

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 1, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- 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



- ✓ The first part of the three-volume autobiography contains his early life experiences.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah were present during the occasion
- ✓ The first copy of the book was received by senior DMK leader and state water resources minister Duraimurugan.
- ✓ DMK general secretary and state water resources minister Duraimurugan presided over the event, while DMK treasurer and MP TR Balu played the lead.
- ✓ DMK women's team secretary and MP Kanimozhi gave the welcome address.

NATIONAL

- On February 28, IndiGo, Air India Express and SpiceJet - joined Air India in operating flights under Operation Ganga to evacuate Indians from Ukraine
- ✓ Vistara is also planning to operate these charters.



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent four senior Cabinet ministers to eastern Europe to facilitate more Indians crossing the borders to reach Ukraine's neighbouring countries
 - ✓ Ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijiju and VK Singh will travel to the countries surrounding Ukraine as special envoys of India to help with the evacuation.
 - ✓ Jyotiraditya Scindia will be in charge of Romania and Moldova, Kiren Rijiju will fly to Slovakia, Hardeep Puri will go to Hungary and VK Singh will be at Poland
 - ✓ About 8,000 Indians have so far left Ukraine after the first advisory was issued by the government.
 - ✓ Since February 25, six Operation Ganga flights on Air India wide body aircraft have flown back 1,396 nationals mainly from Bucharest and some from Budapest.
 - ✓ AI has been deploying its wide body Boeing 787s that fly non-stop to the region.
- **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.**



- ✓ The office will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the Earth Sciences Ministry, initially for five years.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Both the World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme are international programmes coordinated by the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ✓ The IMPO will work towards coordinating with global monsoon experts and undertake collaborative research on monsoon affecting the Asian, African, American and Oceania countries
- ✓ As part of its core responsibilities, the IMPO would support activities of the Monsoons Panel, jointly established by the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) projects.
- ✓ The launch of IMPO precedes the 7th WMO International Workshop on Monsoons which is being organized in India jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, World Climate Research Programme, and World Weather Research Programme in March 2022

INTERNATIONAL

- **The largest plane in the world — Ukraine's Antonov225 cargo plane — was destroyed by Russian strikes at the Antonov airport in Gostomel near Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow's invasion**



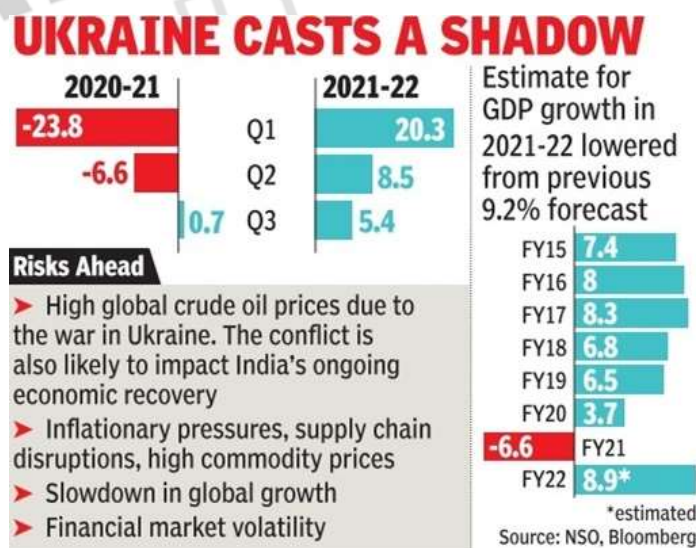
- ✓ The aircraft was unique to the world, at 84m-long (276ft) it could transport up to 250 tonnes of cargo at a speed of up to 850kmph.
- ✓ It had been named “Mriya” — “dream” in Ukrainian.
- ✓ It has been estimated that restoring the “Mriya” would cost over \$3 billion and could take over five years.
- ✓ Initially built as part of Soviet aeronautical programme, Antonov 225 made its first flight in 1988.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **For the second time in two days, India - abstained from a procedural vote on a UN Security Council resolution on February 28**
- ✓ The resolution seeks to convene a rare emergency special session of the 193-member UN General Assembly on Russia's aggression against Ukraine.
- ✓ The resolution was adopted with 11 votes in favour, paving the way for the General Assembly to meet on the crisis on the same day
- ✓ India, China and the UAE abstained, while Russia voted against the resolution.
- ✓ This will be only the 11th such emergency session of the General Assembly since 1950.
- ✓ The vote calling for the UNGA session was procedural so none of the five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, Russia, the UK and the US -- could exercise their vetoes.
- ✓ President of the 76th session of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid, who was to attend the 49th regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, cancelled his trip for the vote.
- ✓ The Security Council on February 25 failed to adopt the US-sponsored resolution against Russia's "aggression" on Ukraine after Moscow used its veto.

ECONOMY

- **The Indian economy - is estimated to grow marginally slower in the current fiscal that ends in March than the earlier forecasts**



- ✓ As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on February 28, the economy is estimated to grow by 8.9% in 2021-22, slower than the previous forecast of 9.2%.
- ✓ The main factors affecting the economic recovery will be the impact of Covid-19 pandemic amidst rising inflation and the effects of the war in Ukraine

- ✓ The economy had contracted by 6.6% in the previous year due to the pandemic impacting the growth
- ✓ The 8.9% estimated growth for 2021-22 will ensure India maintain its status as the fastest growing major economy in the world.
- ✓ The data also showed that the economy slowed in the October-December quarter of 2021 to 5.4% from 8.5% in the second quarter and 20.3% in the first quarter.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On February 28, the government - appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as the chairman of markets regulator Sebi with an initial term of three years.**
- ✓ With this, Buch will be the first woman to lead a financial regulatory body in the country.
- ✓ Earlier, Buch became the first woman to be a whole time member at Sebi in 2017

IN 2017, BUCH HAD BECOME SEBI'S 1ST WHOLE-TIME MEMBER FROM PVT SECTOR

➤ **Madhabi Puri Buch** (56) is an alumna of IIM-Ahmedabad and St Stephen's College, Delhi

➤ She started her career with ICICI Bank, and spent 17 years in the group. She left the bank as executive director

➤ Buch was MD & CEO of ICICI Securities from Feb 2009 to May 2011

➤ From 2011 to 2013, she headed business development at Greater Pacific Capital in Singapore

➤ Buch also worked at the New Development Bank (established

by Brics) in Shanghai

➤ In 2017, Buch became the first whole-time member of Sebi for a term of 5 years, which ended in October 2021

➤ Her Sebi stint made her the first person from the private sector to work at the markets regulator

➤ She heads Sebi's committee on leveraging technology for regulatory & supervisory affairs

➤ With Monday's announcement, Buch would become the first woman chief of Sebi, with an initial tenure of three years



- ✓ Buch will take charge on March 1, the day the term of Ajay Tyagi, the present chairman, ends.
- ✓ She is also the first person from the private sector to head a financial market regulatory body in India.
- ✓ Till early October last year, Buch was a whole-time member at Sebi and demitted office a few months before completing her five-year term with the regulator.
- ✓ In December, she was appointed to head Sebi's Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)
 - ✓ The panel 'ALeRTS' advises the regulator on using cutting-edge technology solutions for regulatory and supervisory actions.
- ✓ An alumnus of IIM, Ahmedabad, Buch was an executive director at ICICI Bank and before that she headed the lender's broking arm, ICICI Securities.
- ✓ Before joining Sebi, she also had a short stint at a private equity firm in Singapore.

SPORTS

- **The International Olympic Committee's executive board - has recommended that international sports federations ban Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from competing in events.**
- ✓ According to the IOC, the executive board made the decision "in order to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants".
- ✓ The Russian Olympic Committee categorically disagreed with the IOC, saying the decision "contradicts both the regulatory documents of the IOC and the (Olympic) Charter".
- ✓ The statement from IOC comes shortly before the Winter Paralympics, which starts in Beijing on March 4.
- ✓ Athletes from Ukraine and other nations have urged the IOC and IPC to suspend Russia and Belarus ban their athletes from events immediately.
- ✓ According to IOC, Russian or Belarusian nationals should be accepted only as neutral athletes or neutral teams and no national symbols, colours, flags or anthems should be displayed
- ✓ The IOC reiterated its recommendation not to organise any sports event in Russia or Belarus.
- ✓ The IOC also said it had taken the ad hoc decision to withdraw the Olympic Order, the highest honour granted by the IOC, from all persons who currently have an important function in the govt of the Russian Federation, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Badminton's world governing body (BWF) has cancelled all sanctioned tournaments in Russia and Belarus, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ Russian and Belarusian national flags must not be displayed and their national anthems not played at any BWF events.
- ✓ No other badminton tournaments will be allocated to Russia or Belarus until further notice.
- ✓ Further, Russia has been expelled from the 2022 World Cup and its teams suspended from all international football competitions "until further notice" after its invasion of Ukraine
- ✓ This was announced by FIFA in a joint statement with UEFA on February 28.
- ✓ The men's team had been due to play in qualifying play-offs in March for the World Cup in Qatar later this year, while its women's side had qualified for the European Championship in England, to be held in July.
- ✓ FIFA announced that Russian teams would be allowed to continue playing under the name of the Football Union of Russia, playing home games on neutral territory and behind closed doors, and with the Russian flag and anthem banned.
- ✓ UEFA have cancelled their sponsorship deal with Russian energy company Gazprom too.

IPCC CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT

- **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 instalment, compiled by 270 authors from 67 countries incorporating research from more than 34,000 scientific papers, identifies 127 risks to natural and human systems.
- ✓ The risks range from farm, food, water, forest fires, health, transportation system and extinction of species
- ✓ As per the report, human-induced climate change is causing "dangerous and widespread disruption in nature" through near-term (2021–2040), mid-term (2041–2060) and long-term (till 2100).
- ✓ This will affect the lives of billions of people around the world, including India where mega cities, coastal areas and Himalayan river system are at grave risk, warns the report.
- ✓ On a positive note, the report talked about available options, including indigenous and traditional ones, to adapt to a changing climate.
- ✓ Mega coastal settlements like Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata face some of the highest climate risks from the compound effects of rising seas, storms, and heat, suggests the report from the IPCC.

KEY MESSAGES OF THE IPCC REPORT

GLOBAL

- Adaptation does not prevent all losses and damages, but it's must for minimising losses
- Globally, **3.3 to 3.6 billion** people live in the areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change
- Less than **15%** of the land,

- 21%** of the freshwater and **8%** of the ocean are protected areas
- Globally, the planet will warm by **1.5 degree** Celsius in next two decades in all scenarios over pre-industrial (1850-1900) level

Increasing temperature presents 127 key risks

RISK: food security, water security, forest fires, health, transportation system, urban infrastructure, flooding, marine resources and extinction of species

Global average surface temperature rise has already reported nearly **1.1 degree Celsius** above 1850-1900



INDIA: What does this mean for India?

IPCC report cites different studies which flagged following points:

- Heat and humidity would pass limits of human survivability without emission cuts
- Warming over India is projected to be in sync with global average
- Cities in India will be experiencing more heat stress, urban floods, salinity

- ingress due to sea-level rise and other climate-induced hazards such as cyclones
- India is one of the most vulnerable countries globally in terms of the population that will be affected by sea-level rise, affected coastal cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Goa,

Cochin, Puri etc.

- By the middle of the century, around 35 million people in India could face annual coastal flooding, with 45-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high
- Report flagged India's

best practices and noted how cities like Surat, Indore and Bhubaneswar have adopted climate resilient practices

- Ancient practices of water conservation in south India, mainly Telangana, found special mention in various studies

- ✓ Asia has 13 of the 20 largest coastal cities expected to have highest flood losses by 2050, including Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guangzhou and Bangkok.
- ✓ It also flagged India's best practices and noted how cities like Surat, Indore and Bhubaneswar have adopted climate resilient practices.
- ✓ The report was approved by 195 governments during a two-week long virtual plenary session, held virtually from February 14 to February 26.
- ✓ The IPCC's first report, released in August last year, noted that the global average temperature will show 1.5 degree Celsius of warming in next 20 years from the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level.
- ✓ The world has already reported an increase in global average temperature by around 1.1° Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) level.

