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PAHUJA
Law Academy

Current Affairs - English ***MARCH' 2022***



**GUIDANCE BY EXPERIENCED JUDGES,
ADVOCATES AND ACADEMICIANS.....**

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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

“CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF *MARCH*’ 2022”

LAW AND AMENDMENT

Criminal Law Amendment (Identification) Bill, 2022

- The Bill seeks to repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to recording finger impressions and footprint impressions of limited category of convicted and non-convicted persons and photographs on the order of a magistrate.
- The Bill also seeks to apply these provisions to persons held under any preventive detention law.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be the repository of physical and biological samples, signature and handwriting data that can be preserved for at least 75 years.
- The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, that would allow the police and prison authorities to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans, was introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill also seeks to apply these provisions to persons held under any preventive detention law. Article 20(3).

International Day of Women Judges 2022

- The first ever ‘International Day of Women Judges’ was observed on March 10, 2022 by all the Member States of United Nations.
- The day was proclaimed to be observed every year on March 10, by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on April 28, 2021.
- The day aims to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary.
- The Supreme Court of India celebrated the event by organising an online event in which the Chief Justice of India (CJI), NV Ramana and four women SC judges (Justices Indira Banerjee, Hima Kohli, BV Nagarathna and Bela M Trivedi) interacted online with all women judges of the high courts and the women judicial officers of the country.

Justice Vipin Sanghi appointed Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

- The President has appointed Justice Vipin Sanghi, senior-most Judge of Delhi High Court as Acting Chief Justice with effect from March 13, 2022.
- He will be replacing Chief Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel who retires on March 13.
- Power to appoint chief justice of High Court is with the president under article 223 of the Constitution of India.

Right of residence under Domestic Violence Act

- Domestic violence is violence that occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage. The victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women. Examples include dowry harassment, sexual abuse.
- Under Section 19 of Domestic Violence Act, 2005, a magistrate may pass a residence order if the magistrate is satisfied that the wife has suffered Domestic Violence.
- As, women generally do not own property, the right of residence protects their eviction.
- R. Batra v. Taruna Batra: Supreme Court held that a wife has the right to claim the right to residence for a shared household. However, the shared household has been interpreted as the house in which the husband is a member.

- **Satish Chander Ahuja v. Sneha Ahuja:** Supreme Court held that even if the husband does not hold the ownership of the house then also it will be called a shared household under the definition of Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The court struck down the judgment of *S.R. Batra v. Taruna Batra*.
- Delhi High court order, 2022:
 - ✓ The court held that right of residence under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is not an indefeasible right of residence in a shared household, especially, when the daughter-in-law is pitted against the aged in-laws who wish to evict her.
 - ✓ The court also held that senior citizens are entitled to live peacefully and not to be haunted by the marital discord between their son and daughter-in-law.
 - ✓ The court, however, made it clear that until alternative accommodation was provided to the wife by her husband, the wife won't be evicted from the house as per the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Karnataka HC Verdict on Hijab Ban

- On 15th March a three-judge Bench of Karnataka High Court (HC) gave a verdict on the petitions related to banning Hijab (headscarf) in Karnataka's educational institutions.
- The high court upheld the order of Karnataka government prescribing the wearing of uniforms in schools & pre-university colleges as per provisions of Karnataka Education Act, 1983. Thus, the court rejected all petitions filed by nine Muslim girl students of the Udupi district.
- High court ruled that wearing hijab by Muslim women is not a part of essential religious practices in Islam.
- Thus, the right to wear a hijab is not protected under the right to freedom of religion guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution of India.
- The High court also declared that prescribing uniforms for students neither violates the right to freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1) (a)) nor the right to privacy (Article 21) guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Thus, a ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions is a reasonable restriction, which is permitted by the constitution and students cannot object to the ban.
- Plea in Supreme Court:- After the Karnataka High court judgment, a Muslim student from Karnataka approached the Supreme Court against the order. In her plea, the student mentioned that the right to wear a hijab is protected by the right to conscience under Article 25 of the Constitution

Power of States to Tax Lotteries

- On 23rd March 2022, the Supreme Court announced that states are eligible to tax lottery schemes that are operating within the territories of the state as it falls under the activity of betting and gambling, which comes under taxation covered under the State List.
- This judgment was received under separate appeals that were filed by the states of Kerala and Karnataka.
- After losing before their respective high courts, the two states appealed to the Supreme Court to determine whether the states had legislative competence to frame lotteries tax law.
- The Supreme Court bench said that the states legislatures of Kerala and Karnataka were fully competent to enact a law for taxing lotteries and receive taxes under the activity of 'betting and gambling', which are being organized in the respective States. This also includes the lotteries conducted by state or central governments.
- The two laws that are being talked about is the Kerala Tax on Paper Lotteries Act, 2005, and the Karnataka Tax on Lotteries Act, 2004.

Haryana Anti-Conversion Bill- (March, 2022)

- The Assembly of Haryana has passed the "Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022."
- According to the government of Haryana, this Bill is aimed to prevent religious conversions through force.
- This bill looks to prevent the conversion of a person's religion through force, fraudulent methods, allurement or under the guise of marriage.

- Similar Bills have also been passed in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.
- The Bill was first tabled on 4th March.
- The state government has said that a person changing the religion of their free will not be penalized under this new bill, but it will look out to protect a person from forceful conversions.
- According to this Bill, if the conversion is done by force, allurement, or fraudulent methods, then the person responsible for such acts can be imprisoned for one to five years, and a minimum fine of Rs 1 lakh will be made applicable.
- The Bill states that whoever attempts to convert a woman, a minor, or a person from the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes will be handed out a punishment that includes imprisonment for a term period of a minimum of four years and that can extend to 10 years.
- The person will also be liable to pay a fine of a minimum of Rs 3 lakh.

Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill

- The Centre decided to table the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha during the Second part of the Budget Session of Parliament.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill will be moved by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.
- The purpose of the bill is to include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Tripura by amending the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- The second part of the budget session of the Parliament resumed from March 14th and will go on till April 8th.
- Previous bills for Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh:-
 - ✓ Earlier, similar bills were tabled for states like Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ In February, a bill was introduced to omit the Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Jharkhand and for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the state.
 - ✓ In August 2021, Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by the Parliament to make certain changes to the list of STs in Arunachal Pradesh. It removed the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in Arunachal Pradesh. Also, the names of certain STs were changed. For example, Khampti was changed to Tai Khampti.
- Constitution of India empowers President to specify Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states and union territories. Parliament is permitted to modify this list of notified Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Reservation in Local body polls

- The 73rd and 74th amendments provided compulsory reservation for SCs, STs, and women in Panchayats and Municipalities. However, reservation for backward classes is left to the discretion of state governments.
- Maharashtra has decided to provide reservations for OBCs in local body polls.
- However, in January 2022, the Supreme Court directed the Maharashtra government to submit data on OBCs to the Maharashtra State Commission for Backward Classes (MSCBC) to make recommendations on the representation of OBCs in elections to the local bodies.
- Later, the Maharashtra government submitted the data on OBCs to MSCBC. In February 2022, MSCBC submitted a report in which it recommended up to 27% reservation for OBCs in elections to the local bodies.
- However, in March 2022, the Supreme Court rejected the report because of a lack of empirical study and research by MSCBC.
- Recent bills passed by Maharashtra:-
 - ✓ On 7th March 2022, Maharashtra state legislature had passed two bills that laid the grounds for the postponement of Maharashtra's local body elections till the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation is restored.
 - ✓ These bills amended the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, the Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act, the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats, and Industrial Townships Act, 1965, the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961

APPOINTMENT

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed as new chairperson of SEBI

- Madhabi Puri Buch Appointed as the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for three years.
- She is the first woman chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She replaced Ajay Tyagi whose term ended on 28 February.
- She was whole-time member (WTM) of SEBI from 5 April 2017 to 4 October 2021.
- She also headed a seven-member expert group formed to help SEBI design in-house technological systems.
- She has also served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Securities Limited.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was set up in 1988 and given statutory status in 1992.

Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as chairman of the NFRA

- Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been appointed as the chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- Before this, he was the chief executive of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- NFRA has been set up under the Companies Act, 2013, and was approved by the Cabinet in May 2018.
- NFRA acts as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.
- It has powers to review the financial statement of companies, can seek explanations and probe irregularities with respect to accounting and auditing issues.

SC appoints Justice AK Sikri as Chairperson of High Powered Committee on Chardham project

- The Supreme Court of India has appointed Justice (ret'd) AK Sikri as Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project.
- The previous Chairperson Professor Ravi Chopra had resigned from his post in February 2022, after being appointed as the chairperson of the HPC on August 8, 2019..
- The HPC would look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Chardham project as well as the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley.
- Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Appointment of Chief Ministers in 2022

- According to Article 164 of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor.
- At present, there are 30 Chief Ministers in India which includes 28 Chief Ministers from States and 2 from the Union Territories (Delhi and Puducherry).
- N Biren Singh took oath as Chief Minister of Manipur.
- Yogi Adityanath took oath as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for second term.
- Pushkar Singh Dhami of BJP took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- Pramod Sawant takes oath as Chief Minister of Goa for 2nd term.
- Bhagwant Mann sworn in as new chief minister of Punjab.

Singapore's T Raja Kumar appointed as next President of FATF

- T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the next President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- He will assume office with effect from July 01, 2022. for a fixed period of two-year term.
- He will replace Dr. Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
- He is the current Head of Singapore's delegation to the FATF since 2015.

- This will be the first time that Singapore is taking on the Presidency of FATF, since becoming its member in 1992.
- The FATF is the global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog. Its headquarter is based at Paris, France.

Centre approves appointment of Justice DN Patel as chairperson of TDSAT

- The Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of Delhi High Court Chief Justice DN (Dhirubhai Naranbhai) Patel as the next Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), for a period of four years, or until further orders.
- Justice Patel will retire as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court on March 12, 2022.
- He will replace the incumbent TDSAT Chairperson Justice Shiva Kirti Singh.

Gabriel Boric Font appointed as youngest President of Chile

- Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and 36th President of Chile on March 11, 2022.
- The 36-year-old leftist is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history.
- Gabriel Boric Font succeeds Sebastián Piñera.
- He will hold the office for the period between 2022 - 2026

Jay Shah's term as President of Asian Cricket Council extended by one year

- The Asian Cricket Council has unanimously extended the tenure of its incumbent President Jay Shah for a period of one year.
- The decision was taken during the annual general meeting of ACC on March 19, 2022.
- Jay Shah is the Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2019.
- Shah was first appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021, replacing Nazmul Hassan, the President of Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Katalin Novak becomes first women to be elected as President of Hungary

- The Parliament of Hungary has elected Katalin Eva Novak to be the first female President of the country.
- Katalin Novák will take over the new role from May 2022. She will succeed Janos Ader.
- The 44 year-old Novak won the 2022 Presidential election by a two-thirds majority.
- She won 72.87% of the overall voting or 137 seats out of the total 199 seats.

T. Raja Kumar has been appointed as next President of FATF

- He is the current head of Singapore's delegation to the FATF.
- He will assume position as FATF's president on Jul 1, 2022 for a term of 2-years.
- He will take over from Marcus Pleyer of Germany. He is the first Singaporean appointed as FATF's president.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, France.
- It was established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing, and other related threats for the integrity of the international financial system.
- Currently, it has 39 members including two regional organizations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Yoon Suk-yeol elected as new President of South Korea

- Yoon Suk-yeol has been 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.
- Yoon Suk-yeol will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

Serdar Berdimukhamedov sworn in as President of Turkmenistan

- Serdar Berdimuhamedow has been sworn in as the President of Turkmenistan on March 19, 2022

- Berdimuhamedov succeeds his father and former president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who became president in 2006 and served till 2022.
- It must be noted that the presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held every seven years.
- Turkmenistan Capital: Ashgabat; Currency: Turkmenistani manat

IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day observed every year on 01 March

- The Zero Discrimination Day is held every year on 1st of March;
- The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.
- The Day was launched by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2014.
- Theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: "Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower".

World Hearing Day observed on 3 March

- Every year on March 3, the World Health Organization commemorates World Hearing Day.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness about preventing hearing loss and also to promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- The theme of World Hearing Day 2022 is "To hear for life, listen with care."
- According to the World Health Organization, the day was established in 2007 to raise awareness of deafness.
- It was initially named International Ear Day, but in 2016 it was renamed World Hearing Day.
- In 2021, WHO released the World Report on Hearing, which highlighted the growing number of people living with hearing loss.

National Safety Day 2022 celebrated on 4 March

- The National Safety Council of India commemorates National Safety Day (NSD) every year on 4th March.
- This day is celebrated with the goal of raising awareness and commitment to work safely.
- The theme of the National Safety Day 2022 is 'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'.
- National Safety Day was first observed in 1972, on the anniversary of the National Safety Council's establishment.

World Wildlife Day celebrated on 3 March

- World Wildlife Day is celebrated annually on 3rd March.
- The theme for World Wildlife Day 2022 is "Safeguarding key species for ecosystem restoration".
- In December 2013, UN General Assembly, in its 68th session, decided to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day.
- 3 March is day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- 3 March was proclaimed as World Wildlife Day by UN to raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.
- Sustainable Development Goal 15 focuses on halting biodiversity loss.

Nation observes 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas on March 07

- The 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas was organised on March 07, 2022 to generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- The theme of Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2022 is "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".
- The entire week from March 01-07 was observed as 'Jan Aushadhi Week' across the nation.
- The celebrations are organised since 2019 by the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals.

- PMBI is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

No Smoking Day observed on 09 March

- No Smoking Day is marked on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year.
- In 2022, the day falls on 9th of March.
- 2022 Theme is 'Quitting smoking doesn't have to be stressful'
- The basic objective of this day is to raise public awareness about the dangers and consequences of smoking, as well as to assist smokers in quitting.
- The day is mainly celebrated in the United Kingdom inspired by World No Tobacco Day (31 May).

World Kidney Day observed on 10 March

- The World Kidney Day is held every year on the Second Thursday in the month of March.
- In 2022, the day falls on March 10, 2022.
- Theme 2022- Kidney Health for All: Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care.
- The day aims to raise global health awareness on the importance about conditions of the kidney and the impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- WKD is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF)

International Day of Mathematics observed every year on 14 March

- The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed every year on 14th of March.
- The theme for 2022 IDM is "Mathematics Unites!"
- The day was initiated by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life.
- The 40th General Conference of UNESCO approved the Proclamation of March 14 as the International Day of Mathematics, on November 26, 2019.

World Consumer Rights Day celebrated every year on 15 March

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs, and protect consumers across the globe against market abuses.
- The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2022 is "Fair Digital Finance".
- The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.

National Vaccination Day observed on 16 March

- In India, the National Vaccination Day [also known as National Immunisation Day (IND)] is observed on 16 March every year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- The day was first observed in the year 1995.
- It was on March 16, 1995 that India started Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- In 2022, the National Immunization Day is important since the Government of India has started the COVID-19 vaccination for children between 15 to 18 years of age and booster dose for senior citizens.

World Sleep Day observed every year on 18 March

- The World Sleep Day is held every year on the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox.
- In 2022, the World Sleep Day falls on March 18, 2022.
- The theme of 2022 is 'Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World'.
- World Sleep Day is a celebration of sleep and a call to action on important issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects and driving.
- It is organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of World Sleep Society with the objective to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

Global Recycling Day observed every year on 18 March

- The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on 18th of March to recognise the importance of recycling as a resource, not waste.
- Theme for 2022 is “recycling fraternity”.
- The theme recognise the people who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns.
- The Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 by the London-based Global Recycling Foundation to promote the concept and practice of recycling.

International Day of Happiness Celebrated every year on 20 March

- Every year the International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20.
- The day aims to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world.
- The theme for 2022 International Day of Happiness campaign is ‘Build Back Happier’.
- The first International Day of Happiness was officially held on 20 March 2013.
- It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.

World Sparrow Day Celebrated every year on 20 March

- World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20.
- Theme of 2022 World Sparrow Day “LOVE Sparrows”
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
- The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.
- The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.

World Oral Health Day observed every year on 20 March

- The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20.
- The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: Be Proud of Your Mouth.
- The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives
- The day is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation; an organization that brings together the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination observed every year on 21 March

- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.
- The 2022 Theme: “VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM”
- The United Nations General Assembly called for the day in 1966 to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.

World Down Syndrome Day observed every year on 21 March

- Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed to raise awareness about Down syndrome disease.
- World Down Syndrome Day 2022 theme is “Inclusion Means”.
- Every year around 3,000 and 5,000 infants are born with this chromosomal disorder.
- The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006.
- The UN General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day in December 2011 but it came into effect in 2012.

World Water Day observed every year on 22 March

- Every year on March 22, World Water Day is commemorated.
- It is observed to raise awareness of the value of fresh water and the need to conserve it.
- The theme of World Water Day 2022 is "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible".
- The day is being celebrated every year since 1993.
- The main goal of the day is to support the idea of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030 and help achieve the goal.

Bihar Diwas celebrated on 22 March

- Every year on March 22, Bihar Diwas is celebrated to commemorate the foundation of Bihar.
- The theme of Bihar Diwas 2022 is 'Jal Jeevan Haryali'.
- This year marks the 110th anniversary of Bihar's foundation.
- On March 22, 1912, the state of Bihar was carved out from Bengal's presidency.

World Theatre Day Celebrated on 27 March

- Every year on March 27, World Theatre Day is celebrated.
- It is observed with the aim of recognizing and celebrating the value and significance of the art form "theatre."
- The theme of World Theatre Day has been the same over the years which is 'Theatre and a Culture of Peace'.
- In 1961, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) established World Theatre Day.
- Since 1962, ITI Centres and the international theatrical community have been commemorating World Theatre Day.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS**World's largest plane destroyed by Russia strikes in Ukraine**

- 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.
- It is 84 meters long (276 feet) and can transport 250 tonnes of cargo at a speed of up to 850 kilometres per hour (528 mph).
- Weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom estimated that the restoring cost would be over \$3 billion and take more than five years.

NATO Begins military exercise 'Cold Response 2022' in Norway

- The NATO has organised the massive military drill 'Cold Response 2022' in Norway from March 14, 2022 and will continue till April 01, 2022.
- The exercise is held in Norway every second year, for NATO Allies and partners.
- The Norwegian-led exercise provides an opportunity to train together in cold weather conditions over challenging terrain and demonstrates NATO's ability to respond decisively to any threat, from any direction.
- This is the largest 'Cold Response' being exercise conducted in Norway since the 1980s.

5th UN Environment Assembly concludes in Nairobi with 14 resolutions

- The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) was held on a hybrid format in Nairobi from 28 February to 02 March 2022.

- The theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- The assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to strengthen international action for climate, nature and a pollution-free planet to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The biennial UNES is hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to bring together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to address the world’s most pressing environmental challenges.

Ukraine legalized cryptocurrencies

- Ukrainian President has signed virtual assets bill, which legalizes cryptocurrencies.
- Foreign and Ukrainian cryptocurrency exchanges will now be allowed to operate legally.
- Banks will also be allowed to open accounts for crypto companies.
- National Securities and Stock Market Commission and National Bank of Ukraine will regulate virtual assets.
- The Ukrainian government has recently associated with FTX exchange to convert crypto contributions.

Iran successfully launches second military satellite Noor-2 into orbit

- The Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles) from earth, on March 08, 2022.
- This is the second military satellite launched by Islamic Republic.
- The first military satellite, Noor, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth’s surface.
- Noor means light in Persian language.

Russia surpasses Iran to become world’s most sanctioned country

- Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion on Ukraine, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site Castellum.AI.
- Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since February 22, 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530
- The country already had 2,754 sanctions in place before February 22.
- Countries across the world are putting sanctions on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of number of sanctions.
- Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country, facing 3,616 sanctions against it over the last decade, while Syria and North Korea have 2,608 and 2,077 sanctions, respectively.

Financial Action Task Force puts UAE on “grey list”

- Financial Action Task Force has said that UAE hasn’t taken enough steps to stop criminals and militants from hiding wealth there.
- The UAE is the financial hub of the Middle East and is home of many international companies headquarters.
- UAE government had formed an Executive Office led by Hamid Al Zaabi to combat illicit flows in the country.
- Financial Action Task Force has retained Pakistan on its "grey list".
- The FATF’s “grey list” is not as severe as its “black list”. India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization.
- It was established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing, and other related threats for the integrity of the international financial system.
- Currently, it has 39 members including two regional organizations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.
- North Korea and Iran are currently on the FATF’s black list

Kuwait has become the hottest place on earth

- Kuwait hit a temperature of 53.2 °C (127.7 °F), making it one of the world's hottest places.
- The extremes of climate change are posing a threat to existence all over the world.
- Last summer in Kuwait, it was so hot that birds fell out of the sky.
- A recent study has held climate change responsible for 67% of heat-related deaths in Kuwait.
- Saudi Arabia is pitching futuristic car-free cities, while Dubai plans to ban plastic and increase the number of green parks in the emirate.
- According to the World Resources Institute, Kuwait is still using oil for electricity production and it is among the top worldwide carbon emitters per capita.

ILO has announced that Gilbert Hounbo will be its next Director General

- Gilbert F. Hounbo is the former Prime Minister of Togo. He will assume office in October 2022.
- He will be the 11th Director-General of ILO. He will be the first African to hold the post.
- His term will be five-year-long starting from 1 October 2022.
- Gym Ryder is the current Director-General of ILO. Ryder has held office since 2012. Ryder is from the United Kingdom.
- International Labour Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nation consisting of 187 countries.
- It was formed in 1919 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

India and Japan renewed bilateral swap arrangement of up to \$75 billion

- The Bank of Japan and the RBI signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the bilateral swap agreement.
- It aims to strengthen financial safety nets and promote cooperation between both countries.
- The Bilateral swap agreement is a two-way arrangement to swap the local currency in exchange of the Dollar.
- Prime Ministers of India and Japan had negotiated the Bilateral swap agreement in 2018. It will bring greater stability to foreign exchange.
- India and Japan had established their diplomatic relations on 28 April 1952.

India and the Netherlands are commemorating 75th anniversary of the beginning of their diplomatic relations in 2022

- To mark the occasion, special logo was unveiled on 2nd March 2022. The logo features a lotus and a tulip – the national flowers of both countries.
- Netherlands presented 3000 fresh tulips to India, as a symbol of friendship.
- India and the Netherlands had established diplomatic relations in 1947. In FY 2019-20, Netherlands was the third largest investor in India after Mauritius and Singapore.
- In FY 2019-20, Netherlands was the fourth highest destination for overseas direct investment (ODI) from India. It was also the fourth largest ODI destination in FY 2020-21.
- Dutch Indo Water 3 Alliance Leadership Initiative has been created to identify solutions for water-related challenges, in which both nations can collaborate to build solutions.
- Netherlands has Europe's second-biggest Indian diaspora community after the United Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS

Union Cabinet has approved proposal for amendment of 2nd schedule of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

- The approved proposal is for specifying the rate of royalty in respect of Glauconite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals, Andalusite, Sillimanite, and Molybdenum.

- It will make sure auction of mineral blocks in respect of Glauconite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals, Andalusite, Sillimanite, and Molybdenum for the first time in country.
- The approval will cause import substitution in respect of many important minerals for the economy of the country and save forex reserves.
- It will reduce the country's foreign dependency through the local production of minerals.
- Rate of royalty for Andalusite, Sillimanite and Kyanite which are mineral polymorphs is kept at the same level.
- Minerals having similar chemical composition and different crystal structures are called mineral polymorphs.
- Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was earlier amended in 2015 and 2021.

National Commission for Women (NCW) launched legal aid clinic to resolve grievances of women.

- National Commission for Women (NCW) in association with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) has launched a legal aid clinic.
- Its main objective is to make legal assistance more accessible to women.
- It will act as a single-window facility to resolve the grievances of women.
- The legal aid center will provide free legal advice and services to women in Delhi.
- This legal center will also provide assistance, advice, and information on various schemes of the National Legal Services Authority.
- National Commission for Women (NCW) is planning to open similar legal services clinics in other State Commissions for Women

Election Commission of India hosted Election Visitors Programme 2022

- Election Commission of India (ECI) organized the International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022 for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from 32 countries and four international organizations.
- India has been hosting the International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) since 2012.
- The International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022 has provided an opportunity to the Election Commission of India to share best practices and experience of conducting polls by complying with COVID-19 protocols.
- More than 135 delegates from 26 countries have participated in this event.
- The Election Commission of India apprised participants from its new initiatives on voter facilitation, transparency and accessibility of the electoral system.
- Participants also got information about the electoral process, polling station arrangements, use of technology in polling, etc.

Indian Railways' First Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway

- The Indian Railways has commissioned the first 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT) in Asansol Division of Eastern Railways, under the PM GATI-SHAKTI programme.
- This private siding of Maithan Power Limited was commissioned by the Asansol division at Thaparnagar in Jharkhand.
- This is the first Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal commissioned in the Indian Railways network since the launch of the GCT policy in December 2021.
- The commissioning of this terminal will enhance the earnings of Indian Railways by around Rs. 11 crores per month.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses 37th Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) observed its 37th Foundation Day celebrations on March 11, 2022 in New Delhi.

- The celebration was attended by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah as the Chief Guest.
- He is the first Union Home Minister to attend a Foundation Day function of the NCRB.
- NCRB was formed on March 11, 1986, under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The current Director of National Crime Record Bureau is Ramphal Pawar (IPS).

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha being built at Bodh Gaya

- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- The statue of Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture. It is being made using fiberglass. The statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.
- The giant statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, one of the top Buddhist Temples in West Bengal (also known as Kolkata Temple).
- Its construction started in the year 2019.
- Bodh Gaya is the place of enlightenment of Lord Buddha, and famous pilgrimage site for Buddhism, visited by devotees from all over the world.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights marked its 17th Foundation Day

- On March 1, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) commemorated its 17th Foundation Day at the Red Fort in New Delhi.
- Smriti Zubin Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, was the chief guest at the event.
- On this occasion, Smriti Irani unveiled the NCPCR's new motto, "भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः".
- She also praised the NCPCR and Border Security Force's collaboration on the 'SAHARA' special initiative.
- 'SAHARA' is an initiative aimed at providing psychosocial counselling and assistance to the children of BSF jawans who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurates 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi

- India is hosting the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) on virtual platform from March 20 to 22, 2022.
- The Union Minister of Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the 36th IGC in New Delhi on March 20, 2022.
- The theme of the event is "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future".
- The 36th IGC has been organised jointly by the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- The IGC provides a unique global platform for knowledge and experience sharing in the field of geosciences and professional networking, including first-hand information on latest technologies in mining, mineral exploration and management of water, mineral resource and environment.
- IGCs are described as the Olympics of Geosciences.
- It is a quadrennial event, held under the aegis of the International Union of Geological Congress (IUGS), the Scientific Sponsor of the IGCs.

Government approved the establishment of WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine

- The establishment of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- It will be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe. It will be set up under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The Indian government has inked a Host Country agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The move will aid in the development of essential technical norms, standards, and regulations, as well as tools and methodologies for data collection, analytics, and effect assessment.
- For the coordination, execution, and monitoring of activities related to the formation of this Centre, a Joint Task Force (JTF) has been formed.

STATE NEWS

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announces 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women

- The Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar has announced a new award named the 'Sushma Swaraj Award'.
- The award will be given to women for their significant contribution and achievements in different walks of life in national and international spheres.
- The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry a commendation and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- The award has been named after Late Sushma Swaraj, a daughter of Haryana. She had served as former Chief Minister of Delhi and former Union Minister of External Affairs.

Nagaland becomes first paperless Assembly by implementing National e-Vidhan Application programme

- Nagaland has become the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.
- The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session.
- NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner.
- The expenses for implementing NeVA is funded by the Centre and the state government on a 90:10 sharing basis

Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming

- Kerala is all set to become the first in the country to introduce Carbon-neutral farming for better soil health.
- For this, the State government has set aside Rs. 6 crores 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.
- In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.

Meghalaya becomes ninth state to withdraw consent to CBI.

- The withdrawal of approval means that the CBI will be unable to probe any case in the state without the permission of the state administration.
- CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 and it has to obtain consent from the state government before beginning investigation.
- The consent of the state government to CBI can be either case-specific or general.
- General consent is the consent by default while in specific consent CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case.
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Mizoram have withdrawn their general consent to CBI.
- Mizoram was the first state to withdraw consent in 2015. West Bengal government had withdrawn general consent to CBI in 2018.

Andhra Pradesh gets first rank in Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021.

- Andhra Pradesh also got top position in police and safety, agriculture, district administration, and rural development.
- Andhra Pradesh retained the first rank in governance for the second consecutive year.
- In the transport, Andhra Pradesh is on third spot after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

- Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019.
- West Bengal and Odisha have got second and third rank respectively while Gujarat and Maharashtra got fourth and fifth rank respectively.
- Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh are declared as “performers”.
- Bihar, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have been kept in the “Catching up” category.
- SKOCH gives ranking after evaluating various projects implemented by states. SKOCH Group is India’s leading think tank.

Karnataka government launched Women@Work programme to provide jobs to women

- Under the Women@Work programme, the government is planning to give jobs to five lakh women with employable skills by 2026.
- Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH and Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has launched this initiative.
- This programme has been launched by Dr. C N Aswath Narayan.
- This initiative has been launched as part of the Karnataka digital economy mission programme.
- The Women@Work programme will offer courses to women to train them technically in various disciplines.
- This programme aims to increase the women workforce to 50 percent.

Kerala topped in maternal and child health

- According to the latest data, India’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19.
- The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Kerala has dropped from 42 to 30. Kerala has achieved the UN Sustainable Development Goals of MMR in the year 2020 itself.
- The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has worsened in West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh.
- The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has drastically improved in UP, Rajasthan, and Bihar.
- Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra are included in the top 3 states with the lowest MMR in India.
- Italy, Norway, Poland, and Belarus have the lowest MMR in the world.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100000 live births.

March 22 observed as Bihar Day

- Bihar Diwas 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of the state’s founding.
- The annual Bihar Diwas is no longer limited to festivities hosted by the state government; citizens from the state living throughout the country and overseas have begun to commemorate the occasion.
- Every year on March 22, the Bihar Diwas commemorates the British carving away of Bihar from the Bengal Presidency in 1912.
- Patna was designated as the new province’s capital.
- Bihar Diwas has originally proclaimed a state initiative by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- The day was also observed by people from Bihar who resided in various regions of the country.

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).
- It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

SPORTS

31st Southeast Asian Games will be organized in Vietnam

- The 31st Southeast Asian Games will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022, which is the region's most important sporting event.
- Around 10,000 participants are expected to attend the Games, which will feature 40 sports and 526 events.
- The main venue will be Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, as well as 11 neighbouring cities such as Quang Ninh, Phu Tho, and Bac Ninh.
- The biennial event was originally scheduled for November 2021, but was postponed because of the COVID pandemic in Vietnam and the surrounding region.
- Vietnam is hosting the event for the second time since 2003.
- The Vietnam finished second in the previous edition with 98 gold, 85 silver, and 105 bronze medals, just behind the host nation, the Philippines.

2022 FIDE Chess Olympiad will be held in Chennai

- India has been picked as the host nation for the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022.
- The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai. from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.
- This is the first time that India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- The event was originally scheduled to be held in Russia, but FIDE pulled out from there following the Ukraine invasion.
- International Chess Federation (FIDE) headquarter: Lausanne, Switzerland.

Priyanka Nutakki becomes 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India

- Priyanka Nutakki has become India's 23rd and newest Woman Grandmaster (WGM).
- The 19-year-old girl hails from Vijayawada, in Andhra Pradesh.
- Priyanka secured her final WGM-norm at MPL 47th National Women Chess Championship, on March 02, 2022.
- She secured her first WGM-norm in January 2019.

Pankaj Advani has won his eighth Asian Billiards title at the 19th Asian Billiards Championship 2022

- This is Pankaj Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian title. He defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala in Doha, Qatar on 20 March 2022.
- Earlier, Advani had defeated Myanmar's Pauk Sa to earn a position in the final.
- He is an Indian cueist. A cueist is a player who plays pool, snooker or billiards.
- He is nicknamed as the Prince of India, the Golden Boy, and the Prince of Pune.

Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to play in six World Cups.

- She achieved this feat in the opening match of India against Pakistan in the ICC Women's World Cup at the Bay Oval.
- Mithali Raj is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team. She became only the third cricketer to play six world cups after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- She has played the world cup of 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, and now playing in 2022.
- She is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket. She also holds the record of most half-centuries in ODIs.
- The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 is the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. It is being played in New Zealand.

Pranav Prashant Desai bagged India's first gold medal at World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai

- Sprinter Pranav Prashant Desai has won gold in the men's 200 meter T64 event.
- He finished the race in 24.42 seconds.
- He is a gold medallist at the Fazza Championships.
- Currently, India is on the 15th position with four medals. Colombia is on the top of the medal tally with 13 medals.
- More than 450 athletes from 43 countries are participating in the World Para Athletics Grand Prix.

MS Dhoni has stepped down as the captain of Chennai Super Kings

- MS Dhoni, who has led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) since the league's start in 2008, handed over the captaincy to Ravindra Jadeja.
- Jadeja, who has been a key member of Chennai Super Kings since 2012, will be the team's third captain.
- This season and beyond, Dhoni will continue to represent the Chennai Super Kings.
- Chennai won the IPL title in 2010, 2011, 2018, and 2021 as well as two Champions League T20 wins in 2010 and 2014 under his captaincy.
- CSK won their fourth title in 2021 last season by defeating Kolkata Knight Riders in the final.

PV Sindhu clinched Swiss Open 2022 title

- P V Sindhu won her second women's singles title in the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament by defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.
- Sindhu defeated Thai player 21-16, 21-8 at St. Jakobshalle in Basel.
- HS Prannoy lost 10-21, 18-21 in the men's singles final against Jonatan Christie.
- In the previous edition, She was defeated in the final by the Rio Olympic gold medalist Carolina Marin of Spain.
- In January 2022, She won the Syed Modi International Super 300 in Lucknow.

Rafael Nadal wins Mexican Open title by defeating Cameron Norris.

- He won his 91st ATP title by defeating Cameron Norris by 6-4, 6-4 in Acapulco.
- It is his third title in 2022 and 25th tournament win on the hard court.
- Rafael Nadal has clinched Mexican Open title for the fourth time. This year, he has also won the Australian Open.
- In the doubles final, Feliciano Lopez and Stefanos Tsitsipas won the title by defeating Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer by 7-5, 6-4.
- Mexican Open is a professional tennis tournament and is part of the ATP Tour 500 series.
- It is held every year in Acapulco since 2001.

Saurabh Chaudhary won India's first gold medal at International Shooting Sport Federation

- Saurabh Chaudhary won India's first gold medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- He defeated Michael Schwald of Germany in the gold medal match of Men's 10m Air Pistol event. Russian Artem Chernousov won a bronze medal.
- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is the governing body of Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol and shotgun. It is headquartered in Munich, Germany.

India finished at top in the medal tally of ISSF World Cup 2022

- India with 4 gold, 2 silver, one bronze topped the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup 2022.
- Norway finished on the second spot with six medals- three gold, one silver and two bronze. France with three golds finished on the third spot.
- Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala won gold in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team tournament.

- In the women's 25m pistol team event, India defeated Singapore by 17-13 in the finals.
- ISSF World Cup 2022 was organized in Cairo.
- ISSF World Cup was started by the International Shooting Sport Federation in 1986

Shri Nivetha, Esha, Ruchita combinedly win gold in the women's 10m air pistol team event at ISSF World Cup

- Shri Nivetha, Esha, Ruchita had also topped the qualification stage 1 with a total score of 856.
- They had also topped the qualification stage 2 with a total score of 574.
- In the bronze medal match, the Indian men's pistol team finished on fourth place.
- Earlier, Saurabh Chaudhary has clinched gold in the men's 10m air pistol event.
- More than 500 athletes from 60 nations are taking part in the ISSF World Cup.
- ISSF World Cup was started by the International Shooting Sport Federation in 1986.

Railway won the Obaidullah Khan Hockey Cup

- The men's hockey team of Indian Railways won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup, which was held in Bhopal (MP) from March 21 to March 27, 2022.
- The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) team defeated Army XI by 2-1 in the final match.
- Arjun of Railway was chosen as Man of the Tournament.
- Joginder, Jasjit, and Niyaz Rahim, the man of the match, best defender, and best midfielder, were all from the Railways.
- On the 21st of March, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, inaugurated the famous hockey tournament at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in Bhopal.
- It began in 1931 as the Obaidullah Gold Cup and has produced numerous international players.
- It has been organized this year after a six-year gap. The competition was last won by BPCL in 2016, where the Railways team was runner-up.

Six Indian boxers have won gold at the ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships

- At the 2022 ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan, six Indian junior boxers, led by Vini (50kg), Yakshika (52kg), and Vidhi, won the gold medals.
- The Indian team has won 39 medals in total, 21 in junior and 18 in youth category, at the continental event, which includes both men's and women's age groups.
- India had won 39 medals, including 14 gold, at the 2021 edition of the competition held in Dubai.
- 352 boxers from 21 nations including India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the competition.

AWARDS

President Ram Nath Kovind Presents 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for 2020 and 2021 to 29 Women

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for the year 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2022.
- Overall 29 women were conferred the award for the years 2020 and 2021 in recognition of their outstanding and exceptional work towards empowerment of women, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.
- There were total 28 awards which included 14 awards each for the Year 2020 and 2021.
- The award ceremony for the year 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

American Mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan wins 2022 Abel Prize

- The Abel prize for the year 2022 has been awarded to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan.

- Mr Dennis has been awarded “For his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.”
- Abel Prize is awarded by ‘The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters’ for ‘Outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics’.
- The Abel Prize was founded by the Norwegian Parliament (The Storting) in 2002, to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Niels Henrik Abel, the greatest mathematician of Norway.

Neeraj Chopra and Mirabai Chanu wins ‘Sportstar of the Year’ award at 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been awarded the ‘Sportstar of the Year (Male)’ award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards.
- In female category, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu received the ‘Sportstar of the Year’ award.
- The Sportstar Aces Awards celebrate the spirit of excellence in sport. The awards were presented by Byju’s Classes, with IDFC First Bank as the Associate Partner.
- Some winners of 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards:
 - ✓ Sportstar of the Year (Male) – Neeraj Chopra
 - ✓ Sportstar of the Year (Female) – Mirabai Chanu
 - ✓ Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports)- Lovlina Borgohain
 - ✓ Parathlete of the Year (Female) – Avani Lekhara
 - ✓ Special Recognition award – Pramod Bhagat
 - ✓ Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports-Female) – Savita
 - ✓ Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports-Male) – Rupinder Pal Singh

Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards title for 8th time

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has defeated Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022.
- It was held in Doha, Qatar.
- Overall this is Advani’s 24th international title and 8th Asian crown.

Poland’s Karolina Bielawska crowned 2021 Miss World

- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021. She was crowned by 2019 Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.
- The 70th edition of the Miss World international beauty pageant was held on March 16, 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico..
- First Runner-up – Indian-American Shree Saini from the United States
- Second Runner-up – Olivia Yace from Cote d’Ivoire
- India’s representative- India was represented by Manasa Varanasi, the winner of Femina Miss India 2020.

Rizwana Hasan honoured with US International Women of Courage Award for 2022

- Rizwana Hasan is an environmental lawyer in Bangladesh.
- She is one of 12 women who will be honoured by US Department of State for her exceptional courage and leadership.
- She will be awarded by US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken on 14 March in a virtual ceremony.
- Rizwana Hasan is the Chief Executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.
- She has fought many cases against deforestation, pollution, unregulated ship breaking, and illegal land development.
- She had received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012 for her work in the courtroom against environmental degradation and climate change.

Chile’s Mario Marcel wins the Governor of the year award 2022

- Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022.
- Banco Central de Chile is the name of the central bank of Chile.

5th edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards has been organized by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform

- WTI Awards have been conferred to 75 women achievers to celebrate their contributions towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'.
- The awards have been given by Kiran Bedi, Lakshmi Puri, Arundhati Bhattacharya and many more women.
- NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and singer Kailash Kher were present at the event.
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform is an aggregator portal. It aims to catalyze the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women.
- Women Transforming India Awards:
- It is an annual initiative of NITI Aayog.
- It aims to highlight commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and change-makers.

Suresh Raina felicitated with 'Sports Icon' award at Maldives Sports Awards 2022

- Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has been awarded the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022 on March 17, 2022.
- The Maldives government felicitated Raina for his various achievements throughout his career.
- Raina was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids among others.

75 Women felicitated by NITI Aayog at fifth edition of Women Transforming India Awards

- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of the NITI Aayog organised the 5th edition of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) on 21 March 2022.
- As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards have been conferred to 75 women achievers for their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'.
- The Women Transforming India Awards has been presented since 2018 by NITI Aayog, under the aegis of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and change-makers, with a special focus on entrepreneurship.

M Veerappa Moily and H V Hande received Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award at the 12th edition of Sansad Ratna Awards

- At the 12th edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards, 11 MPs have been honoured in various categories.
- Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra presented the awards at the Maharashtra Sadan.
- N K Premachandran and Shrirang Appa Barne received the 'Sansad Vishisht Ratna' award for their outstanding performance.
- Bidyut Baran Mahato (Jharkhand), Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (Maharashtra), and Sudhir Gupta (Madhya Pradesh) got the Sansad Ratna Award for their remarkable performance.
- Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (Maharashtra) got the award in the 'sitting members' category.
- The awardees have been selected on the basis of their performance from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha till the end of the winter session.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal and T S Krishnamurthy chaired the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee.
- Sansad Ratna Awards was started on the suggestion of APJ Abdul Kalam.
- It is given to top-performing parliamentarians.
- It was first given by APJ Abdul Kalam in 2010.

Seema Rekha has been declared winner of 'Outstanding Leadership Award'

- She has been declared winner at Health 2.0 Conference in Dubai.
- She is Managing Director at Antarman Consulting, a management consultancy.

- Health 2.0 Conference is a forum for healthcare professionals and business leaders.
- This conference highlighted the latest developments in the domains of healthcare and wellness.

Professor Deepak Dhar has become first Indian to win Boltzmann Medal

- He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.
- The medal ceremony will take place during the StatPhys28 conference, which will take place in Tokyo in August 2022.
- Professor Dhar is a physicist. He is a professor at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.
- Boltzmann Medal is presented by Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics once in three years.
- Boltzmann Medal is given for contributions in the field of statistical physics.
- StatPhys is an international conference on statistical physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

RANKING AND 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.
- NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index.
- Clean energy initiatives, generation capacity, environmental sustainability and new initiatives, affordability and reliability of energy, and energy efficiency are the indicators of the State Energy and Climate Index.
- The index will assist states in managing their energy resources more efficiently.

India slipped three spots to 120th position on 17 Sustainable Development Goals

- India has been placed in the 120th position on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. India's last year's rank was 117th.
- India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score is 66 out of 100.
- India has performed poorly on zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities, etc. SDGs.
- According to the report, India also not performed well on quality education and life on land aspects.
- Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to achieve the SDGs by 2030.
- In the latest ranking, Kerala is on the first position while Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are on second positions.
- The third position is shared by Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh is on the first position, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry in the second place.
- In the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Finland is on the top position with a score of 85.90 while Sweden is on second spot with 85.61 points.
- Denmark and Germany are on the fourth and fifth position respectively.

India has third largest population of billionaires: Knight Frank

- According to Knight Frank's latest edition of the Wealth Report, the number of ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) has increased by 11 percent in India.

- At present, India has 145 billionaires and Mumbai has the highest number of 1596 UHNWIs followed by Hyderabad with 467 UHNWIs.
- Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs followed by Delhi.
- In the last five years, the number of UHNWIs has increased by 101.2% in Delhi followed by Mumbai (+42.6%) and Bengaluru (+22.7%).
- Equity markets and digital adoption are the key factors in the growth of UHNWIs in India.
- In the next five years, the global UHNWIs population will increase by 28%. The UHNWI population in India is expected to grow by 39%.
- At present, the United states has the highest number of UHNWIs while China is on the second spot.
- Around 69 % of the super-wealthy individuals in India wealth will increase by 10% in 2022.

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released World Happiness Report 2022

- In the 10th edition of the World Happiness Report, Finland has topped the list for the fifth time. It is followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.
- The World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas – happiness or life evaluation.
- In 2022, India has been ranked 136th among 146 countries. According to the UN World Happiness Report 2021, India was ranked 139th out of 149 countries.
- Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and Botswana respectively.
- Austria's rank has dropped out of the top 10 happiest countries in the world.
- The World Happiness Report ranks countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, etc.

India ranked 'partly free' for second consecutive year in Freedom of the World 2022 Report

- For the second consecutive year, India has been termed as 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society.
- According to the annual report titled "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by Freedom House, a US-based NGO that 'assesses political rights and civil liberties'.
- The report is published every year since 1973 to assess political rights and civil liberties of a country through a series of surveys and analyses.
- India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022.
- The country had scored 67 in 2021. India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.
- In 2022, 85 countries were termed as free, 56 as partly free and 69 as not free.

New Delhi is world's most polluted capital city : IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report

- New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report.
- New Delhi is followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman) as top five most polluted capital cities respectively..
- The 2021 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation IQAir is the first major global air quality report based on updated annual WHO air quality guidelines for PM2.5.

Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in India and Asia: 2022 Hurun Global Rich List

- Hurun India has released the 2022's Global Rich List in association with realty firm M3M.
- According to this report, Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in Asia and India. His wealth has increased by 24 percent.
- Ambani is the only Indian to find a place in the Top 10 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List. He has also got the 'Richest Telecom Entrepreneur' title.
- Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is on 12th position. He got the 'Richest Energy Entrepreneur' title.
- Shiv Nadar has got the 46th position in the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List. He is the third richest software and services billionaire in the world.

- Serum Institute of India founder Cyrus S Poonawalla has got the 'Richest Healthcare Billionaire' title in the world. His wealth has increased by 41 percent as compared to the previous year.
- According to the Hurun India report, a total of 153 new billionaires have been added to the list this year.

India climbed up five spots in global home price index

- India has got 51st position in the global home price index Q4 2021.
- It was on the 56th position in Q4 2020.
- Property consultant Knight Frank has released a report titled 'Global House Price Index - Q4 2021'.
- In Q4 2021, housing prices in Turkey witnessed a growth of 59.6 percent, followed by New Zealand (22.6 percent), the Czech Republic (22.1 percent).
- Malaysia, Malta, and Morocco markets recorded a decline in prices by 0.7%, 3.1%, and 6.3% respectively, in 2021.
- Global House Price Index tracks the movement of residential prices in 56 countries. It tracks nominal and real price growth in local currencies.
- According to the report, housing prices in India have grown by 2.1%. Mumbai witnessed a growth of 1.4% in housing prices.

NITI Aayog released 2nd edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021

- NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 in association with the Institute of Competitiveness
- The index was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr Rajiv Kumar, in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- Gujarat has topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021. Maharashtra and Karnataka are on the second and third position respectively.
- Tamil Nadu and Haryana are on the fourth and fifth position. Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the top performers among UTs.
- This edition has shown that most of the 'Coastal States' are the best performers.
- Export Preparedness Index is based on four pillars- Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance and 11 sub pillars.

India has been kept on 93rd rank in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) of V-Dem Institute

- V-Dem Institute of Sweden has released its latest report titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature'.
- Sweden topped the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) while Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand are among the top five.
- India has slipped to the 100th position in the Electoral Democracy Index and has got 102nd rank in the Deliberative Component Index.
- In this report, countries are categorized into four regimes based on their score in V-Dem's liberal democracy index (LDI).
- According to this report, a new wave of democratisation is being seen in 15 countries while autocratisation was found in 32 countries.
- As per this report, India has been classified as 'Electoral Autocracy'. India's level of liberal democracy has been registered at 0.34 in 2020.
- Globally the level of democracy has reduced to the 1989 levels. Autocratisation has "worsened" in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Philippines.
- At present, the world has 89 democracies and 90 autocracies countries

According to UNEP Report Dhaka is world's most noise polluted city while Moradabad in India is second noisiest

- According to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has been ranked as the most noise polluted city globally.
- As per the report, the city recorded a noise pollution of 119 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021.

- Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad came second in the list with a noise pollution of 114 decibels.
- Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is third, with maximum noise pollution of 105 dB.
- A total of 61 cities from around the world have been ranked in the report, out of which 13 cities are from South Asia, while 5 among them are from India. The other four most noise polluted cities in India in the list are Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi (83 dB).

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book on Prime Minister's 20 years journey in politics 'Modi@20:' to hit stands in April 2022

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced to release a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery.
- The book captures political life of PM Modi's past 20 years, ranging from his tenure as Gujarat CM to Prime Minister of India.
- The book is a compilation of pieces written by intellectuals & experts and has been edited & compiled by BlueKraft Digital Foundation.
- It is set to hit stands in April 2022.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has published 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022'

- As per the report, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is second-most noise polluted city globally.
- In 2021, noise pollution of 114 decibels was recorded in Moradabad.
- Dhaka is the most noise polluted city globally. It recorded noise pollution of 119 decibels (dB).
- Islamabad is the third most noise polluted city globally.
- Thirteen cities in the list are from South Asia. Out of these 13 cities, five are from India.
- The names of the other four Indian cities are Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi (83 dB).
- Irbid (60 dB) of Jordan, Lyon (69 dB) of France, Madrid (69 dB) of Spain, Stockholm (70 dB) of Sweden, and Belgrade (70 dB) of Serbia are the quietest cities in the world.
- In its 1999 guidelines, WHO had recommended sound frequency of 55 dB as standard for residential areas and 70dB as standard for traffic and business sectors.
- UNEP Annual Frontier Report, 2022 is titled 'Noise, Blazes, and Mismatches'.

Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav launches Book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development'

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav released a book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development'.
- The book has been published by the V V Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, under the Ministry of Labour of Government of India.
- The Book contains 12 articles written by eminent academicians and practitioners on the contribution of labour in India's development journey.

Abhinav Chandrachud pens biography of Attorney General of India 'Soli Sorabjee'

- The biography of the former Attorney General of India, Soli Sorabjee, titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times", is all set to hit stands in April 2022.
- The book has been written by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud. It will be published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- Sorabjee's biography reveals his personal details of life, his family background, his journey in becoming a practitioner of law among other things.
- He had served as the Attorney-General for India from 1989 to 1990, and again from 1998 to 2004.

Ratnakar Shetty launches his autobiography 'On Board: My Years in BCCI'

- BCCI's first and one of the longest serving Chief Administrative Officer, Ratnakar Shetty, has come out with his autobiography titled 'On Board: My Years in BCCI'.
- The book was released recently by Sharad Pawar, the former president of the MCA, BCCI and International Cricket Council.
- In his book, Shetty uses his administrative experience to offer the reader an opportunity to walk through the corridors of BCCI and enter its meeting rooms, where many issues were discussed and momentous decisions taken.

"Shri Dharmajivan Gatha" volumes of a book on the life of Gurudev Shri Shashtriji Maharaj has been released

- Swami Shri Madhavpriya Dasji has written these volumes of the book on the life of Gurudev Shri Shashtriji Maharaj.
- Gurudev Shri Shashtriji Maharaj had re-established the ancient Gurukul education system.
- His disciple Swami Shri Madhavpriya Dasji has written about his good work in this book.
- The book has been released in "Bhav Vandana Parva" function organized by Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam in Ahmedabad.
- Shastriji Maharaj established branches of Swaminarayan Gurukul in Rajkot, Junagadh, and Ahmedabad. He was the founder of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan.

Cricketing legend G.R. Vishwanath launches his autobiography titled 'Wrist Assured'

- The autobiography of former Indian cricketer Gundappa Ranganatha Viswanath, titled 'Wrist Assured: An Autobiography' was released on March 17, 2022
- The book has been co-authored by senior journalist and cricket writer R. Kaushik.
- Rupa Publications India is the publisher of the book.

Book titled "Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story" authored by Richa Mishra to be out soon

- Book titled "Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story" authored by Richa Mishra will be released on March 28, 2022.
- Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine.
- The book highlights the key role played by Keshav Dev Malaviya, who was the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology, and the emergence of other stakeholders from public sector enterprises, including ONGC, to the fiercely competitive private players like Cairn Energy, and Mukesh Ambani's RIL.

Indian Pop Queen Usha Uthup's biography released at Oxford Bookstore.

- Usha Uthup's book, The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorized Biography of Usha Uthup, was launched by Oxford Bookstore.
- Usha Uthup's biography gives a deep insight into her life and career.
- The book was originally written in Hindi by Vikas Kumar Jha titled 'Ullas Ki Naav'.
- The book is translated by the writer's daughter Srishti Jha.
- The Penguin Random House India has published the book.
- Oxford Bookstore, which was established in 1919, is one of the country's oldest heritage bookstores.

NITI Aayog and FAO released a book titled 'Indian Agriculture Towards 2030'

- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar unveiled the book titled "Indian Agriculture Towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security, and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems".
- NITI Aayog, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations had organized the launch event.
- The book is published by Springer.

- The book mentions the deliberation process of national dialogue by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the results of the facility provided by FAO since 2019.
- The following themes are covered in Indian Agriculture towards 2030:
 - ✓ Transforming Indian Agriculture
 - ✓ Structural Reforms and Governance
 - ✓ Dietary Diversity, Nutrition and Food Safety
 - ✓ Managing Climate Risks in Agriculture
 - ✓ Science, Technology and Innovation
 - ✓ Symbiosis of Water and Agricultural Transformation in India
 - ✓ Pests, Pandemics, Preparedness and Biosecurity
 - ✓ Transformative Agroecology-Based Alternatives for a Sustainable and Biodiverse Future

SCHEMES

Government launched "SAMARTH" initiative to promote women's entrepreneurship.

- Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane has launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women named "SAMARTH".
- SAMARTH has been launched on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022 in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of MSME, in collaboration with the National Small Industries Corporation and the India SME Forum, hosted an international conference titled "Empowering Women Entrepreneurs" to commemorate International Women's Day.

Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organizing "Jharokha" programme to promote Indian handicrafts and art and culture

- It will be organized at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs from 8th-14th March.
- The first event under this celebration was organized in Bhopal at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station on 8th March.
- All the stalls under this program will be set up by the women artisans.
- Cultural events including folk dance and singing performances by local teams and artists will be organized for eight days.
- It is being organized as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Government in association with UNICEF launched Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav campaign.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF has launched 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' campaign.
- It has been launched to re-engage girl students with formal education or skilling system, who had dropped out of school due to various reasons.
- The main objective of this campaign is to enhance the enrolment and retention of girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- It will be implemented with the help of existing schemes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), and National Education Policy (NEP).
- This campaign will be implemented under the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.

Ministry of Jal Shakti launches Sujlam 2.0 Campaign

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management on the occasion of World Water Day, 2022 (22 March 2022).

- It was launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The theme for this year for Sujalam 2.0 campaign is 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible'.
- Objective of Sujalam 2.0: to manage greywater through people's participation. Under the campaign, we plan to mobilize communities, our institutions like panchayats, schools, anganwadi to undertake greywater management.
- What is Grey Water: Greywater refers to domestic wastewater generated in households or office buildings from streams without fecal contamination, i.e., all streams except for the wastewater from toilets.

Government launched MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) and MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.

- MSME Innovation Scheme will promote creativity in the MSME sector. It will act as a hub for innovation activities.
- It will also promote the adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs and provide financial assistance of up to Rs 15 lakh per idea and 1 crore for the plant and machine.
- It will also help in providing expert advice and cost-effective solution of the design of the new product. Financial grant up to Rs 40 lakh will be given for the design product.
- It also aims to improve the IP culture in India and increase awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) amongst the MSMEs.
- This scheme will also help in taking suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovation and knowledge-driven business strategies for the commercialization of IPR through IP Facilitation Centre.
- The Government will also provide financial assistance up to Rs 5 lakh for Foreign patents and 1 Lakh for Domestic Patent.

Government launched Donate-a-Pension programme.

- It has been launched by Labour Ministry for the future of Unorganised sectors workers.
- It is an initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme.
- Under this scheme, citizens of India can donate the premium contribution of their support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, etc.
- Labour and Employment Ministry also organized an event "e-Shram" on achieving 25 crore registrations of unorganized workers.
- Minister for Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav presented eSHRAM awards to States/UTs/ CSC-VLEs.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a pension scheme for unorganized workers.
- The beneficiary of the scheme should be in the age group of 18-40 years.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Moody's lowers India's GDP forecast for CY22 to 9.1% amid Russia-Ukraine conflict

- Rating agency Moody's has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to 9.1 percent in the Calendar Year 2022 (CY2022), due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy..
- Earlier in February 2022, Moody's estimated India's GDP in CY2022 to 9.5 percent
- Moody's has projected India's GDP growth forecast for the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 at 5.4 percent.

India entered into world's top five club in terms of market capitalisation

- As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization.

- India is ranked 5th with an overall market capitalization of USD 3.21 trillion. The total world market cap stands at USD 109.22 trillion.
- The US topped the ranking with an overall market cap of USD 47.32 trillion, followed by China (USD 11.52 trillion), Japan (USD 6 trillion) and Hong Kong (USD 5.55 trillion).

NaBFID to be regulated as AIFI under RBI Act

- RBI has announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised by it as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934.
- NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Presently RBI has four AIFIs under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI.
- NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

Axis Bank bags IFR Asia 2021 Asian Bank of the Year Award

- India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank, has won the IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year 2021.
- The bank was awarded for its outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.
- Top three global IFR Asia Award for 2021
 - Bank of the year: Morgan Stanley
 - Asian Bank of The Year: Axis Bank
 - Issuer of the year: JSW Group

According to SIPRI Report India emerges as largest importer of arms in 2017-21

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021.
- As per the report, India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21. Both the two countries accounted for 11% of all global arms sales.
- The report placed India at the top of the list.
- Egypt (5.7%), Australia (5.4%) and China (4.8%) were the next three largest importers respectively in top 5.
- 85% of India's overall import were from three countries. Russia (46%), France (27%), and USA (12%) were the top three largest exporters of arms to India during the period.
- India was 23rd largest exporter during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports.

UNCTAD projects India's GDP growth forecast in 2022 to 4.6%

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has pegged India's economic growth rate for 2022 to 4.6 percent due to the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Earlier this rate was projected at 6.7%.
- The UNCTAD has further projected the global economic growth for the year 2022 at 2.6 percent.
- Earlier this rate was projected at 3.6 percent.

Fitch Ratings reduce India's FY23 growth forecast to 8.5%

- Fitch Ratings has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent in its Global economic Outlook-March 2022.
- Earlier this rate was estimated at 10.3%.
- The downwards projection is due to sharply higher energy prices because of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

- The Rating agency Fitch has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022, by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7 percent.

NSO projects GDP growth for India in 2021-22 at 8.9%

- National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the second advance estimates of national accounts. The GDP growth rate projection as per NSO for 2021-22 (FY22) and 2020-21 (FY21) is given below:
 - ✓ For 2021-22 (FY22)= 8.9% (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates)
 - ✓ For 2020-21 (FY21)= -6.6% (earlier it was -7.3%)
- According to NSO data, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector growth remained almost flat at 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22, compared to a growth of 8.4 per cent a year ago.

Morgan Stanley projects India's GDP for FY23 at 7.9%

- Rating Agency Morgan Stanley has projected India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.9%.
- This is 50 bps less than its earlier projection due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on oil prices.
- Furthermore, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation estimate to 6%, meanwhile, current account deficits are seen to widen by 3% of GDP.
- India is affected through three key channels — higher prices for oil and other commodities; trade, and tighter financial conditions, influencing business/investment sentiment.

DEFENCE

President presented "President's Colour" to INS Valsura

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented President's Colour to INS Valsura.
- The 'Nishan Adhikari' Lt Arun Singh Sambyal received the honour on the behalf of the unit.
- The President's Colour is the highest award given to a military unit for its exceptional service rendered to the Nation in peace and during the war.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad presented the first "President's Colour" to the Indian Navy on 27 May 1951.
- INS Valsura unit was commissioned on 15th December 1942 as a torpedo training school.
- It has now become a premier technical training institution.
- It helped India in strengthening bilateral ties with countries in the Indian Ocean region.

Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar has assumed charge as Commandant of Air Force Academy

- Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar has been named Commandant of the Indian Air Force Academy
- He hails from Telangana state. He holds distinction of landing the first MLH (Medium Lift) class of helicopter in the Siachen Glacier.
- He is also a Qualified Flying Instructor. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on 21 Dec 1984.
- Indian Air Force Academy, Dundigal is located in Medchal-Malkangiri district of Telangana. It was set up in 1969.

9th India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' to begin from March 22

- The 9th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will be held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles.

- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- Exercise LAMITIYE is a biennial training event, being conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- The objective of this joint training exercise is to build and promote bilateral military relations, sharing experiences gained during various operations; exchanging skills and good practices between both the armies.

EX-DUSTLIK between Indian and Uzbekistan armies to be held at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan

- The 3rd edition of the joint training exercise named EX-DUSTLIK between the Indian army and Uzbekistan army is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022.
- The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.

Malaysia to host 4 nations for Bersama Shield 2022 military exercise

- Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise. Bersama means together in Malay.
- The exercise will involve sea and air drills, mostly in international waters but also in part of Malaysia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.
- The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA).

DRDO successfully test-fire Indian Army "MRSAM" Missile

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) against high-speed aerial targets at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The first test launch was to intercept a medium-altitude long-range target and the second launch was for a low altitude short-range target.
- The Indian Army version of MRSAM is a Surface-to-Air Missile. It has been developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel.

US and Philippines begin their biggest military exercise in the last seven years.

- Armies of the United States and the Philippines are conducting "Balikatan" (shoulder-to-shoulder) military exercise in the South China Sea.
- Around 9000 Filipino and American soldiers will take part in this 12-day military exercise.
- It is the largest military exercise between both countries since 2015.
- Maritime security, amphibious operation, live-fire training, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance are part of this exercise.
- The exercise has been designed to improve defensive capabilities and readiness to respond.
- This exercise will help in strengthening defense ties and reflect the "deepening alliance" between the two countries.

19th Military Cooperation meet of India & US held in Agra 2022

- The 19th edition of the India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- The discussion was co-chaired by Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), and Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka, Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, represented the US side.
- The conference took place when Russia was engaged in a significant military operation in Ukraine.

9th India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX begins

- The 9th edition of India – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise named SLINEX (Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise) is held at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and improve mutual understanding between the navies of the two neighbouring countries in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA discovered 65 new planets outside our solar system

- With the discovery of 65 new planets, NASA has confirmed that more than 5,000 exoplanets exist beyond our solar system.
- Some planets might have the presence of water, microbes, gases on the surface, or even life.
- Many of these exoplanets have composition and characteristics like planets of our solar system.
- The discovery of exoplanets had begun in 1992. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is likely to be launched in 2027 to discover new exoplanets.
- The European Space Agency will launch the ARIEL mission in 2029 to observe the exoplanet's atmosphere.

Iran successfully launched Noor-2 satellite

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2.
- Noor-2 will orbit around the earth at an altitude of 500 kilometers.
- The three-stage Qased, or "Messenger" launcher has placed the Noor-2 satellite in the orbit.
- The first military satellite, Noor-1, was launched by Iran in April 2020. It was placed at an orbit of 425 km above the earth's surface.
- Iran has the biggest missile programs in the Middle East.
- The United States had imposed sanctions on Iran's civilian space agency and two research organizations in 2019.

NASA launched next generation weather satellite to monitor environment and climate

- The satellite named Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T) has been launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- It is third in a series of next-generation weather satellites.
- It was launched from United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.
- It will help National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in forecasting "hazardous weather conditions" like hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, and fires in the western hemisphere.
- It will also forecast space weather near earth that can interfere with satellite electronics, GPS, and radio communications.
- GOES-T has been kept in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above earth.

ISRO organized Young Scientist Programme "YUVIKA" for students

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organizing a special programme for school children called "YUva Vigyani Karyakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme".
- Aimed at creating awareness about emerging trends in science and technology, this programme is expected to encourage more students to pursue research and a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCES

PM Modi to virtually attend 5th BIMSTEC Summit

- Sri Lanka is hosting the summit meeting. Sri Lanka holds current chairmanship of BIMSTEC.
- The summit meeting is being held in virtual mode. The meetings of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers were held on 29 March 2022.
- 4th BIMSTEC Summit was held in August 2018. It was hosted by Nepal. 1st BIMSTEC Summit was held in 2004.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation):
- It is an international organization of seven countries for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation.
- It was founded on 6 June 1997 and is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Its members are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

5th UN Environment Assembly concluded in Nairobi

- The Fifth UN Environment Assembly ended with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The overall theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- Three resolutions were related to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, resource efficiency, consumption, and production patterns.
- Member countries also signed a resolution on animal welfare for protecting animals, and their habitats.
- The Assembly also adopted a resolution to accelerate actions to significantly reduce nitrogen waste from all sources.
- Member nations agreed to create an intergovernmental committee to negotiate and finalize a legally binding plastics treaty by 2024.
- It will help in reducing plastic pollution in marine and other environments

Ministry of MSME is organizing the ‘Mega International Summit on MSMEs’ in New Delhi

- Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Tatu Rane has inaugurated the ‘Mega International Summit on MSMEs’.
- This two-day summit is being organized on 29-30 March 2022 at India International Centre, New Delhi.
- Entrepreneurs, academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, startups, etc. are attending the summit.
- MSMEs and self-help groups from India and across the world are participating in this summit.
- At the Summit, experts will discuss the challenges and opportunities in the MSME sector after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They will also discuss the role of incubators/accelerators in MSMEs’ growth, technology and innovation, and the digital transformation of MSMEs.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organized a conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management’

- On 3 March 2022, this conclave has been organized in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 in Raipur.
- It provided a platform to States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for learning various centralized and decentralized waste management practices.
- The “National Capacity Building Framework for Garbage Free Cities” was also released during the conclave.
- The main attraction of this conclave was various women-led waste management initiatives.
- The theme song ‘Swachhata Jaari Hai’ was also released during the conclave.

- Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 was launched for creating “Garbage Free Cities”. It is being implemented under the principle of “waste from wealth”, and “circular economy” for maximizing resource recovery.

MISCELLANEOUS

Aarushie Verma will represent India at 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition

- The 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition will be organized in March 2022.
- This expedition will raise awareness about the preservation of Antarctica. They will also promote recycling, renewable energy, and sustainability solutions for combating against climate change.
- 2041 Climate Force is a global initiative to train and develop the next generation of sustainability champions.
- Scientists, leaders and practitioners from different corners of the world will participate in this expedition.
- This expedition will reach to south pole by travelling 12 days by ship. This expedition also includes a ‘Leadership on the edge’ program.
- The main objective of this mission is to promote the use of renewable energy around the world.

Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated ten-day ‘Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata’ at Red Fort

- This ten-day festival will be organized from 25th March to 3rd April 2022.
- “Matrubhumi” –Projection Mapping Show, Cultural Parade, Khao Galli, Live performances at Rang Manch, will be part of this festival.
- Bharat Bhagya Vidhata festival is being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Ministry of Culture.
- It is being organized to highlight the heritage and culture of every part of the country.
- The Ministry of Culture along with Red Fort’s “Monument Mitra”, Dalmia Bharat Ltd have conceptualized this mega event.
- Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata aims to promote heritage conservation and tourism.

India’s ‘Writing with Fire’ got nominated in Best Documentary feature category at Oscars

- ‘Writing With Fire’ has been selected in the last five for the best documentary feature category at the Oscars.
- It is based on a story of Khabar Lahariya, the only news agency in India run by Dalit (oppressed-caste) women.
- ‘Writing With Fire’ had won Audience and Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival last year.
- It is produced by Ticket Films and directed by filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh.
- ‘Khabar Lahariya’ is a newspaper founded in May 2002 in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following State Assembly in the country is the first to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless?
A) Nagaland
B) Manipur
C) Mizoram
D) Meghalaya
2. Sujalam 2.0 campaign has been launched by which ministry?
A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
B) Ministry of Earth Sciences
C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
D) Ministry of Jal Shakti
3. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) replacing Ajay Tyagi?
A) K V R Murty
B) Madhabi Puri Buch
C) Anand Mohan Bajaj
D) G Mahalingam
4. Who has been roped in as the new President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for four years from 2022-2026?
A) Jyotiraditya Scindia
B) Kiren Rijiju
C) Himanta Biswa
D) Tarun Gogoi
5. Mr Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for second term on March 25, 2022. What is the constituency of CM Yogi?
A) Gorakhpur
B) Varanasi
C) Agra
D) Prayagraj
6. PM Modi virtually attended the 5th BIMSTEC Summit. Which country was the chair of BIMSTEC in this Summit?
A) Malaysia
B) Thailand
C) Sri Lanka
D) Nepal
7. Who has been elected as the new President of South Korea to replace incumbent President Moon Jae-in?
A) Hong Joon-pyo
B) Yoon Suk-yeol
C) Lee Jae-myung
D) Kim Kun-hee
8. In which year was the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) launched?
A) 2010
B) 2012

- C) 2006
D) 2008
9. The 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated on 7 March 2022. What is the theme of 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas?
A) Jan Aushadhi- Jan Kalyan
B) Jan Kalyan- Jan Samman
C) Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi
D) Jan Aushadhi- Jan Samman
10. Name the Indian shooter who recently won gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event at 2022 ISSF World Cup in Cairo?
A) Saurabh Chaudhary
B) Divyansh Singh Panwar
C) Ronjan Sodhi
D) Jitu Rai
11. Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Chardham project by the Supreme Court?
A) Justice Indu Malhotra
B) Justice AK Sikri
C) Justice DY Chandrachud
D) Justice Surya Kant
12. When is Zero Discrimination Day observed every year?
A) March 01
B) February 28
C) March 02
D) February 27
13. Which country will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games?
A) Cambodia
B) Thailand
C) Malaysia
D) Vietnam
14. Where will India's first e-waste eco-park come up?
A) Mumbai
B) Delhi
C) Kolkata
D) Indore
15. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?
A) Jairam Thakur
B) Ashok Gehlot
C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
D) Pushkar Singh Dhami
16. When will Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrate the International Women's Day week in 2022?
A) 8 to 16 March
B) 2 to 8 March
C) 8 to 15 March
D) 1 to 8 March

17. Ministry of Women and Child Development will launch the 'Back to School' Campaign in partnership with which organization?
 - A) NITI Aayog
 - B) UNICEF
 - C) WHO
 - D) World Bank
18. What is the theme of 2022 World Wildlife Day ?
 - A) Life below water: for people and planet
 - B) Forests and Livelihoods: sustaining people and planet
 - C) Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
 - D) Sustaining all life on earth
19. Nikhat Zareen and Nitu were in news for winning gold medal for India in which event?
 - A) Shooting
 - B) Boxing
 - C) Weightlifting
 - D) Hockey
20. The WHO has declared March 03 as World Hearing Day. What is the theme of World Hearing Day in 2022?
 - A) Hearing Care for All
 - B) To hear for life, listen with care
 - C) Hearing for Life. Don't let hearing loss limit you
 - D) Check your hearing
21. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 will be organised in which place by the Indian Air Force (IAF)?
 - A) Jaisalmer
 - B) Pithoragarh
 - C) Nainital
 - D) Agra
22. From India, Prof. Deepak Dhar has been declared as the winner of Boltzmann Medal for the year 2022, becoming the first Indian to receive the honor. He is a visiting professor at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). Where is IISER located?
 - A) New Delhi
 - B) Hyderabad
 - C) Pune
 - D) Kolkata
23. What is the rank of India in the 'Wealth Report 2022' by Knight Frank, which ranks countries in terms of most number of billionaires' population?
 - A) second
 - B) fourth
 - C) third
 - D) sixth
24. Which organisation will release the National Gender Index in India?
 - A) National Statistical Office
 - B) NITI Aayog
 - C) UNESCO India
 - D) IFCI
25. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 will be organised in which place by the Indian Air Force (IAF)?
 - A) Jaisalmer
 - B) Pithoragarh

- C) Nainital
D) Agra
26. What is the rank of India in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 list?
A) 117
B) 120
C) 115
D) 126
27. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-T is a next-generation weather satellite launched by which space agency to forecast hazardous environmental conditions.
A) Roscosmos
B) ISRO
C) China space agency (CNSA)
D) NASA
28. Which country has topped the Knight Frank's The Wealth Report 2022 list for most number of billionaires' population globally?
A) United States
B) China
C) Russia
D) Australia
29. SAMARTH is a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women launched by which ministry?
A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
D) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
30. 'Donate-a-Pension' campaign has been launched under central sector scheme by the government recently?
A) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)
B) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
C) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
D) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
31. The National Safety Day is observed on which day of the year?
A) First Thursday of March
B) March 03
C) March 04
D) First Wednesday of March
32. Finland has topped the Sustainable Development Index 2021. Which of these countries is not among the top 5 nations in the list?
A) Norway
B) Sweden
C) Denmark
D) Germany
33. Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh and Ruchita Vinerkar recently represented India in which sports to win gold medal?
A) Boxing
B) Shooting
C) Hockey
D) Weightlifting

34. Government of India is setting up museum of all former Prime Ministers to showcase their life, times and contribution. How many Prime Ministers have been there in India till date?
 - A) 12
 - B) 16
 - C) 14
 - D) 11
35. How many National Water Awards for the year 2022 have been presented by President Ramnath Kovind?
 - A) 44
 - B) 57
 - C) 51
 - D) 35
36. National Security Day is observed on March 04 annually to commemorate the foundation of National Security Council (NSC) of India. In which year was NSC established?
 - A) 1980
 - B) 1950
 - C) 1972
 - D) 1966
37. In the year 2022, which edition of National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports?
 - A) Second
 - B) Third
 - C) Sixth
 - D) Fifth
38. What is the theme of National Safety Day (NSD) 2022?
 - A) Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture
 - B) Road safety
 - C) Enhance Safety and Health Performance by Use of Advanced Technologies
 - D) Cultivate and Sustain a safety culture for building nation
39. The DefExpo 2022 has been postponed till further orders. The event was scheduled to take place in which city?
 - A) Ranchi
 - B) Bengaluru
 - C) Lucknow
 - D) Gandhinagar
40. The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is being held in which country?
 - A) India
 - B) Bangladesh
 - C) New Zealand
 - D) Australia
41. On Board: My Years in BCCI is an autobiography of which person?
 - A) Diana Edulji
 - B) Ratnakar Shetty
 - C) Vinod Rai
 - D) Anjum Chopra

42. The OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition was held in which city?
 - A) Chennai
 - B) Kochi
 - C) Mumbai
 - D) Kolkata
43. Who is the author of the biography 'The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup'?
 - A) Arjit Taneja
 - B) Manit Joura
 - C) Kanchi Kaul
 - D) Srishti Jha
44. 'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal' is written by which author?
 - A) Shekhar Gupta
 - B) Amitava Kumar
 - C) Raja Mohan
 - D) Boria Majumdar
45. The India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX 2022 will be held in which place?
 - A) Kolkata
 - B) Kochi
 - C) Chennai
 - D) Visakhapatnam
46. Which day is celebrated as the International Women's Day (IWD) annually?
 - A) First Sunday of March
 - B) 07 March
 - C) 08 March
 - D) First Saturday of March
47. What is the theme of the 2022 International Women's Day?
 - A) Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
 - B) An equal world is an enabled world
 - C) Think equal, build smart, innovate for change
 - D) Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives
48. In India, the Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed on March 07 every year to raise awareness about the usages of generic medicines. The year 2022 marks which year of the annual celebration?
 - A) 5th
 - B) 8th
 - C) 6th
 - D) 4th
49. Balikatan 2022 is a military drill of the US army with which country?
 - A) Japan
 - B) Philippines
 - C) France
 - D) South Korea
50. How many women were felicitated with the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for the year 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2022?
 - A) 29
 - B) 31
 - C) 24
 - D) 18

51. The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) concluded with how many resolutions?
 - A) 17
 - B) 9
 - C) 11
 - D) 14
52. Noor-2 is a military satellite launched by which country recently?
 - A) Israel
 - B) Iran
 - C) Singapore
 - D) Mali
53. Russia has overtaken which country to become the most sanctioned country in the world?
 - A) Syria
 - B) Afghanistan
 - C) Pakistan
 - D) Iran
54. Who has been elected as the new President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to succeed incumbent Dr. Marcus Pleyer of Germany?
 - A) Santiago Otamendi
 - B) T. Raja Kumar
 - C) Vincent Schmoll
 - D) Juan Manuel Vega-Serrano
55. Who has been declared as the 23rd and latest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India?
 - A) Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi
 - B) Padmini Rout
 - C) Priyanka Nutakki
 - D) Mary Ann Gomes
56. Who has been named as the new Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to replace Justice Shiva Kirti Singh?
 - A) Justice DN Patel
 - B) Justice S. Muralidhar
 - C) Justice Sanjay Karol
 - D) Justice Dipankar Datta
57. India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built at which pilgrim site?
 - A) Kushinagar
 - B) Bodh Gaya
 - C) Nalanda
 - D) Sarnath
58. World Kidney Day is observed every year on which day?
 - A) First Wednesday of March
 - B) Second Friday of March
 - C) First Friday of March
 - D) Second Thursday of March
59. Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme has been launched by which state to promote women entrepreneurship in the state?
 - A) Uttarakhand
 - B) Punjab

- C) West Bengal
D) Haryana
60. Name the winner of the Abel prize for the year 2022?
A) Dennis Parnell Sullivan
B) Avi Wigderson
C) Laszlo Lovasz
D) Grigory Margulis
61. Name the secretary general of NATO whose tenure has been extended for one year till 2023?
A) Olaf Scholz
B) Antony Blinken
C) Jens Stoltenberg
D) Volodymyr Zelenskyy
62. Which of these is not a part of All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under RBI?
A) EXIM
B) SIDBI
C) NABARD
D) SEBI
63. What is the theme of 2022 World Kidney Day?
A) Kidney Health for All: Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care
B) Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere
C) Living Well with Kidney Disease
D) Kidney health for everyone everywhere from prevention to detection and equitable access to care
64. How many airports have been awarded as among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region', by the Airports Council International (ACI), in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021?
A) 2
B) 4
C) 5
D) 6
65. The UN recognised International Day of Women Judges was held for the first time on which day in 2022?
A) March 10
B) March 11
C) March 09
D) March 12
66. Which state has announced creation of a new award named Sushma Swaraj Award to honour women for their contribution in different walks of life?
A) Delhi
B) Gujarat
C) Haryana
D) Maharashtra
67. March 23 is observed as the Martyrs Day to commemorate the death anniversary of which Indian freedom fighters?
A) Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru
B) Mahatma Gandhi
C) Lala Lajpat Rai
D) Tegh Bahadur

68. Which player has won the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022?
- Aditya Mehta
 - Sourav Kothari
 - Pankaj Advani
 - Dhruv Sitwala
69. Who has been elected as the new Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to replace incumbent Guy Ryder?
- Gilbert Houngbo
 - Muriel Pénicaud
 - Kanayo Nwanze
 - Kang Kyung-wha
70. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya', on the life of noted social worker, late Shri Somepalli Somaiah. He was from which state?
- Tamil Nadu
 - Odisha
 - West Bengal
 - Andhra Pradesh
71. Name the winner of the Stockholm Water Prize for 2022?
- George Pinder
 - Ignacio Rodriguez
 - Andrea Rinaldo
 - Wilfried Brutsaert
72. The World Theatre Day is observed globally on which of these days?
- 28 March
 - 26 March
 - 27 March
 - 25 March
73. PV Sindhu beat which player to lift women's singles title at the 2022 Swiss Open Badminton Tournament?
- Pornpawee Chochuwong
 - Busanan Ongbamrungphan
 - Yeo Jia Min
 - Ratchanok Intanon
74. Which team has won the 3rd edition of SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship?
- India
 - Malaysia
 - Bangladesh
 - South Korea
75. Which airport in India has been awarded with the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022?
- Surat International Airport
 - Cochin International Airport
 - Chennai International Airport
 - Goa International Airport
76. Which player has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix?
- Max Verstappen
 - Lewis Hamilton
 - Charles Leclerc
 - Carlos Sainz Jr.

77. Pramod Sawant has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Goa for second term after winning 20 seats in the 2022 state Assembly elections. What was the total number of seats in 2022 Goa Assembly Election?
- 60
 - 30
 - 50
 - 40
78. The Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) has been developed by DRDO in partnership with which country?
- Israel
 - Russia
 - France
 - United States
79. Which film has won the Best Picture award at the 94th Academy Awards?
- Belfast
 - CODA
 - The Power of the Dog
 - King Richard
80. What is the projected GDP growth rate of India in the fiscal 2022-23 as per Fitch Ratings?
- 8.9%
 - 8.7%
 - 8.5%
 - 8.3%
81. What is the name of the joint military training exercise between the Indian army and Uzbekistan which kicked off in March 2022 at Yangiariq?
- Ex-Shared Destiny
 - Ex-Dustlik
 - Ex-Khanjar
 - Ex-Sea Breeze
82. What is the rank of India in Global House Price Index Q4 2021 as per Knight Frank?
- 51
 - 49
 - 56
 - 45
83. Which city has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city in IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report?
- Dushanbe
 - Muscat
 - Dhaka
 - New Delhi

ANSWER- KEY

1	A	21	A	41	B	61	C	81	B
2	D	22	C	42	A	62	D	82	A
3	B	23	C	43	D	63	A	83	D
4	C	24	B	44	B	64	D		
5	A	25	A	45	D	65	A		
6	C	26	B	46	C	66	C		
7	B	27	D	47	A	67	A		
8	D	28	A	48	D	68	C		
9	C	29	C	49	B	69	A		
10	A	30	A	50	A	70	D		
11	B	31	C	51	D	71	D		
12	A	32	A	52	B	72	C		
13	D	33	B	53	D	73	B		
14	B	34	C	54	B	74	A		
15	D	35	B	55	C	75	B		
16	D	36	D	56	A	76	A		
17	B	37	B	57	B	77	D		
18	C	38	A	58	D	78	A		
19	B	39	D	59	D	79	B		
20	B	40	C	60	A	80	C		

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