

# MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### #'NATIONAL GENDER INDEX' OF NITI AAYOG

- NITI Aayog is working on development of a “National Gender Index” that will be used to measure the progress and identify persisting gaps in gender equality in order to make informed policy decisions.
- NITI Aayog in its latest annual report 2021-2022 noted that, National Gender Index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on a defined gender metrics and build foundation for positive change. It will support the policy action and advocacy around gender.
- This index will also be aligned with the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.



### Draft State Energy and Climate Index

- NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index. This index will assess the performance of states on indicators like DISCOMs' viability and competition; clean energy Initiative; access, affordability and reliability of energy; generation capacity; energy efficiency; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives.
- It will also help states in efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access of energy to the people.
- In the Global Gender Gap Report by World Economic Forum, India has slipped 28 places to rank 140th out of 156 countries.
- Thus, it becomes the third-worst performer in South Asia. As per report, India has managed to close 62.5 per cent of its gender gap till date. In 2020 report, it was ranked 112th among 153 countries.

### #OTHER RELATED INDEXES OF NITI AAYOG

The **third edition** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was released by NITI Aayog.

- The SDG India Index 2020–21 is developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India.
- **About:**
- The NITI Aayog launched its index in 2018 to monitor the country's progress on the goals through **data-driven assessment**, and foster a competitive spirit among the States and Union Territories in achieving them.
- NITI Aayog has the **twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country**, and also **promote competitive and cooperative federalism** among States and UTs.
- The index represents **the articulation of the comprehensive nature of the Global Goals under the 2030 Agenda** while being attuned to the national priorities.
- In 2015, the **UNs General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development.

- The 17 SDGs are a **bold commitment to finish what the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) started, and tackle some of the more pressing challenges.**
- The SDG India Index 2020–21 is also **live on an online dashboard**, which has cross-sectoral relevance across policy, civil society, business, and academia.

## #NITI AAYOG RELEASED MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released the **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**.

- Earlier, **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021** was released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.
- The MPI **seeks to measure poverty** across its multiple dimensions and in effect complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure.
- According to **Global MPI 2021**, India's rank is 66 out of 109 countries. The National MPI is aimed at **deconstructing the Global MPI** and creating a globally aligned and yet customised India MPI for drawing up comprehensive Reform Action Plans with the larger goal of improving India's position in the Global MPI rankings.
- It has **three equally weighted dimensions** – health, education, and standard of living.
- These three dimensions are **represented by 12 indicators** such as nutrition, school attendance, years of schooling, drinking water, sanitation, housing, bank accounts among others.



### Methodology & Data:

- The national MPI measure **uses the globally accepted and robust methodology** developed by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** and the **UNDP**.
- This baseline report of the **national MPI measure** is based on the reference period of 2015-16 of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4)**.
- **NFHS-4** data has been used to derive an idea of baseline multidimensional poverty **to know the situation on ground before the full rollout of various central government schemes.**
- **NFHS-4 precedes the full roll out of (central government's) flagship schemes** on housing, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, and other major efforts towards improving school attendance, nutrition, mother and child health, etc.
- However, it has to be noted here that the **NFHS-5 data suggests improvement** in access to clean cooking fuel, sanitation, and electricity which translates to reduction in deprivation.

### Findings of the Index:

- **Poverty Levels:** Bihar has the highest proportion of people of the state's population followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh who are multidimensional poor.

- **Kerala registered the lowest population poverty levels**, followed by Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa and Sikkim.
- **Malnourished People:** Bihar also has the highest number of malnourished people followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

## Significance of the Index:

- **Contribution towards Instituting Public Policy Tool** The development of the Index is an important contribution towards instituting a public policy tool which monitors multidimensional poverty, informs evidence-based and focused interventions, thereby ensuring that **no one is left behind**.
- **Presents Overall Picture of Poverty:** This presents an overall picture of poverty in the country, while also enabling closer and more in-depth analyses of areas of interest such as regions – state or districts, and specific sectors and complements the existing monetary poverty statistics.
- **Help Achieving SDGs Goals:** It is a contribution towards measuring progress towards target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at reducing “at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.

## Related Government Initiatives:

- National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MNREGA)
- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

## #DEMOCRACY REPORT 2022

According to the latest report from the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels, with the democratic gains of the post-Cold War period eroding rapidly in the last few years.

- The Report is titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'
- Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) produce the largest global dataset on democracy with over 30 million data points for 202 countries from 1789 to 2021.
- Earlier, the Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 was released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA).



## What Parameters were used to assess the Status of a Democracy?

- The report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI):
- Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy.

- The LDI captures both **liberal (individual and minority rights) and electoral aspects (free and fair elections) of a democracy** based on 71 indicators that make up the **Liberal Component Index (LCI)** and the **Electoral Democracy Index (EDI)**.
- The **LCI** measures aspects such as protection of individual liberties and legislative constraints on the executive, while the **EDI** considers indicators that guarantee free and fair elections such as freedom of expression and freedom of association.
- In addition, the LDI also uses an **Egalitarian Component Index** (to what extent different social groups are equal), **Participatory Component Index** (health of citizen groups, civil society organisations), and **Deliberative Component Index** (whether political decisions are taken through public reasoning focused on common good or through emotional appeals, solidarity attachments, coercion).

## What are the Main Findings of the Report?

- **Top Performance:** Sweden topped the LDI index, other Scandinavian countries such as **Denmark and Norway, along with Costa Rica and New Zealand** make up the top five in liberal democracy rankings.
- **India's Performance:**
- India is **part of a broader global trend of an anti-plural political party** driving a country's autocratisation.
- It was **ranked 93<sup>rd</sup> in the LDI**, India figures in the **"bottom 50%" of countries**.
- It has slipped **further down in the Electoral Democracy Index, to 100**, and even lower in the Deliberative Component Index, at 102.
- In South Asia, **India is ranked below Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117)** in the LDI.

## Spreading Autocratisation:

- Autocratisation is spreading rapidly, with a record of 33 countries autocratising.
- Signaling a sharp break from an average of 1.2 coups per year, **2021 saw a record 6 coups**, resulting in 4 new autocracies: Chad, Guinea, Mali and Myanmar.
- While the number of liberal democracies stood at 42 in 2012, their number has shrunk to their lowest level in over 25 years, with just 34 countries and 13% of the world population living in liberal democracies.
- **Closed autocracies, or dictatorships**, rose from 25 to 30 between 2020 and 2021.

## #RELATED: GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY REPORT

According to the recently released **Global State of Democracy Report, 2021**, the number of countries moving towards **authoritarianism** in 2020 was higher than that of countries becoming more democratic.

- The report **aims to influence the global debate and analyses current trends and challenges to democracy**, exacerbated by the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- It offers specific **policy recommendations** to spark new and innovative thinking for policymakers, governments and civil society organizations supporting democracy.



- It is released by the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)**.

### About International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance:

- International IDEA is an **intergovernmental organization** that supports sustainable democracy worldwide.
- It was **founded in 1995** and currently has 33 member states.
- International IDEA advances democracy worldwide, as a **universal human aspiration and an enabler of sustainable development**, through support to the building, strengthening and safeguarding of democratic political institutions and processes at all levels.

### Highlights of the Report:

- **Democratic Decline:** Democratically elected Governments, including established democracies, are **increasingly adopting authoritarian tactics**.
- **Effect of Pandemic:** The pandemic placed considerable stress on democracy across the region by **imposing inevitable restrictions on movement** and—where governments were sensitive to criticism—also restrictions on **freedom of expression**.
- The year 2020 was the worst on record, in terms of the number of countries affected by deepening autocratisation.
- The pandemic has thus had a particularly damaging effect on non-democratic countries, further closing their already reduced civic space.

### #MISS WORLD 2021 WINNER FROM POLAND

- **Karolina Bielawaska from Poland** won the crown of **Miss World 2021** at the 70th edition of the beauty pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- The new Miss World 2021 winner has beaten **Indonesia, the USA, Mexico, Northern Island, and Cote d'Ivoire to win the Miss World crown**. Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica who is a Miss World 2019 crowned her successor at the finale.
- In Miss World 2021, USA's Shree Saini and Olivia Yace of Cote d'Ivoire emerged as the first and the second runners-up, respectively.



### Who is Karolina Bielawaska; Miss World 2021 winner

- **Karolina Bielawaska of Poland has been crowned the new Miss World 2021** winner. Karolina is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Management and wishes to further pursue her PhD. Currently, Karolina has been working as a model and she hopes to become a motivational speaker.
- The new Miss World 2021 winner enjoys swimming and scuba diving and playing badminton and tennis.
- Poland's Karolina Bielawaska has also furthered her support for the homeless community by organising a pop-up COVID vaccination center as many of the homeless people were unable to register for the vaccine as they do not have ID cards.

- According to the Miss World 2021 winner, it was important to make them feel safe and also to feel equal by having the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

### Miss World 2021 contestant India

- As the winner of Miss World 2021 was announced earlier today in Puerto Rico, India's Manasa Varanasi, who was representing the country at the 70th edition of the beauty pageant failed to make it to the top 6. Manasa Varanasi was included in the list of top 13 at the 11th position.
- Manasa Varanasi making it to the top 13 contestants came almost three months after India's Harnaaz Sandhu brought home the Miss Universe 2021 crown after 21 years.
- In 2020, Manasa Varanasi won the **Femina Miss India** where she represented Telangana. Manasa was also crowned as Femina Miss Indian World 2020.

### #4<sup>TH</sup> JANAUSHADHI DIWAS CELEBRATED

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals is going to celebrate their 4<sup>th</sup> Jan Aushadhi Diwas.



- All the activities will be organised within the spirit of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” and several events have been planned at 75 locations.
- This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- The theme of this year's (2022) Janaushadhi Diwas is Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi.

### What is Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)?

- **PMBJP** is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008 under the name Jan Aushadhi Campaign.
- The campaign was revamped as **PMBJP** in 2015-16.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementation agency for PMBJP.
- The Bureau of Pharma **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** of India works under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers.
- BPPI has also developed the **Janaushadhi Sugam Application**.
- A medicine is **priced on the principle of maximum 50% of average price** of the top three brands branded medicines. Thus, the **prices of Jan Aushadhi Medicines** are **cheaper by at least 50%** and in some cases, **by 80% to 90% of the market price of the branded medicines**.

### What is the objective of the PMBJP?

- To make **available quality medicines, consumables and surgical items** at affordable prices for all and reduce out of pocket expenditure of consumers/patients.
- To **popularise generic medicines among the masses** and dispel the prevalent notion that low priced generic medicines are of inferior quality or are less effective.

- **Generic medicines** are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value.
- To **ensure easy availability of the menstrual health services** (Janaushadhi 'Suvidha' sanitary napkins) to all women across India.
- Generate **employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs** in the opening of PMBJP Kendras.

### #NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY OBSERVED ON MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>

- **National Vaccination Day** is observed every year on March 16 to convey the significance of vaccination as well as its role in public health. National Vaccination Day 2022 creates awareness and sends the message that **how vaccination or immunization is the most effective way of preventing highly infectious diseases**.
- National Vaccination Day 2022 is also of certain significance amid the COVID-19 pandemic against which vaccine has come out to be the only solution of preventing the deadly disease.
- **National Vaccination Day 2022 or National Immunization Day** also marks India's victory against Polio disease. Notably, the impact of vaccination is not only limited to improving health or life expectancy, it also has a social or economic impact at the community and the National level.



### National Vaccination Day 2022 Theme

- The theme of National Vaccination Day 2022 is '**Vaccines Work for all**'. National Vaccination Day 2022 theme highlights how vaccines work for all and save lives all around the world.

### National Vaccination Day 2022: History

- National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16 as it was the first time on this day that the first dose of Oral Polio vaccine was given in India back in 1995.
- **National Vaccination Day or National Immunization Day** celebrates the Government of India's Pulse Polio Program which was a remarkable initiative to eradicate polio from India.
- According to the program, two drops of Polio vaccine were provided to the children from the age of 0 to 5. The Pulse Polio Program in India became a huge success as in 2014, the World Health Organisation announced India to be a 'Polio Free Country'.
- Reportedly, the last case of polio in India was reported in 2011 in West Bengal. Following the success of the Polio Program, India began its work on vaccination against severe diseases such as TB, mumps, tetanus, and much more.

### National Vaccination Day 2022: Why Vaccination Day is celebrated in India?

- Vaccines, over the last few decades, have become an important tool to fight life-threatening diseases all over the world. **National Vaccination Day 2022 acknowledges and highlights the role of vaccines** and how in today's world, the role played by them cannot be overlooked.
- According to the **report by the World Health Organisation**, vaccines save almost 2 to 3 million people



every year and since the COVID-19 pandemic has been prevailing all over the world, the Government of India is taking every necessary step to vaccinate every citizen of India against the disease.

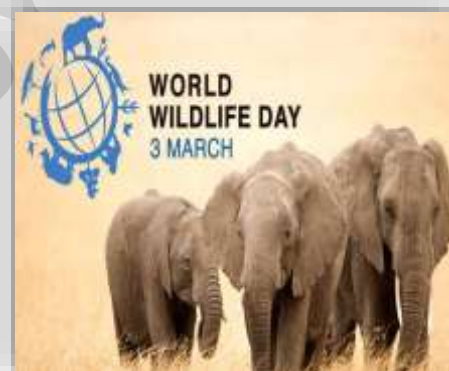
- **National Vaccination Day 2022** initiates a talk regarding the significance of vaccines and why people must get themselves, their family members and children vaccinated for the protection against certain diseases.

### National Vaccination Day 2022: Facts about Vaccination Day in India

- In 2014, Mission Indradhanush was launched under the **Universal Immunization Program to better the health of mothers and children who are deprived of vaccination.**
- Mission Indradhanush by the **Government of India aims at achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2030.**
- **The world's largest COVID-19 vaccination program** has been launched in India with an aim of vaccinating the entire population against the COVID-19 pandemic.

### #WORLD WILDLIFE DAY: 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

- It is observed on 3 March to raise awareness **about the world's wild animals and plants.**
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20 December 2013**, at its 68th session, proclaimed 3 March which is the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973 as UN World Wildlife Day.
- Now, it is the most **important annual event across the world dedicated to wildlife.**
- The day provides us an opportunity to celebrate various beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to spread awareness about the several benefits that their conservation provides to people.
- It also reminds us about the urgent need to step up the **fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which further have economic, environmental, and social impacts.**



### What is the theme of 2022?

- Theme: **Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration.**
- This theme is chosen as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

### What is the Significance of the Day?

- This aligns with UN **Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15**, and their wide-ranging commitments on alleviating **poverty**, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and on conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss.
- Our planet is currently facing the urgent challenge that is the loss of biodiversity and up to a million species could disappear in the coming decades if unsustainable human activity, **climate change** and habitat degradation are left unchecked.

### What about the Status of Species of Fauna and Flora?

- Around more than **8000 species of wild fauna and flora are endangered** and close to 30,000 more are known to be on the verge of getting extinct or vulnerable.
- It is also estimated that **around a million species are extinct.**
- India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species**, including over **45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals.**
- India is one of the **most biodiverse regions of the world**, home to three biodiversity hotspots - **the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma hotspot.**
- The country has **seven natural World Heritage Sites, eleven Biosphere Reserves and forty nine Ramsar sites.**
- India is home to a **number of wildlife conservation parks and sanctuaries, notable among those are Jim Corbett National Park** in Uttarakhand, **Ranthambore National Park** in Rajasthan, **Gir National Park** in Gujarat, **Bannerghatta Biological Park** in Karnataka, **Periyar National Park** in Kerala, **Hemis National Park** in Ladakh, **The Great Himalayan National Park** in Himachal Pradesh.
- The main factors that **contribute to the extinction of species** include **human activities such as habitat loss due to urbanisation, overexploitation, moving species from their natural habitat, global pollution and climate change.**
- **Illegal wildlife trade** is also unsustainable, harming wild populations of animals and plants and pushing endangered species toward extinction. It also brings several public health consequences, such as the spreading of **zoonotic pathogens.**

### Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife:

- By the **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act 1976** of the Constitution "Forests" was added as Entry 17A in the Concurrent List and the "protection of wild animals and birds" was added as Entry 17B.
- **Article 51 A (g)** of the Constitution states that it shall be the **fundamental duty** of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- **Article 48 A** in the **Directive Principles of State policy**, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Legal Framework:**
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**
- **Environment Protection Act, 1986**
- **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

## #INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

- **International Women's Day** is celebrated every year around the world on March 8 as a symbolic reminder of the historic journey that women have taken globally.
- International Women's Day also commemorates the political, cultural and socio-economic achievements of women.
- **International Women's Day 2022**, apart from recognising the achievements, also calls for a gender-equal world that is free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination and one that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.



- International Women's Day has been celebrated globally for over a century. The first gathering of women's day was in 1911 which was supported by over a million people. Today, International Women's Day 2022 is observed and celebrated widely by all the groups collectively everywhere.

### International Women's Day 2022 Theme

- International Women's Day 2022 theme is '**Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**'. The theme of International Women's Day 2022 is declared by UN Women.
- The theme of IWD 2022 attempts to recognise the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge of climate change adaptation, mitigation and response, to **build a more sustainable future for all**.

### International Women's Day 2022 History

- IWD had first emerged from the **activities of labour movements at the turn of the 20th century across North America and Europe**.
- As per UNESCO, the **first National Women's Day** was observed in the United States on Feb 28, 1909, which the Socialist Party of America dedicated in honour of the 1908 Garment workers strike in New York where women had protested against harsh working conditions.
- The roots of International Women's Day, however, can be found in the labour movement, wherein IWD was first organised in 1911 by the **early 20th century Marxist from Germany Clara Zetkin**.
- **The Charter of the UN, in 1945** became the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality but it was only on March 8 during International Women's Year in 1975 that the United Nations celebrated its first official International Women's Day.

### International Women's Day 2022: Why do we celebrate women's day?

- International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world **to recognise the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment**.
- However, women's day also critically reflect on those achievements and strive for a greater momentum towards achieving gender equality worldwide.
- International Women's Day is a day to recognise the **extraordinary acts of women and to stand together as a united force for advancing gender equality around the world**.

- As the world celebrates International Women's Day 2022 on March 8, the contributions and achievements of women all around the world on **Women's Day 2022**, including India, are being acknowledged and admired.
- The remarkable journey that Indian women have accomplished in these 75 Years of Independence must be admired and looked up to on International Women's Day 2022.

## #FORTUNE INDIA MOST POWERFUL WOMEN LIST

- The **Fortune India most powerful women list** recognizes the achievements of such Indian women as well as their contribution in different domains.
- Fortune India in December 2021 released a list of its top 50 most powerful women in India in 2021. The list mentions the names of various popular figures **that are known for their accomplishments in their respective fields.**
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** grabbed a top position followed by Reliance's Nita Ambani who is a Chairperson and founder of Reliance Foundation.
- Her second place in Fortune India's 50 Most powerful women list acknowledges her vision and the impactful leadership at the Reliance Foundation, particularly at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The list released by Fortune India also included **Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of WHO, and Gita Gopinath of the International Monetary Fund.** The other names are Tessy Thomas, Suchitra Ella, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Reddy sisters, and Isha Ambani.

## 50 Most Powerful Women in India: Full List

Rank	India's Most powerful women
1.	Nirmala Sitharaman
2	Nita Ambani
3	Soumya Swaminathan
4.	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
5.	Suchitra Ella

## What are the Safeguards for Women in India?

- **Fundamental Rights:** It guarantees all Indians the right to equality (**Article 14**), **no discrimination by the State on the basis of gender** (Article 15(1)) and special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women (Article 15(3)).
- **Fundamental Duties:** The Constitution imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen through **Articles 51 (A)(e) to renounce practices derogatory to dignity of women.**
- **Legislative Framework:**
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** It provides victims of domestic violence with a means for practical remedy through prosecution.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** It prohibits the request, payment or acceptance of a dowry.

- **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013:** This legislative act seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work.
- **Related Schemes:** Mahila e-haat, Women Technology Park, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI), etc.

### Are there any World Conferences on Women?

- The UN has organised **4 world conferences on women**. These took place in
  - Mexico City, **1975**
  - Copenhagen, **1980**
  - Nairobi, **1985**
  - Beijing, **1995**
- The **4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women (WCW), held in Beijing**, was one of the largest ever gatherings of the UNs, and a critical turning point in the world's focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- The **Beijing Declaration** is an agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality.
- It **sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women** and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern like women and health, women in power and decision-making, the girl-child, women and the environment.
- Recently, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has proposed a **Temporary Basic Income (TBI)** for poor women in developing countries to help them cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and alleviate the economic pressures they face every day.

### #WHAT IS SAMARTH INITIATIVE?

- Recently, on the occasion of **International Women's Day 2022**, the Union Minister for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "**SAMARTH**".
- Under the Samarth initiative of the Ministry, following **benefits will be available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs**:
  - **20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs** organised under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women.
  - **20% of MSME Business Delegations** sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by the Ministry **will be dedicated to women owned MSMEs**.
  - **20% Discount on annual processing fee on National Small Industries Corporation's (NSIC) Commercial Schemes**.
  - **NSIC** is a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of MSME.
  - **Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs** under **Udyam Registration**.
  - Through this initiative, the Ministry of MSME is **focusing on providing Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women**.
  - More than **7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas will be trained** in the FY 2022-23.



- Besides, **thousands of women will be getting marketing opportunities** to showcase their products in domestic and international exhibitions.

## #INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

- **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated every year on March 20th. The day aims to make people realise the importance of happiness within their lives.
- The day assumes greater significance with the unprecedented challenges that face the world today.
- The **theme of International Day of Happiness 2022 is 'Build Back Happier'**. The theme is aimed at achieving a better world post-COVID-19 pandemic, where the relationships and happiness of each person hold paramount value.



## Why do we celebrate International Day of Happiness?

- The UN General Assembly had proclaimed March 20th as the **International Day of Happiness** recognising the importance of happiness and well-being as universal goals in the lives of human beings around the world and their recognition in public policy objectives.
- The **meeting was convened at an initiative of Bhutan**, a nation that recognized the supremacy of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s. Bhutan had famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.

## What is the theme of International Day of Happiness 2022?

- International Day of Happiness 2022 Theme is 'Build Back Happier'.
- **How is International Day of Happiness celebrated?**
- **International Day of Happiness activities:** The United Nations invites its member states as well as other international and regional organisations to observe the International Day of Happiness through education and public awareness-raising activities.

## When was the first International Day of Happiness observed?

- The United Nations' 193 member states commemorated the first International Day of Happiness in 2013.

## Significance

- The **United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015** that aim to reduce poverty, inequality, and protect the environment, three crucial components that lead to the happiness and well-being of all human beings.
- Happiness is often overshadowed by our material possessions, anxiety and all the other challenges are exist in the world today. The current global scenario that has affected the lives of millions of people including children has made becoming genuinely happy an extremely difficult condition.
- Yet, **happiness cannot be given by anyone**, it is an inner life condition that exists within each of us. In today's society, wherein it is easy to give in to negative influences, the wisdom to live meaningfully is crucial.

## RELATED: WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2022

Recently, the **World Happiness Report 2022** was published by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.

- This year marks the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Happiness Report**.

### What is the World Happiness Report?

- Published since 2012, the **World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas**:
- **Happiness or life evaluation** measured through opinion surveys and
- **Identifying key elements** that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries.
- The report **usually ranks 150 countries** based on several factors such as **real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption**.
- This year, the **report ranked 146 countries**.
- Every year, **each variable measures a populated-weighted average score** on a scale of 0-10 that is tracked over a period of time and further compared with other countries.
- This year, countries which **ranked in the top 10 last year, moved upwards and downwards**.

### What about the Performance of the Countries?

- **Top Performers:**Finland has been named the **world's happiest country** for the fifth year running followed by **Denmark**.
- The biggest gains in happiness have taken place in **Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania**.
- **Worst Performers:**
- **Afghanistan was ranked as the unhappiest nation**, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana, respectively.
- **India's Performance:**India saw a **marginal improvement** in its ranking, jumping **three spots to 136**, from 139 a year ago.

### What is the Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

- The SDSN, launched in 2012, **mobilises global scientific and technological expertise** to promote practical problem solving for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **Paris Climate Agreement**.
- It was established under the **auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General**.
- The **SDSN and the Bertelsmann Stiftung** have been publishing the annual **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index & Dashboards Global Report** since 2016.

## #GUJARAT EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2021

- Gujarat has topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 for the second consecutive time, while Maharashtra has been ranked second and Karnataka has been ranked third. NITI Aayog released EPI 2021 in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness.



- The **Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive analysis of India's export** achievements. It aims to identify the fundamental areas critical for subnational export promotion. The coastal states have been adjudged as the best performers in the index.

- The index can be used by states and union territories to compare their performance against others and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms.

### Export Preparedness Index 2021 Parameters

- The EPI ranks the states and UTs on four main pillars and 11 sub-pillars. The four pillars include-
- Policy-** A comprehensive trade policy provides a strategic direction for exports and imports.
- Business Ecosystem-** It examines the business ecosystem, as an efficient business ecosystem can help attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for businesses to grow.
- Export Ecosystem-** It aims to assess the business environment, specific to exports.
- Export Performance-** It examines the reach of export footprints of states and union territories.

### The 11 sub-pillars include:

- Export Promotion Policy
- Institutional Framework
- Business Environment
- Infrastructure
- Transport Connectivity
- Access to Finance
- Export Infrastructure
- Trade Support
- R&D Infrastructure
- Export Diversification
- Growth Orientation

### Export Preparedness Index 2021- Full Rankings List

Ranking	State	Export Scores	Preparedness
1	Gujarat	78.86	

• 2	• Maharashtra	• 77.14
• 3	• Karnataka	• 61.72
• 4	• Tamil Nadu	• 56.84
• 5	• Haryana	• 53.20
• 6	• Uttar Pradesh	• 51.09

### EPI 2021 - Key Goals

- The main **goal of the Export Preparedness Index 2021** is to instill competition among all Indian states including the coastal, Himalayan, landlocked and UTs to bring out favourable export promotion policies.
- It also aims to ease the regulatory framework to prompt sub-national export promotion and create the necessary infrastructure for exports.
- It also aims to assist in identifying strategic recommendations for improving export competitiveness.

### Export Preparedness Index 2021- Significance

- The Export Preparedness Index 2021 can be a valuable tool for the government and policymakers in encouraging healthy competition among states and UTs.

### #EXERCISE DUSTLIK: JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE

- EX- DUSTLIK's is a joint training exercise that is conducted between the armies of India and Uzbekistan. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this exercise is **being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan** from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.



### Overview

- Ex-DUSTLIK's last edition was conducted in March 2021 in **Ranikhet, Uttarakhand**.
- To take part in this exercise, the Indian contingent is being represented by a platoon strength of Grenadiers Regiment.
- The Indian regiment will be joined by a contingent of the Uzbekistan Army which is being represented by North Western Military District troops.
- The **Grenadiers battalion** that will represent India at this exercise is one of the Indian Army's highly decorated battalions.
- This battalion has a distinction of participating in most **Pre and Post-Independence Operations of the Indian army**.

### The focus of this exercise

- This **joint exercise between the two armies will focus on Counter-Terrorism** operations conducted in semi-urban terrain under a mandate of the United Nations.

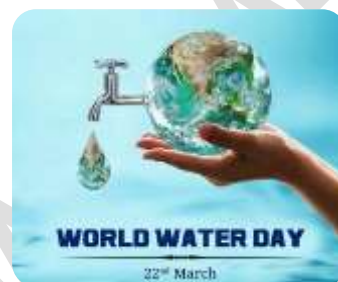
### Aim of the exercise

- This exercise's training schedule will aim at **learning the best practices from each other and sharing drills at a tactical level.**
- The exercise will also aim to boost the cooperation, understanding, and interoperability between the armies of both nations.

### #WORLD WATER DAY: 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

**World Water Day** is celebrated on **22<sup>nd</sup> March Every Year** to highlight the importance of water.

- On the Occasion of the **World Water Day UN (united Nations)** University's Canadian-based Institute for Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) has published an assessment report, showing the **levels of water security in Africa overall are unacceptably low.**
- The World Water Day 2022 theme sets the focus for the **annual World Water Development Report.**



### What is World Water Day?

- Aim: **The Day aims to** support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: **water and sanitation for all by 2030.**
- Theme: **Groundwater: making the invisible visible.**
- **The theme was decided by** UN-water at its 30th meeting in Rome. **It was proposed by the** International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC).

### History:

- The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the **UN Conference on Environment and Development** in Rio de Janeiro took place.
- That same year, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a **resolution** by which 22nd March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed **starting in 1993.**
- Later on, other celebrations and events were added. For instance, the **International Year of Cooperation in the Water Sphere 2013** and the current **International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028.**

### Significance:

- The day's intention is to **inspire people around the world** to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference.
- While water covers almost 70% of the planet, **freshwater only amounts to about 3% of it**, out of which two-thirds is frozen or inaccessible and unavailable for use.
- These observances **serve to reaffirm that water and sanitation measures are key to poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.**



### Other Important Days :

- **22 March: World Water Day**
- **22 April: Earth Day**
- **22 May: World Biodiversity Day**

### What does the UN World Water Development Report 2022 say?

- **Groundwater, which accounts for 99% of all liquid freshwater**, has the potential to provide societies with tremendous social, economic and environmental benefits and opportunities.
- The groundwater already provides **almost half of the total water used for domestic purposes including drinking water**. The water resource has though been mismanaged, undervalued and abused.
- The report describes **groundwater to be central to the fight against poverty** and achieving food and water security and even the creation of jobs and socio-economic development.
- The **Asia-Pacific region is the largest groundwater abstractor in the world**, containing seven out of the ten countries that extract most groundwater (Bangladesh, China, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey).
- These countries alone **account for roughly 60% of the world's total groundwater withdrawal**.
- The **present dependence on groundwater will only increase due to increasing water demand** by all sectors and increasing disruption in rainfall patterns.
- The report states that it all starts with **making the invisible visible** and the action would require strong and concerted efforts to manage and use it sustainably.

### About:

- The awards are organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Jal Shakti Ministry had launched the first '**National Water Award**' in **2018**.
- They **facilitate a good opportunity for the start-ups** as well as the leading organisations to engage with the senior policymakers on adopting the best water resources management practises in India.
- They **focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country**, and the government's vision for the path to '**Jal Samridh Bharat**'.

### Objectives:

- To **motivate individuals/organisations who are doing commendable work** in the field of water resources conservation and management.
- To **create awareness among the people about the importance of water** and encourage them to adopt the best water usage practises.

### Jal Shakti Mantralaya

- The government has created a new Ministry called '**Jal Shakti**' after merging **Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** along with **Drinking Water and Sanitation**.

- 'Jal Shakti' ministry will encompass issues ranging from providing **clean drinking water**, international and inter-states **water disputes**, to the **NamamiGange** project aimed at cleaning Ganga and its tributaries, and sub-tributaries.
- The ministry will roll out the government's ambitious **plan ('Nal se Jal' scheme** under jaljivan plan) to provide **pipd water connection** to every household in India by **2024**.

## #LAMITYE 2022 JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE

- The Indian Army and the **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)** are holding the **9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA)** in Seychelles from March 22 to March 31, 2022.

### Overview:

- This exercise will see the **participation of Infantry Platoon** strength from both the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF), **as well as Company Headquarters**.
- The goal of the exercise is to share experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment and enhance the capability to conduct joint operations.
- The contingent of the Indian Army comprises troops **from the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion)**.



### Significance of this exercise

- Since 2001, **Seychelles has hosted Exercise LAMITIYE** which is a biennial training exercise. Exercise LAMITIYE with Seychelles is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the context of the current global situation and growing security concerns in the Indian Ocean Region.

### The objective of the exercise

- Combat discussions, field training exercises, demonstrations, lectures, and a two-day validation exercise will be **part of the 10-day joint exercise**.
- The **joint training exercise's objective** is to strengthen and enhance bilateral military ties while also exchanging skills, experiences, and best practices between the two armies.
- **What types of drills will be conducted under this exercise?**
- **Both sides will plan, train, and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills** for neutralizing possible threats that may be encountered in a Semi-Urban setting while demonstrating and utilizing new generation equipment and technology for combined operations. Enhancing tactical skills in defeating enemy troops in a semi-urban environment, as well as strengthening interoperability between forces, will be emphasized.

## #N. CHANDRASEKHARANA APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF AIR INDIA

- **Tata Sons Chairman NatrajanChandrasekarana** has been appointed as the new chairman of Air India. His appointment was confirmed by the Tata Sons board on March 14, 2022.
- **NatrajanChandrasekarana is the Chairman of Tata Sons**, the holding company and promoter of over 100 Tata operating companies. He joined the Tata Sons Board in October 2016 and was appointed as its Chairman in January 2017.
- He currently chairs the boards of several group operating companies including **Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Power and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.
- He was the Chief Executive Officer from 2009-17. He was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons on February 2022 for a second term of five years.
- The **Tata Sons then approached the Corporate Affairs Ministry** to seek approval of N Chandrasekaran to chair the boards at a few more group firms, as he has already touched the prescribed limit at the Tata Group.



### NatrajanChandrasekarana

- **NatrajanChandrasekarana studied in a government school in Mohanur in Tamil Nadu.** He did his bachelor's in Applied Sciences from the Coimbatore Institute of Technology.
- **He joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in 1987** after completing MCA and rose through the ranks to become the CEO and Managing Director of the company in October 2009.
- He had served as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of TCS prior to that.
- Under his leadership, TCS became the largest private sector employer in India and remains to be the most valuable company in India.
- **N Chandrasekaran** is a senior member of Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). He is also an active member of Computer Society of India and British Computer Society.
- **He was nominated as the NASSCOM chairman in April 2015.**
- He was appointed as additional director on the Tata Sons board in October 2016 **when he was the CEO and managing director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.
- He became the first non-Parsi and professional executive to head the Tata Group.

### Significance

- The **head of Tata Group** has become the head of Air India yet again after a gap of 32 years. Air India founder JRD Tata had been the chief of the carrier for decades after its nationalisation.
- He remained chairman till February 1978 till the **Morarji Desai government** moved him from the post. The Indira Gandhi government reappointed JRD Tata to the board of Air India in 1982. Ratan Tata later served as the chairman of the carrier from 1986-87 till early 1990.
- With the airlines back at the hand of its founder, there are major hopes for a turnaround in the carrier's

fortunes. **The Tata group plans to expand Air India's network**, improve service standards and modernize its fleet to make it the world's most technologically advanced airline.

- NatrajanChandrasekarana had said recently that improving Air India's basic service standards and on-time performance will be top priorities in the coming months for the group.

### Who will be new Air India CEO?

- The Tata Group will soon announce the new CEO for Air India to replace former Turkish Airlines Chairman IlkerAyci, who declined the offer after opposition in India. Ayci was scheduled to take charge as Air India CEO and MD before April 1, 2022.
- He had initially **accepted the role but decided to turn it down later saying that his appointment was 'coloured' by the Indian media.**
- **Tata Sons have reportedly finalised the new CEO of Air India** after holding discussions in the last few days. The group is looking to get a new CEO onboard quickly to tackle the operational challenges.

### #G.F. HOUNGBO ELECTED AS DG OF ILO

- **Gilbert F. Hougbo** has recently been elected as the **International Labour Organization's 11<sup>th</sup> Director-General**. He is the former Prime Minister of Togo and will be taking office in October 2022.
- He will be the first African to have been elected to this post.
- Since 2017, he is **serving as the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**. From 2008 to 2012, he served as Togo's Prime Minister.

### Appointment as the Prime Minister of Togo

- Following the massive internal conflict due to the 2005 Togolese presidential election, **Hougbo was elected to this post and he oversaw political, economic, and social reforms in the country.**
- After concluding his term as the PM, he joined the International Labour Office which is the permanent secretariat of the ILO as Deputy Director-General. Later he moved on to IFAD.

### Hougbo's vision for ILO

- **Hougbo announced that his vision for the ILO** will be working toward a new global social contract, that will be looking to protect and preserve the progress that has been achieved in the fields of social justice over the previous decades.
- The **policy will be centering around global solutions** regarding environmental, human, societal, and economic values. He also proposed a programme for global social justice through which the basis for labour laws in the world post-pandemic will be strengthened. Job deficits and social protections were also addressed.

### How does ILO elect a new Director-General?

- Every 10 years, **the ILO elects a new Director-General**. The votes for this post are cast by the governing body of ILO which comprises representatives of workers, governments, and employers.

### International Labour Organization (ILO)

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

- It is the only **tripartite U.N. agency**. It brings together **governments, employers and workers** of **187 member States**, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

### History of the ILO

- Established in 1919 by the **Treaty of Versailles** as an affiliated agency of the **League of Nations**.
- Became the first affiliated **specialized agency** of the **United Nations in 1946**.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founding Mission:** social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.
- Promotes internationally recognized human and labour rights.
- Received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1969.
  - For improving peace among classes
  - Pursuing decent work and justice for workers
  - Providing technical assistance to other developing nations
- The organization has played a key role in
  - Ensuring labour rights during the Great Depression
  - Decolonization process
  - The creation of Solidarność( trade union) in Poland
  - The victory over apartheid in South Africa

### India and ILO

- **India is a founding member of the ILO** and it has been a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922.
- In India, the first ILO Office was started in 1928. The decades of productive partnership between the ILO and its constituents has mutual trust and respect as underlying principles and is grounded in building sustained institutional capacities and strengthening capacities of partners.
- India has ratified six out of the **eight-core/fundamental ILO conventions**. These conventions are:
  - Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
  - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
  - Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
  - Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
  - Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
  - Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)



## #JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'DHARMA GUARDIAN 2022'

- At Maratha Light Infantry Centre in Belagavi, Karnataka, the army contingents of India and Japan together carried out mock drills during the joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian 2022'.
- This annual military exercise between the armies of India and Japan commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> February and will continue till 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Dharma Guardian is an annual military exercise that is being conducted in India since 2018.
- Platoon level joint training on operations in semi-urban or urban terrain and the jungle is covered in this exercise.
- Under this exercise special emphasis is given to enhancing the tactical skills required to fight global terrorism. It also looks to enhance inter-operability between both armies and to promote Army to Army relations.



### Participants

- In this 12 day long joint exercise, the Indian Army's 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment and the 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) are participating.

### What does this exercise include?

- This joint exercise includes raids on terrorist hideouts in semi-urban terrain, house interventions drills, unarmed combat & close quarter combat firing where both sides will jointly train, combat first aid, execution and planning of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats.

### Other Joint Exercises with Japan

- SHINYUU Maitri:** This is a bilateral exercise conducted between the Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force.
- JIMEX:** It is a bilateral maritime exercise held between Japan and India.
- Sahayog-Kaijin:** A joint bilateral exercise between the Japan Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard.

## #STEALTH GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER INS VISAKHAPATNAM

Recently, the India-made stealth guided-missile destroyer **INS Visakhapatnam** was formally affiliated to the Visakhapatnam port.

- This marks the formal induction of the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.
- Under the **P-15B (Visakhapatnam Class)**, a total of four warships were planned (Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, Surat) to be inducted.
- It is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.

### What is INS Visakhapatnam?

- INS Visakhapatnam is the **lead ship of the P15B class of guided missile stealth destroyers** and was commissioned on **21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**.
- The ship symbolises India's matured shipbuilding capability and quest for the **Make in India initiative** towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The crew of the ship abides by her motto '**YashoLabhasva**' - a Sanskrit phrase that translates to '**Attain Glory**'.
- It **embodies the indomitable spirit and capability of this mighty ship** to achieve success and glory in every endeavour.
- Visakhapatnam class ships are follow-on of the **Kolkata class destroyers (P-15A) commissioned** in the last decade.
- The ship is on her maiden visit to the port for participating in the **Presidential Fleet Review (PFR) and MILAN 2022**.
- The fleet review is a **long-standing tradition** followed by navies all across the world and it is an assembly of ships at a **pre-designated place** for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance to the sovereign and the state.

### What is the Role of P-15B in the Security of India?

- The **Indian Navy's responsibilities to safeguard a large coastline of 7516 Kms** and about 1100 offshore islands along with 2.01 million sq km **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** have been enhanced in the present geopolitical scenario.
- Destroyers like the **P-15B class shall play an important role in the larger oceans of the Indo-Pacific**, making the Indian Navy a potent force.
- The guided missile Destroyers are **deployed for various responsibilities** like escort duties with the Carrier Battle Group to protect the Naval fleet against any air, surface and underwater threats.

### #IONS MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 (IMEX-22)

The maiden edition of **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was conducted at Goa and in the Arabian Sea.

#### What is IMEX-22?

- The exercise witnessed participation of 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS.
- The aim of the exercise was to **enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations** among member navies.
- The exercise is seen as a **significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region** and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.



### What is the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium?

- IONS are a premier forum for cooperation and collaboration **among navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region**.
- The inaugural IONS Seminar was held in New Delhi in February, 2008.
- It is a **voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among** navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
- There are **36 littoral states** in the Indian Ocean which have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions.
  - **South Asian Littorals** - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka
  - **West Asian Littorals** - Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen
  - **East African Littorals** - Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania
  - **South East Asian and Australian Littorals** - Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor Leste.
- The forum has enabled discussions on regional maritime issues, promoted friendly relationships, and significantly improved maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It **endeavours to generate a flow of information between naval professionals** that would lead to common understanding and possibly cooperative solutions on the way ahead.

### What are the Other Important Groupings/Initiatives Associated with IOR?

- **Colombo Security Conclave:** The CSC, which was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, is expanding. It recently welcomed Mauritius as a fourth member.
- **Indian Ocean Rim Association:** It was established in 1997. It is aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.
- **Indian Ocean Commission:** Recently, **India has been approved as an observer of the Indian Ocean Commission**, the inter-governmental organization that coordinates maritime governance in the south-western Indian Ocean.
- **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR):** It was launched in 2015. Through SAGAR, India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.
- **Asia Africa Growth Corridor:** The idea of Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) emerged in the joint declaration **issued by India and Japan in 2016**.
- The AAGC is raised on four pillars of Development and Cooperation Projects, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Enhancing Capacities and Skills and People-to-People partnership.

## #INDIA'S FIRST DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE

Recently, the **Tamil Nadu government** has decided to go ahead with the **establishment of India's first conservation reserve for the Dugong in Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay.**

- It facilitates **India to act as the leading nation in the South Asia Sub-region** with respect to dugong conservation.



### What are Dugongs?

- Dugong** (*Dugong dugon*) also called '**Sea Cow**' is one of the four surviving species in the **Order Sirenia** and it is the **only existing species of herbivorous mammal that lives exclusively in the sea** including in India.
- Dugongs are an **important part of the marine ecosystem** and their depletion will have effects all the way up the food chain.
- Distribution and Habitat:** They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the **Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- Conservation Status:**
- IUCN Red List status:** Vulnerable
- Wild (Life) Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- CITES:** Appendix I

### Steps Taken for Conservation:

- In February 2020, India hosted the **13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (CoP)** of the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, an environmental treaty under the aegis of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**
- The Government of India has been a **signatory to the CMS since 1983.**
- India has signed **non-legally binding Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)** with CMS on the conservation and management of **Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).**
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** constituted a '**Task Force for Conservation of Dugongs**' to look into issues related to conservation of dugongs and implementation of the '**UNEP/CMS Dugong MoU**' in India.
- It also facilitates **India to act as the leading nation in the South Asia Sub-region** with respect to dugong conservation.

### What are Conservation Reserves?

- Conservation reserves and community reserves** are terms denoting protected areas of the country which **typically act as buffer zones** to or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests.

- Such areas are designated as conservation areas if they are **uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India** but used for subsistence by communities and community areas if part of the lands is privately owned.
- These protected area categories were first introduced in the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002** – the amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- These categories were added because of reduced protection in and around existing or proposed protected areas due to private ownership of land and land use.

## #MAHATMA GANDHI GREEN TRIANGLE

**Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle** has been unveiled in **Madagascar** to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The word green in the **plaque** (a flat piece of stone or metal) signifies their commitment to **sustainable development** and saving the environment.
- The naming of this park as Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle **is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Gandhi was a '**Pravasi**' who returned to India from **South Africa**, led India's freedom struggle.

- Madagascar has a **large diaspora from the Indian state of Gujarat** and it is fitting that a **green triangle named after Gandhi**, who hailed from Porbandar in the state, is being unveiled in the capital of Madagascar (Antananarivo).



- Madagascar voiced appreciation for efforts by the Indian Embassy in greening the area, saying it meets the objective of the **Urban Municipality of Antananarivo** to create the maximum green space in the **capital city of Madagascar**.

## What are the Key Facts Related to Mahatma Gandhi?

- Birth:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869 in Porbandar (Gujarat)
- Brief Profile:** Lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.
- Satyagrah:** In **South Africa (1893-1915)**, he had successfully fought the racist regime with a novel method of mass agitation, which he called satyagraha.
- Return to India:** He returned to India from South Africa on 9th January 1915.
- PravasiBharatiya Divas (PBD)** is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- Satyagraha Movements in India:** Mahatma Gandhi believed that the dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.
- In **1917 he travelled to Champaran** in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.
- In **1919**, he decided to launch a **nationwide satyagraha** against the proposed **Rowlatt Act (1919)**.



- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22):** At the Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920, he convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj.
- **The Salt March and the Civil Disobedience Movement:** For several years after the Non-cooperation Movement ended, Mahatma Gandhi focused on his social reform work.
- In 1930, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law.
- According to this law, the state had a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.
- **Quit India Movement:** With the outbreak of **World War II** (1939-45), the nationalist struggle in India entered its last crucial phase.

## Social Work:

- He worked for the upliftment of untouchables and gave them a new name '**Harijan**' meaning the children of God.
- In September 1932, **B.R. Ambedkar** negotiated the **Poona Pact** with Mahatma Gandhi.
- His symbol of self-reliance - the spinning wheel - became a popular symbol of the Indian Independence Movement.
- **Books Written:** Hind Swaraj, **My Experiments with Truth** (Autobiography)
- **Death:** He was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on **30<sup>th</sup> January, 1948**.
- **30<sup>th</sup> January is observed as Martyrs' Day.**

## #PRESIDENT CONFERRED NATIONAL WATER AWARDS

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** on March 29, 2022, conferred the 3rd National Water Awards in the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministers of State for Jal Shakti BishweswarTudu and Prahlad Singh Patel and other officials.
- During the ceremony of the 3rd National Water Awards, the President of India also launched Jal Shakti Abhiyaan: **Catch the Rain Campaign 2022**.
- The **3rd National Water Awards** was announced by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on January 7, 2022.



- **In National Water Awards, Uttar Pradesh has secured a first position in the 'Best State Category', followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.** Under the 'Best District-North Zone' category, Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh has been awarded the first prize.
- Country's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year and is projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050. He added that while India has more than 18% of the world's population, the country has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources.

## 3rd National Water Awards: Significance

- **National Water Awards recognizes and encourages the exemplary work and the efforts made by the States, individuals, districts, etc. across the country in attaining the government's vision of 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.**

- The awards encourage the stakeholders to adopt a holistic approach to water resource management. National Water Awards also strives to **create awareness among the people about the significance of water and attempts to motivate them to adopt better usage practices.**

### National Water Awards

- **The Jal Shakti Ministry had launched the first 'National Water Award' in 2018.** They facilitate a good opportunity for the start-ups as well as the leading organizations to engage with the senior policymakers on adopting the best water resources management practices in India.

### #CATCH THE RAIN CAMPAIGN-2022

- **The Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign- 2022** was launched by N. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Aim of the campaign

- The campaign was launched with the aim of intensifying the various measures of water conservation in all the identified water-stressed districts and blocks across Manipur.
- The Nodal Department for this campaign is the **State Water Resources Department.**
- They would be responsible for carrying out this campaign.
- **Under this campaign, multiple Jal Shakti Kendras** would be set up in the State's districts.
- These kendras would also act as knowledge centres for generating awareness regarding water conservation techniques. Special focus will also be shown on the mapping of springs shed and springs during the campaign.
- The mapped springs and spring sheds will be rejuvenated and properly managed.
- Till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, this campaign will be implemented. Also, rainwater harvesting methods will be set up in all the **Schools, Government Offices, and Colleges** across the state so that rainwater can be harvested, stored, and treated for various uses.

### The theme of the campaign

- "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls" is the theme selected for this campaign. Water conservation is very important for the state keeping in mind the state government's Green Manipur Mission.

### #OSCAR 2022 WINNERS

- The **Oscars 2022 or the 94th Academy Awards ceremony** which is presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). This event was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



### Overview:

- This event **honoured the best films that were released between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**
- On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, the voting for nominations concluded and on

8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the nominations were announced.

- The hosts for this ceremony were **Amy Schumer, Regina Hall, and Wanda Sykes**.
- For the first time since the 83rd Academy Awards held in 2011 that multiple hosts were featured.

## Winners

- **Best Picture:** CODA
- **Best Actress:** Jessica Chastain for the movie The Eyes Of Tammy Faye
- **Best Director** was won by Jane Campion for The Power Of The Dog.
- **Best Actor:** Will Smith for the movie King Richard
- **Best Supporting Actress** went to Ariana DeBose for the movie West Side Story.
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Troy Kotsur for the movie CODA
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Belfast
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** CODA
- **Best International Feature Film:** Drive My Car (Country-Japan)
- **Best Documentary Feature:** Summer of Soul

## #WINNER OF ABEL PRIZE 2022

- The **winner of the Abel Prize 2022 is Dennis Parnell Sullivan**, an American mathematician. This award also includes prize money which amounts to 7 Million NOK (Norwegian Krone).



### Overview:

- He received this award for his contributions to topology, especially its geometric, algebraic, and dynamical aspects.
- **Topology is a field of mathematics** that considers two things of different forms to be equivalent only if they can be deformed into each other.
- Topology is a new field of mathematics as it was born at the end of the 19th century.
- Topology is important in maths and various other fields like data science, economics, and physics.

## About Abel Prize

- The King of Norway presents the Abel Prize and it is given annually to an individual who has done a remarkable job in the mathematics field.
- This prize has been named after Niels Henrik Abel who was a famous Norwegian mathematician. **This award took inspiration from the famous Nobel Prize.**
- **Nobel Prize doesn't have a section for mathematics**, though some mathematicians have won this prestigious prize in other fields. The Fields Medal is an annual award that is also considered to be the 'Mathematics Nobel' but it is only awarded to those individuals who are below the age of 40.
- The Abel Prize was first awarded in 2003 to Jean-Pierre Serre, a French mathematician, for his contribution to algebraic geometry, topology, and number theory.

## Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians

- In 2007, S. R. SrinivasaVaradhan, who is an Indian-American citizen had won the Abel Prize for his contribution in probability theory and for creating a unified large deviation theory.
- The **Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from developing countries** has been given to **Professor Neena Gupta**.
  - She is a **mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata** and has been awarded for her outstanding work in **affine algebraic geometry** and **commutative algebra**.
  - She is the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize.
  - Her solution for solving the **Zariski cancellation problem**, a fundamental problem in Algebraic Geometry, earned her the **2014 Young Scientists Award of the Indian National Science Academy**.

### About:

- The Ramanujan Prize for **Young Mathematicians from developing countries** has been awarded **annually since 2005**.
- It is administered by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** jointly with the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India and the **International Mathematical Union (IMU)**.
- **ICTP**: Founded in 1964 by the late **Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam**, it seeks to accomplish its mandate by providing scientists from developing countries with the continuing education and skills that they need to enjoy long and productive careers.
- **IMU**: It is an **international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization**, with the purpose of promoting international cooperation in mathematics.
- It is a **member of the International Science Council (ISC)**.
- **DST**: The **DST** has **agreed to fund the Prize**, starting with the 2014 Prize.
- It has been supported by DST **in the memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan**, a genius in pure mathematics who was essentially self-taught and made spectacular contributions to elliptic functions, continued fractions, infinite series, and analytical theory of numbers.



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'Success Mantra Digital'. The channel banner features a group photo of the team. Below the banner is the channel name 'Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation' and a 'SUBSCRIBED' button. The video grid displays several uploads including 'AILET 2021 Paper Analysis', 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis', and 'Why You Should Join The Legal Profession'.

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