



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 23, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- The knitwear hub of Tiruppur - will house the first 'TIDEL Neo' of the State
- ✓ In this regard, the tenders have been floated by the Government for building the facility at Tiruppur
- ✓ 'TIDEL Neo' refers to the setting up of 'mini' IT parks with an area of 50,000 to 1 lakh square feet in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns with an aim of introducing the services sector across the state.
- ✓ TIDEL Park Ltd is a Joint-Venture (JV) company of TIDEL and ELCOT.
- ✓ The IT park proposed in a built up area of 60,000 square feet will have a ground floor + 7 floors facility at Rakkiyapalayam village in Tiruppur
- ✓ The new facility is proposed to be constructed at a financial outlay of Rs 32 crore.

### STATES

- On March 22, the Haryana assembly - passed a bill against religious conversion through force, undue influence or allurement
- ✓ Under the bill, anyone concealing his religion with intention to marry shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years, which may extend to 10 years and shall be liable to a fine of not less than ₹3 lakh.
- ✓ Further, if the conversion is done by allurement, use of force, fraudulent means or coercion, then there is a provision for imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of not less than Rs 1 lakh.
- ✓ According to the Bill, the onus of proof lies with the accused
- ✓ The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022 was introduced during the budget session of the Assembly on March 4
- ✓ Similar bills in the recent past have been passed in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

## NATIONAL

- On March 22, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya – launched the BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre through a video conference



- ✓ China's Minister of Science and Technology, Wang Zhigang chaired the launch ceremony.
- ✓ The BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre was proposed to be established in 2018 Johannesburg Declaration.
- ✓ Immunobiological Technology Institute (Biomanguinhos) of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Smorodintsev Research Institute of Influeza, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Sinovac Life Sciences Co. Ltd, South African Medical Research Council are the collaborating agencies of the Centre
- ✓ At the virtual launch, the Minister conveyed his gratitude and appreciation towards BRICS countries for collectively undertaking scientific efforts towards research and development of vaccines.
- ✓ Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the members of the BRICS forum

## HIGH COURT VERDICT

- Madras high court - has directed to ensure proper functioning of CCTV cameras installed in police stations and ensure its footage stored and protected for atleast one year or 18 months
- ✓ In this regard, Justice S M Subramaniam has directed the principal secretary of the home department and director general of police (DGP) to ensure the compliance of his order
- ✓ The court also directed to take appropriate steps to install storage facilities at the police stations within three months.
- ✓ It had also directed to ensure that the recorded CCTV camera footage in police stations are stored properly.

- ✓ In the event of failure on the part of the subordinate officials, all appropriate actions should be taken for their negligence, lapses and dereliction of duty, in accordance with law.
- ✓ Referring to a Supreme Court judgement, the judge observed that courts have repeatedly directed that the CCTV footage in police stations must be stored at least for a period of 18 months.

## DEFENCE

- **On March 22, Joint Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2 – was conducted between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune**



- ✓ The aim of the exercise was to streamline the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police to counter any likely terrorist actions in Pune
- ✓ The exercise involved participation of Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police alongwith Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.
- ✓ A simulated exercise scenario in the backdrop of presence of terrorists in a populated area was depicted at a under construction site
- ✓ Finally, joint action was carried out by Army's CTTF and QRT of Maharashtra Police to neutralize the terrorists.

## ECONOMY

- **Global ratings agency Fitch - has slashed India's growth forecast to 8. 5% for the fiscal year 2022-23 from its earlier projection of 10. 3%**
- ✓ The agency has cited the impact of surging energy prices against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine for the reduction in its projection
- ✓ It has increased the GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8. 7%, up 0. 6 percentage point (pp) from the December estimate.

- ✓ Several agencies have lowered their growth estimates for India against the backdrop of the surge in global crude oil prices and disruption in supply chains due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

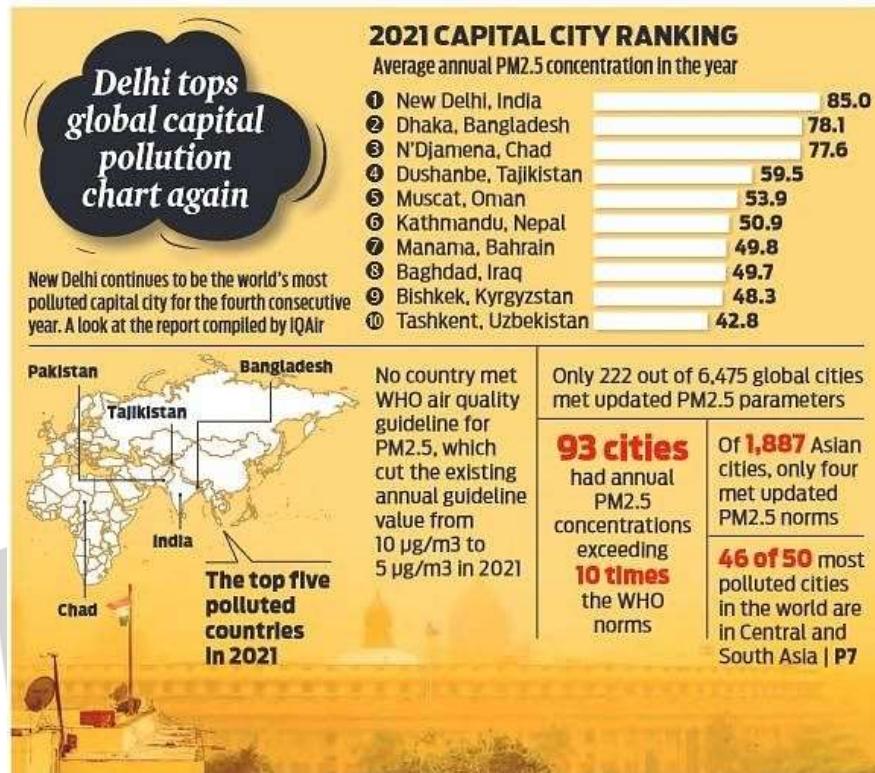
## RANKINGS

- **Delhi - remains the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive year, according to a 2021 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation IQAir.**
- ✓ Sixty-three of the world's 100 most polluted cities are in India, as per the report, with half of them in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ Bhiwadi in Rajasthan's Alwar district is the most polluted regional city in India, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 106.2 micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad with 102 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and then Delhi with 96.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- ✓ On the list of capital cities, Dhaka followed Delhi in terms of the annual average PM2.5 concentration, while N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, was third on the list.
- ✓ Bhiwadi also topped the list of the 'world's most polluted cities' in 2021, followed by Ghaziabad, and Hotan, China
- ✓ Delhi was fourth on the list, while Noida was seventh with a PM2.5 level of 91.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and Gurgaon was eighteenth with 83.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- ✓ Faridabad, Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Meerut, and Sonipat are other NCR areas that were on the list
- ✓ The report is based on PM2.5 data from 6,475 cities in 117 countries worldwide.

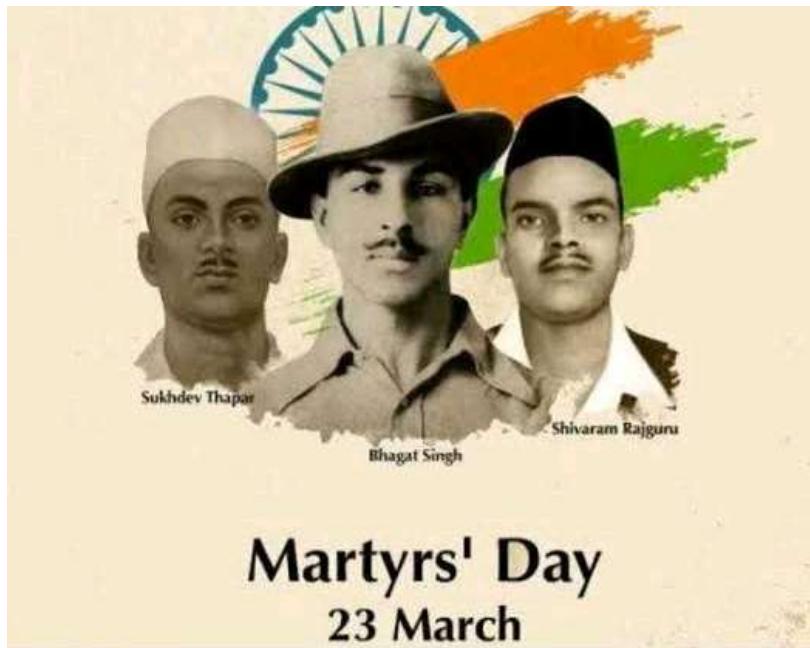
- ✓ None of the cities in India meet the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic metre
- ✓ In 2021, 48% of Indian cities exceeded 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , or more than 10 times the WHO guideline.
- ✓ Central and South Asia have some of the worst air quality and were home to 46 of the world's 50 most polluted cities in 2021.
- ✓ The report mentioned that the cleanest air measured in India is in Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu, but even that is thrice the WHO's safe levels



- ✓ Only Chennai, among the Indian metros, showed an improvement in PM 2. 5 levels.
- ✓ Chennai's PM 2. 5 concentration was 26. 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2020 and fell to 25. 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2021.
- ✓ As per the report, only three places - US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and New Caledonia met the latest WHO guideline.
- ✓ In 2021, only 3% of the countries in the world met the WHO air quality guideline for PM2.5
- ✓ Fine particle pollution, known as PM2.5, is commonly accepted to be the most harmful, widely-monitored air pollutant
- ✓ It has been found to be a major contributing factor to health effects such as asthma, stroke, heart and lung diseases.
- ✓ In 2019, India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP).
- ✓ The plan seeks to reduce PM concentrations by 20% by 2024 in all identified non-attainment cities in the country

# NATIONAL DAY

## ➤ Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) – March 23



- ✓ The Day is observed every year in honour of the valour and commitment of those who sacrificed their lives for the country.
- ✓ On this day, freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death at the Lahore Central Jail in Lahore by the British rulers of India in 1931
- ✓ The trio was found guilty of killing deputy police superintendent JP Saunders in 1928, to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- ✓ Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann declared a holiday on March 23 so that more people can pay their tributes to the great martyrs
- ✓ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the armed forces preparatory school, announced by his government last year, will be named after revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- ✓ Besides March 23, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, January 30, is also marked as Shaheed Diwas.

