

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 22, 2022

NATIONAL

- **Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini - will participate in the 50th edition of 'Cape to Rio Race 2023' expedition.**




- ✓ The ocean sailing race will be flagged off from Cape Town on 2nd January, 2023 and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ✓ The race is one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean race and the sailors are expected to face extreme weather and rough sea conditions of the Indian, Atlantic and the Southern oceans.
- ✓ The almost 17000 nautical miles expedition is being undertaken by an Indian Navy crew of five officers including two women officers.
- ✓ Earlier, INSV Tarini has circumnavigated the globe with an all-women officer crew in the historic expedition titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' in 2017.
- ✓ In the present expedition, the vessel is being captained by Capt Atool Sinha with Lt Cdr Ashutosh Sharma, Lt Cdr Dilna K, Lt Cdr Roopa A and Sub Lieutenant Aviral Keshav as the crew.
- ✓ INSV Tarini is the second sailboat of the Indian Navy
- ✓ It was commissioned to Indian Navy service on 18 February 2017

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- On December 21, Nepal's Supreme Court - ordered the release of notorious serial killer Charles Sobhraj, who is serving murder sentences in Nepal
- ✓ Sobhraj, a Frenchman of Indian and Vietnamese parentage, has been in jail in Nepal since 2003 for murdering two North American tourists in the 1970s.

'THE SERPENT' LINKED TO 15-20 KILLINGS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Born to Indian father, Vietnamese mom in 1944, Charles Gurumukh Sobhraj is a French national who entered crime as a teen & earned tags of 'Bikini Killer' and 'Serpent'	 <p>Sobhraj in 2008, Nepal</p>	<p>Netflix released a film, 'The Serpent'. In 2015, Randeep Hooda portrayed him in 'Main Aur Charles'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In 1976, was caught and given a 10-year sentence in
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Linked to 15-20 murders, mainly of western backpackers along the 'Hippie trail' in India, Nepal & Thailand, in the 1970s➤ Good looks, charms and crimes made him subject of books and films. Last year,	<p>India. He escaped by drugging prison guards at his 'birthday party'. Was caught in Goa 22 days later. Released in 1997 and returned to France</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Visited Nepal in Sept 2003. Was arrested for two 1975 murders. Serving a life term

- ✓ A joint bench of justices Sapana Pradhan Malla and Tilak Prasad Shrestha ordered to free 78-year-old Sobhraj from jail, because of old age.
- ✓ The court verdict also asked the authority concerned to arrange for Sobhraj to return to his country within 15 days.
- ✓ Nicknamed the "Bikini Killer" and "the Serpent" due to his skill at deception and evasion, Sobhraj is serving a life-term in the Kathmandu jail since 2003 for the murder of American woman Connie Jo Bronzich in 1975 in Nepal.
- ✓ In 2014, he was convicted of killing Laurent Carriere, a Canadian backpacker, and given a second life sentence, which allows 20 years in jail.
- ✓ In Nepal, there is a legal provision to release prisoners who have completed 75% jail term and showed good character during imprisonment.
 - ✓ Sobhraj claimed that he had already served 17 of the 20 years of his sentence and had been recommended for release for behaving well.
- ✓ Sobhraj was spotted in a Kathmandu casino in August 2003 and arrested.
- ✓ Earlier, Sobhraj spent 21 years in jail in India from 1976 to 1997 with a brief 22-day break in 1986 when he escaped the high-security Tihar Jail after drugging security guards.
- ✓ Sobhraj, who spoke several languages, is believed to have killed 15 to 20 people in 1970s.
- ✓ He befriended mostly western tourists in Asia, later drugging and killing them mostly between 1972 and 1976.
- ✓ Thailand had issued a warrant for his arrest in the mid-1970s on charges of drugging and killing six women, all wearing bikinis, on a beach at Pattaya.

AWARDS

- **Sethrichem Sangtam, who runs an NGO that works with farmers in eastern Nagaland - has won the first Rohini Nayar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.**



- ✓ Sangtam, 40, was presented with cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a citation, and trophy at a ceremony in New Delhi on December 20
- ✓ Sangtam, who runs the NGO 'Better Life Foundation', works with nearly 1,200 farmers in Nagaland's Tuensang and Kiphire to promote sustainable farming practices and help farmers' transition from slash-and-burn to settled cultivation
- ✓ The NGO also assists farmers with marketing their products, in addition to promoting three cooperative societies of farmers that help with marketing of produce
- ✓ Sangtam was selected winner from among 102 entries.
- ✓ The prize has been instituted in memory of Rohini Nayar, renowned economist who worked with the Planning Commission, and passed away last year
- ✓ The Nayar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose, a foundation set up by her family, will give away the annual prize to those under 40 for their contribution to rural development.
- ✓ Nayar's husband, Deepak Nayar, emeritus professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, is one of the directors of the foundation, along with Dhiraj Nayar, director, economics and policy, Vedanta Resources.
- ✓ An IAS officer, Nayar worked with the Planning Commission of India from 1987 to 2005.
- ✓ She retired as principal adviser, Rural Development.
- ✓ Nayar worked on implementation of rural employment programmes and played a key role in instituting the India Human Development Report.

SPORTS

- **On December 21, the FIH World Men's Hockey trophy - reached Chennai from Mumbai**
- ✓ It was handed over to chief minister M K Stalin by the representatives of the state Hockey unit.



- ✓ The CM handed over the trophy to sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and hockey players representing the state.
 - ✓ In the evening, the trophy was taken to Mayor Radhakrishnan hockey stadium where it was accorded a grand welcome in a traditional manner.
 - ✓ Senior hockey players in the state were also honoured during the function.
 - ✓ The sports minister later handed over the trophy to the representatives from Kerala Hockey, a member unit of India Hockey.
 - ✓ The trophy will travel to 14 important cities in India before the start of the Men's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29, 2023.
 - ✓ On December 16, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur unveiled Hockey World Cup trophy in New Delhi.
 - ✓ The nationwide Trophy Tour was launched in Bhubaneswar on December 5 by the Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik.
- **The Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 - will take place between March 28 to April 2 in New Delhi**
- ✓ The Championship will feature men's freestyle, women's freestyle, and men's Greco-Roman divisions.
 - ✓ The wrestlers will receive ranking points from the event, which will be used to set their seedings for the World Championships to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from September 16 to 24



- ✓ The United World Wrestling (UWW) also decided on the host cities for the four ranking series tournaments in addition to designating India as the location for the Asian Championships.
- ✓ The first and second events will take place in Zagreb and Cairo in February while the third and fourth events will take place in Bishkek and Budapest in June and July.
- ✓ The Asian Championship will be held in New Delhi for the second time in three years
- ✓ Earlier, the Indian capital had hosted the tournament in February 2020.
- ✓ Indian wrestlers bagged 17 medals at the most recent Asian Championships, which were held in Mongolia last year, with one gold, five silver, and eleven bronze.
- ✓ Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who finished second in the Tokyo 2020 competition, took home India's lone gold medal, while Bajrang Punia, who finished third in Tokyo 2020, settled for silver.
- ✓ Japan topped the medal count with 21 medals, including 10 gold medals

