

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 4, 2022

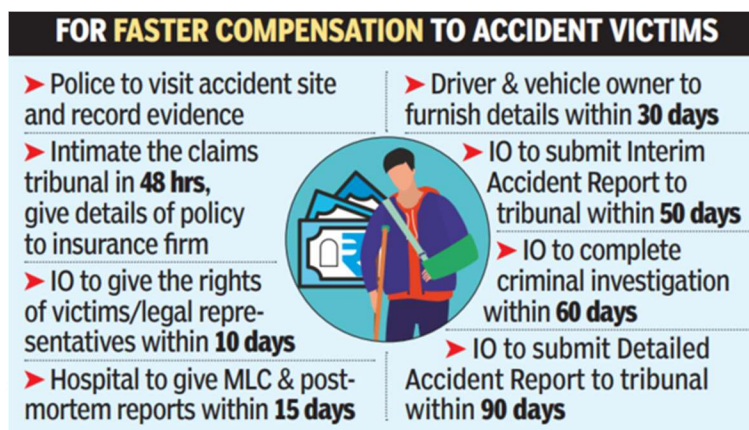
STATES

- **Meghalaya - has become the ninth state to withdraw the general consent to the CBI for investigation purpose**
- ✓ Henceforth, the investigating agency has to approach the state government on a case-to-case basis, seeking permission to conduct an inquiry.
- ✓ The NDA-led government's decision comes after several allegations of mass corruption emerging in Meghalaya, especially in illegal coal extraction and transportation
- ✓ Further, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's brother James PK Sangma has been accused of corruption in implementing the central government's Saubhagya scheme for achieving 100% electrification in the state
- ✓ CBI will only have to seek permission for new cases and the move will not have any impact on cases that have been registered already by the probe agency
- ✓ Earlier, Mizoram and seven other states— Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Kerala — had withdrawn the general consent to the premier investigation agency.
- ✓ Of these eight states, seven are ruled by Opposition parties while Mizoram is ruled by the Mizo National Front, a part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.
- ✓ Since 2018, around 150 requests for sanction to investigate had been pending with these eight state governments who had withdrawn general consent until then.
- ✓ Meghalaya is ruled by Conrad Sangma's National People's Party (NPP) which is part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.
- ✓ The CBI's functioning is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946
- ✓ Hence, it must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- ✓ This is because the police and public order fall under the purview of state governments, which regularly renew their permission.

- ✓ General consent, by default, is normally given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states
- ✓ The consent of the state government can be either case-specific or general.
- ✓ The first state to withdraw consent was Mizoram in 2015.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has made it mandatory for police to investigate all road accident cases that occur on and after April 1, 2022**
- ✓ It has ordered that police will have to intimate about accidents to motor accident claim tribunals (MACTs) and insurance firms within 48 hours.



- ✓ The Road Transport ministry's new notification has made it mandatory for inclusion of validated mobile numbers in the insurance certificates.
 - ✓ The new rules are aimed at faster disposal of cases and quick disbursement of compensations.
 - ✓ The police will have to visit the accident spots, collect evidence and intimate the MACT so that the process starts quickly.
 - ✓ The vehicle registration authorities would be expected to provide all details within 15 days so the necessary actions can be executed quickly
 - ✓ The changes have been made following a Delhi high court order which had directed the Centre to adopt the model, which has been successfully done in Delhi
- **The road transport and highways ministry - has issued a notification that seeks to mention the details of validity of fitness and registration number of the vehicle.**
 - ✓ The move is aimed at better enforcement as displaying such details will help detect vehicles with expired fitness test certificates.
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles will soon have one more sticker on the windscreen to display their "fitness" status.
 - ✓ Currently, all four wheelers and above category of vehicles have the mandatory FASTag on their screens

- ✓ However, the vehicles in Delhi have one more sticker — colour-coded sticker indicating the fuel type

INTERNATIONAL

- **Russia – has removed the Soyuz-2.1b rocket that was to launch 36 UK's OneWeb satellites into orbit on March 4 from the Baikonur launchpad in Kazakhstan**
- ✓ Russia removed the satellites from the pad after the UK refused to accept its demands of not using the satellite for military use
- ✓ Russia also demanded that the UK government withdraw as a shareholder from the OneWeb program, which was also refused by the government
- ✓ Meanwhile, Russia has now removed flags of all countries, except India's Tricolour, from its Soyuz rocket
- ✓ The Soyuz rocket is carrying 36 satellites from various countries, which will be part of the satellite based internet connectivity that will be provided across the globe under the OneWeb programme.
- ✓ The project aims to launch 648 satellites into orbit, and 428 of them have already been launched, all of them using the Russian Soyuz vehicle.
- ✓ The most recent OneWeb mission, on February 10, sent 34 satellites to orbit from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana atop a Soyuz operated by French company Arianespace.
- ✓ The partially-complete network can provide broadband connectivity across high latitude regions — such as Alaska, Canada, and northern Europe — but is not capable of offering uninterrupted global reach.
- ✓ Last year, OneWeb announced agreements to provide connectivity to U.S. and European military users.
- ✓ OneWeb also announced an agreement with Airbus in December to provide services to the UK military, along with other European defense and security forces.
- ✓ The first OneWeb satellites launched in 2019, before the company filed for bankruptcy in 2020.
- ✓ OneWeb emerged from bankruptcy under new joint ownership of the Indian telecom company Bharti Global (having 39% stake) and the UK government.
- ✓ Other major investors in OneWeb include the Japanese company SoftBank, the French satellite communications firm Eutelsat, U.S.-based Hughes, and the South Korean business conglomerate Hanwha.
- ✓ OneWeb's satellites are built in a factory just outside NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida by a joint venture between OneWeb and Airbus
- ✓ Arianespace won a contract in 2015 to launch OneWeb's satellites on Russian Soyuz rockets.
- ✓ The Soyuz rockets are procured by Arianespace through Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of Roscosmos, from Progress Rocket Space Center in Samara, Russia

- ✓ The shelved launch on March 4 was supposed to be the 14th of the 19 Soyuz missions on the contract

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On March 2, the U.N. Environment Assembly - voted at its fifth session in Kenya's capital Nairobi for a historic resolution "to end plastic pollution" in the world's oceans, rivers and land**
- ✓ It is the beginning of international negotiations designed to produce a treaty by 2024 to end plastic pollution through multiple actions.
- ✓ The historic resolution is titled "End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument"



- ✓ It seeks to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in 2022 with the aim of finalizing a global legally binding agreement by 2024
- ✓ Plans presented by India, Peru, Rwanda and Japan were used as the basis for a global plan to prevent and reduce plastic pollution.
- ✓ Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav represented the country in the meeting
- ✓ India had piloted a resolution on addressing single use plastic pollution in the fourth session of UNEA in 2019.
- ✓ The treaty would cover the production, design and removal of plastics.
- ✓ The global plastic treaty, once approved, will join the league of the Montreal Protocol and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement as among the most significant international environmental laws in world history
- ✓ More than 3,400 in-person and 1,500 virtual participants from 175 UN member states attended the three-day global environment forum, which started on February 28
- ✓ The move will help in eliminating single-use plastic from across the globe in due course of time
- ✓ According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center, the worldwide plastic industry is valued at \$522.6 billion.

- ✓ The study also reported that 11 million metric tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year, threatening the survival of marine species, food security and livelihoods of coastal communities
- ✓ The shift to a circular economy will reduce plastics entering oceans by over 80% by 2040, reduce virgin plastic production by 55% and save governments 70 billion dollars by 2040.
- ✓ In addition, eliminating plastics will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25%

SPORTS

- **Former India captain, Virat Kohli - is all set to play his 100th Test match at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on March 4**
- ✓ The 33-year old batting sensation becomes the 12th Indian cricketer and 71st in world to join the elite club when he takes the field against Sri Lanka in the first Test
- ✓ Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Ishant Sharma are the other Indian players to play 100 Tests.
- ✓ Among them, Sachin Tendulkar has represented his country in 200 Tests, and is the only cricketer in world cricket to have done the same.
- ✓ Having played in 99 Test matches, Kohli has scored 7962 runs at an impressive average of 50.39.



TOP SEVEN INDIAN BATTERS AFTER 99 TEST MATCHES

| Batter | T | Runs | HS | Ave | 100 | 50 |
|--------------|----|------|------|-------|-----|----|
| R Dravid | 99 | 8492 | 270 | 58.16 | 22 | 41 |
| S Tendulkar | 99 | 8351 | 217 | 57.99 | 30 | 33 |
| S Gavaskar | 99 | 8394 | 236* | 52.46 | 30 | 36 |
| V Sehwag | 99 | 8448 | 319 | 50.89 | 23 | 32 |
| V Kohli | 99 | 7962 | 254* | 50.39 | 27 | 28 |
| D Vengsarkar | 99 | 6331 | 166 | 46.21 | 17 | 31 |
| VVS Laxman | 99 | 6313 | 281 | 45.42 | 13 | 36 |

- ✓ Kohli's most successful year was 2016 when he scored 1215 runs in 12 Tests.
- ✓ Kohli led the Indian team in 68 Tests and won 40 matches with a wholesome win percentage of 58.82%.
- ✓ He holds the record for most Test wins as Indian captain
- ✓ The batting legend has scored 22286 runs in international cricket thus far and is only the third Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to score over 20000 runs in the international level
- ✓ Kohli also stands third in the list of batsmen with the most centuries in international cricket, with 70 tons to his name, after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (100 tons) and Ricky Ponting (71 tons)

➤ **Virat Kohli** will become the **12th Indian** to **play 100 Test matches** when **he takes the field during the first Test** of the two-match series against Sri Lanka starting in Mohali on Friday

➤ Among Indians, Kohli has the **5th highest batting average (50.39)** leading upto his 100th Test. The **four ahead** of him are **Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sunil Gavaskar and Virender Sehwag**

➤ Kohli will also **try to become the first Indian batter to score a century** in his 100th Test

➤ The **Delhi boy**, who made his **Test debut at Kingston** in 2011, had led India in 68 Tests. He **stepped down from Test captaincy** after India lost the series in South Africa earlier this year

➤ The **33-year-old** became the **only Indian captain to score 1000 Test runs in three years back-to-back – 2016, '17 and '18**

“It has been [an] absolutely brilliant journey for Kohli. He has done exceedingly well in this particular format. Changed so many things in the way the team is moving forward. It has been brilliant to watch that.”

Rohit Sharma |
ON VIRAT KOHLI



- ✓ Kohli's record of 20 Test centuries as skipper is the second-most for any player after South Africa's Graeme Smith (25)
 - ✓ He became only the second cricketer after Greg Chappell to score twin hundreds on Test captaincy debut.
 - ✓ Kohli made his test debut in 2011 against West Indies, scoring only 19 runs
 - ✓ He made his test captaincy debut against Australia at Adelaide in December 2014
- **Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi – clinched his maiden senior National chess crown in Kanpur on March 3**



- ✓ The 18-year-old from Warangal, Telangana remained unbeaten and scored 8. 5 points from 11 rounds to win the 58th edition of the tournament

- ✓ He was tied for first place along with GMs D Gukesh and P Iniyar (both from Tamil Nadu) but won the event of Rs. 6 lakh prize money on a better tiebreak score
 - ✓ Gukesh finished second while Iniyar settled for the third spot.
 - ✓ Earlier, Arjun won the Tata Steel Challengers in Wijk Aan Zee, Netherlands this year
 - ✓ Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram of Tamil Nadu finished fourth with eight points, while top-seed and pre-tournament favourite B Adhiban ended a distant 20th.
- **Russian and Belarusian athletes - were barred from the Winter Paralympics in Beijing on the eve of the Games, as per the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**
- ✓ The decision follows threats of boycotts by other teams over Russia's invasion of Ukraine
 - ✓ Earlier, the IPC gave athletes from the two countries the green light to participate in the March 4-13 Games as neutrals.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Russia is drafting a lawsuit with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against IPC's decision.
 - ✓ Ukraine's paralympic committee welcomed the decision and thanked the sporting community.
 - ✓ A 71-member Russian contingent and 12-member team from Belarus are in Beijing.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ **World Hearing Day – March 3**



World Hearing Day | March 3, 2022

**To hear for life,
listen with care!**

Hearing loss due to loud
sounds can be prevented



Make Listening Safe

- ✓ The day aims to create awareness about the ways to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world
- ✓ According to WHO, the day was created in 2007 under the name 'International Ear Day' in a bid to raise awareness about deafness.
- ✓ The name was later changed to World Hearing Day in 2016.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "To hear for life, listen with care"
- ✓ On World Hearing Day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate Neonatal Hearing Screening Facility at AIIMS in Delhi.

- ✓ As many as 11 Outreach Service Centre in All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore, will also be inaugurated at the program.
- ✓ According to WHO, by 2050, nearly 2.5 billion people are projected to have some degree of hearing loss and at least 700 million will require hearing rehabilitation.
- ✓ It further said that over one billion young adults are at risk of permanent, avoidable hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices
- ✓ In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss

➤ **World Obesity Day – March 4**



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to create awareness about the challenge of obesity, and steps to be taken to overcome it and maintain a healthy weight
- ✓ World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body that works in close collaboration with WHO and Lancet Commission on Obesity organises this day annually.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Everybody needs to act".
- ✓ Obesity is a condition where a person has accumulated abnormal or excessive body fat that causes negative effects on health.
- ✓ A simple measure commonly used to classify overweight and obesity in adults is body mass index (BMI).
- ✓ A BMI of over 25 is considered overweight, while a Body Mass Index of over 30 is categorized as obese by the WHO.
- ✓ Obesity can result in various chronic conditions like cardiovascular diseases, strokes, type-2 diabetes, hypertension, etc.
- ✓ Earlier October 11 was marked as World Obesity Day from 2015 and the date was moved to March 4 since 2020
- ✓ Obesity affects over 800 million people across the globe, according to the World Obesity Federation.
- ✓ Childhood obesity is also on the rise and is expected to increase to affect at least 250 million by the year 2030.
- ✓ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) around 2.8 million people annually die due to excessive body weight and obesity.

HEALTH EFFECTS INSTITUTE (HEI) REPORT ON GLOBAL AIR ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR 2020

- **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.
- ✓ According to the WHO standards, the upper annual limit for PM2.5 is 5µg/m³, and the 24-hour ceiling is 15µg/m³
- ✓ But, 93% of India's population is currently exposed to the air containing at least 35µg/m³ concentration of PM2.5 (particulate matter of the size of 2.5 microns).
- ✓ Based on the estimates for 2019, no country reported average national PM2.5 levels below the WHO standards of 5µg/m³
- ✓ Based on this target, India is currently ranked as the fifth most impacted country in terms of air pollution, behind Egypt (1st), Pakistan(2nd), Bangladesh (3rd) -- where 100% of their population exposed to 35µg/m³, followed by Nigeria (4th) with 95% of its population exposed to such levels.
- ✓ Among all classical pollutants, inhalable PM 2.5 is considered the most hazardous as it gets deposited in lungs through breathing and causes serious respiratory problems.
- ✓ The WHO had last year cut its guideline for annual exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2. 5) in half, from 10 µg/m³ to just 5 µg/m³.
- ✓ The report also found that on an average, more than 40% of the world's population currently lives in areas where ozone levels exceeded the least stringent WHO interim target (100 µg/m³) in 2019
- ✓ Relatedly, around 95% of the Indian population currently lives in areas where the long-term ozone targets of 60 µg/m³ are not being met.
- ✓ Only 3% of the population in the Philippines lives in areas where the WHO guideline value for long-term ozone level is exceeded

