



**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 1-31, 2022**

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**Foot Prints**  
(Compilation of Current Events)

TAMIL NADU	STATES	NATIONAL	INDIA & THE WORLD	INTERNATIONAL
SCHEMES	DEFENCE	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	EVS	ECONOMY
COURT VERDICTS	CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	AWARDS	PERSONALITIES	BOOKS & AUTHORS
SPORTS	RANKS & REPORTS	DAYS	OBITUARY	NEWS OF THE MONTH
KNOWLEDGE	APPOINTMENTS	COMMITTEES	APPS / PORTALS	MISCELLANEOUS

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# TAMIL NADU

## ➤ **Ungalil Oruvan**

- On February 27, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi - launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography 'Ungalil Oruvan' at Chennai Trade Centre.
- ✓ In the first edition, the CM traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) struggle during emergency, recalling 23 years from his birth on March 1, 1953 upto 1976.

## ➤ **Naan Muthalvan**

- On March 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched an ambitious new initiative titled "Naan Muthalvan"
- ✓ The flagship scheme is a massive skilling and career guidance programme for school and college students in the state.
- ✓ The initiative aims to improve the educational skills, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh students every year besides bridging the talent gap in the employment market

## ➤ **Vazhdhu Kattuvom**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has undertaken a rural transformation project in partnership with the World Bank to promote rural enterprises in the farm, off-farm and non-farm sectors. While the World Bank provides 70% of the funding, the rest is borne by the State.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) now has an official brand name, Vazhdhu Kattuvom (We shall live and show), and looks beyond poverty alleviation to develop a business ecosystem that nurtures skills and fosters entrepreneurial capabilities among self-help groups (SHGs) and their households.

## ➤ **India's First Ambulance for Street Animals**

- ✓ India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "Four Paw".

## ➤ **Chennai Mayor**

- ✓ R. Priya, 28, was elected unopposed in the indirect election to the post of Chennai Mayor on Friday. She belongs to the DMK.

- ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi administered the oath of office to Ms. Priya, who is the 49th person to assume Mayoral office in the city.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission - TN**
- ✓ Nine hundred and eighteen habitations, spread over five districts, are going to have combined water supply schemes at a cost of about 1,473 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ Of them, 667 are in Tiruvarur district; 109 in Tiruchi; 88 habitations and Sembedu village panchayat in Ranipet; 32 in Mayiladuthurai; and 22 in Tirunelveli.
- **State Disaster Mitigation Fund**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has set up the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) for undertaking projects that are exclusively for the purpose of disaster mitigation. This fund is different from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- ✓ The SDMF has been constituted under Section 48 (1)(c) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, while the existing SDRF was constituted under Section 48 (1)(a) of the Act.
- **Top Borrower State - TN**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has been the top borrower among States in the current fiscal 2022.
- ✓ Overall, the State has raised 65,400 crores through the issuance of bonds called State Development Loans (SDLs) in April-February 2022.
- ✓ It is about 18% lower than the 79,500 crore raised during the same period in fiscal 2021.
- ✓ After Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are the top borrowing States.
- **Floating Solar Power Project**
- Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a 22MW floating solar power project of SPIC at Tuticorin on March 7
- ✓ The project, estimated to generate 42 million units of electricity per annum, has been established at a cost of Rs 150.4 crore.
- ✓ The floating solar plant, believed to be the one of country's largest, has a capacity of 25.3 MW DC/22 MW AC and has been set up on a 75-acre pond to support SPIC's power needs.
- **Nari Shakti Puraskar**

- ✓ Three women from Tamil Nadu - will receive the Nari Shakti Puraskar from President Ram Nath Kovind at a special ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 8, International Women's Day.
- ✓ While Jaya Muthu and Tejamma, artisans of Toda embroidery, will be conferred the award for 2020, psychiatrist and researcher Dr Thara Rangaswamy will receive the award for 2021.

#### ➤ **T.N.-Industrial Growth**

- ✓ The ultimate goal of the Tamil Nadu government is to ensure growth in all districts, said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Thoothukudi on Monday.
- ✓ Laying the foundation for establishing a world-class furniture park on a sprawling 1,156 acres of land at an estimated cost of 1,000 crore, situated close to the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Mr. Stalin said he was confident that not only Thoothukudi, but every district in Tamil Nadu would witness industrial growth. "This is just the beginning," he said.
- ✓ The furniture park, a first of its kind in the country, was the need of the hour for the State.

#### ➤ **Various Awards in Recognition of Services**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday presented the Avvaiyar Award for 2022 to social worker Girija Kumarbabu at the Secretariat here, in recognition of her service towards the welfare of women and children.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin also handed over the 'Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R. Traditional Rice Variety Conservator Award' for 2020-21 to S. Moorthy from Namakkal district, K. Ponnu Puthiyavan from Tirunelveli district and P. Lakshmi Devi from Tirunelveli district, along with the cash prize.

#### ➤ **CM's Fellowship Programme**

- ✓ The State government has issued orders for implementing the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme (TNCMFP) during 2022-24 at an estimated cost of 5.66 crore.
- ✓ While 24 persons would get the fellowship for researching in 12 identified thematic areas (two fellows for each area) for synergies in implementation, monitoring and evaluation by grouping the various departments and schemes, another six would be in the Monitoring Cell of the Special Programme Implementation Department.

#### ➤ **Indian Universities-South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet**

- ✓ The Central government introducing regressive ideas in the syllabus (of universities) is a worrisome development, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on

Friday. The best solution to this issue was to place education in the State List of the Constitution.

- ✓ He was speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Association of Indian Universities-South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet held at Bharathiar University here.

#### ➤ **'Sagar Parikrama' Program**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - to remain part of the Centre's 'Sagar Parikrama' Program, that seeks to salute the country's freedom fighters, sailors and fishermen.
- ✓ The Phase-I of the program was launched earlier in Gujarat by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Parshottam Rupala as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative
- ✓ Sagar Parikrama program is proposed to be celebrated in all coastal states/UTs.

#### ➤ **Tamilnadu Petroproducts**

- ✓ Tamilnadu Petroproducts became world's first LAB manufacturing company to get BIS certification.
- ✓ TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.) is the world's first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company to be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ✓ TPL's 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country.

#### ➤ **Robotic Surgery Centre**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated an advanced robotic surgery centre at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate on Tuesday. The facility has come up at a cost of 34.60 crore.
- ✓ The robotic system with two consoles was procured through Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation. Patients of specialty departments such as urology, surgical gastroenterology, surgical oncology, endocrine surgery and cardiothoracic surgery would benefit from the facility.

#### ➤ **Samsung**

- ✓ Leading international consumer electronics and smartphone maker, Samsung - signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin and state industries minister Thangam Thennarasu on March 15.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Samsung has proposed to invest Rs 1,588 crore to establish a new compressor manufacturing plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai.

➤ **World Chess Olympiad in 2022**

- ✓ India is set to host the forty-fourth World Chess Olympiad in 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This event was moved out of Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ World Chess Olympiad is the second major global chess event to be held in India after the World Championship match in 2013.

➤ **The Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, India and Adjacent Waters**

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin – released the first ever illustrated book on marine species, ‘The Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, India and Adjacent Waters’ at the Secretariat on March 16.
- ✓ The book was authored by three marine experts from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat.
- ✓ Though the biodiversity of Gulf of Mannar has been researched for more than 200 years, this is the first ever book on its documentation

➤ **Vembakottai**

- ✓ Minister for archaeology Thangam Thennarsu – launched the first phase of excavation at Vembakottai on the banks of Vaipar river near Sivakasi on March 16. Vembakottai is expected to be one of the most revealing archaeological sites in the region
- ✓ The site at Vembakottai was on the right of Vaipar river where many pieces of shell bangles from the Sangam era, terracotta earrings and ring wells had been discovered earlier.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022**

- ✓ Aiming at harnessing data for effective decision-making, the State government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022.
- ✓ It is expected to support policy-making, improve implementation of schemes, encourage value-added services and improve the quality of services.
- ✓ A State-level empowered data governance committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, would provide strategic guidance for the data policy framework.

➤ **Credit Guarantee Scheme Portal**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government’s Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises signed an agreement with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for developing a portal for implementing the Tamil Nadu Credit Guarantee Scheme (TNCGS).  
The TNCGS, to be implemented jointly by the Department and CGTMSE, is expected to benefit micro, small and medium companies.

➤ **Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)**

- ✓ Paddy procurement records a marginal rise.
- ✓ 25.07 lakh tonnes procured till March 14, with Delta region getting the lion's share.
- ✓ The State has witnessed a marginal rise in the procurement of paddy this year when compared to last year.  
Till now (March 14), about 25.07 lakh tonnes have been procured during the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), which commenced on October 1, 2021.

➤ **Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women**

- ✓ The newly reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women has appointed S. Kumari as its Chairperson.
- ✓ This panel consists of seven members apart from the chairperson.
- ✓ The Chairperson and members of the commission will have a three-year term of office. There is no change in the official members of this Commission.

➤ **State's First Full Budget**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister PTR Palanivel Thiaga Rajan - presented the state's first full budget for the financial year 2022-2023 to the Assembly on March 18, 2022.
- ✓ This is the second Budget of the DMK government, and was presented in paperless form as an e-budget.
- ✓ Urban sector, welfare schemes, education, and flood prevention measures were the key focus areas of the budget.

**Highlights of Financial Aspects of the Budget**

➤ **Education:**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu will launch a massive scheme 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' to modernise government schools (including Adi Dravidar, Tribal & Kallar Reclamation Schools) over the next 5 years

➤ **Disaster warning systems:**

- ✓ In order to receive timely warnings on floods, the government will establish an advanced early warning system with super computers, a system of weather balloons, two weather radars, 100 automatic weather stations, 400 automatic rain gauges, and 11 automatic water level instruments.

➤ **Loan waiver:**

- ✓ A total of Rs 2,531 crore has been budgeted for waiver of agricultural loans, Rs 1,000 crore for waiver of jewel loans, and Rs 600 crore for waiving self-help group loans, totaling an amount of 4,131 crore.

➤ **Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar scheme:**

- ✓ Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Assistance Scheme is being transformed as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme in line with the changing times.
- ✓ The earlier 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme or Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Assistance Scheme provided gold and financial assistance for women's marriages.
- ✓ The new scheme is a higher education assurance scheme for all girl students who studied from Classes 6 to 12 in government schools.
- ✓ They will be paid Rs 1,000 per month directly into their bank account till the uninterrupted completion of their undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

➤ **Funds for newly formed corporations:**

- ✓ A special fund of Rs.60 crore will be provided to create basic infrastructure in the six newly formed corporations of Tambaram, Kanchipuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi at Rs.10 crore each.
- ✓ Further, 28 newly created municipalities will receive Rs.2 crore each.
- ✓ In the next two years, the Tamil Nadu government will establish District Central Libraries with modern infrastructure in the newly-created 6 districts at an estimated cost of 36 crore.

➤ **Social Media:**

- ✓ A new special "Social Media Monitoring Cell" will be established within the police department at the state headquarters to prevent the increasing crimes resulting from fake news and to tackle the menace of hatred on social media.

➤ **Environment:**

- ✓ The government will set up a botanical garden at a cost of Rs.300 crore near Chennai in partnership with Kew Gardens of London.
- ✓ The Government announces 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' to protect & conserve the 'State Animal' of Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Green Fund**

- ✓ The State government will set up a 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Change Fund' to fund climate change initiatives, mitigation and greening projects.

➤ **Eco-tourism Sites**

- ✓ Eco-tourism sites would be developed at Sethumadai in Coimbatore district, Manavanur and Thadiyan Kudisai in Dindigul district and Yelagiri in Tirupattur district in the public-private partnership mode.
- ✓ A sum of 849.21 crore has been allocated to the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department in this Budget.

➤ **Historical Significance:**

- ✓ 3 sites - Courtallam, Boondi, and Dharmapuri excavation sites will be improved at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

➤ **Road infrastructure gets a big boost**

- ✓ About 2,250 crore had been allocated towards Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project, 1,200 crore towards Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor Project with the Asian Development Bank's assistance and 628 crore towards Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project-II in the Budget Estimates, he said.

➤ **IMH set for major upgrade**

- ✓ To provide quality mental health services, the Tamil Nadu government has planned to establish a Tamil Nadu Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (TNIMHANS) by upgrading the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Kilpauk.
- ✓ A provision of 40 crore has been made for the first phase of this project.

➤ **State to Form Human Resources Reforms Panel**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will constitute a human resources reforms committee, which will propose a road map for reforms in human resource management within six months, Minister for Finance and Human Resource Management Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said in the Assembly on Friday.

➤ **48% jump in allocation for MSMEs**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Budget for 2022-2023, presented on Friday, has hiked the allocation for the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises by almost 48%.

➤ **Panel to Prepare Etymological Dictionary**

✓ The written works of Dravidar Kazhagam founder and social reformer 'Thanthai Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy will be published in print and digital editions in 21 Indian and world languages at a cost of 5 crore, the Tamil Nadu government said in the Assembly on Friday.

➤ **Tech, start-up hubs to be established**

✓ The Tamil Nadu government will set up an i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub at a cost of 54.61 crore in Chennai. This centre will coordinate efforts to use technology to solve complex challenges in the State, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said in the State Legislative Assembly on Friday.

The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) would set up Regional Start-up Hubs in Erode, Madurai and Tirunelveli to ensure the development of the start-up eco-system. An iconic State Start-up Hub Centre will be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) at Nandambakkam, Chennai at an estimated cost of 75 crore, he said.

➤ **Agriculture Budget of the State for the Year 2022-23**

✓ Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister MRK Panneerselvam - presented the second agriculture budget of the State for the year 2022-23 on March 19.

✓ During his 110-minutes speech, the Minister announced a marginal increase in the budgetary allocation for agriculture and allied sectors, from Rs 32,775.8 crore in the current fiscal to Rs 33,007.7 crore for the next financial year.

✓ Tamil Nadu is the third state in India to file a separate budget for agriculture after Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

**Highlights of the agriculture budget**

✓ The Tamil Nadu Government will take steps to achieve 126 lakh Metric Tonne of food grains production in the year 2022-23

✓ The Tamil Nadu government will provide free electricity to all farmers across the state and has allocated Rs 5,157.56 crore for the same

✓ "Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission" will be implemented at a budget of Rs.15.32 crore with Union and State Government fund, in order to enhance the cotton yield during the year 2022-23

✓ The budget allocated 300 crore in 2022-23 for the 'Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme' which was announced in the first agriculture budget.

✓ The project has been designed to be implemented in village panchayats identified under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam every year.

## Agriculture through Technology

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 8 crore for digital agriculture
- ✓ All technologies from seed to yield can be obtained electronically through Uzhavan Mobile Application.
- ✓ The seven Agro-climatic zones, including the Cauvery delta, are to be divided into 1330 Micro Agro-climatic zones to formulate new profitable crop plan to farmers based on factors of production.
  
- **Gene pool will be created to preserve indigenous crops**
- ✓ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam on Saturday announced the creation of a gene pool of indigenous varieties of fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants once widely cultivated in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Recalling the late naturalist Nammazhwar's words that the "seed is the weapon", the Minister said a gene pool would be established to preserve traditional varieties of horticultural crops at the State's horticulture farms.
  
- ✓ **Two Millets Special Zones to be formed in State**
- ✓ Millet festivals will be organised at State and district levels to create awareness on the importance of millet nutrition among farmers, entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations, women self-help groups, voluntary organisations and consumers, he said.
  
- **381 cr. to be used to develop food parks**
- ✓ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam on Saturday said adequate infrastructure would be established in three food parks through the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) at an estimated cost of 381.38 crore.
- ✓ "The three food parks, registered by SIPCOT to be established on 451 acres of land at Theni, Tindivanam (Villupuram), Manapparai (Tiruchirapalli) taluks, have been declared 'Mega Food Parks' by the Centre.
  
- **Micro Forest**
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation - has dropped the plan to set up 1,000 Miyawaki forests across Chennai and will instead grow micro forests with native species.
- ✓ In the last three years, the corporation has created about 50 Miyawaki forests, which will stay.
- ✓ At present, the GCC has asked the environment department to fund the new 'micro forest' policy under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission.

➤ **Green Fellowship Programme**

- ✓ To actively involve youth in initiatives for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, the Tamil Nadu government has launched a Green Fellowship programme.
- ✓ The objective of the programme is to engage youth in environmental policy design and implementation. They will monitor and evaluate the outcomes, communicate the impact of policies and deliver better services.

➤ **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram**

- ✓ The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram - has earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under the category 'musical instruments of class 15'.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's traditional wind instrument Nagaswaram, dating back to the 13th century, is an ancient musical instrument handmade by artisans with intricate craftsmanship.

➤ **TIDEL Neo**

- ✓ The knitwear hub of Tiruppur - will house the first 'TIDEL Neo' of the State.
- ✓ '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.
- ✓ The IT park proposed in a built up area of 60,000 square feet will have a ground floor + 7 floors facility at Rakkiyalayam village in Tiruppur
- ✓ The new facility is proposed to be constructed at a financial outlay of Rs 32 crore.

➤ **Kulasekarapattinam**

- ✓ A small town panchayat in the southern district of Thoothukudi, known for its religious fervour during the Dussehra festival, will soon be on the global scientific map.
- ✓ That primary identity will, however, change in the coming years as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sets up its second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam for launching satellites weighing less than 500 kg on its Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).

➤ **Safeguard State Animal**

- ✓ 'Project Nilgiri Tahr', with an initial allocation of 10 crore announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget for conservation and expansion of habitat for the State animal, has

come at a time when its population has started declining in parts of its highly fragmented range.

- ✓ The montane grasslands of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) are estimated to be the second biggest habitat for the tahr after Eravikulam National Park in Kerala.

#### ➤ **'Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board**

- ✓ 2 more members for Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board.
- ✓ A Bill adopted by the House amended the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Act, 2011 to alter the composition of the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board with the Chairman and members instead of the Managing Director and Directors.
- ✓ Besides increasing the strength of the Board from 13 to 15, the Bill, introduced by Minister for Minorities and Non Resident Tamils' Welfare Gingeer K.S. Masthan, made the Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils the ex officio Member Secretary of the Board.

#### ➤ **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**

- ✓ The foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tamil Nadu grew about 41.5% to 17,696 crore (about \$2.4 billion) in April-December 2021 from 12,504 crore (about \$1.7 billion) in the same period of 2020 (when the first wave of COVID-19 started).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's growth came despite a fall in the overall FDI flow into India by 16% to 3,19,976 crore in April-December 2021, compared with the same period of 2020.

#### ➤ **UAE Visit**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said memoranda of understanding with six major companies for investments to the tune of 6,100 crore in Tamil Nadu were signed during his visit to the United Arab Emirates.

#### ➤ **Amazon**

- ✓ Amazon's biggest office in T.N. opens in Chennai.
- ✓ CM inaugurates facility that will accommodate 6,000 staff.

#### ➤ **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**

- ✓ Indira Parthasarathy conferred Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.
- ✓ Mr. Parthasarathy added. A Padma Shri awardee, he has published 16 novels, 10 plays and anthologies of short stories and essays.
- ✓ He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for his novel Kuruthipunal and is the only Tamil writer to have received both the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

➤ **Chandanraj Dakshayani**

- ✓ In a first, Chandanraj Dakshayani, a transgender - has been appointed as the panchayat secretary in the Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Tiruvallur District Collector Dr Albijan Varghese selected her for the post in 2022 on compassionate grounds and gave the appointment order
- ✓ On March 24, 2022, six years after a sex-change operation, Dakshayani, 30, was appointed secretary of Kodiveli panchayat in Tiruvallur district as the state's first transwoman panchayat secretary.

➤ **Oriyur and Marungur**

- ✓ The Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation - discovered traces of two ancient villages, Oriyur and Marungur, which could have been from the Sangam period, near Thondi in Ramanathapuram district.

➤ **UAE-based LuLu Group**

- ✓ The UAE-based LuLu Group - signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu government to invest 3,500 crore in the state to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food processing and logistics centre.
- ✓ Totally, the chief minister-led delegation signed various MoUs with investors to attract 6,100 crore investments during the five-day visit to the UAE.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES)**

- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation - has rolled out the Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES), a minimum wage programme that would provide job opportunities for people living below the poverty line.
- ✓ This scheme is similar to the MGNREGA scheme, which provides job opportunities in rural areas, while the TNUES will provide jobs in Chennai city.

➤ **Central Square**

- ✓ On March 30, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the 'Central Square' developed at a cost of 400 crore in front of Chennai Central railway station.
- ✓ Under this project, a single tunnel will be constructed connecting Chennai Central, Metro Railway Station, Ribbon Building, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Park Railway Station.

# STATES

## ➤ **Per Capita Net State 2022**

- ✓ Telangana topped the Country in terms of Per Capita Net State 2022.
- ✓ Telangana became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

## ➤ **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5**

- ✓ Odisha - topped the country at national level in full immunisation coverage with 90.5% of full immunization, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5.
- ✓ The State has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 on March 7 for boosting full immunization coverage of the targeted women and children.

## ➤ **100% Women-Owned Industrial Park**

- ✓ India's first 100% women-owned industrial park - began operations in Hyderabad on March 8, International Women's Day.
- ✓ The FLO industrial park, the first-of-its-kind in the country, was established over 50 acres with an investment of Rs 250 crore.
- ✓ Promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with the State government, the park has 25 units, representing 16 diverse green category industries, all owned and operated by women.

## ➤ **Indrayani Medicity**

- ✓ The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune.
- ✓ The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.

## ➤ **AQVERIUM**

- ✓ Karnataka's Information Technology Minister N. Ashwath Narayan has inaugurated India's first-ever digital water data bank named 'AQVERIUM' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ This digital water data bank provides insights and evidence from research and analytics thereby providing fundamental reliable information for tackling water pollution.

➤ **Udaan**

- ✓ 'Udaan' gives girls wings to a better future in rural Rajasthan.
- ✓ The Udaan project, launched by the Rajasthan government in collaboration with a development consulting group 'IPE Global', has made attempts to keep girls in schools through their enrolment at the secondary level while ensuring that the eligible ones among them get their scholarships.

➤ **Punjab 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister**

- ✓ Aam Aadmi Party's Bhagwant Mann - took oath as Punjab 18<sup>th</sup> chief minister at a ceremony on March 16 in Khatkar Kalan, the native village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

➤ **Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050**

- ✓ Mumbai became first South Asian City to set target.
- ✓ Mumbai, Maharashtra announced its detailed framework to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050' and became the first city in South Asia to set such a target.
- ✓ Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

➤ **Crop Diversification Index**

- ✓ Telangana - becomes the first state in the country to record crop diversification patterns in the form of an index.
- ✓ According to the crop diversification index, the state grows 77 varieties, with roughly 10 crops, predominantly grains, favored for diversification.
- ✓ Many districts in the state have index values ranging from 0 to 5, and the higher the score, the greater the agricultural diversification.
- ✓ The score will serve as a benchmark for future agricultural diversification in the state.

➤ **NeVA Programme**

- ✓ Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the entire country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.
- ✓ Now members can use electronic devices to participate in House proceedings.
- ✓ NeVA is a Unicode compliant software having provision for easy access to various documents like list of questions, etc.

➤ **Carbon-Neutral Farming**

- ✓ Kerala is set to become the first State in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations, for which the government has set aside 6 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.
  - ✓ In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva a carbon-neutral farm.
- **First State to Implement Dynamic Maps**
- ✓ Bihar has become the first state in the country to implement the dynamic map for villages. Each time land ownership will change, the dynamic map will get automatically updated
  - ✓ The aim of this initiative is to reduce legal disputes. According to the Bihar government, the state has received around 37,000 cases of land disputes and other issues since February 2021.



# NATIONAL

- **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)**
  - ✓ Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh - launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) virtually on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.
  - ✓ It would undertake activities related to international monsoon research that would be identified under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
  
- **Arogya Vanam**
  - ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind in New Delhi on March 1, 2022. The objective of this Arogya Vanam is promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.
  
- **Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**
  - ✓ The Centre - has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme 'Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates'.
  - ✓ The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
  - ✓ The scheme enables migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.
  
- **Stree Manoraksha Project**
  - ✓ The 'Stree Manoraksha Project' has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
  - ✓ This was launched with the aim to improve women's mental health across India.
  
- **Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav**
  - ✓ The government - launched a new nation-wide campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' on the eve of the International Women's Day.
  - ✓ The campaign is being launched by the Ministry of women and child development (MoWCD) in partnership with the ministry of education (MoE) and Unicef India.
  - ✓ It aims to bring out-of-school girls back into the formal education system through a convergence model between MoWCD and MoE.

- ✓ The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of an estimated four lakh out-of-school adolescent girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- **Prasar Bharati**
- ✓ India's public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati - has tied up with the Over the Top platform, Yupp TV.
- ✓ The agreement between Yupp TV and Prasar Bharati is part of the broadcaster's "vision" to expand the global reach of Doordarshan's DD India and to showcase India's culture and values to the world.
- ✓ With the tie-up, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.
- **SAMARTH**
- ✓ Entrepreneurship promotion drive for women - "SAMARTH" launched.
- ✓ Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane launched a special entrepreneurship promotion drive for women -"SAMARTH", on 7 March 2022 in New Delhi.
- ✓ It will provide them an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking self-employment opportunities.
- **'Donate a Pension' Scheme**
- ✓ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday launched the "donate a pension" scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.
- ✓ The pension scheme, which was launched in 2019, allows unorganised sector workers between the age of 18 and 40, who earn up to 15,000 a month, to enroll by paying a premium amount between 55 and 200, depending on the age, that would be matched by the government.
- ✓ On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a 3,000 monthly pension. As of March 3, the scheme had 46.34 lakh enrollments, according to the Labour Ministry's portal.
- **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)**
- ✓ The Centre has approved an allocation of Rs 3,274.87 crore for the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY), under which freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits, till 2025-26.
- ✓ The decision shows the commitment of the government to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and take inspiration from them during the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- **Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act**
- ✓ On March 9, the government - approved an amendment to the second schedule of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act
- ✓ The amendment seeks to fix royalty rates of minerals such as potash, emerald and platinum group of metals.
- ✓ It would also ensure the auction of mineral blocks for glauconite, potash, emerald, platinum group of metals, andalusite, and molybdenum.
- ✓ The move would lead to a reduction in imports of these minerals.
  
- **MSME Innovative Scheme**
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - launched the MSME Innovative scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) and the MSME Idea Hackathon 2022.
- ✓ The new innovation scheme will be launched with the combination of existing sub-schemes around incubation, design, and intellectual property rights (IPR) for MSMEs. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatyra Rane, launched the scheme on March 10.
  
- **National Medical Devices Policy 2022**
- ✓ On March 12, the government - released the draft policy exclusively for the medical devices industry, which is currently regulated as medicines.
- ✓ The proposed National Medical Devices Policy 2022 aims to put in place a comprehensive set of measures for ensuring sustained growth and development of the MedTech Sector
- ✓ The medical devices sector in India is an essential and integral constituent of the Indian healthcare sector for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of all medical conditions, diseases, illnesses, and disabilities.
  
- **Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences**
- ✓ Union Minister for Space Jitendra Singh - inaugurated the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu on March 12.
- ✓ This is North India's first big space centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space training institute after the Thiruvananthapuram hub.
  
- **National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved recently the setting up of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetise surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other agencies linked to the Government.

- ✓ The fully wholly owned government of India company, coming under the Ministry of Finance, will fast track the monetisation of land and non-core assets of public sector entities.
- **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)**
  - ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved recently the establishment of a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
  - ✓ This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
  - ✓ The deal for setting up the centre was done between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO) by signing a Host Country agreement.
- **Detailed Project Reports' (DPRs)**
  - ✓ On March 14, the Centre - announced a plan to rejuvenate 13 rivers spread across 24 states and two Union territories, through forestry intervention.
  - ✓ In this regard, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav jointly released 'detailed project reports' (DPRs) of 13 rivers with Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
  - ✓ Under the proposed plan, various afforestation programmes and related activities will be taken up in the catchment areas of these rivers.
- **Steel Slag Road**
  - ✓ The country's first 'steel slag road' - has come up in Surat, after the successful completion of the 1.2 km six-lane connectivity stretch of the Hazira Port.
  - ✓ The new technique will also pave the way for utilisation of huge mounds of steel slag lying as waste across the country.
  - ✓ This research project under the steel ministry was sponsored by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel under the technical guidance of the Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI).
- **Four-Year-Undergraduate Programme (FYUP)**
  - ✓ On March 17, the University Grants Commission (UGC) - released the new four-year-undergraduate programme (FYUP) and the revised PhD regulations.
  - ✓ As per the new guidelines, the 160-credit FYUP will replace the present three-year choice-based credit system (CBCS) and enable students to directly join PhD programmes upon completion of four-year degree programmes.

➤ **Sujalam 2.0**

- ✓ On March 22, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - has launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management through video conference.
- ✓ The campaign was launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti to mark the World Water Day, 2022.
- ✓ Under the Campaign, government will mobilize communities, panchayats, schools, anganwadis to undertake greywater management.

➤ **220 New Airports by 2025**

- ✓ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the Government has set a target of building 220 new airports by 2025, citing the Civil Aviation industry as a critical component of India's economy.
- ✓ In response to the Civil Aviation Ministry's requests for grants for 2022-23, Scindia stated that India has made progress in both domestic and foreign travel during the COVID-19 period.

➤ **National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar)**

- ✓ The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar) in Hyderabad - is set to become India's first fully gender-neutral educational institution.
- ✓ It has introduced a policy of inclusive education for gender and sexual minorities.
- ✓ As part of its policy, the law school would have gender-neutral hostels, leading the way for inclusive campuses for the LGBTQ+ community.

➤ **India's First 'Steel Road'**

- ✓ Gujarat's Surat has got the first 'steel road' which is made up of steel waste on 27 March 2022.
- ✓ The project is sponsored by the Council Of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).
- ✓ Under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign, the undertaking is 1 kilometre long and has six lanes.

➤ **'Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills' (Tejas)**

- ✓ Information & broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur launched an international project by name 'Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills' (Tejas).
- ✓ The new project aimed at creating pathways to enable the Indian workforce to be equipped with the skills needed to meet market requirements in the UAE.
- ✓ Tejas aims at creating a 10,000-strong Indian workforce in the UAE during the initial phase.

➤ **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022**

- ✓ The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was introduced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Lok Sabha on March 28, 2022.
- ✓ The bill aims to authorise the police to take measurements of convicts and other detained persons for the purposes of their identifications and investigations in criminal matters to preserve records.

➤ **National Water Awards**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - secured third prize in the best state category of the National Water Awards instituted by the Union Jal Shakti ministry.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan got the first and second prizes, ahead of TN in the best state category for exemplary work in management of water resources.

➤ **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign 2022**

- ✓ On March 29, President Ram Nath Kovind - presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Water Awards and launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The campaign focuses on water conservation and aims to solve intensifying water crisis in the country for the period from 29 March, 2022 to 30 November, 2022.

# INTERNATIONAL

## ➤ **World's Largest Plane Destroyed by Russia**

- ✓ The world's largest cargo aircraft, the Antonov AN-225 or 'Mriya', has been destroyed in the Russia-Ukraine war.
- ✓ Antonov AN-225 was designed during the 1980s. It was initially part of the Soviet aeronautical program. It took its first flight in 1988 and now was used to deliver relief supplies during calamities.

## ➤ **Global Plastics Treaty**

- ✓ In a biggest multilateral environmental deal, 175 countries have agreed to a legally binding global treaty called "Global Plastics Treaty", to end the plastic pollution crisis by tackling the entire supply chain of material.
- ✓ The resolution on first treaty was passed at meeting of UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi in Kenya.
- ✓ First treaty directly seeks to tackle 9 billion tonnes of plastic produced since plastic age ramped up in 1950s.
- ✓ Now, they have started working on how to implement the treaty by 2024.

## ➤ **Europe's Largest Nuclear Plant - Zaporizhzhia Plant**

- ✓ Russian forces seized the largest nuclear power plant in Europe after a building at the complex was set ablaze during intense fighting with Ukrainian defenders on Friday.
- ✓ Fears of a potential nuclear disaster at the Zaporizhzhia plant had spread alarm across world capitals, before authorities said the fire in a building identified as a training centre, had been extinguished.

## ➤ **World's Most Sanctioned Country**

- Due to its war on Ukraine, Russia has become the most sanctioned in the world, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site.
- ✓ Castellum.AI said that sanctions were first imposed by the US and its allies on Russia on February 22 a day after President Vladimir Putin declared the two Ukrainian rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as "independent states".
  - ✓ The site said that 2,754 sanctions were already in place against Russia before February 22 and 2,778 additional were imposed in the days following the assault, bringing the total to 5,532.

➤ **New President of South Korea**

- ✓ **Yoon Suk-yeol** has been declared as the winner of the **2022 South Korean** presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country.
- ✓ He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022, for a fixed term of five years.

➤ **Hungary Elects First-Ever Female President**

- ✓ The Hungarian parliament has elected Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, as the EU member's first-ever female president.
- ✓ Novak, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women.

➤ **Miss World 2021**

- ✓ Karolina Bielawska from Poland won the crown of Miss World 2021 at the 70th edition of the beauty pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- ✓ In Miss World 2021, USA's Shree Saini and Olivia Yace of Cote d'Ivoire emerged as the first and the second runners-up, respectively.

➤ **1915 Canakkale Bridge**

- ✓ On March 18, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - inaugurated the world's longest suspension bridge over the Dardanelles strait in North western Turkey.
- ✓ With a 2,023m span, the \$2.8-billion '1915 Canakkale Bridge' cuts the travel time between Asia and Europe to just six minutes.
- ✓ It has the longest main span - the distance between the two towers - of any suspension bridge in the world.
- ✓ The inauguration coincides with the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ottoman forces' naval victory against British and French troops in the Gallipoli campaign during World War I.

# INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

## ➤ **\$1 Billion Line of Credit**

- ✓ On March 17, India - announced a \$1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the nation deal with its economic crisis.
- ✓ Visiting Sri Lankan finance minister Basil Rajapaksa was present during the signing of the agreement for the \$1 billion line of credit being extended through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ✓ Last month, India extended a \$500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka to help it purchase petroleum products as the island nation has been struggling under a severe foreign exchange and energy crisis.

## ➤ **India and Oman**

- ✓ India and Oman have signed Programme of Cooperation (POC) in the field of Science and Technology for the period 2022 - 2025.
- ✓ Medicinal Plants and processing, Real-time Air Quality monitoring, and Development of an electronic platform for knowledge sharing in the field of Genetic Resources are the main identified areas of cooperation.
- ✓ Both countries will also enhance cooperation in the field of Bio-diesel Research, Training programs - Big-data, coding & testing, Blockchain, and FinTech solutions, etc.

## ➤ **Indian Power Projects**

- ✓ India will set up hybrid power projects in three islands off Jaffna, effectively replacing the Chinese venture cleared by Colombo last year.
- ✓ It is the third Indian energy project coming up in Sri Lanka's north and east, after the recent agreements for National Thermal Power Corporation's solar venture in the eastern Sampur town, and the Adani Group's renewable energy projects in Mannar and Pooneryn in the north.

## ➤ **Rhino Population**

- ✓ Rhino population up by 200 in Kaziranga.
- ✓ The population of the greater one-horned or Indian rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has increased by 200 in four years, the latest census of the World Heritage Site's flagship animal has revealed.
- ✓ The last rhino census conducted in 2018 had put the number at 2,413.

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## ➤ **Plastic Recycling and Waste Management**

- ✓ Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma inaugurated the International Summit 2022 on Plastic Recycling and Waste Management in New Delhi, on 4 Mar'22.
- ✓ It is being organized by the Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) from 4-5 March.

## ➤ **Virtual Summit of Quad Leaders**

- ✓ On 3rd March 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a virtual summit of Quad leaders, along with U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.
- ✓ The leaders reviewed the progress on Quad initiatives since the 2021 Quad Summit. The leaders agreed on accelerating the cooperation to achieve concrete outcomes by the summit in Japan.
- ✓ They discussed the developments in Ukraine, including the humanitarian implications.

## ➤ **Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE)**

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference, on March 7, 2022.
- ✓ It is being co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).
- ✓ The theme of the conference is 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World'.

## ➤ **Imagining India @2047 through Innovation**

- ✓ For three days beginning Monday, young bureaucrats, academicians and entrepreneurs will discuss ways to propel India by the time the country celebrates its 100th year of Independence.
- ✓ The "Imagining India @2047 through innovation" being held from March 7 to 9 will have young academicians from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and young entrepreneurs from the institute's incubation cell interacting with young bureaucrats.

## ➤ **Colombo Security Conclave**

- ✓ National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval - represented India at the 5th NSA-level Colombo Security Conclave meeting in Male on March 10, 2022.

- ✓ The Colombo Security Conclave identified five “pillars” of cooperation to strengthen regional security.
- **Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI)**
- ✓ On March 11, India and Canada - held the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) in New Delhi.
- ✓ Both the countries have now decided to expedite the negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), as the FTA will be formally called, which was pending for a long time.
- **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela**
- The National Agricultural Science Fair, Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela- organized at the Pusa Institute’s Mela Ground in New Delhi concluded on March 11, 2022
- ✓ In the valedictory session, 36 farmers from across the country were awarded with IARI innovative farmer award of 2022.
- ✓ The main theme of the fair is “Self-reliant farmer through technical knowledge”.
- **India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge**
- ✓ On March 12, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri - launched the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under the ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0
- ✓ The new initiative aims at empowering start-ups in the water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.
- **Sahityotsav**
- ✓ Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi - concluded in New Delhi on March 15, 2022.
- ✓ The Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India’s Independence.
- ✓ The festival featured a special corner to display the books related to India's Freedom Movement and other materials relevant to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ During the festival, the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards were presented to the 24 Award winners at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.
- **36 International Geological Congress (IGC)**
- ✓ 36 International Geological Congress (IGC) will be held in New Delhi from 20 march. The theme of 36th IGC is “Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future”.

- ✓ 36th IGC is a joint endeavor of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- **26th International Film Festival**
  - ✓ The 26th International Film Festival of Kerala - began in the state capital Thiruvananthapuram on March 18.
  - ✓ The festival was inaugurated by Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
  - ✓ During the inaugural ceremony, the CM presented the 'Spirit of Cinema' award to Kurdish filmmaker Lisa Calan
  - ✓ Kurdish filmmaker Lisa Calan lost both her legs in an ISIS bombing in 2015 and now uses prosthetic legs.
- **India, Japan Annual Summit**
  - ✓ India Japan Annual Summit held on 19 March in New Delhi.
  - ✓ PM Modi and Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio participated in 14th India Japan Annual Summit.
  - ✓ 14th India Japan Annual Summit was the first meeting of Mr Modi and Mr Kishida.
- **14th India-Japan Annual Summit**
  - ✓ Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida - is on a two-day official visit to India from March 19 to 20.
  - ✓ Kishida participated in the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, besides holding bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - ✓ This is Fumio Kishida's first such visit as Prime Minister and the Summit was the first meeting between the two leaders
  - ✓ During the meeting, Kishida announced a plan to invest 5 trillion yen (\$42 billion) in India over five years.
- **India-Australia Virtual Summit**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison - held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit on March 21.
  - ✓ During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.
  - ✓ Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020.

➤ **WINGS INDIA 2022**

- ✓ Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI are jointly organizing Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled 'WINGS INDIA 2022'.
- ✓ The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity.
- ✓ The theme of the event: India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry.

➤ **Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit**

- ✓ The "Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit" was inaugurated by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Health Minister.
- ✓ This summit was organized on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day.
- ✓ This summit will highlight India's National TB Elimination Programme's success and learnings.

➤ **5th Bimstec Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will attend the 5th Bimstec Summit which is being held in virtual mode by Sri Lanka on March 30.
- ✓ The summit is being hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the chair of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).
- ✓ The theme of the Summit is "BIMSTEC-Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies and Healthy Peoples".

# DEFENCE

## ➤ **India-US Military Cooperation**

- ✓ The 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on March 1-2, 2022.
- ✓ The India-US MCG is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between the countries through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and the US IndoPacific Command.

## ➤ **Vayu Shakti**

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer on March 7, 2022.
- ✓ Out of the 148 aircraft participating in the exercise this year, 109 will be fighter jets.

## ➤ **SLINEX**

- ✓ Ninth edition of Sri Lanka-India naval exercise SLINEX begins.
- ✓ 9th Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX began on 7 March 2022 in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted in two phases, the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7 and 8, followed by the sea phase on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

## ➤ **Dharma Guardian**

- ✓ Exercise Dharma Guardian, an annual exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Force - concluded at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belgaum (Karnataka) on March 10.
- ✓ The exercise had commenced on February 27 at the Foreign Training Node of the Indian Army in Belgaum.

## ➤ **Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC)**

- ✓ For the first time in its 100-year history, Dehradun's Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) - has announced its decision to admit girls.
- ✓ The RIMC takes students from Class VIII onwards and is regarded as a premier preparing ground for those aspiring to join the armed forces.
- ✓ The announcement was made by RIMC commandant Col Ajay Kumar at a function held in Dehradun on March 13 to mark the institution's 100<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day.

- **India Emerges as Largest Importer of Arms in 2017-21: SIPRI Report**
- ✓ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, reveals that India and Saudi Arabia had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21, each accounting for 11% of all global arms sales.
  
- **LAMITIYE- 2022 Joint Military Exercise**
- ✓ The Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) are holding the 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) in Seychelles from March 22 to March 31, 2022.
- ✓ The goal of the exercise is to share experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment and enhance the capability to conduct joint operations.
  
- **Suraksha Kavach 2**
- ✓ 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.
  
- **EX-DUSTLIK**
- ✓ The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK is being conducted at Yangiarik, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022.
- ✓ The Indian contingent which comprises of a platoon strength of Grenadiers Regiment departed for the exercise area on 22 March 2022 to join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North Western Military District.
  
- **IMEX-22**
- ✓ The maiden edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) - was conducted at Goa and in Arabian Sea from March 26 to 30, 2022.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.
- ✓ The exercise witnessed participation of 15 out of the 24 member nations of IONS.

# ECONOMY

## ➤ **India's Growth Estimate**

- ✓ On March 17, Moody's - slashed India's growth estimate for the current year to 9.1% from 9.5% predicted earlier.
- ✓ As per the rating agency, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has significantly altered the global economic backdrop.
- ✓ Moody's Investors Service attributed the country's downgrade to High fuel and potentially high fertiliser costs.

## ➤ **India's Growth Forecast**

- ✓ 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.

## ➤ **India's Exports reach \$400 Billion**

- ✓ India has achieved the target of 400 billion dollars of goods exports for the first time ever in March 2022.
- ✓ The exports in the financial year 2020-21 were USD 292 billion while the exports in 2021-22 are USD 400 billion with a 37 per cent rise.
- ✓ On March 7, the Commerce and Industry Minister also said that India's merchandise exports have reached USD 390 billion till March 14, 2022.

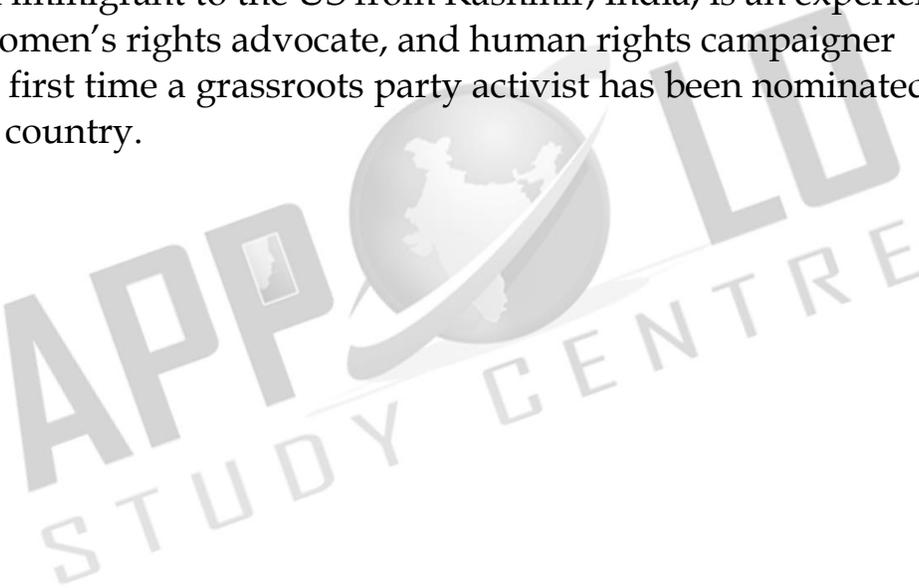
# APPOINTMENT

## ➤ **Umamaheswaran R**

- ✓ The department of space (DoS) - has appointed Umamaheswaran R, the current Isro scientific secretary, as the new director of the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC).
- ✓ The HSFC is responsible for implementation of Gaganyaan and also to pursue activities for sustained human space flight missions.

## ➤ **Shefali Razdan Duggal**

- ✓ On March 11, US President Joe Biden - nominated Shefali Razdan Duggal, a Democratic party activist and fund-raiser, as the US envoy to the Netherlands.
- ✓ Shefali, an immigrant to the US from Kashmir, India, is an experienced political activist, women's rights advocate, and human rights campaigner
- ✓ This is the first time a grassroots party activist has been nominated as ambassador to a major country.



# AWARDS

## ➤ **Professor Deepak Dhar**

- ✓ Professor Deepak Dhar has become first Indian to win Boltzmann Medal.
- ✓ He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.
- ✓ Professor Dhar is a physicist.
- ✓ Boltzmann Medal is given for contributions in the field of statistical physics.

## ➤ **Nari Shakti Puraskars**

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind - conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskars on 29 outstanding individuals for 2020 and 2021 on March 8, International Women's Day.
- ✓ Twenty-eight awards -- 14 each for 2020 and 2021 -- were given to the women in recognition of their exceptional work towards women empowerment, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.

## ➤ **The Crossing**

- ✓ Indian-origin author Manjeet Mann - has been shortlisted for her children's book 'The Crossing' for the UK's prestigious Yoto Carnegie Medal.
- ✓ Mann, a UK-based author, has been previously shortlisted for the prize for her debut children's novel 'Run, Rebel'.
- ✓ 'The Crossing' is her second novel and recently won the 2022 Costa Children's Book Award.

## ➤ **Devendra Jhajharia**

- ✓ Devendra Jhajharia has become the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award.
- ✓ He has won many Paralympic medals, including his first gold at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens.

## ➤ **Avani Lekhara**

- ✓ Avani Lekhara, a para-shooter, was also awarded the Padma Shri award in the sports category.
- ✓ She is the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals in the same Games.

## ➤ **Padma Awards**

- ✓ India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu last year, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran, former Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi and the late Radheshyam Khemka were among 54 prominent

personalities who were given the Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

- ✓ Many of the Padma awardees were “unsung heroes”, including the 125-year-old yoga practitioner Swami Sivananda.

➤ **Abel Prize 2022**

- American mathematician, Dennis Parnell Sullivan - has been announced as the winner of the Abel Prize 2022.
- ✓ The Prize was given to him "for his groundbreaking contributions to topology.
- ✓ Topology is a branch of mathematics that considers two objects of different shapes equivalent if they can be deformed into one another through shrinking, stretching and similar forces.
- ✓ This award is equivalent to ‘Nobel’ Prize in the field of Mathematics, as there is no Nobel Prize for mathematics.

➤ **94th Academy Awards**

- ✓ Indian-American producer Joseph Patel – won an Oscar in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th Academy Awards held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 27, 2022.
- ✓ Patel along with co-producers David Dinerstein and Robert Fyvolent and director Ahmir ‘Questlove’ Thompson won the Oscar for ‘Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised).’

➤ **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award 2021**

- ✓ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2021 on 29 March 2022.
- ✓ Chanu became the first Indian weightlifter to win a silver medal at an Olympic Games, when she finished second in the 49kg category in Tokyo.

➤ **Stockholm Water Prize 2022**

- ✓ Professor Wilfried Brutsaert - is awarded the Stockholm Water Prize 2022, for his important contribution in understanding the effects of climate change on our planet. Professor Brutsaert is the Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University, New York.
- ✓ Known as Mr. Evaporation, Professor Brutsaert is a leading expert on terrestrial evaporation and the author of “Evaporation into the Atmosphere”, considered to be the standard work on the topic.

# PERSONALITIES

## ➤ **Nishant Batra**

- ✓ Delhi-born Nishant Batra – is setting up first 4G network on Moon for NASA.
- ✓ Batra will establish the first extra-terrestrial cellular mobility that could be extended further to connect future robotic and human missions in space, and even to Mars.
- ✓ He is leading the efforts to provide mobile connectivity to NASA's ambitious Artemis moon-landing program.

## ➤ **Jiya Rai**

- ✓ Jiya Rai, a 13-year-old autistic girl from Mumbai – becomes the youngest and fastest female swimmer to swim the 29-kilometer Palk Strait in 13 hours and 10 minutes.
- ✓ During the achievement, Jiya broke the previous record that was held by Bula Chowdhary, who had covered the distance in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004 when she was 34 years old.

## ➤ **Jiya Rai**

- ✓ Jiya Rai becomes world's youngest and fastest female swimmer to swim across Palk Strait. She swam from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu. She covered a distance of 29 km in 13 hours and 10 minutes. She is a 13 year old Maharashtra girl.
- ✓ She is suffering from Autistic spectrum disorder. Para-Swimming Federation of India conducted the event.

## ➤ **Jayati Ghosh**

- ✓ United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.
- ✓ Jayati Ghosh is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst of USA.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### ➤ **Role of Labour in India's Development**

- ✓ Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav - released a book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development', on March 9 at New Delhi.
- ✓ The Book contains 12 articles written by eminent academicians and experts on the contribution of labour in India's development journey.
- ✓ The book has been launched as part of the 'Iconic Week' of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', celebrating 75th year of India's Independence.

### ➤ **Modi@20**

- ✓ A book about Prime Minister's 20-year political career will be released soon.
- ✓ The book exclusively depicts the last 20 years of PM Modi's political career, from his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ BlueKraft Digital Foundation edited and compiled the book.

### ➤ **Climate Hazards e-book**

- ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, "Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India - State: Tamil Nadu", in the city on Wednesday as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- ✓ S. Balachandran, Deputy Director-General of Meteorology, Chennai, said the e-atlas would help disaster management agencies take preventive steps.

### ➤ **Indian Agriculture towards 2030**

- ✓ NITI Aayog, FAO Launch Book Titled 'Indian Agriculture towards 2030'.
- ✓ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled 'Indian Agriculture towards 2030' on 28 Mar'22.
- ✓ It was launched at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN.

# SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

## ➤ **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T)**

- ✓ NASA launched next generation weather satellite named Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T) to monitor environment and climate.
- ✓ It will help National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in forecasting “hazardous weather conditions” like hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, and fires in the western hemisphere.

## ➤ **Indigenous Anti-collision Technology ‘Kavach’**

- ✓ Indian Railways has successfully conducted anti-collision test of the 'Kavach' system, which is an indigenously developed system to avoid rail accidents. Kavach, an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, has been created to assist the Railways in achieving their goal of zero accidents.
- ✓ The Kavach will be the world's most cost-effective system for preventing train collisions.

## ➤ **Glycosmis Albicarpa**

- ✓ Scientists of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered new gin berry species in Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. This berry species, named ‘Glycosmis albicarpa’ is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- ✓ Plants related to these taxonomic groups are utilized for their medicinal values and food.

## ➤ **Deep Ocean Mission**

- ✓ Ocean mission is aimed at studying climate conditions, monsoon patterns.
- ✓ India has plans to introduce eight deep ocean gliders that can travel 3,000 km-4,500 km, 48 deep Argo floats at 6,000-metre depth at 24 locations and another 150 wave drifters to strengthen the capacity of observations in the Indian Ocean as part of its ‘Deep Ocean Mission’.

## ➤ **Acetabularia Jalakanyakae**

- ✓ Acetabularia jalakanyakae was discovered by Indian scientists from the Central University of Punjab in the Andamans archipelago. The scientists sighted the species in 2019 during their trip to Andamans.
- ✓ However, it was an arduous task to confirm its discovery. It took two years for scientists to sequence its DNA and confirm the species.

- **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC)**
- ✓ As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program, Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC).
- ✓ POWERGRID established the Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) to demonstrate advance cutting-edge smart grid technologies.
  
- **Electrocatalyst System**
- ✓ Indian scientists - have designed an electrocatalyst system for energy-efficient hydrogen production with the help of electrolysis of urea.
- ✓ The energy requirement for hydrogen production through water electrolysis can be reduced by 70% through urea electrolysis.
- ✓ Low-cost, earth-abundant Ni-based catalysts are widely applied for this process.
  
- **Vigil**
- ✓ The European Space Agency (ESA), introduced its new one-of-a-kind mission meant to protect the Earth from its nearest star.
- ✓ Named 'Vigil', the mission was launched in the mid-2020s with an aim to defend the planet from the violent outbursts from the Sun.  
ESA revealed that the mission was previously named "Lagrange" after the location the mission spacecraft will be sent but the name has been changed to Vigil which is derived from the Latin word 'vigilia' meaning wakefulness.
  
- **Tajuria Maculata**
- ✓ The Spotted Royal (Tajuria Maculata) butterfly was rediscovered again in the Nilgiris district.
- ✓ It has not been recorded in the Nilgiris for over a century.  
It was rediscovered by members of the Wynter-Blyth Association (WBA).
  
- **Glycosmis albicarpa**
- ✓ A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India has discovered a new gin berry species named Glycosmis albicarpa.
- ✓ It is discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- ✓ The species belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae.
  
- **Cyclone Asani**
- ✓ Cyclone Asani - is likely to form over north Andaman Sea on March 21 and bring strong winds and heavy rainfall in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ Asani will be the first cyclonic storm of this year in India.
- ✓ Cyclone Asani, meaning 'wrath' in Sinhalese language, has been named by Sri Lanka.

# SPORTS

## ➤ **Southeast Asian Games**

- ✓ Vietnam is set to host the thirty-first Southeast Asian Games from 12 May 2022 to 23 May 2022.
- ✓ The Southeast Asian Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants.

## ➤ **ISSF World Cup 2022**

- ✓ India's Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala - won the gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team event on the concluding day of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo on March 7.
- ✓ The Indian duo emerged victorious over Thailand in the gold medal match.

## ➤ **Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open**

- ✓ Indian Chess Grandmaster SL Narayanan - won the Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open in Cattolica, Italy on March 8 while R Praggnanandhaa ended second.

## ➤ **Shefali Razdan Duggal**

- ✓ On March 11, US President Joe Biden - nominated Shefali Razdan Duggal, a Democratic party activist and fund-raiser, as the US envoy to the Netherlands.
- ✓ Shefali, an immigrant to the US from Kashmir, India, is an experienced political activist, women's rights advocate, and human rights campaigner
- ✓ This is the first time a grassroots party activist has been nominated as ambassador to a major country.

## ➤ **32nd Senior National Fencing Championships**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi - won individual gold in the women's sabre event at the 32nd senior National fencing championships in Amritsar.
- ✓ This was the Tokyo Olympian's 10th individual gold at the Nationals.
- ✓ Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to represent the country at the Tokyo Olympics in July 2021.

## ➤ **FIDE Chess Olympiad**

- ✓ Mamallapuram, the temple town by the Bay of Bengal, 40 km away from Chennai - set to host the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad later this year.
- ✓ The matches will take place in a five-star hotel close to the sea.
- ✓ The chess Olympiad is a biennial team tournament where teams from close to 190 nations compete over a period of two weeks.

➤ **Mondo Duplantis**

- ✓ Sweden's Mondo Duplantis - broke his own world pole vault record at the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade on March 20.
- ✓ US-born Duplantis cleared 6.20 metres on the third time at the Stark Arena to improve by 1cm his previous best set two weeks ago in the same Serbian venue.

➤ **Swiss Open Super 300**

- ✓ P V Sindhu - won the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Basel, Switzerland on March 27.
- ✓ Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, defeated fourth-seeded Thai Busanan Ongbamrunphan in straight sets for her maiden Swiss Open title at the St. Jakobshalle.



# OBITUARY

## ➤ **Shane Warne**

- Australia's legendary legspinner Shane Warne - passed away in Koh Samui, Thailand following a suspected heart attack on March 4 at the age of 52.
- ✓ Warne claimed 708 Test wickets in a 15-year career for Australia between 1992 and 2007, and was also an ODI World Cup winner in 1999.
- ✓ He was the second highest wicket taker in Test history and only Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has more wickets than him with 800 wickets.

## ➤ **S F Rodrigues**

- ✓ Former Indian Army Chief General S F Rodrigues died at 88.
- ✓ General Sunith Francis Rodrigues (retd) has passed away on 4th March 2022 at the age of 88. he headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993 and served as the governor of Punjab between 2004 and 2010.

## ➤ **Mina Swaminathan**

- ✓ Mina Swaminathan, distinguished chair, Gender and Development, at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and wife of illustrious agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan - passed away in Chennai at the age of 89 on March 14.
- ✓ Mina Swaminathan was a teacher-educator and writer on early childhood education (ECE).

# REPORT

## ➤ **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

- ✓ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations - published the second instalment of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on February 28 in Berlin.
- ✓ The report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' focuses on the effects of climate change on ecosystems and society.
- ✓ It provides a detailed assessment of climate change impacts, risks and adaptation
- ✓ Releasing the report, UN Secretary General António Guterres pointed to the failure of climate leadership that has left nearly half of the world's population in the danger zone now.
- ✓ The risks range from farm, food, water, forest fires, health, transportation system and extinction of species.

## ➤ **National Gender Index**

- ✓ NITI Aayog is developing National Gender Index.
- ✓ National Gender Index will measure the gaps in gender equality and help the government in framing policy related to gender equality.
- ✓ It will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ It will act as a tool to measure the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics.

## ➤ **Health Effects Institute (HEI)**

- ✓ Indians - lose 1.51 years of their life to air pollution, behind only Egypt (2.11 years) and Saudi Arabia (1.91 years).
- ✓ This was revealed in the annual report titled 'State of Global Air analysis for the year 2020' released by the US-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) on March 3.
- ✓ According to the report, around 93% of India's population lives in areas where air pollution was nearly seven times of the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

## ➤ **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

- ✓ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II's report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability', has been released.
- ✓ It claims that escalated threats of floods and droughts will make India and Pakistan among the most vulnerable to climate change.
- ✓ Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, will get most severely affected.

➤ **Kerala Tops in Maternal, Child Health**

- ✓ Kerala has yet again emerged on top in maternal and child health, recording the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.
- ✓ According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017-19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, Kerala's MMR has dropped by 12 points. The last SRS bulletin (2015-17) had put the State's MMR at 42 (later adjusting it to 43).

➤ **National MMR is 103**

- ✓ This puts Kerala way ahead of the national MMR of 103. Another State which has made significant gains is Maharashtra, whose MMR dipped from 55 to 38.
- ✓ This is an exciting moment for us, because Kerala has already achieved the target it had set for itself, based on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, of an MMR of 30 by 2020, that too, one year ahead.

➤ **2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List**

- ✓ Mukesh Ambani is Asia's richest man with \$103 billion wealth.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani is Asia's richest man with \$103 billion wealth, according to Global Rich List report compiled by research platform Hurun.
- ✓ Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar has become the newest billionaire in India.
- ✓ Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is the second richest man in India.

➤ **World's Happiest Country**

- ✓ Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the fifth year running, in an annual UN-sponsored index that again ranked Afghanistan as the unhappiest, followed closely by Lebanon.
- ✓ Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania recorded the biggest boosts in wellbeing. The largest falls in the World Happiness table, came in Lebanon, Venezuela and Afghanistan. Lebanon, which is facing economic meltdown, fell to second from last on the index of 146 nations, just below Zimbabwe.
- ✓ India is ranked 136th. 135th - Sierra Leone, 137th - Burundi.

➤ **World Air Quality Report 2021**

- ✓ Delhi most polluted capital.
- ✓ Sixty-three of the world's 100 most polluted cities are in India, according to the World Air Quality Report 2021, prepared by Swiss organisation IQAir, released on 22 March.

- ✓ Delhi remains the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ The report said Delhi tops the list of capitals with the highest average annual PM2.5 concentration followed by Dhaka, Bangladesh.



# RANKING

## ➤ **Knight Frank Wealth Report 2022**

- ✓ According to Knight Frank's 2022 Wealth Report, India ranked third in billionaire population globally.
- ✓ The top five countries in billionaire population are the United States, China, India, Germany and Russia.

## ➤ **Export Competitiveness Index (EPI)**

- ✓ Gujarat - has emerged as the top state in the Niti Aayog's 2021 export competitiveness index (EPI) for the second time in a row followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ✓ These states are among the top states in the export contribution of more than 50% in India in 2020-21.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana contribute 75% of India's overall exports, according to the final EPI report released on March 25.

## ➤ **Annual Frontier Report, 2022**

- ✓ Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ The city recorded noise pollution of 114 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021, said the report.
- ✓ The report ranked 61 cities around the world, of which Dhaka tops with a noise pollution level of 119 dB.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Zero Discrimination Day</b>	The theme of the Zero Discrimination Day 2022 is 'Remove Laws That Harm, Create Laws That Empower.'
<b>March 1</b>	<b>World Civil Defence Day</b>	The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is "Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics"
<b>March 3</b>	<b>World Hearing Day</b>	The WHO has set "to hear for life, listen with care" as the theme for World Hearing Day 2022
<b>March 3</b>	<b>World Wildlife Day</b>	The theme for 2022 is 'Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration'
<b>March 4</b>	<b>World Obesity Day</b>	Theme 2022 - "Everybody needs to act"
<b>March 4</b>	<b>National Safety Day</b>	The theme for 2022 is 'Nurture young minds-Develop safety culture
<b>March 8</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>	Theme 2022- 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'
<b>March 10</b>	<b>World Kidney Day</b>	'Kidney Health For All' is the theme for 2022
<b>March 10</b>	<b>International Day of Women Judges</b>	The day aims to recognise the efforts and contributions being made by women judges.
<b>March 15</b>	<b>World Consumer</b>	The theme for World Consumer

	<b>Rights Day</b>	Rights Day 2022 is “Fair Digital Finance”
<b>March 16</b>	<b>National Vaccination Day (India)</b>	The theme for National Vaccination Day (India) 2022 is ‘Vaccines work for all’
<b>March 18</b>	<b>World Sleep Day</b>	Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World’ is the theme for World Sleep Day
<b>March 20</b>	<b>World Sparrow Day</b>	Theme 2021 - ‘I love sparrows’
<b>March 20</b>	<b>International Day of Happiness</b>	The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is ‘Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind’
<b>March 21</b>	<b>International Day of Forests</b>	The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption
<b>March 21</b>	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</b>	The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme “VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM”
<b>March 21</b>	<b>World Puppetry Day</b>	The theme for 2022 is 'The Sea'
<b>March 21</b>	<b>World Poetry Day</b>	The aim is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increase the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard
<b>March 21</b>	<b>International Day of Forests</b>	The theme for 2022 is ‘Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption’
<b>March 21</b>	<b>World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD)</b>	The theme of World Down Syndrome Day this year is “Inclusion Means”
<b>March 22</b>	<b>World Water Day</b>	Theme 2022 - “Groundwater, making the invisible visible”
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Martyrs’ Day (Shaheed Diwas)</b>	The Day is observed every year in honour of the valour and commitment of those who sacrificed their lives for the

		country
<b>March 23</b>	<b>World Meteorological Day</b>	The theme for 2022 is 'Early Warning and Early Action'
<b>March 24</b>	<b>World TB Day</b>	Theme 2022 - "Invest to End TB. Save Lives"
<b>March 24</b>	<b>International Day for the Right to the Truth</b>	The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Earth Hour Day</b>	The theme for Earth Hour Day 2022 is 'Shape our future'
<b>March 27</b>	<b>World Theatre Day</b>	Theme 2022 - "Theatre and a Culture of Peace"
<b>March 31</b>	<b>International Transgender Day of Visibility</b>	The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31 to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society

# MISCELLANEOUS

## ➤ **Thermobaric Weapon**

- ✓ A thermobaric weapon is one of the most devastating weapons as they cause significantly greater destruction than a conventional bomb of comparable size.
- ✓ It uses oxygen from the surrounding air to generate a high-temperature explosion.
- ✓ It is also known as an aerosol bomb, fuel-air explosive (FAE), or vacuum bomb.
- ✓ The fuel-air explosive is one of the best-known types of thermobaric weapons.

## ➤ **Synhelion's Solar Aviation Fuel**

- ✓ Swiss International Air Lines AG commonly referred to as Swiss or Swiss Air Lines will be first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel.
- ✓ Synhelion has devised a process, which uses concentrated sunlight to produce carbon-neutral kerosene.
- ✓ Synhelion is a company. It uses solar energy to change CO<sub>2</sub> and water into syngas.

