



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 1-15, 2022

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TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Foot Prints
(Compilation of Current Events)

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

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Ungalil Oruvan**

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

➤ **Naan Muthalvan**

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

➤ **Vazhndhu Kattuvom**

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

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

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

➤ **Chennai Mayor**

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

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

➤ **Nari Shakti Puraskar**

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

➤ **T.N.-Industrial Growth**

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

➤ **Various Awards in Recognition of Services**

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

➤ **CM's Fellowship Programme**

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

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

- ✓ The Central government introducing regressive ideas in the syllabus (of universities) is a worrisome development, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Friday. The best solution to this issue was to place education in the State List of the Constitution.
- ✓ He was speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Association of Indian Universities-South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet held at Bharathiar University here.

➤ **'Sagar Parikrama' Program**

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

➤ **Tamilnadu Petroproducts**

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

STATES

➤ **Per Capita Net State 2022**

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

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

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

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

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

➤ **Indrayani Medicity**

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

NATIONAL

➤ **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)**

- ✓ Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh - launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) virtually on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.
- ✓ It would undertake activities related to international monsoon research that would be identified under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.

➤ **Arogya Vanam**

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind in New Delhi on March 1, 2022. The objective of this Arogya Vanam is promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.

➤ **Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**

- ✓ The Centre - has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme 'Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates'.
- ✓ The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
- ✓ The scheme enables migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

➤ **Stree Manoraksha Project**

- ✓ The 'Stree Manoraksha Project' has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
- ✓ This was launched with the aim to improve women's mental health across India.

➤ **Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav**

- ✓ The government - launched a new nation-wide campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' on the eve of the International Women's Day.
- ✓ The campaign is being launched by the Ministry of women and child development (MoWCD) in partnership with the ministry of education (MoE) and Unicef India.
- ✓ It aims to bring out-of-school girls back into the formal education system through a convergence model between MoWCD and MoE.

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

- **Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act**
- ✓ On March 9, the government - approved an amendment to the second schedule of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act
- ✓ The amendment seeks to fix royalty rates of minerals such as potash, emerald and platinum group of metals.
- ✓ It would also ensure the auction of mineral blocks for glauconite, potash, emerald, platinum group of metals, andalusite, and molybdenum.
- ✓ The move would lead to a reduction in imports of these minerals.

- **MSME Innovative Scheme**
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - launched the MSME Innovative scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) and the MSME Idea Hackathon 2022.
- ✓ The new innovation scheme will be launched with the combination of existing sub-schemes around incubation, design, and intellectual property rights (IPR) for MSMEs. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatyra Rane, launched the scheme on March 10.

- **National Medical Devices Policy 2022**
- ✓ On March 12, the government - released the draft policy exclusively for the medical devices industry, which is currently regulated as medicines.
- ✓ The proposed National Medical Devices Policy 2022 aims to put in place a comprehensive set of measures for ensuring sustained growth and development of the MedTech Sector
- ✓ The medical devices sector in India is an essential and integral constituent of the Indian healthcare sector for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of all medical conditions, diseases, illnesses, and disabilities.

- **Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences**
- ✓ Union Minister for Space Jitendra Singh - inaugurated the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu on March 12.
- ✓ This is North India's first big space centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space training institute after the Thiruvananthapuram hub.

- **National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved recently the setting up of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetise surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other agencies linked to the Government.

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

➤ **Global Plastics Treaty**

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

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

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

➤ **World's Most Sanctioned Country**

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

➤ **New President of South Korea**

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

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



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEFENCE

➤ **India-US Military Cooperation**

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

➤ **Vayu Shakti**

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

➤ **SLINEX**

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

➤ **Dharma Guardian**

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

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

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

- **India Emerges as Largest Importer of Arms in 2017-21: SIPRI Report**
- ✓ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, reveals that India and Saudi Arabia had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21, each accounting for 11% of all global arms sales.



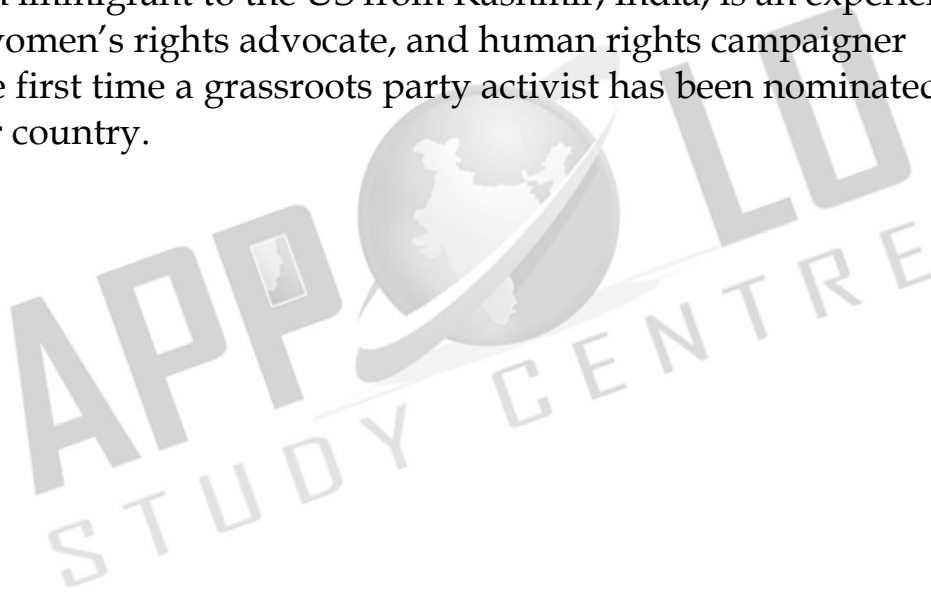
APPOINTMENT

➤ **Umamaheswaran R**

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

➤ **Shefali Razdan Duggal**

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



AWARDS

➤ **Professor Deepak Dhar**

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

➤ **Nari Shakti Puraskars**

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

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Nishant Batra**

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

BOOKS & AUTHORS

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

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

SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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

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

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

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

- **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC)**
 - ✓ As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program, Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC).
 - ✓ POWERGRID established the Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) to demonstrate advanced cutting-edge smart grid technologies.

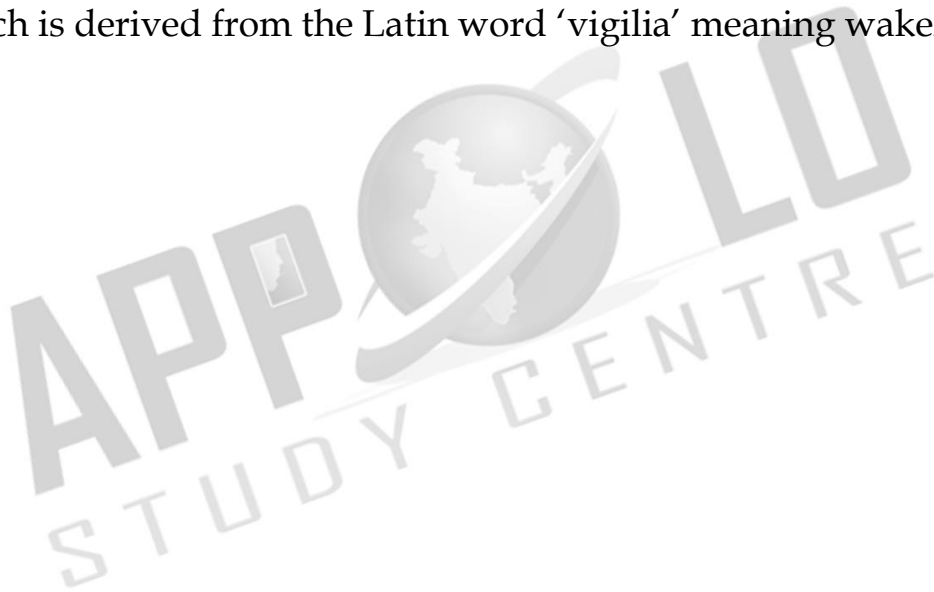
- **Electrocatalyst System**

- ✓ Indian scientists - have designed an electrocatalyst system for energy-efficient hydrogen production with the help of electrolysis of urea.
- ✓ The energy requirement for hydrogen production through water electrolysis can be reduced by 70% through urea electrolysis.
- ✓ Low-cost, earth-abundant Ni-based catalysts are widely applied for this process.

➤ **Vigil**

- ✓ The European Space Agency (ESA), introduced its new one-of-a-kind mission meant to protect the Earth from its nearest star.
- ✓ Named 'Vigil', the mission was launched in the mid-2020s with an aim to defend the planet from the violent outbursts from the Sun.

ESA revealed that the mission was previously named "Lagrange" after the location the mission spacecraft will be sent but the name has been changed to Vigil which is derived from the Latin word 'vigilia' meaning wakefulness.



SPORTS

➤ **Southeast Asian Games**

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

➤ **ISSF World Cup 2022**

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

➤ **Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open**

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

➤ **Shefali Razdan Duggal**

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

➤ **32nd Senior National Fencing Championships**

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

OBITUARY

➤ **Shane Warne**

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

➤ **S F Rodrigues**

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

➤ **Mina Swaminathan**

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

REPORT

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

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

➤ **National Gender Index**

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

➤ **Health Effects Institute (HEI)**

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

➤ **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

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

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

- ✓ Kerala has yet again emerged on top in maternal and child health, recording the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.
- ✓ According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017-19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, Kerala's MMR has dropped by 12 points. The last SRS bulletin (2015-17) had put the State's MMR at 42 (later adjusting it to 43).
- ✓ **National MMR is 103**
- ✓ This puts Kerala way ahead of the national MMR of 103. Another State which has made significant gains is Maharashtra, whose MMR dipped from 55 to 38.
- ✓ This is an exciting moment for us, because Kerala has already achieved the target it had set for itself, based on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, of an MMR of 30 by 2020, that too, one year ahead.

RANKING

➤ **Knight Frank Wealth Report 2022**

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **Zero Discrimination Day: March 1**

- ✓ Every year on March 1st, Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated around the world.
- ✓ This day was established by the United Nations and other international organisations to promote equality before the law.
- ✓ It is observed to end inequality on the basis of income, gender, age, health status, occupation, disability, etc.
- ✓ The theme of the Zero Discrimination Day 2022 is 'Remove Laws That Harm, Create Laws That Empower.'

➤ **World Civil Defence Day - March 1**

- ✓ World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it.
- ✓ The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is "Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics".

➤ **World Hearing Day: March 3**

- ✓ March 3 is observed as World Hearing Day to raise awareness on preventing deafness and hearing loss.
- ✓ The WHO, on March 3 in 2007, observed World Hearing Day for the first time.
- ✓ The WHO has set "to hear for life, listen with care" as the theme for World Hearing Day 2022.

➤ **World Wildlife Day: March 3**

- ✓ The UN General Assembly on Dec 20, 2013, during its 68th session, decided to declare March 3 as World Wildlife Day.
- ✓ It was on this day, the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna took place.
- ✓ The theme for 2022 is 'Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration'.

➤ **World Obesity Day - March 4**

- ✓ The Day is observed every year to create awareness about the challenge of obesity, and steps to be taken to overcome it and maintain a healthy weight
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Everybody needs to act".

- ✓ Obesity is a condition where a person has accumulated abnormal or excessive body fat that causes negative effects on health.

- **National Safety Day: March 4**
- ✓ The main objective of this day is to promote the Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) movement in the country.
- ✓ The day was established by the National Safety Council.
- ✓ The National Safety Council of India is a nonprofit organization established to volunteer for the health and safety of citizens.
- ✓ The theme for 2022 is 'Nurture young minds-Develop safety culture'.

- **International Women's Day - March 8**
- ✓ The Day is celebrated every year to promote women's rights and honour their achievements across the political, economic, social and cultural fields.
- ✓ Theme 2022- 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'.

- **World Kidney Day: March 10**
- ✓ World Kidney Day is observed on the second Thursday of March every year.
- ✓ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of kidneys to overall health.
- ✓ 'Kidney Health For All' is the theme for 2022.

- **International Day of Women Judges: March 10**
- ✓ March 10 2022 marked the first International Day of Women Judges.
- ✓ The day was celebrated and observed for the first time after the UN General Assembly passed the resolution concerning the same in April 2021.
- ✓ It aims to recognise the efforts and contributions being made by women judges.

- **World Consumer Rights Day 2022: March 15**
- ✓ World Consumer Rights day is celebrated on 15 March 2022 every year with an aim to encourage awareness about consumer rights and needs across the world.
- ✓ 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **Thermobaric Weapon**

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

➤ **Synhelion's Solar Aviation Fuel**

- ✓ Swiss International Air Lines AG commonly referred to as Swiss or Swiss Air Lines will be first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel.
- ✓ Synhelion has devised a process, which uses concentrated sunlight to produce carbon-neutral kerosene.
- ✓ Synhelion is a company. It uses solar energy to change CO₂ and water into syngas.

