

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 24, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu has formed a Litigation Risk Management System (LRMS) to monitor all high-risk litigations related to taxation, land matters, procurement issues among others**
- ✓ In this regard, a Litigation Advisory and Oversight Committee (LAOC), comprising a retired judge and senior legal experts practising in the field of taxation and civil litigation, has also been appointed.
- ✓ Justice K Kannan, retired judge of Punjab and Haryana high court, assisted by advocates Joseph Prabhakar, K Ravi, experts in indirect and direct taxation respectively and advocate V Lakshminarayanan, expert in civil litigation, will act as the legal experts of LAOC.
- ✓ The committee will suggest strategies to reduce financial risk due to litigation and to anticipate litigation among others.
- ✓ As per the government order, high risk litigation involves
  - ✓ all taxation cases where the claim against an individual or a government entity exceeds Rs 100 crore
  - ✓ cases where an adverse judicial decision can cause a revenue loss of Rs 500 crore,
  - ✓ contractual disputes and wage settlements before arbitration tribunals where loss of case can cause expenditure of Rs 500 crore or more,
  - ✓ cases relating to land acquisition where combined higher claims of compensation pending before high court exceed Rs 500 crore and
  - ✓ cases relating to public procurement where process is challenged before High court/Supreme court, wherein procurement value exceeds Rs 1000 crore.
- ✓ The LRMC will form a mechanism to identify high risk litigations with financial impact and bring it to the notice of the finance department
- ✓ The finance department will act as the nodal department for high risk litigations.

- ✓ Organisations covered under the system will include all government departments, public sector undertakings, statutory boards, universities, municipal corporations and other local bodies.
- ✓ As per the government order, the office of advocate-general and additional chief secretary, finance department will have power to classify any litigation in any department as high risk litigation.

## STATES

- **Pushkar Singh Dhami - took oath as the 12th chief minister of Uttarakhand on March 23.**



- ✓ Governor Gurmit Singh administered the oath of office to Dhami at a function held at Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president J P Nadda and Union minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ✓ Chief ministers from BJP-ruled states —Yogi Adityanath from UP, Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Madhya Pradesh, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Haryana's Manohar Lal Khattar and Goa CM-designate Pramod Sawant also attended the ceremony.
- ✓ Eight ministers were also sworn in during the ceremony.
- ✓ Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, daughter of former Uttarakhand chief minister, Major General B C Khanduri (retd), is to be named as the first woman speaker of the state.
- ✓ This is 46-year-old Dhami's second consecutive stint as the chief minister.
- ✓ Earlier, he had been brought in as a replacement for former chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat on July 4, 2021.
- ✓ Dhami holds a law degree and worked as a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) volunteer.
- ✓ He also had been a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).
- ✓ BJP created history by becoming the only party to retain power for a second consecutive term in the state since its formation.

- ✓ The BJP won 47 out of 70 seats but Dharami - who was the third Chief Minister in the BJP's rule - himself lost the poll from Khatima constituency.

## NATIONAL

- **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
  - ✓ On greywater management, a Joint Advisory was signed by 9 Ministries namely the Ministry of (M/o) Jal Shakti, M/o Rural Development, M/o Women & Child Development, M/o Youth Affairs and Sports, M/o Tribal Affairs, M/o Health and Family Welfare, M/o Education, M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change and M/o Panchayati Raj
  - ✓ Under the campaign, over 6 lakh villages will see intense activity on solid and liquid waste management
  - ✓ Greywater refers to the domestic wastewater that is generated in households, office buildings, etc.
- **The Ministry of Ayush - has started the world's first multicentre phase III clinical trial examining the efficacy of Ayurveda in the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis**
  - ✓ The clinical trial will be conducted in accordance with stringent International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use – Good Clinical Practice (ICH- GCP) guidelines
  - ✓ It is being closely monitored by Dr Daniel Erick Furst, a renowned rheumatologist at University of California, Los Angeles in the US
  - ✓ The trial will be conducted by AVP Research Foundation, affiliated with the Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore) Ltd and the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda, an agency under the Ayush Ministry
  - ✓ The study was expected to begin in May and be completed in two years.

- ✓ The clinical trials would be conducted at 3 locations - AVP Research Foundation in Coimbatore, Raja Ramdeo Anandilala Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Cancer in Mumbai, and Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Metabolic Disorders in Bengaluru.
- ✓ Earlier, the National Institutes of Health in the US funded a clinical trial at Seattle's University of Washington to compare the efficacy and safety of classical Ayurvedic treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis

## DEFENCE

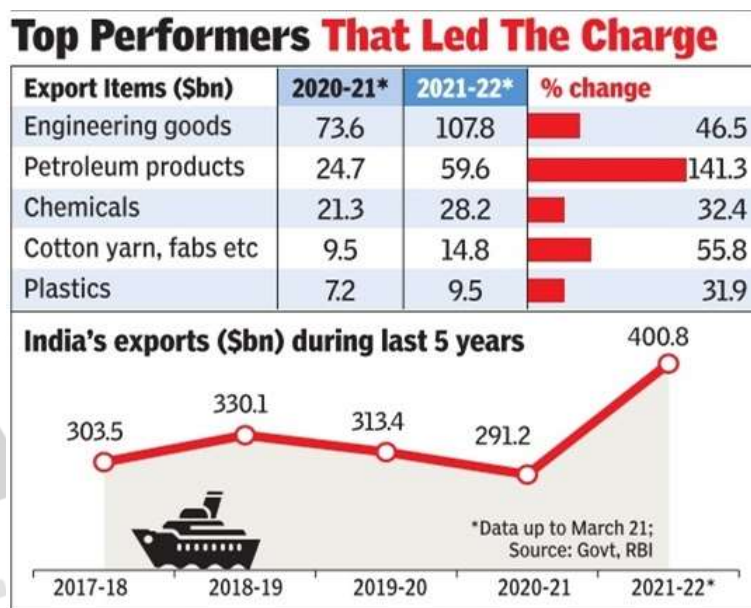
- **On March 23, the Indian Air Force (IAF) - tested the new version of the land-attack BrahMos missile at the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**
  - ✓ The new missile has the strike range extended from the original 290-km to 350400-km
  - ✓ IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhuri and ANC chief Lt-General Ajai Singh witnessed the BrahMos launch
  - ✓ On 5 March 2022, the Indian Navy successfully test fired an extended range land attack Brahmos cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai.
  - ✓ In 2017, India had successfully carried out its first air launch of BrahMos from a Su-30MKI jet.
  - ✓ BrahMos is the world's fastest cruise missile capable of carrying nuclear head and has a maximum speed of Mach 4, i.e. four times the speed of sound
  - ✓ A joint India-Russia venture, BrahMos is a medium-range missile that can be fired from submarines, warships, aircraft, and land.
  - ✓ It is named after two rivers- India's Brahmaputra and Russia's Moskva
- **On March 22, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) - has cleared the procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380.43 crore from Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) start-ups and MSMEs for the first time ever**
  - ✓ These items will be procured by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
  - ✓ The DAC, chaired by Defence minister Rajnath Singh, also approved the new simplified procedure to fast-track procurement from iDEX startups and MSMEs.
  - ✓ The DAC also approved the simplified procedure for Make-II category projects on similar lines of iDEX procedure
  - ✓ As per the new procedure, the procurement cycle will be of 22 weeks.
  - ✓ Projects under 'Make-II' category involves prototype development of equipment, systems, platforms or their upgrades for import substitution or innovative solutions, for which no government funding is provided for prototype development purposes.
  - ✓ The iDEX programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 to support innovation and incorporate cutting-edge technology in the Armed Forces within a faster time-frame



- ✓ The aim of the programme is to provide atleast 50 world class solutions to the Armed Forces and the defence industry in the near future

## ECONOMY

- **As on March 21, India's imports of goods – has touched a record \$589 billion, as against \$393.6 billion in FY21**
- ✓ Similarly, India's export of goods crossed \$400 billion (₹30 lakh crore) for the first time ever in a financial year
- ✓ The highest ever goods export target was achieved nine days ahead of the March 31 deadline
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the achievement as “a key milestone” in the country's “Aatmanirbhar Bharat journey”.



- ✓ As on March 21, 2022, the merchandise exports rose by 37% to USD 400.8 billion in 2021-22 against USD 292 billion in 2020-21
- ✓ Previously, India's exports had touched a record of USD 330.07 billion in 2018-19.
- ✓ The key export sectors, which contributed to a record growth, include petroleum products, engineering goods, electronics, gems and jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ Export of petroleum products grew by 147.6%, driven by a steady increase in crude oil prices.
- ✓ The top five export destinations are the US, the UAE, China, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands.
- ✓ Earlier, on August 6, 2021, the commerce ministry set the \$400 billion exports target after the PM's address to exporting community, ambassadors, Indian missions and states on the theme of “Local Goes Global - Make in India for the World”

- **The RBI - has allowed SBI Mutual Fund and other entities in the SBI group to together hold up to 9.99% stake in ICICI Bank.**
- ✓ The relaxation comes following the revised ownership norms for private banks announced by the RBI last year.
- ✓ Before the new norms coming into place, the RBI did not grant approval for individual entities to hold more than 5% in a private bank.
- ✓ Earlier, Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank had said that they had received permission from the central bank to allow LIC to hold up to 9.99% stake in the respective banks.
- ✓ This approval is valid for one year.
- ✓ The RBI has asked ICICI Bank to ensure that the SBI group's shareholding remains below 10% at all times.

## SPORTS

- **Women's World No. 1 tennis player Ashleigh Barty - has announced her decision to retire from professional tennis circuit at the age of 25**

**WORLD NO. 1 BARTY QUILTS TENNIS AT 25**

Ashleigh Barty has stunned the sporting world by retiring at the peak of her game and just weeks after becoming the first home-grown Australian Open champion in 44 years, citing the fulfilment of her tennis goals and fatigue with the hectic life on the Tour

- ✓ Barty finished her career with \$24m in prize money and 15 career singles titles, including the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon (2021) & Australian Open this January
- ✓ Her current reign as No. 1 for 114 consecutive weeks is the fourth-longest streak in WTA history behind Steffi Graf and Serena Williams (both 186 weeks) and Martina Navratilova (156)

In 2015, Barty quit tennis for a yr to play T20 cricket for Big Bash team Brisbane Heat

To be able to win Wimbledon – the one true dream I wanted in tennis – changed my perspective. I'm fulfilled. I'm happy... I don't have the physical drive, emotional want to challenge myself at the very top anymore. I am spent

— ASHLEIGH BARTY

**STARS WHO RETIRED EARLY\***

Andrea Jaeger at 19 | Tracy Austin (21) | Martina Hingis (22) | Kim Clijsters (23) | Justine Henin (25) | Bjorn Borg (26)

\*some of them staged brief comebacks

- ✓ Barty, who is a three-time Grand Slam champion from Australia, made the announcement on Instagram on March 23
- ✓ Barty won the Australian Open women's singles title this year in January apart from the 2019 French Open and the 2021 Wimbledon title.
- ✓ Since turning pro at just 13, she also won 12 other titles despite taking a break to play cricket in 2014-16, competing in Australia's Women's Big Bash
- ✓ Barty became the world No. 1 on June 24, 2019

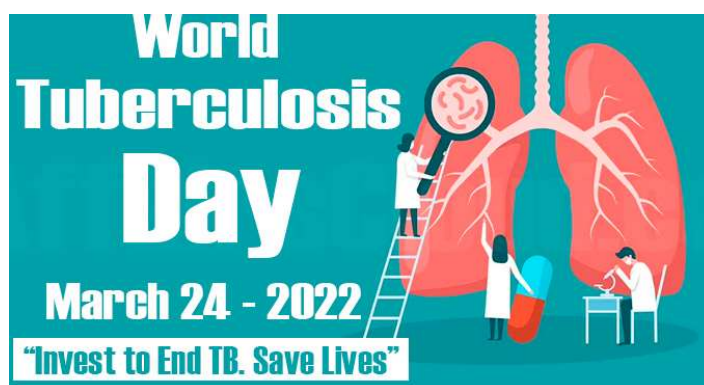
- ✓ Barty's current reign of 114 consecutive weeks at No.1 is the fourth-longest streak in the history of the WTA Tour.
- ✓ Barty has hinted she could take up another sport professionally following her shock retirement.
- ✓ After the retirement announcement of Barty, World No. 2 Poland's Iga Swiatek is set to become the next world number one on March 28, when the new list comes in
- **Tamil Nadu's T Santhosh Kumar - won gold in the men's 400m hurdles event at the 2nd leg of Indian Grand Prix in Thiruvananthapuram on March 23.**



- ✓ Santhosh clocked a timing of 50. 15 seconds to finish first and was followed by Kerala's Jabir Madari Palliyalil (50. 40) and Dhaval Mahesh Utekar (51. 37) of Gujarat respectively
- ✓ Santhosh finished fifth at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ In Race B of the men's 400m event, Tamil Nadu's Rajesh Ramesh bagged gold with a timing of 46. 09 seconds.
- ✓ In the women's 400m hurdles, Tamil Nadu's R Vithya Ramraj finished with a silver medal
- ✓ Meanwhile, Avinash Sable set a men's 3000m steeplechase national record with a timing of 8:16. 21, knocking off 1. 91 seconds from his own record set in Tokyo.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

- **World TB Day – March 24**
- ✓ The Day is observed every year to create awareness about the infectious bacterial disease, tuberculosis, that affects the lungs
- ✓ The day also highlights the social and economic consequences of tuberculosis along with its health impacts globally.
- ✓ On this day in the year 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced his discovery of the bacterium that causes TB.



- ✓ Johann Schonlein gave the term “tuberculosis” in 1834, though it is estimated that Mycobacterium tuberculosis may have been around as long as 3 million years.
- ✓ In the 1700s, it was called ‘the white plague’ due to the paleness of the patients.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Invest to End TB. Save Lives.”
- ✓ According to World Health Organization (WHO), each day, over 4,100 people lose their lives to TB and close to 28,000 people fall ill with this disease.
- ✓ Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the “Step-Up to End TB- World TB Day Summit” on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The chief guest at the two-day Summit will be the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, who will attend virtually.
- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar will also be present at the summit.
- ✓ At the event, Union Health Minister will award well-performing states and districts for achieving improved levels of TB elimination
- ✓ After that, the summit will lead into a session on findings from the to-be-released National TB Prevalence Survey results
- ✓ Meanwhile, the government is set to launch a special door-to-door TB screening initiative on war footing
  - ✓ Under this initiative, over the next two to three weeks, health workers will be visiting the vulnerable population that is potentially exposed to the infection and check for typical symptoms of TB
- ✓ Those found to be symptomatic will be tested using TrueNAT, an indigenous portable, battery-operated, Internet of Thing-enabled RT-PCR platform developed and manufactured by Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics.
- ✓ Earlier in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Delhi End TB summit and gave the call to End TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the TB-related SDG targets of 2030

➤ **World Meteorological Day – March 23**





- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the importance of individual role and actions to be taken in preserving Earth's atmosphere
- ✓ World Meteorological Day is celebrated annually to mark the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was founded on March 23, 1950.
- ✓ Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, WMO became a United Nations (UN) specialised agency in 1951
- ✓ The first World Meteorological Day was celebrated on March 23, 1961.
- ✓ The intergovernmental organisation currently has 193 countries as its member states.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Early Warning and Early Action'
- ✓ During the occasion, The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, "Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India- State: Tamil Nadu" in Chennai
- ✓ The e-atlas, available at [mausam.imd.gov.in](http://mausam.imd.gov.in) for public access, would help disaster management agencies take preventive steps
- ✓ The Nobel Peace Prize 2007 was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was co-sponsored by the WMO, and Al Gore, former Vice-President of the USA.
- ✓ Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra is the Permanent Representative from India at the WMO.
- ✓ He is the Director General of Meteorology at the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

