓ However, there were no takers in the lucrative 700 MHz band, which had been dubbed as “highly expensive”, and in the 2,500 MHz band
- ✓ The biggest interest was in the 800 MHz band, which will contribute nearly 50% to the sale kitty so far
- ✓ The highest amount that the government has fetched from spectrum auctions historically was in March 2015 where it had recorded revenue of ₹1.1 lakh crore
- ✓ In March 2015, fierce competition was seen between Jio (that started services in September 2016), Airtel, and Vodafone India and Idea Cellular (the last two were still to merge into a single entity).
- ✓ The government had put for sale a total of 2308.80 MHz of spectrum, out of which it has received bids for 849.2 MHz so far.
- ✓ At reserve price, the value of the spectrum — auctioned across 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz — stands at nearly ₹4 lakh crore.
- ✓ The present spectrum bids will be valid for 20 years, and the government will charge 25% as upfront fee in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands, while charging 50% on the higher frequencies.
- ✓ Around 65% of the total spectrum in 800 MHz got sold, and the same was 38% in 900 MHz, 41% in 1800 MHz, 9% in 2100 MHz and 89% in 2300 MHz.

➤ **Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot – will launch the 'Sugamya Bharat' App and a handbook titled 'Access - The Photo Digest' through a video conference in New Delhi on March 2.**



- ✓ The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✓ The “Sugamya Bharat App” is a crowdsourcing mobile application that enables persons with disabilities and others to register complaints if they find a public space, utility or building inaccessible.
- ✓ People will also be able to upload photographs of such spaces and geo-tag the location of the premises for seeking on-ground intervention.
- ✓ The application will enable registered users to access information related to the guidelines and provisions on accessible buildings, transport and infrastructure under the Accessible India Campaign and other related issues
- ✓ The 3 pillars of Accessible India Campaign are transportation sector, built environment and ICT ecosystem
- ✓ Once a user raises concern related to accessibility, he/she will be notified at the time of resolution and closure of their complaints
- ✓ The app has been equipped with sign language interpretation.
- ✓ It will be available in 10 regional languages, namely, Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Odiya, Kannada, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi and Malayalam.
- ✓ Android users can download the mobile app from Play Store, while the iOS version of the app will be available by fifteen of this month.
- ✓ The handbook serves as a tool and guide to sensitise stakeholders about 10 basic features of accessibility and related good and bad practices in easy to understand pictorial form.
- ✓ As per the 2011 census, about 2.7 crore or 2.2% of India lives with disability.

- **The Bar Council of India (BCI) - to set up India's first law teachers' training institute - Indian Institute of Law (IIL) - in collaboration with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Training (KIIT) at Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- ✓ IIL will be set up by the BCI through its trust, Bar Council of India Trust
- ✓ It will serve as a model institute for law teachers' and promote continuous legal education and research along with skill development of practising lawyers.
- ✓ The first-of-its kind institute will facilitate young law school teachers and advocates to enhance their expertise, professional skills and acumen.
- ✓ The need for trained law teachers is highlighted by the fact that nearly two and half lakh students pursue LLB degree every year in over 1,000 law colleges

INTERNATIONAL

- **On March 1, Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo - became the first recipient of a Covid vaccine under the global Covax scheme**



- ✓ Covax is a global vaccination scheme launched to ensure poorer countries receive equitable share of vaccines
 - ✓ It aims to deliver at least two billion doses by the end of 2021
 - ✓ The drive is to use 5,04,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.
 - ✓ In neighbouring Ivory Coast, a presidential spokesman got the nation's first vaccination shot , also part of a Covax delivery.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, US health workers are preparing to distribute nearly four million doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson jab, whose deliveries are to start on March 2
- **On March 1, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy – was found guilty of corruption and handed a three year prison sentence**
 - ✓ A Paris court found former President guilty of corruption and influence peddling and sentenced him to one year in prison and a two-year suspended sentence.
 - ✓ The 66-year-old politician served as French president from 2007 to 2012
 - ✓ He was convicted for having tried to illegally obtain information from a senior magistrate in 2014 about a legal action in which he was involved.
 - ✓ Sarkozy is entitled to request to be detained at home with an electronic bracelet.

- ✓ This is the first time in France's modern history that a former president has been convicted of corruption.



- ✓ Sarkozy's co-defendants — his lawyer and longtime friend Thierry Herzog, 65, and now-retired magistrate Gilbert Azibert, 74 — were also found guilty and given the same sentence as the politician.
- ✓ Sarkozy had firmly denied all the allegations against him during the 10-day trial that took place at the end of last year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Russian Space agency, Roscosmos - has successfully launched its first ever Arctic-monitoring satellite that will monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.**
- ✓ Arktika-M satellite was launched into the space by the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on February 28
- ✓ The satellite will collect information to solve the operational meteorology problems as well as the hydrology problems.
- ✓ It will also monitor climate and environment of the Arctic region
- ✓ Constellation of two Arktika-M satellites has also been designed to monitor the high-latitude areas of the Earth.
- ✓ Further, it will provide round-the-clock continuous monitoring over the northern territory of Russia as well.
- ✓ The satellite will also transmit the overview images of Earth's northern polar region and the adjoining areas every 15-30 minutes.
- ✓ The first launch for the satellite was scheduled for 2013 but it has been delayed and was launched in 2021.
- ✓ This satellite is one among a series of planned Russian remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites.
- ✓ The satellite will be based on the Lavochkin Elektro-L meteorological satellite.

DEFENCE

- **India – to take part in a major multination air combat exercise 'Desert Flag' in the United Arab Emirates with fighter jets and heavy-duty airlift aircraft this month.**

- ✓ This will be the first such exercise to be participated by India in the strategically-located Persian Gulf region
- ✓ On March 3, the IAF will dispatch six Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, two C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft and around 125 personnel for the high-voltage “Desert Flag” exercise
- ✓ The exercise will see participation of air forces from the US, France, South Korea, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
- ✓ Greece, Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt, in turn, will be “observers” for the three-week war games
- ✓ The exercise will be coordinated by the air warfare centre of the Al Dhafra airbase in UAE
- ✓ It will witness participation of fighters like American F-15s and F-16s, French Rafales and Mirage-2000s and Russian origin Sukhois.
- ✓ The exercise will see the entire range of offensive and defensive operations with force-enhancers like AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) and flight-refuelling aircraft in a realistic combat setting
- ✓ This will be the fourth time IAF will participate in such a multilateral exercise in the last five years
- ✓ The other exercises are the American ‘Red Flag’ in 2016, the Israeli ‘BlueFlag’ in 2017 and the Australian ‘Pitch Black’ wargames in 2018.

SPORTS

- **Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat - has won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine.**



Vinesh Phogat wins gold in Ukraine wrestling event

- ✓ Vinesh Phogat defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus in the finals to win the gold medal
- ✓ Vinesh has already booked a place in the Tokyo Olympics for the 53kg category.
- ✓ She is the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games.
- **Novak Djokovic - equalled Roger Federer’s all-time record for most weeks as ATP world No. 1 on March 1**
- ✓ Djokovic is holding the top spot continuously for the 310th week.

- ✓ Djokovic's ninth Australian Open title last month guaranteed that he would surpass Federer's record on March 8.

RECORD FOR MOST WEEKS AT NO. 1

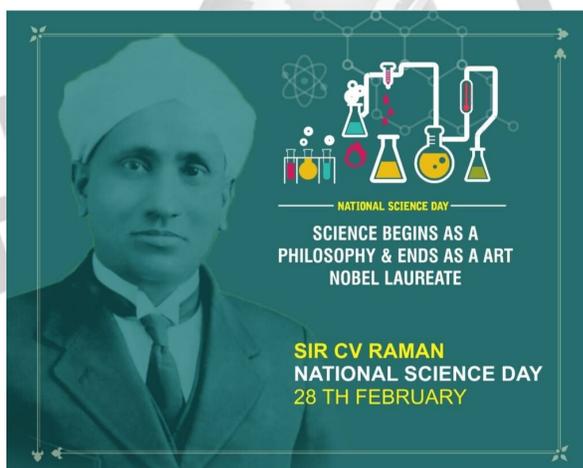
Player	Total Weeks	Longest Streak
Novak Djokovic	310	122 weeks
Roger Federer	310	237 weeks
Pete Sampras	286	102 weeks
Ivan Lendl	270	157 weeks
Jimmy Connors	268	160 weeks

Source: ATP

- ✓ This is Djokovic's fifth stint atop the world rankings.
- ✓ He reclaimed the top spot from Nadal in February last year and finished as the year-end No. 1 for sixth time

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Science Day – February 28



- ✓ The day marks the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by India's greatest scientist, Sir C V Raman in the year 1928
- ✓ The National Science Day was first designated by the Government of India in the year 1986 and observed in 1987
- ✓ Sir C V Raman received the Nobel Prize for this discovery in the year 1930.
- ✓ The celebration of the day is coordinated by the nodal agency National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work"
- ✓ Dr CV Raman was a renowned scientist who had a bachelors' and masters' degree in Physics from the Presidency College in Madras.