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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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16-31 March 2022



**GUIDANCE**  
G R O U P

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## KUWAIT IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST PLACES ON EARTH

- It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky.
- Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.
- Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth.
- The extremes of climate change present existential perils all over the world. But the record heat waves that roast Kuwait each season have grown so severe that people increasingly find it unbearable.
- The country continues to burn oil for electricity and ranks among the top global carbon emitters per capita, according to the World Resources Institute. As asphalt melts on highways, Kuwaitis bundle up for bone-chilling air-conditioning in malls. Renewable energy accounts for less than 1% of demand — far below Kuwait's target of 15% by 2030.

## NAGALAND BECAME FIRST PAPERLESS ASSEMBLY BY IMPLEMENTING E-VIDHAN APPLICATION

Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless. The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session.

### ABOUT THE NEVA:

- NeVA is a Unicode compliant software having provision for easy access to various documents like List of Questions, List of Business, Reports etc. bilingually viz. English and any regional language.
- This application is spearheading the principle of 'One Nation- One Application' with the objective of Cloud First and Mobile First to serve Members' FIRST.
- NeVA is transforming all State Legislatures into 'DIGITAL HOUSES' so as to enable them to transact entire Government Business on digital platform including information exchange with the State Government Departments in digital mode.
- It stands for bringing far reaching transformation in the governance across the country by making the people well informed & enlighten citizens and thereby strengthening the roots of the democracy in the country.

- NeVA is not only bringing greater synergy, coordination, transparency and accountability between the Legislature and the executive in a State, but also across the States.
- Keeping in view the latest technological development in the field of ICT, maximum use of AI& IOT has been made to make NeVA a robust IT product.

### INDIA'S FIRST 'WORLD PEACE CENTER' WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN GURUGRAM

- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organization established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway.
- World Peace Center' will be a major world-class centre for personality building, where various dimensions such as Personality Development of Youth, Empowerment of Women and Sanskar Development in Children through Meditation, Yoga, Indian Culture and Jain lifestyle based scientific programs will also be conducted here.

### M V RAM PRASAD BISMIL BECOMES LONGEST VESSEL TO SAIL FROM GANGA TO BRAHMAPUTRA

- The MV Ram Prasad Bismil has become the longest vessel ever to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra.
- The 90 meters long and 26 meters wide flotilla, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters, achieved the feat on March 15, 2022, when it successfully completed the pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia, to Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The cargo vessel was flagged off from the Haldia Dock in Kolkata along with two barges (DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam) by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (PSW), Sarbananda Sonowal on February 16, 2022, and docked at Pandu port in Guwahati on March 15, 2022. Carrying 1793 metric tonnes of steel rods, the vessel covered the distance from Haldia to Pandu through Bangladesh on the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR).

## MUMBAI ANNOUNCES NET-ZERO ROADMAP WITH 2050 IN SIGHT, 1ST SOUTH ASIAN CITY TO SET SUCH TIMELINE

- Mumbai announced detailed plans to zero out carbon emissions by 2050, a target that puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline.
- In the coming three decades the city aims to cut to zero its total greenhouse emission which in 2019 stood at 23.42 million tons or 1.8 tons per capita. The largest investments will have to come into energy, which accounts for 72% of total emissions, according to the plan documents. Vehicle emissions and waste comprise the rest.
- Mumbai's short-term priorities include the purchase 2,100 electric buses by 2023 at a cost of Rs 130 billion (\$1.7 billion). The city will also spend on projects like retrofitting low-income homes with electricity-efficient equipment.

## BALBHARATI PLANS SETTING UP TEXTBOOK MUSEUM

- The state bureau of textbooks — is set to create India's first textbook museum. The plan is to make available old and rare textbooks from Maharashtra for viewing, reading and research purposes.
- Maharashtra has one of the longest traditions of formal schooling in the country.
- The Balbharati Library has conserved books from as far back as 1837.
- The museum will offer book lovers and academicians a chance to study these rare textbooks and learn about the evolution of educational material in the state.

## MAHARASHTRA'S FOUR NEW 'BOOK VILLAGES'! AUDUMBAR, VERUL, NAVEGAON DAM, POMBHURLE

- Audumbar in Western Maharashtra, Verul in Marathwada, Navegaon Dam in Vidarbha and Pombhurle in Konkan will be the four new 'Book Villages' of Maharashtra. Following Bhilar in Satara district, these four villages are getting the honor of being 'Village of Books'.
- At present four villages namely Audumbar (Dist. Sangli) from Pune Revenue Division, Verul (Dist. Aurangabad) from Aurangabad Division, Navegaon Dam (Dist. Gondia) from Nagpur Division and Pombhurle (Dist. Sindhudurg) from Konkan Division have been selected.

- The Maharashtra government will develop a ‘village of books’ in each district on the lines of Britain’s ‘Hay-On-Wye’, the famous town of books.

### MAHARASHTRA BEATS UP WITH RECORD SUGAR PRODUCTION THIS SEASON

- Maharashtra is looking at record sugar production in the 2021-22 season, leaving its closest competitor Uttar Pradesh far behind.
- As of Monday, 197 mills in Maharashtra have crushed 1072.58 lakh tons of cane to produce 111.16 lakh tons of sugar. Uttar Pradesh has reported production of 78 lakh tons of sugar so far this season.
- Area under sugarcane in the state for the 2021-22 season has increased to 12.32 lakh hectare from 11.42 lakh hectare in the previous season.
- Exports this season are also higher, with deals struck for 58 lakh tons by sugar mills across the country so far. Exports are likely to touch 75 lakh tons this season as against 60 lakh tons in the 2020-21 season.

### MAHARASHTRA RANKS SECOND IN THE COUNTRY IN ORGANIC FARMING PRODUCTION

- Efforts by the Central and State Governments to promote organic farming without the use of chemical fertilizers seem to be succeeding.
- Maharashtra ranks second in the country in organic farming production. Neighboring Madhya Pradesh ranks first. This has been mentioned in the latest economic survey report of the state. Accordingly, 1.26 lakh MT of organic farm produce has been exported in the year 2020-21.
- The Government of Maharashtra has recently released the Economic Survey Report for the year 2021-22. It states that Madhya Pradesh is second only to Madhya Pradesh in organic production (22 per cent share).

### MAHARASHTRA’S FIRST DIGITAL POPULATION CLOCK INAUGURATED IN PUNE

- Pune has got the state’s first digital population clock that will display Maharashtra’s population in real time besides the estimated population of the country.
- The population clock, a project jointly taken up by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- As many as 18 such facilities have been proposed and will be made operational at various Population Research Centres (PRCs) across 16 states

of India. At present, four such population clocks are operational in the country.

- The daily birth and death figures gathered from state and national agencies will be used to estimate the population of the State and India. The clock will display updated figures every day.
- The major challenge for population estimation for Maharashtra, is the prevalence of migrant population.
- The clock aims to study the changing demographics of a region, to create awareness among the younger population, to initiate and plan region-specific efforts requiring population stabilization

### UN WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2022: INDIA RANKS 136<sup>TH</sup>

- India ranks 136th in the World Happiness Report 2022, while Finland becomes the happiest country for the fifth consecutive year. The top five countries in the list are part of Europe. While the United States held the 16th spot in the happiest countries list.
- Following Finland, Denmark bagged the second rank, while Iceland and Switzerland stood at third and fourth rank. The Netherlands was at the fifth rank in the list. Meanwhile, Luxembourg, Norway, Israel, and New Zealand were the remaining countries in the top 10.
- On the other hand, Afghanistan held the last position of 146th in the list, with Lebanon (145th), Zimbabwe (144th), Rwanda (143rd), and Botswana (142nd) following.
- This year marks the tenth anniversary of the World Happiness Report.
- The report's measurement of subjective well-being continues to rely on three main well-being indicators: life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions (described in the report as positive and negative affect). Happiness rankings are based on life evaluations as the more stable measure of the quality of people's lives.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY PARK LAUNCHED IN IISC BENGALURU

- An Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) with a seed fund of Rs 230 crore was launched at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.
- ARTPARK, intending to use futuristic technologies to connect the unconnected, would work on creating a globally leading Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in the country.

- ARTPARK has been set up to effectively use technology, specifically AI and robotics, for the country's betterment. The ARTPARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India

## NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED CAR

India's Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a pilot project for Hydrogen-based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV).

The pilot project will be conducted by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. along with International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.

## DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRE INDIAN ARMY "MRSAM" MISSILE

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out two successful tests of the Army's version of the medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, on 27 March, paving the way for its induction into the force.

The Army's version of the MRSAM has been jointly developed by the DRDO and the Israel Aerospace Industries, and is reflective of growing India-Israel defence collaboration.

## WHAT IS THE MRSAM?

- The MRSAM is intended to replace the outdated air defence systems currently being used by the Army. It will allow the Army to get aerial protection against fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, guided and unguided munitions, and cruise missiles.
- It's composed of a mobile launcher system — built to store, transport, and launch eight canisterised missiles or missiles that can be launched at short notice, either individually or simultaneously — and a multi-function radar, which enables seamless identification and monitoring of target.

- The combat management system then uses this information from the radar to calculate the distance from the target, which is relayed to the operator or launcher for suitable action.
- The MRSAM is also loaded with an advanced active radar radio frequency (RF) seeker, placed at the head of a missile, which enables the detection of moving targets in extreme weather conditions.
- All these help the MRSAM to have an estimated range of 70 km, providing the Indian army with the ability to hit far-away targets accurately. It has a maximum speed of Mach 2, which is twice the speed of sound.
- The Army's version of the MRSAM resembles the Israeli Barak-8 missile in many ways, but there are specific technological tweaks and adaptations to cater to India's specific needs, which reflect the successful indigenization of this defence technology.
- The Barak-8 enables a 360-degree defence against aerial threats. This includes the ability to hit jets, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. It's completely circular attack range makes it a powerful and unique tool for any military to possess.

## MILITARY EXERCISE

Sr. no	Name	Between whom	When and where
1	Cold Response 2022	NATO Allies and partner nations	14th Mar to 1st April 2022 Norway
2	LAMITIYE-2022	India and Seychelles	22 to 31 Mar 2022. Seychelles
	EX-DUSTLIK	Indian army and Uzbekistan army.	22 to 31 March 2022 Yangiariq, Uzbekistan
	Bersama Shield 2022	Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK	Malaysia
	Suraksha Kavach 2	Indian Army's "Agnibaaz Division" and Maharashtra Police	Lullanagar, Pune
	Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022	15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS (established in 2007.)	March 26 to 30, 2022, in Goa

## 5TH IN THE SERIES OF OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS “ICGS SAKSHAM” COMMISSIONED

Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham. The fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa. The first four of the five ICGS which have already been commissioned in 2020 are ICGS Sachet (1st); ICGS Sujeet (2nd); ICGS Sarthak (3rd); and ICGS Sajag (4th) in 2021.

The Indigenous Offshore Patrol Vessel Project was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2016 under which five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were planned to be launched.

### ABOUT THE SHIP:

- Goa Shipyard Limited designed and built the 105-meter OPV, which is equipped with advanced technology, navigation and communication systems, sensors, and machinery.
- The ship will be based in Kochi once it joins the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) force. Ship will be used extensively for surveillance in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and other missions mandated by the Coast Guard charter.

### THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE IN DECLINE

- The central government on Monday announced that the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by 10 points, with Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh recording the sharpest decline.
- Three states - Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh - have shown more than 15 percent decline in MMR
- However, the rise in MMR in West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh have emerged as a cause of concern.
- The Registrar General of India in a special bulletin on MMR, which refers to deaths due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth, said the ratio has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, an 8.8 per cent decline.
- With this persistent decline, India is on track to achieve the Sustainable Goal Development (SDG) target of 70/lakh live births by 2030.
- The number of states which have achieved the SDG target has now risen from 5 to 7 and includes Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).

- There are now nine states that have achieved the target of MMR set by the National Health Policy, which was 100/lakh live births by 2020. Apart from these seven states, the other two states are Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).
- Five states - Uttarakhand (101), West Bengal (109), Punjab (114), Bihar (130), Odisha (136) and Rajasthan (141) have MMR in between 100-150, while for four states, Chhattisgarh (160), Madhya Pradesh (163), Uttar Pradesh (167) and Assam (205) have MMR above 150.

### CYCLONE ASHANI

The name of the new cyclone that is forming on the Bay of Bengal has been named 'Ashani'. The cyclone seems to be carrying thunderstorms for the eastern coast of India which includes West Bengal, Odisha.

The name of the cyclone has been given by Sri Lanka and "Ashani" translates to "Wrath" in the Sinhala language.

### CLASSICAL WIND MUSIC INSTRUMENT NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM GETS GI TAG

- The Narasinghapettai nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument traditionally made by artisans based at a village near Kumbakonam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- the artisans based at Narasinganpettai village, who inherited the skill of making these wooden instruments from their forefathers, are making them through a process requiring specialised skills. The nagaswaram now being used by artists throughout is called 'pari nagaswaram', which is longer than the 'thimiri'.
- A major portion of the 'Narasinghapettai nagaswaram' is made from the aacha (*Hardwickia binata*) tree and many a time the artisans use the wood from parts of old houses
- The artisans use drilling machines, besides carpentry tools, to make the nagaswarams that are played widely in functions like weddings and temple festivals.

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## FIFA WORLD CUP 2022: QATAR FIFA WORLD CUP

- The FIFA World Cup 2022 is set to be the 22nd edition of the quadrennial international men's football championship, which will be contested by national teams from FIFA member countries.
- It will take place in Qatar from November 21 to December 18, 2022. This will be the first World Cup to be held in the Arab world, and the second World Cup to be held fully in Asia, following the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan.
- In addition, the tournament will be the last to feature 32 teams, with a 48-team tournament set for the United States, Mexico, and Canada in 2026.
- France is the current World Cup champion. Due to the extreme heat in Qatar during the summer, the World Cup will be held from late November to mid-December, making it the first tournament not to be hosted in May, June, or July; it will be played over a shorter period of time, roughly 28 days.

## FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 SPONSOR

India's edtech platform, BYJU'S was named the official sponsor of FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar on March 24, 2022. BYJU'S has become the first Indian sponsor of the FIFA World Cup.

## JIA RAI HAS BECOME THE SHORTEST AND FASTEST FEMALE SWIMMER IN THE WORLD.

- Para-swimmer Jiya Rai, who has autism, has created history by swimming 28.5 kilometres in 13 hours. Rai, 13, swam across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Arichalmunai in Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu.
- She has become the youngest and fastest female swimmer of the world to swim across the Palk Strait. The previous record was held with Bhula Chowdhary who swam in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004
- Rai is the daughter of Madan Rai, an Indian Navy officer working in Mumbai.

## THE 94TH ACADEMY AWARDS

The 94th Academy Awards returned to the Dolby Theater in Hollywood as the top films from the last year were honoured by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The show was hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes, the first time the award ceremony has had multiple hosts since Anne Hathaway and James Franco co-hosted the 83rd instalment in 2011.

## KEY POINTS:

The 94th Academy Awards are honoring the films released between January 1 and December 31, 2021. The nominations were announced on February 8, by actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan.

Netflix's *The Power of the Dog* leads the race with 12 nominations followed by sci-fi epic *Dune*, with 10 nods. Indian documentary *Writing with Fire* is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).

Awards will be presented across 23 categories, which are determined based on voting by members of the Academy.

This time, there are two new categories- Oscars Fan Favorite Award and Oscars Cheer Moment, which will be decided by fan voting, which was done online between February 14 and March 3, 2022.

Categories	Winners
Best Actress in Leading Role	Jessica Chastain- <i>The Eyes of Tammy Faye</i>
Best Actor in Leading Role	Will Smith- <i>King Richard</i>
Best Director	Jane Campion- <i>The Power of the Dog</i>
Best International Feature	<i>Drive My Car</i> (Japan)
Best Animated Feature	<i>Encanto</i>
Best Picture film	<i>CODA</i>
Best Adapted Screenplay	<i>CODA</i>
Best Original Screenplay	<i>Belfast</i>

## FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA R C LAHOTI PASSES AWAY

Former Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at the age of 81 years. Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th chief justice of India on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005.

## CAREER OF JUSTICE LAHOTI:

- Born on November 1, 1940, he joined the Bar in Guna district in 1960 and enrolled as an advocate in 1962. He was recruited directly to the bench in April 1977, from the Bar to the State Higher Judicial Service and was appointed as a district and sessions judge.
- After serving in the post for a year, Justice Lahoti resigned in May 1978 and returned to the Bar to practice mainly in the High Court.
- He was appointed an additional judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on May 3, 1988, and made a permanent judge on August 4 the next year.

- He was transferred to Delhi High Court on February 7, 1994, and later appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on December 9, 1998.

### CREATOR OF THE GIF FORMAT, STEPHEN WILHITE PASSES AWAY

Stephen Wilhite, the creator of the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) format passed away at the age of 74 years due to Covid-19 related issues. Wilhite devised the Graphics Interchange Format, or GIF, in 1987 while working at CompuServe. The Oxford American Dictionary named GIF the word of the year in 2012. He was honored with a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013.

### LEGENDARY AUSTRALIAN SPINNER, SHANE WARNE PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne has passed away at the age of 52. Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests.
- His career spanned over 15 years from 1992 to 2007. He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in 1999.
- He is regarded as one of the greatest-ever bowlers in the history of the sport as he was an integral part of the dominant Australian sides in the 1990s and early 2000s.
- Shane Warn took more wickets than any other bowler in Ashes cricket, the tally standing at 195. In 2013, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- He also won the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League as the captain of Rajasthan Royals. He is regarded as the greatest captain that Australia ever had.

### A CHILDREN'S BOOK 'THE LITTLE BOOK OF JOY' AUTHORED BY DALAI LAMA & DESMOND TUTU

A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winner's 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, titled "The Little Book of Joy" will be released in September 2022. The illustrations provided by artist Rafael López and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text. This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.

In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World", which became a bestseller & sold more than 1 million copies and translated into more than 40 languages.